



Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.
President's Conference Room, Sanders Building
300 Highland Avenue, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Briefing

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Robert V. Antonucci, President

RE: May 8, 2012 Meeting

OVERVIEW

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the President's Conference Room. Prior to the meeting, the Executive Committee will meet. We will have a recognition dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Wallace Civic Center. At the dinner, we will recognize faculty who were granted tenure at the last meeting. We will also recognize Matthew Costello for his service to the Board. I will introduce the new student elected Trustee, Nathan Gregoire, who was recently appointed by the student body. I also invited the Department Chairs, the Alumni Board, the Student Government Association, the Executive Committee, the University Deans and Union leaders to join us and to be recognized.

Parking will be reserved in the Sanders Lot. Following the meeting, we will drive to the Wallace Civic center for dinner.

The schedule is as follows:

3:45 p.m.	Executive Committee	President's Office
4:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting	President's Conference Room
6:00 p.m.	Dinner	Wallace Civic Center

AGENDA

- I. Call to order by Chairman Carol Vittorioso**
- II. Public Comments**
- III. The minutes of the April 11, 2012 meeting are presented for consideration and approval**
- IV. Finance and Administration Committee – Carol Vittorioso, Chairman, ex-officio (Votes Required)**

The Finance and Administration Committee met on Tuesday, April 24 2012. The agenda and budget materials for the meeting were sent to all members. The Committee will make a report to the full Board and the votes to be considered are included. The major budget items are to approve the FY13 State Budget and set student fees for FY13.

Due to the uncertainty of the state fiscal condition and the lack of specific allocations it is difficult to agree on a final bottom-line budget. We do not anticipate a final state budget until the end of June. This is the typical time line each year. That being said, we need to move ahead and will be making recommendations to consider. Included in the packet you will find the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget report.

- a) Student Fee and Technology Fee Increases – **VOTE – (13-11/12)**
- b) GCE Undergrad & Graduate Fee and Capital Fee Increases – **VOTE – (14-11/12)**
- c) Extended Campus Programs Fee Increase – **VOTE – (15-11/12)**
- d) Approve FY2013 Budget – **VOTE – (16-11/12)**
- e) Roll Forward of Funds to FY2013 Budget - **VOTE – (17-11/12)**

V. Votes Required

As part of the Campus Center renovation, the Underground Pub has increased its size from 180 to 300 people. As we prepare to open up a new “pub” on campus we are required to apply for a new license which incorporates the new capacity of 300. In addition, the University has decided to change the name from the Underground Pub to the Falcon Hub. A board vote is needed for the license renewal process.

- a) License and Name Change – **VOTE – (18-11/12)**

Carol Vittoriosio will chair the Executive Committee meeting and will ask the committee to make recommendations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk.

- b) Act on Board officers for the term beginning July 1, 2012 – **VOTE – (19-11/12)**

VI. Notifications

As required by the by-laws, I am notifying you of personnel actions taken since the last meeting.

- a) Personnel Actions (**N04-11/12**)

VII. President’s Report

I want to call your attention to activities involving Commencement. We will be holding two ceremonies, one for Graduates scheduled for Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. and one for Undergraduates on Saturday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m. We will be recognizing Ms. Beverly Farias at the Graduate ceremony for her years of service to the Board. All Trustees are invited to attend both events. Kelli will check with you regarding your intentions.

I will also bring you up-to-date on a variety of issues including the end of the year activities.

Enclosures:

- FY2012 Financial Reports and Certification
- Annual Honors Convocation Program
- Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice Brochure
- News Articles

VIII. Adjournment

If you have any questions or material prior to the meeting please give Carol, Kelli or me a call. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

AGENDA

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

4:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

300 Highland Avenue, Fitchburg, MA 01420

AGENDA

- I.** Call to Order by Chairman Carol Vittorioso
- II.** Public Comments
- III.** Consideration of minutes from previous meeting

a) April 11, 2012

- IV.** Finance and Administration Committee- Carol Vittorioso Chairman, ex-officio
(Votes Required)

- a)** Student Fee Increase – **VOTE – (13-11/12)**
- b)** GCE Undergrad & Graduate Fee Increase – **VOTE – (14-11/12)**
- c)** Extended Campus Programs Fee Increase – **VOTE – (15-11/12)**
- d)** Approve FY2013 Budget – **VOTE – (16-11/12)**
- e)** Roll Forward of Funds to FY2013 Budget - **VOTE – (17-11/12)**

- V.** Votes Required

- a)** Act on the license and name change for the Falcon Hub
VOTE – (18-11/12)
- b)** Act on Board officers for the term beginning July 1, 2012 –
VOTE – (19-11/12)

- VI.** Notifications

- a)** Personnel Actions – **(N04-11/12)**

- VII.** President's Report – Dr. Robert V. Antonucci

- VIII.** Adjournment

MINUTES

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Wednesday, April 11, 2012
8:00 a.m.
President's Conference Room
300 Highland Avenue, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Sanders Building

Trustees Present: Robert Babineau, Anna Maria Clementi, Martin F. Connors, Jr., Matthew Costello, Anthony Mercadante, Frank O'Donnell, Robert Pontbriand, Cynthia Stevens, Carol Vittorioso,

Trustees Absent: David Mullaney, Gladys Rodriguez-Parker

Also Present: Robert V. Antonucci, Robin Bowen, Jay Bry, Cathy Canney, Cathy Daggett, Gail Doiron, Nathan Gregoire, Chris Hendry, Kelli Lundgren, Jessica Murdoch, Michael Shanley, Paul Weizer

Prior to the start of the Board meeting, Mr. Frank O'Donnell was sworn in by Representative Stephen L. DiNatale as the new Alumni Representative of the Board of Trustees. Mr. O'Donnell replaces Ms. Beverly Farias after her 10 years of service to the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vittorioso at 8:10 a.m.

President Antonucci started the meeting by introducing Dr. Paul Weizer. Dr. Weizer has accepted the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs currently held by Dr. Shirley Wagner. The Board welcomed and congratulated him.

The President then introduced and welcomed Mr. Frank O'Donnell as the newest member of the Board.

The consideration of the Board of Trustees minutes from February 7 and March 5, 2012 were presented.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Pontbriand and seconded by Mr. Connors it was

Voted: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 7, 2012 as
(9-0) presented.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Pontbriand and seconded by Mr. Costello it was

Voted: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 5, 2012 as
(9-0) presented.

The Board then discussed tenure recommendations from Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robin Bowen. President Antonucci commended Dr. Bowen for conducting a very extensive review of the tenure candidates.

Ms. Vittorioso asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Pontbriand and seconded by Ms. Clementi it was

Voted: to accept the recommendation of the tenure candidates as presented.
(9-0)

The President then referenced the promotion notifications handed out at the meeting. He and Dr. Bowen felt these were good recommendations for promotion. He further mentioned the promoted faculty will be recognized at the April convocation ceremony and the newly tenured faculty will be recognized at the May 8 Trustee dinner.

President Antonucci then discussed the investment proposals. He made note that Mr. Connors and Mr. Mercadante would refrain from this discussion to avoid any conflict and neither has influenced the decisions in this matter. He stated it had already been voted to approve moving the funds out of the Commonfund and at this point he was requesting a vote to move investments into the funds as outlined in the investment services proposal in the Board packet.

There are three institutions in the summary sheet, Northern Trust, Enterprise Bank & Trust and Rollstone Bank & Trust. The President noted that Mr. Jay Bry and Ms. Cathy Daggett were instrumental in this process. Ms. Daggett said the institutions gave informative presentations, with Northern Trust being the most detailed and comprehensive.

The President noted this has been a 3-4 month process and investments will be reviewed annually. He is pleased to have two local institutions involved.

Ms. Vittorioso asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Pontbriand and seconded by Mr. Costello it was

Voted: to accept the investment services proposal as presented.
(7-0)

Mr. Connors and Mr. Mercadante abstained from the vote.

Ms. Anna Maria Clementi then gave an overview from the Student Government Association (SGA) meeting held on April 2, 2012. Ms. Clementi and Ms. Vittorioso were in attendance. Ms. Clementi was impressed by the students' sophistication and ability to communicate their concerns openly. She felt the students were very comfortable with both Board members. Some issues discussed were:

- Parking – With the capital projects happening on campus, there are slightly more problems with parking, but parking seems to be an issue at most campuses.
- Fee increases – Students are concerned with the possibility of fee increases. Ms. Clementi and Ms. Vittorioso let the students know that the Board is sensitive about increases as well.
- Safety – Ms. Clementi asked the students if they feel safe on campus. The students don't seem to be overly concerned and they believe the university bike patrol has helped to make them feel like there is an officer close by at all times. When asked if students tend to go off campus, they replied they feel safe traveling downtown; however, they are a bit concerned about outsiders coming onto campus.
- Scholarship money – Ms. Clementi let the students know there were scholarships available, however, it seems as though students are unaware of how to acquire this funding. Ms. Clementi feels we need to have a better process of relaying the information

to students and getting the applications completed.

- Campus meals – There is a concern that there are not adequate healthy choices in the dining hall. Grilled vs. fried chicken as an example. Students also stated they would like to see the dining hall open later than the current 7pm closing time. They state if you are at a university-sponsored event and arrive back to campus late, they are unable to obtain a meal. It was stated that the Commuter Café is open until 10pm, which should be a viable option to the dining hall. President Antonucci stated we have done studies on this, and it very costly to have the dining hall remain open late. Mr. Connors suggested giving a voucher to a local dining establishment in the case of a late night.

President Antonucci then presented his report. He informed the Board that Mr. Costello's term expires on June 30, 2012 and he will not seek re-election. He has decided run for SGA President next year. There will be a student election for his seat, which will be either Nathan Gregoire or Phil Sandy.

The President said this is a very busy time on campus. He noted the enclosures in the book are:

- Tenure procedures
- Executive Summary
- Quarterlies
- Technology Customer Case Study
- February 22, 2012 letter from Commissioner Freeland
- February 29, 2012 letter from Board of Education in Nursing
- Memo re: Fitchburg State Cheerleading CanAm National Championship
- News articles

Mr. Connors congratulated university staff for a very well written report for the NEASC Accreditation process. He was present during the final report and there were only minor issues. President Antonucci stated he will share the final report with the Board when available.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert A. Pontbriand, Clerk
Board of Trustees

2013 BUDGET



**FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

April 24, 2012

Board of Trustees
Fitchburg State University
Fitchburg, MA 01420

SUBJECT: FY2013 BUDGET NARRATIVE

Dear Board members:

Although grim economic times persist, Fitchburg State continues to embrace and support its strategic goals: high-caliber classroom instruction, extensive co-curricular student programming, ambitious capital and technology improvement plans, and well-reasoned operational practices—the sum of which has kept us vital and dynamic.

Roughly two weeks ago, Massachusetts House leaders released a proposed budget that held relatively good news given the difficult economic conditions that persist. While the budget only provided for level funding of our appropriation, it did include reserve funds to cover the recently approved collective bargaining agreements. While debate will continue, additional amendments be filed, and a more favorable number conceivable following Senate and conference committee hearings, we do not anticipate any significant alterations.

Cumulative effects of the stubborn recession continue to present us with challenges. We must, therefore, take measures to ensure our solvency and success, preserve our core mission, and make the best possible use of our resources.

Given this financial environment, I would like to present the following overview of our economic plans for Fiscal 2013.

Budget in Brief
FY2013 Operating Budget
Proposed Student Fee Increase with State University Comparisons

We have crafted the enclosed budget proposal with an option for student fee increases, a move that cannot be avoided but that we have attempted to minimize. Additionally, we will have to tap our reserves, intensify cost containment strategies, and continue to pursue contract consolidations. Our past practice of earmarking a portion of new student fee revenues for scholarships may not be possible, but will defer a final decision on that issue until after state appropriations have been finalized.

At our upcoming Finance and Administration Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 24, we will need to decide upon the fee increase before setting the actual budget. For the purposes of this discussion, I have based the numbers in this outline on a \$400 annual student fee increase, and the *FY13 Proposed Budget Highlights and Graphs* reflects that assumption. Once the trustees determine the appropriateness of this recommended increase, the proposed budget will be adjusted as necessary.

FY2013 Operating Budget Scenario (Page 6)

This scenario forecasts revenue totaling \$83,336,834 (column D, line 19) with a proposed \$400 annual student fee increase. Even with this increase, we will be left with a deficit of \$1,500,000. Our current savings will be used to address this deficit. While this would represent the third successive year that we have projected a need to use unrestricted assets to address a budget shortfall, the amount proposed this year is less than half the amount of previous budgets. The proposed amount seeks a balance between student fee increases and adequate cash reserves to fund future capital investments and any deficit that might occur in FY2014 and beyond.

Proposed Student Fee Increase with State University Comparisons (Page 7)

This spreadsheet lists our proposed fee increase using an enrollment multiplier of 3,400 FTE. The additional revenue would be \$1.3 million. Additionally, this spreadsheet illustrates where these increases would place Fitchburg State students in comparison to their peers at other Massachusetts state universities. The operational areas that would realize additional revenues from these increases will include: additional full-time faculty positions, classroom materials, substantial renovations to the Hammond Building, and long overdue preventive maintenance work.

Budget Highlights

Staffing

During my presidency, I have worked hard to maintain staffing patterns conducive to high quality service. During the past year positions have been frozen or left unfilled and, with the exception of full-time faculty, we continue to carefully analyze each position that becomes vacant. With increased program demand and expanding enrollment, I have authorized funds to fill 20 full-time tenure track faculty positions. It is important to note that the state appropriation of \$24.3 million falls well short of the \$32.4 million needed to fully fund our payroll. This shortfall is a further drain on the budget because every payroll dollar not

covered by the state appropriation adds an additional 30 percent to cover employee fringe benefits – or another \$2.35 M.

Summary of Revenue Sources
(Page 6, Column D, Line 19)

As noted, total revenue from all sources is projected to be \$83,336,834, with state appropriations and student fees far-and-away the largest segments.

FY2013 Revenue Sources

State Appropriation	23,467,647
Collective Bargaining	1,666,053
DCAM	500,000
Financial Aid	5,500,000
Grants	1,614,835
Auxiliary Services	9,139,704
Tuition and Fees	36,181,345
Retained Out of State Tuition	1,400,000
Investment Income	500,463
Sales and Service	1,866,787
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,500,000
Total	<u>83,336,834</u>

Summary of Operating Expenses
(Page 6, Column D, Line 37)

Total operating expenses are projected to be \$83,336,834. The bulk of these expenses are directed toward faculty and staff salaries and benefits, student aid and scholarships, physical plant expenditures, technology costs, operation and maintenance, and the expenses associated with the continued major renovation of the Hammond Campus Center and Library.

FY2013 Operating Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	40,364,017
Financial Aid	5,500,000
Grants	1,614,835
Auxiliary Services	9,141,462
Utilities	4,000,592
Scholarships	2,972,642
Information Technology	3,124,788
Capital	5,500,000
Operation & Maintenance	8,528,114
Debt Service	2,590,384
Total	<u>83,336,834</u>

University Investments

Investments: As a result of earlier action by the trustees, we are in the process of moving our investments from the Commonfund to two local investment firms—Rollstone Bank and Trust and Enterprise Bank along with the national firm of Northern Trust. Our initial investment of \$12 million (invested on Feb. 1, 2008) has increased to \$14.2 million.

Investment Portfolio with Commonfund as of March 31, 2012

Total Portfolio Value: \$14,292,402

	<u>Market Value</u>
High Quality Bond Fund	7,085,598
Multi-Strategy Equity Fund	3,143,005
Intermediate Term Fund	1,818,317
Short Term Funds	<u>2,245,482</u>
Total	<u>14,292,402</u>
Year to date investment gains	243,572
Year to date interest/dividends	248,447

Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT): Historically, MMDT has been our standard vehicle for managing short-term cash needs. As part of the review of our investments we examined our cash management and have begun to move some of these funds to other vehicles that are currently providing a better return—again, including local institutions

Facilities Improvement Program

An ambitious facility improvement program continues to transform the campus, and help ensure our long-term viability. These funds have allowed us to address the majority of new facilities and building modernizations targeted in our master plan. Among the actions: modernization of the Anthony Building as a one-stop student service center; partial modernization of Edgerly, Thompson, and Miller Halls; and, of particular note, continued work on the \$57 million science facility, and ongoing renovations to the Hammond Campus Center and Library.

In addition, a number of items not initially included in the plan have been addressed: renovation of the Alumni and Development Center; construction of a self-standing campus police station; acquisition of the Wallace Civic Center; relocation of our Center for Professional Studies to Main Street, and satellite Service Center trade shop renovations. Moreover, the university, primarily through the efforts of our Foundation, has acquired 20 properties over the last several years, immeasurably improving our landscape with new and improved parking, additional green space, and facilities upgrades. This budget, albeit more modestly, continues that trend, while also taking advantage of the historically low cost of construction at this time.

Technology Improvement Program

Our goal of providing state-of-the-art technologies continues, as illustrated by our mediated classrooms, core infrastructure upgrades, new learning management systems, expanded wireless network, enhanced security measures, 24/7 help desk improvements, comprehensive nightly backup systems, updated e-mail archiving systems, high-tech phone switch, new VOIP phones, a piloted lecture capture system, and new VMware workstations. These efforts continue to place us among the best, most technologically advanced campuses in the Massachusetts university sector.

Cost Containment/Savings/Avoidance

Initiatives

While our goals and objectives remain focused on our three-pronged mission of teaching, learning, and service, we know it is imperative that our spending patterns be set with an eye toward containing costs. We have intensified efforts to realize

appreciable savings and are continually enacting new strategies. A partial list of recent initiatives includes: system-wide (community colleges, state universities and UMass campuses) procurement initiatives, contract consolidations, a new credit card processing system, and major cost avoidance via purchases with the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC).

Cost Containment/Savings/Avoidance Initiatives

Virtual Computers	94,000
Credit Card Processing	50,000
Utilities	36,000
Procard & E-Commerce	15,870
MHEC Cost Avoidance	<u>3,580,627</u>
Total	<u>3,776,497</u>

Summary

This budget plan represents an operational sketch outlining how best to address our current and future economic needs. There is little doubt that our budget challenges will continue, which means we must intensify our efforts to enhance current revenue, protect operating dollars, increase assets, and contain costs.

At the same time, we must continue to operate as a first-rate university regardless of the depth and breadth of the financial challenges we face. I am optimistic that this fiscal plan positions the institution for a viable, progressive, and successful future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert V. Antonucci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert V. Antonucci
President

Table of Contents

FY2013 Budget Narrative Letter -----	1
FY2011-FY2013 Operating Budgets -----	6
FY2013 Proposed Fee Increase and State University Tuition and Fee Comparisons -----	7
FY2013 Revenue Sources and Operating Expenses Pie Charts -----	8
Requests for Action -----	9 – 13

FY2011 to FY2013 Operating Budgets

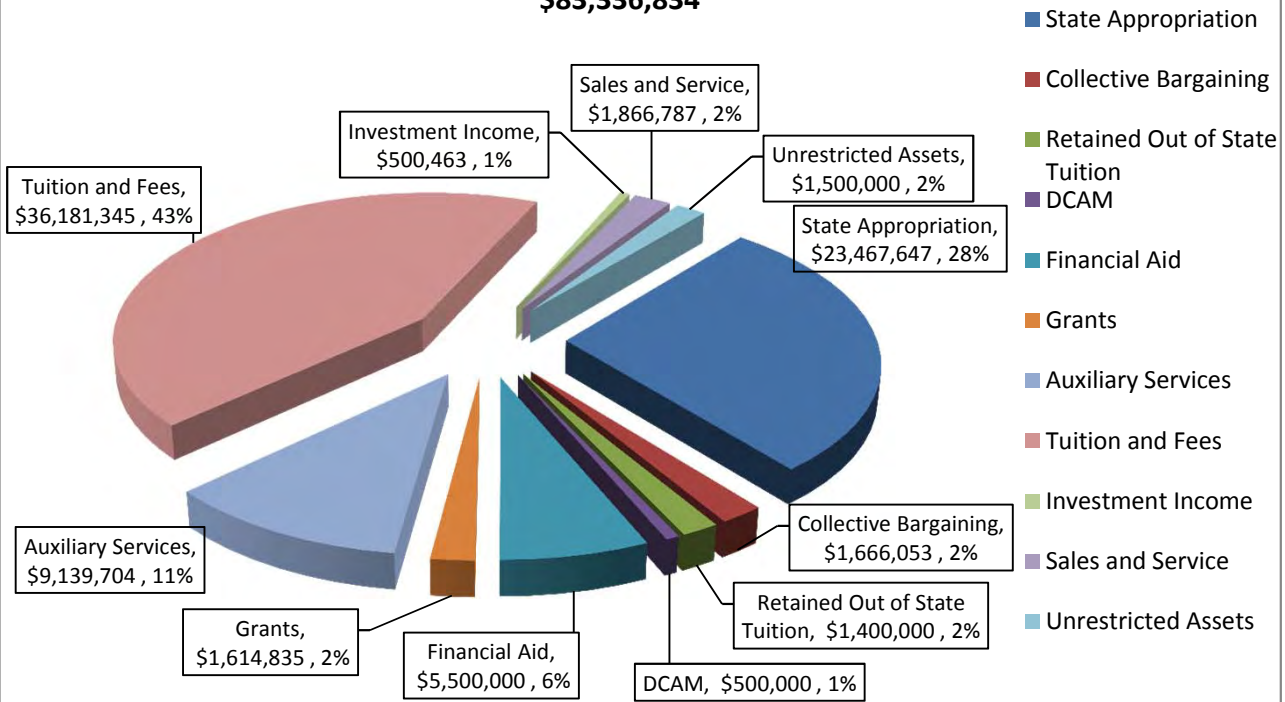
	A	B	C	D
	Annual Operating Budgets FY11 - FY13	FY2011 Actual	FY2012 Budget \$500 annual fee increase 3400 FTE	FY2013 Budget Forecast \$400 annual fee increase 3400 FTE
1				
2				
3	Revenue Sources			
4	State Appropriation	24,304,557	23,467,647	23,467,647
5	Collective Bargaining			1,666,053
6	Estimated Stimulus	3,098,023	-	-
7	Other State Appropriations	283,514	-	-
8	DCAM	140,046	2,051,554	500,000
9	Financial Aid	5,423,921	5,500,000	5,500,000
10	Grants	1,157,496	1,614,835	1,614,835
11	Auxiliary Services	8,448,499	8,734,939	9,139,704
12	Tuition and Fees	33,878,161	34,609,743	
13	Tuition and Fees			35,381,345
14	Retained Out of State Tuition		836,941	1,400,000
15	Non State Supported Tuition			800,000
16	Investment Income	425,955	500,000	500,463
17	Sales & Service	3,089,807	2,891,454	1,866,787
18	Unrestricted Assets		4,672,935	1,500,000
19	Total Revenue Sources	80,249,979	84,880,048	83,336,834
20				
21	Operating Expenses			
22	Regular Employee Compensation	27,681,266	30,563,020	32,478,532
23	Pension and Ins-Related Exp.	1,907,280	2,787,263	2,772,638
24	Part-Time Salaries	4,765,467	5,106,955	5,112,847
25	Financial Aid	5,491,317	5,500,000	5,500,000
26	Grants	1,182,857	1,614,835	1,614,835
27	Auxiliary Services	8,371,793	8,832,904	9,141,462
28	Department Budgets:			
29	Utilities' Expenses Space Costs	2,911,781	4,089,966	4,000,592
30	Scholarship Expenses Insurance Costs	2,763,193	2,812,949	2,972,642
31	Information Technology	3,988,020	3,843,532	3,124,788
32	Capital	7,874,346	6,851,554	5,500,000
33	Operation & Maintenance	7,689,653	8,613,909	8,528,114
34	Hammond Building		2,000,000	
35	Debt Service	1,397,629	2,263,161	2,590,384
36	Operating Surplus/ Capital Roll / Hammond	4,225,377	-	
37	Total Operating Expenses	80,249,979	84,880,048	83,336,834

FY2013 State University Tuition and Fee Comparisons

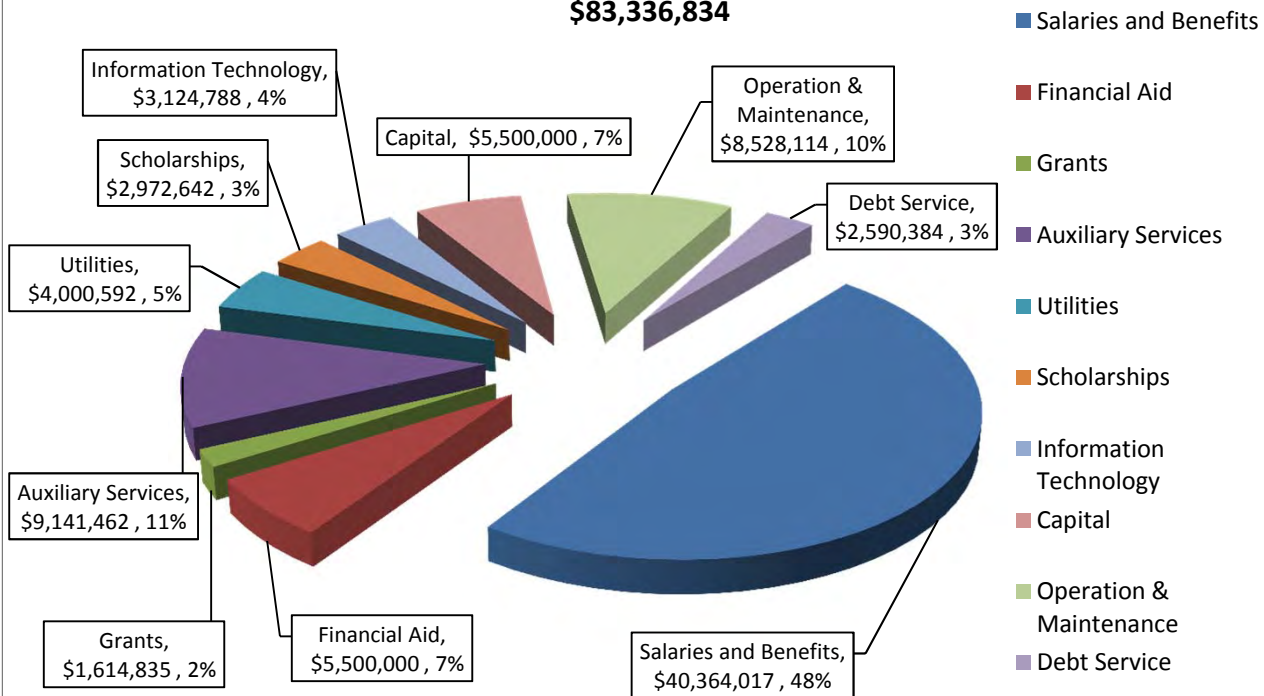
Aggregate Revenue Generated by Proposed Student Fee Increase				
University	Tuition & Fees Current	Annual Increase	Tuition & Fees Proposed	Add'l Revenue 3400 FTE
Fitchburg State	8,300	400	8,700	1,360,000

Universities Sorted by Annual Tuition and Fee Costs					
Universities	Tuition	Fee	Total	Amount of Increase	Total Annual Tuition & Fees
	Per DHE FY2012				FY2013
MA College of Art	1,030	8,670	9,700	700	10,400
Fitchburg State	970	7,330	8,300	400	8,700
MCLA	1,030	7,046	8,076	500	8,576
Westfield State	970	6,918	7,888	380	8,268
Salem State	910	6,820	7,730	500	8,230
Worcester State	970	6,684	7,654	504	8,158
Framingham State	970	6,610	7,580	500	8,080
Bridgewater State	910	6,644	7,554	500	8,054
MA Maritime Academy	1,396	5,444	6,840	342	7,182

FY2013 Revenue Sources \$83,336,834



FY2013 Operating Expenses \$83,336,834



VOTES

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 8, 2012
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 13-11/12
SUBJECT: Student and Technology Fee Increase	

It is requested that the Board of Trustees of Fitchburg State University increase the following annual student fees, effective for the fall semester 2012.

Day School Student Fee Increase

University Fee: \$400.00 for FY2013

Technology Fee: \$10.00 for FY2013

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 8, 2012
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 14-11/12
SUBJECT: GCE Undergraduate & Graduate Student and Capital Fee Increases	

It is requested that the Board of Trustees of Fitchburg State University increase the following annual student fees, effective for the fall semester 2012.

GCE Undergraduate Student Fee Increase

\$8.00 per Credit Tuition Increase for FY2013

\$2.00 per Credit Capital Fee Increase for FY2013

GCE Graduate Student Fee Increase

\$10.00 per Credit Tuition Increase for FY2013

\$2.00 per Credit Capital Fee Increase for FY2013

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 8, 2012
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 15-11/12
SUBJECT: Extended Campus Programs Fee Increase	

It is requested that the Board of Trustees of Fitchburg State University vote to approve an increase of up to \$30 maximum to the Extended Campus program rate with individual program rates approved by the President effective for the fall semester 2012.

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 8, 2012
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 16-11/12
SUBJECT: FY2013 Budget	

It is requested that the Board of Trustees of Fitchburg State University approve the FY2013 Budget as presented by the President.

**Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 8, 2012
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 17-11/12
SUBJECT: Roll Forward of Funds to FY2013 Budget	

It is requested that the Board of Trustees of Fitchburg State University vote to approve that on-going capital projects roll forward into the FY2013 University Budget.

Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 8, 2012
From: President	REQUEST NUMBER: 18-11/12
SUBJECT: License and Name change	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees approve the new license which incorporates the new capacity of 300 and the name change from the Underground Pub to the Falcon Hub.

NOTIFICATIONS

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

NOTIFICATION

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 8, 2012
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: N03-11/12
SUBJECT: Personnel Actions	

New Hire

Carrie Baldassari, MA Effective: 5/14/12	Director of International Education International Education	\$68,000.00
Patricia Arend, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$55,000.00
Kevin McCarthy, MFA Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant Professor Communications Media	\$55,500.00

Rehire

David Svolba, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12 Ends: 5/31/13	Assistant Professor Humanities	\$56,000.00
---	-----------------------------------	-------------

Change in Title and Salary

Paul Weizer, Ph.D. Effective: 6/1/12	Professor to Assoc. VP for Academic Affairs Academic Affairs	\$128,000.00
---	---	--------------

Promotion

Glenda Oullette, Ed.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor to Professor Education	\$75,658.91
Nancy Murray, Ed.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant to Associate Professor Education	\$71,938.15
Wayne Whitfield, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant to Associate Professor Industrial Technology	\$70,419.56

Beverley Hollingsworth, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant to Associate Professor Business Administration	\$66,499.77
Robert Dumas, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor to Professor Nursing	\$76,625.33
Amy Wehe, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant to Associate Professor Mathematics	\$57,540.62
Gerald Higdon, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor to Professor Mathematics	\$90,615.57
Teresa Thomas, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor to Professor Economics, History and Political Science	\$71,185.23
Linda McKay, MS Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor to Professor Nursing	\$82,989.73
Gerald Higdon, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor to Professor Mathematics	\$90,615.57

Tenure

Viera Lorencova, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant Professor Communications Media	\$55,339.68
Hildur Schilling, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$55,883.22
Deon Brock, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$66,756.24
Christine Dee, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$58,650.86
Peter Staab, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor Mathematics	\$61,369.11
Danielle Wigmore, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant Professor Exercise & Sport Science	\$54,252.32

Susan Rosa, Ed.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Associate Professor Education	\$68,027.91
--	----------------------------------	-------------

Promotion & Tenure

M. Zachary Lee, MFA Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant to Associate Professor Communications Media	\$59,780.34
--	--	-------------

Xinxin (Jane) Zhang, Ph.D. Effective: 9/1/12	Assistant to Associate Professor Geo/Physical Sciences	\$58,433.45
---	---	-------------

Retirement

Patricia Carroll, MS Effective: 6/29/2012	Staff Assistant, IT/Core Services Information Technology	\$70,064.38
--	---	-------------

Terrance Carroll, MED Effective: 6/29/2012	Director of Institutional Research Academic Affairs	\$105,113.83
---	--	--------------

Daniel Nomishan, Ed.D. Effective: 5/31/2012	Professor Education	\$92,049.36
--	------------------------	-------------

Dorothy Boisvert, Ed.D. Effective: 9/17/2012	Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$108,536.76
---	--------------------------------	--------------

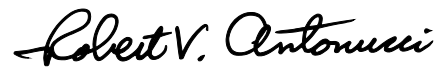
Shirley Wagner, Ph.D. Effective: 6/1/2012	Assoc. VP for Academic Affairs Academic Affairs	\$138,407.10
--	--	--------------

2012 FINANCIAL REPORTS

FY2012 Financial Reports

REPORT CERTIFICATION

In accordance with the standard for the expenditures of trust funds, I certify that all records were maintained in accordance with proper accounting procedures, including documentation of receipts, disbursements, and bank accounts, and that expenditures are related to the institutional mission.



Robert V. Antonucci
President

May 8, 2012

Date

FY2012 Trust Fund Report
For The Nine Months Ended March 31, 2012

FY2012 Operating Budget	FY2011 Actual	FY2012 Adjusted Budget	FY2012 Actual 03/31	%
--------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------

Revenue Sources				
State Appropriation	24,304,557	23,467,647	19,556,373	83.33%
ARRA Stimulus	3,098,023	210,343	210,343	100.00%
Other State Appropriations	283,514	-	-	
DCAM	140,046	1,851,554	1,851,554	100.00%
Financial Aid	5,423,921	5,500,000	5,233,149	95.15%
Grants	1,157,496	1,614,835	793,002	49.11%
Auxiliary Services	8,448,499	8,734,939	8,241,226	94.35%
Tuition and Fees	33,878,161			
Tuition and Fees		33,809,743	30,392,292	89.89%
Retained Out of State Tuition		1,200,000	1,532,868	127.74%
Non State Supported		800,000	735,051	91.88%
Investment Income	425,955	500,000	259,516	51.90%
Sales & Service	3,089,087	2,891,454	2,322,391	80.32%
Capital FY11 Roll Forward		1,716,350		
Unrestricted Assets		3,947,477		
Total Revenue Sources	80,249,259	86,244,342	71,127,765	82.47%

Operating Expenses				
Regular Employee Compensation	27,681,266	30,406,890	21,363,789	70.26%
Pension and Ins-Related Exp.	1,907,280	2,729,004	1,303,253	47.76%
Part-Time Salaries	4,765,467	5,408,553	3,294,532	60.91%
Financial Aid	5,491,317	5,500,000	5,313,580	96.61%
Grants	1,182,857	1,614,835	831,267	51.48%
Auxiliary Services	8,371,793	8,837,904	7,996,840	90.48%
Department Budgets				
Utilities Expenses Space Costs	2,911,781	3,919,352	3,378,527	86.20%
Scholarship Expenses Insurance Costs	2,763,193	2,990,582	3,116,912	104.22%
Information Technology	3,988,020	3,827,673	2,810,339	73.42%
Capital	7,874,346	8,567,904	8,850,696	103.30%
Operation & Maintenance	7,689,653	8,058,484	6,362,772	78.96%
Hammond Building	-	2,120,000	2,120,000	100.00%
Debt Service	1,397,629	2,263,161	1,713,914	75.73%
Unrestricted Assets	4,224,657			
Total Operating Expenses	80,249,259	86,244,342	68,456,421	79.37%

Fitchburg State University
Executive Summary
Financial Statements for the Nine Months Ended
March 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

Statements of Net Assets (pages 1 - 2):

- Total assets increased by approximately \$35.9 million due primarily to the Hammond Center and new Science building construction projects.
- Capital assets increased to approximately \$96.6 million net of current period depreciation of \$3.2 million.
- Current liabilities increased slightly due to an increase in current accounts payable. There was an overall increase in total liabilities due to the 2012 Hammond bond issue.
- Invested in capital assets, net of related debt was \$42.6 million. Net assets relative to capital projects was \$34.9 million.
- Total debt from bond issues totaled \$31.6 million. There is no debt from capital leases.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets (pages 3 - 4):

- Total revenue for the period was \$92.3 million and includes \$17.7 million in capital grants and appropriations.
- Tuition and fee revenue, exclusive of waivers and exemptions, increased by 3.6%. Scholarship expense increased by 2%.
- Auxiliary revenue, which represents operation of the residence halls, decreased slightly and does not include fees charged for the student housing facility owned and operated by the FSU Foundation Supporting Organization, Inc.
- State appropriations increased 24.3% over 2010 levels but is offset by a reduction in stimulus funding. Investment gains totaled \$239,000. Investment income was \$272,000.
- Total expenditures were \$63.9 million.
- There was an overall increase in net assets of \$28.4 million for the first nine months of the fiscal year.

Statements of Cash Flows (page 5):

- Total cash at March 31, 2012 was \$46.1 million which represents an increase of approximately \$4.4 million over cash balances at June 30, 2011.
- Net cash provided from operations was \$32.4 million.
- Acquisitions of property and equipment totaled \$33.6 million and includes the construction of the new Science building and the Hammond Center renovations.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED
MARCH 31, 2012, 2011 AND 2010

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
March 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

ASSETS

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 26,824,107	\$ 28,515,895	\$ 19,872,285
Cash and cash equivalents-restricted	4,656,480	2,770,037	2,622,779
Bond proceeds	7,388,093	15,756,777	-
Accounts receivable, net	2,759,094	3,023,692	4,130,381
Loans receivable, net-current portion	973	2,072	2,798
Other assets	355,775	384,947	291,322
Total Current Assets	<u>41,984,522</u>	<u>50,453,420</u>	<u>26,919,565</u>
Noncurrent Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7,196,178	2,525,064	6,427,175
Investments	11,408,342	11,147,709	10,524,405
Endowment investments	672,685	711,941	691,496
Loans receivable, net	1,971,024	2,035,829	1,981,738
Prepaid expenses	7,795	52,985	268,217
Deferred bond issue costs	198,325	167,288	-
Capital assets, net	96,576,177	57,065,279	53,427,597
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>118,030,526</u>	<u>73,706,095</u>	<u>73,320,628</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 160,015,048</u>	<u>\$ 124,159,515</u>	<u>\$ 100,240,193</u>

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
March 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Current Liabilities			
Bond payable-current portion	\$ 314,809	\$ 220,886	\$ 189,731
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,113,637	1,576,603	2,091,962
Salaries and benefits payable	1,060,217	800,762	1,988,990
Accrued workers compensation-current portion	148,183	130,238	99,242
Compensated absences-current portion	2,886,412	2,481,208	2,456,539
Accrued faculty payroll	3,483,397	3,251,913	3,100,488
Deferred revenue-current portion	1,673,118	2,625,405	1,704,605
Capital lease-current portion	-	174,772	796,691
Other liabilities	1,776,852	2,038,196	1,233,804
Total Current Liabilities	<u>13,456,625</u>	<u>13,299,983</u>	<u>13,662,052</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Bonds payable	31,294,416	25,487,202	10,081,689
Accrued workers compensation	604,015	530,867	404,526
Compensated absences	1,845,411	1,796,736	1,707,086
Rebate payable	17,993	17,965	17,875
Capital lease	-	272,232	446,882
Due to federal loan programs-Perkins	1,524,520	1,497,435	1,482,742
Due to federal loan programs-Nursing	377,433	363,800	358,975
Deferred revenue	2,376,370	994,444	978,377
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>38,040,158</u>	<u>30,960,681</u>	<u>15,478,152</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>51,496,783</u>	<u>44,260,664</u>	<u>29,140,204</u>
Net Assets			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	42,563,822	43,509,942	38,791,596
Restricted for:			
Non-expendable			
Scholarships & fellowships	453,050	466,451	453,817
Expendable			
Scholarships & fellowships	432,444	379,904	342,216
Loans	259,957	257,381	251,358
Capital projects	34,862,466	3,444,068	3,564,450
Debt service	3,663,542	3,691,661	4,474,073
Other	930	930	930
Unrestricted	26,282,054	28,148,514	23,221,549
Total Net Assets	<u>108,518,265</u>	<u>79,898,851</u>	<u>71,099,989</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 160,015,048</u>	<u>\$ 124,159,515</u>	<u>\$ 100,240,193</u>

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENTS OF REVENUE, EXPENSES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Operating Revenues			
Student tuition and fees	\$ 37,251,621	\$ 35,838,850	\$ 33,741,603
Waivers and exemptions	(1,713,605)	(1,561,214)	(1,572,984)
Net student tuition and fees	35,538,016	34,277,636	32,168,619
Federal grants and contracts	5,756,034	6,029,126	5,248,571
State and local grants and contracts	122,977	83,307	148,593
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	175,607	178,120	229,741
Federal stimulus grants	210,343	2,292,352	5,292,086
Sales and services of educational departments	880,388	1,091,934	1,020,299
Auxiliary enterprises:			
Residential life (net of scholarship allowances)	8,171,162	8,307,462	7,892,388
Administrative overhead	47,462	86,098	89,445
Fundraising	76,201	67,182	58,498
Commissions	311,529	335,003	347,462
Miscellaneous	15,032	43,542	44,752
Nursing and Perkins	32,927	25,385	24,272
Total Operating Revenues	51,337,678	52,817,147	52,564,726
Operating Expenses			
Salaries:			
Faculty	13,933,589	13,008,013	12,400,945
Exempt wages	2,102,058	2,759,585	2,605,978
Non-exempt wages	11,184,214	10,189,781	10,350,651
Benefits	7,502,182	7,157,084	5,864,771
Other Operating Expenses:			
Employee related travel	158,105	145,600	110,217
Administrative expense	1,319,260	1,278,782	1,223,748
Facility operational supplies	896,479	808,155	798,162
Utilities	2,405,970	2,743,479	2,464,873
Consultant services	391,648	491,610	421,049
Operational services	618,862	657,045	622,200
Equipment purchases	553,725	714,909	676,034
Equipment lease/rental/repair/maint	483,451	435,814	428,472
Purchased client services-program	122,149	116,574	226,477
Construction and building improvement	964,363	1,095,872	1,015,079
Scholarships	8,067,859	7,916,394	7,147,713
Loans & special payments	20,877	202	150
IT expenditures	2,389,908	2,587,590	2,164,438
Other bond issue costs	-	2,669	-
Depreciation	3,170,320	3,063,099	2,839,106
Auxiliary enterprises:			
Residential life	7,489,175	6,833,512	6,173,324
Total Operating Expenses	63,774,194	62,005,769	57,533,387
Operating profit/(loss)	(12,436,516)	(9,188,622)	(4,968,661)

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENTS OF REVENUE, EXPENSES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)			
State appropriations	22,729,210	21,211,316	18,287,175
Gifts	50	1,915	200
Investment income (net of investment expenses)	272,035	321,114	404,373
Unrealized gain/(loss)	238,618	777,702	1,092,396
Interest on capital debt	(167,882)	(298,440)	(262,273)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	23,072,031	22,013,607	19,521,871
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Income (loss) before Capital and Endowment Additions	10,635,515	12,824,985	14,553,210
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Capital appropriations	1,851,554	-	200,000
Capital grants and gifts	15,901,227	132,301	108,675
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in net assets	28,388,296	12,957,286	14,861,885
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets - beginning of period	80,129,969	66,941,565	56,238,104
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets - end of period	<u>\$ 108,518,265</u>	<u>\$ 79,898,851</u>	<u>\$ 71,099,989</u>

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Increase in net assets	\$ 28,388,296	\$ 12,957,286	\$ 14,861,885
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to cash provided by (used by) operating activities:			
(Gain)/loss on marketable securities	(238,618)	(777,702)	(1,092,275)
Depreciation	3,170,320	3,063,099	2,839,106
(Increase) decrease in assets:			
Accounts receivable	695,385	(948,743)	(2,476,906)
Loans receivable	(30,226)	(113,945)	(84,883)
Other assets	(110,853)	(125,606)	149,588
Account Description			
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(2,068,966)	(905,343)	2,131,016
Compensated absences	358,023	262,905	209,775
Accrued faculty payroll	858,956	763,359	581,094
Deferred revenue	(214,456)	1,438,262	220,183
Other liabilities	1,594,845	1,802,752	1,066,246
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>32,402,706</u>	<u>17,416,324</u>	<u>18,404,829</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	1,465,781
Unrealized gain on cash investments	-	-	1,530
Purchase of investments	-	-	(279,346)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	<u>(33,554,392)</u>	<u>(4,742,128)</u>	<u>(2,451,060)</u>
Net cash (used by) investing activities	<u>(33,554,392)</u>	<u>(4,742,128)</u>	<u>(1,263,095)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Federal loan program	19,866	9,522	7,970
Proceeds of bond issue	7,043,416	15,935,657	-
Proceeds of capital leases	-	-	499,938
Payments of capital debt	(1,134,152)	(493,307)	(474,212)
Payments of capital leases	<u>(398,252)</u>	<u>(448,685)</u>	<u>(1,625,930)</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>5,530,878</u>	<u>15,003,187</u>	<u>(1,592,234)</u>
Net increase in cash	4,379,192	27,677,383	15,549,500
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of period	<u>41,685,666</u>	<u>21,890,390</u>	<u>13,372,739</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - end of period	<u>\$ 46,064,858</u>	<u>\$ 49,567,773</u>	<u>\$ 28,922,239</u>
Supplemental Disclosures:			
Cash paid for interest	<u>\$ 808,018</u>	<u>\$ 496,182</u>	<u>\$ 360,784</u>

For those charged with governance and internal management use only

ENCLOSURES

Sentinel & Enterprise

2011 New England Newspaper of the Year

SERVING ASHBURNHAM, ASHBY, FITCHBURG, LANCASTER, LEOMINSTER, LUNENBURG, SHIRLEY, TOWNSEND AND WESTMINSTER

WEDNESDAY, April 4, 2012

www.sentinelandenterprise.com

75 cents

Planting a 'creative seed'

Fitchburg Artistree hopes to attract people downtown

By Alana Melanson
amelanson@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — Downtown business owners have long wondered how to get Fitchburg State University students off campus and on Main Street.

Jeff Anderson and his fellow founders of Fitchburg Artistree believe they've come up with a solution.

A growing collective of student and local artists, as well as community organizations and businesses, Fitchburg Artistree boasts members of a

wide variety of artistic media — poetry, writing, hip-hop, acoustic music, bands, electronic music, visual art, photography, children's theater, to name some — all branches of an ever-expanding tree.

The idea, started in October, has blossomed rather quickly, which 23-year-old Anderson attributes to the collaborative's mission to offer something different yet include as many creative folks as possible.

"We don't want to do something or offer something that's already going on down the street at another cultural

place," he said. "We want to work with everybody. We want to support exactly what's going on here already but also expand that to include all these new artists that have come here."

After earning the support of the local cultural council, the original 25 to 30 artists obtained the former Cornerstone Performing Arts Center at 454 Main St., in January, which has survived solely on recommended donations from live music and art exhibitions.

Please see **ARTISTREE/5**



SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JOHN LOVE

Jeff Anderson is one of the founders of Fitchburg Artistree, an artist collaborative on Main Street.

Artistree hopes to plant 'creative seed'

ARTISTREE/From Page 1

According to Anderson, a 2011 FSU graduate and now regional planning consultant for the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, a simple rule of basic urban planning is that "people attract people."

He means that investment in an area is sure to follow once people notice a place catching on and drawing more people.

When Anderson was a student at FSU, he was part of the Regional Economic Development Institute, or REDI, and through research, he found evidence that arts and culture can have an incredible impact on a community. He also had his eyes opened to the great deal of vacant storefronts on Main Street.

"There's an incredible amount of creative people in Fitchburg," Anderson said. "I know that from the side of the students and how creative the students are, but we thought, how great would it be if we could get the student creative scene and movement to surface on Main Street?"

An artist and musician himself, Anderson gave examples of other industrial Massachusetts cities, including Lowell, Northampton and Pittsfield, that "have seen great resurgence economically because of the support for arts and culture."

"Fitchburg Artistree's goal, through this alternative space, is to plant the creative seed in Fitchburg, for a creative renaissance, so to speak, or to encourage the creative econ-



SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JOHN LOVE

A space inside the Fitchburg Artistree, a new artist collaborative on Main Street, is called Treehouse Live, where bands play.

omy to grow here," he said.

That space is a place where anyone can come to have the opportunity to perform, showcase their art, and network with other creative individuals and the arts community, he said.

"People realize now, when they walk into Fitchburg Artistree, that there's one common goal, and that's to support the arts," Anderson said. "So if you're an artist, it doesn't matter if you know these people hanging out at the university or the other community members, but you know when you come in here that this is a safe place for expression, and that's something that I think is going to be the catalyst for economic development."

The logo the collaborative uses, a small seed with a tiny sprout, will also change as it evolves, he said.

Anderson hopes Fitchburg Artistree will be the incubator for future city-based creative businesses.

"We just might produce the next great clothing-design company, and they could move down the street and have another space to start," he said.

While Fitchburg Artistree is currently open to the public only during events and workshops, the goal is to find volunteers who will be able to keep the space open for people who just want to drop in and write or create.

On Saturday, Boston-based

funk/hip-hop/reggae act Doctor Doom Orchestra will perform at 8 p.m. On April 12, there will be a Hula-Hoop dance class from 6 to 9 p.m. The following day, a youth poetry event is planned from 6 to 8 p.m., in conjunction with the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center. On April 14, there will be an open-mike night for poets, spoken-word artists, comedians and musicians at 8 p.m.

For more information about Fitchburg Artistree, its events and workshops, visit facebook.com/fitchburgartistree.

Follow Alana Melanson at facebook.com/alanasentinel or at twitter.com/alanamelanson.

FREE TELEGRAM TOWNS

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2012

AN EDITION OF THE TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Fine tuning

FITCHBURG

Joy of music strikes a chord in FSU Community Orchestra



T&G Staff Photos/RICK CINCLAIR

In above photo, Hildy Schilling conducts the Fitchburg State University Community Orchestra during a performance March 24 at the FSU Recreation Center.



By Lynne Klafit
CORRESPONDENT

FITCHBURG — When conductor Hildy Schilling taps her baton, all of the musicians in the Fitchburg State University Community Orchestra are focused and ready. “There’s a great spirit in this group and there is a lot of laughter before and after rehearsals,” she said.

“We have a retired teacher, students from the college, an eye doctor, a professor who just started playing the cello, a concert master violinist who plays and also repairs instruments for our musicians, a nun who picked up the violin at the age of 67 and high school students,” Ms. Schilling added, describing the wealth of new and experienced talent that makes up the orchestra.

The instruments include violins, cellos, two basses, flutes, guitars, a viola, oboe, French horn, keyboard and percussion. The orchestra rehearses weekly at FSU and performs regularly for Fitchburg events. It has also been invited to perform in Ashburnham, Groton, Leominster and Ayer, and plays everything from classical standards to Broadway tunes.

Sister Irene Goguen is a kindergarten teacher at St. Bernard’s. She was given a



Turn to FSU/Page 5

FSU Orchestra

FSU/From Page 1

violin and lessons for her 50th Jubilee by a group of her students.

"It was a dream I had, to play the violin. I love music and played the organ and piano," she said.

During one of St. Bernard's annual talent shows, she said to two of the girls who played violin that "someday, the first thing I will do when I get to heaven is to learn to play the violin like you two."

Unbeknownst to Sister Irene, parents began collecting money after learning of this and presented her with the violin and lesson money.

"I was stunned! I called Hildy, who taught the two girls, and asked her if she gave lessons to senior citizens during the summer and she said yes. After three or four lessons she said you should join the orchestra, you have great timing and can read music," said Sister Irene.

Five years later, Sister Irene is still playing with the orchestra.

"It gave me a whole new life and a whole new world. It's my joy and my dream came true," she said.

Leominster High School senior Dan Landry started playing with the orchestra two years ago. He plans to continue his studies at FSU next year in business management and continue playing with the orchestra. Unlike Sister Irene, he has been playing the violin since second grade.

"This lady came to school and gave a presentation. A friend said, 'Let's learn together,'" said Mr. Landry. Eleven years later, he is still playing, besides participating in sports, schoolwork, training for triathlons

and keeping his landscaping business going.

"I've always loved playing the violin and have been in orchestras since I was 12. You can always learn from the more experienced musicians, like the first chair, Dave Bianchi. He's been playing for 60 years. He's teaching me to lead my section," said Mr. Landry.

"Hildy is a sweetheart. Everyone is definitely welcome to join. We have different sections with different abilities and you always get better the more you practice. I have too much fun playing. And you can see the progress of each song. At the end of the year, it is transformed into gorgeous music," Mr. Landry said.

Everyone is welcome to join in the music. The orchestra plays at a dozen events each year, including FSU's President's Reception, the Mayor's Inaugural Ball in Fitchburg and events in and around North Central Massachusetts. May is Senior Citizens Month and the orchestra will be tuning up for a concert May 3 at the Fitchburg Senior Center, 14 Wallace Ave.

There is even a smaller group of orchestra members featuring violins, guitars and drums that plays rock music on campus, from Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix to Lady Gaga and more.

College students can join the orchestra for credits, and community members can join for free. Ms. Schilling conducts rehearsals between 6:30 and 8:15 p.m. Tuesdays

"This is the most fun I have all week," said Ms. Schilling, who also is a professor at the university.

To learn more, call (978) 665-4193 or email Ms. Schilling at hschilling@fitchburgstate.edu.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fitchburg State University sophomore **Susan Perreault** of Leominster was selected to speak at the Sen. Paul E. Tsongas Scholarship Luncheon at the Statehouse on March 26. The Tsongas Scholar program provides full tuition and fees for high-achieving students who enroll in the state university system.

Ms. Perreault is studying industrial technology with a concentration in architecture. She described the challenges of balancing work and a demanding educational schedule. Ms. Perreault is taking six courses a semester and is on track to graduate in 2013, after just three years at the university.

"I am like any other college student in that I try hard in my classes, I care about my family and friends, and I worry about money," she said.

"With a strong academic record in high school, I was fortunate to have several options when I applied to college," she said; her weighted GPA at Leominster High School was 4.09. "I was accepted into many different New England colleges, most reputable, private colleges, each with their offer of a scholarship. But after looking around and shadowing at each school, I

Fitchburg State sophomore Susan Perreault of Leominster addresses the audience at the Tsongas Scholars luncheon March 26 at the Statehouse.

landed on Fitchburg State. The school has a strong program, amazing faculty and staff, and a lot to offer a college student."

Fitchburg State President **Robert V. Antonucci** dined with the Tsongas scholars and their family members.

"This event is a wonderful tribute to the talent and work ethic of our students," Mr. Antonucci said. "The Tsongas Scholarship program provides an attractive incentive for high-achieving students to consider the state universities, but we can only compete for these students by offering the best programs and top-tier faculty. That's a challenge we have met, as shown by the caliber of students we celebrate at this event each year."

Fitchburg State Tsongas Scholars recognized at the event included **Michael Perron** of Gardner.

Sentinel & Enterprise

2011 New England Newspaper of the Year

SERVING ASHBURNHAM, ASHBY, FITCHBURG, LANCASTER, LEOMINSTER, LUNENBURG, SHIRLEY, TOWNSEND AND WESTMINSTER

SATURDAY, April 7, 2012

www.sentinelandenterprise.com

75 cents

A PLACE TO Live and learn

Construction on FSU student housing begins

By Alana Melanson
amelanson@sentinelandenterprise.com

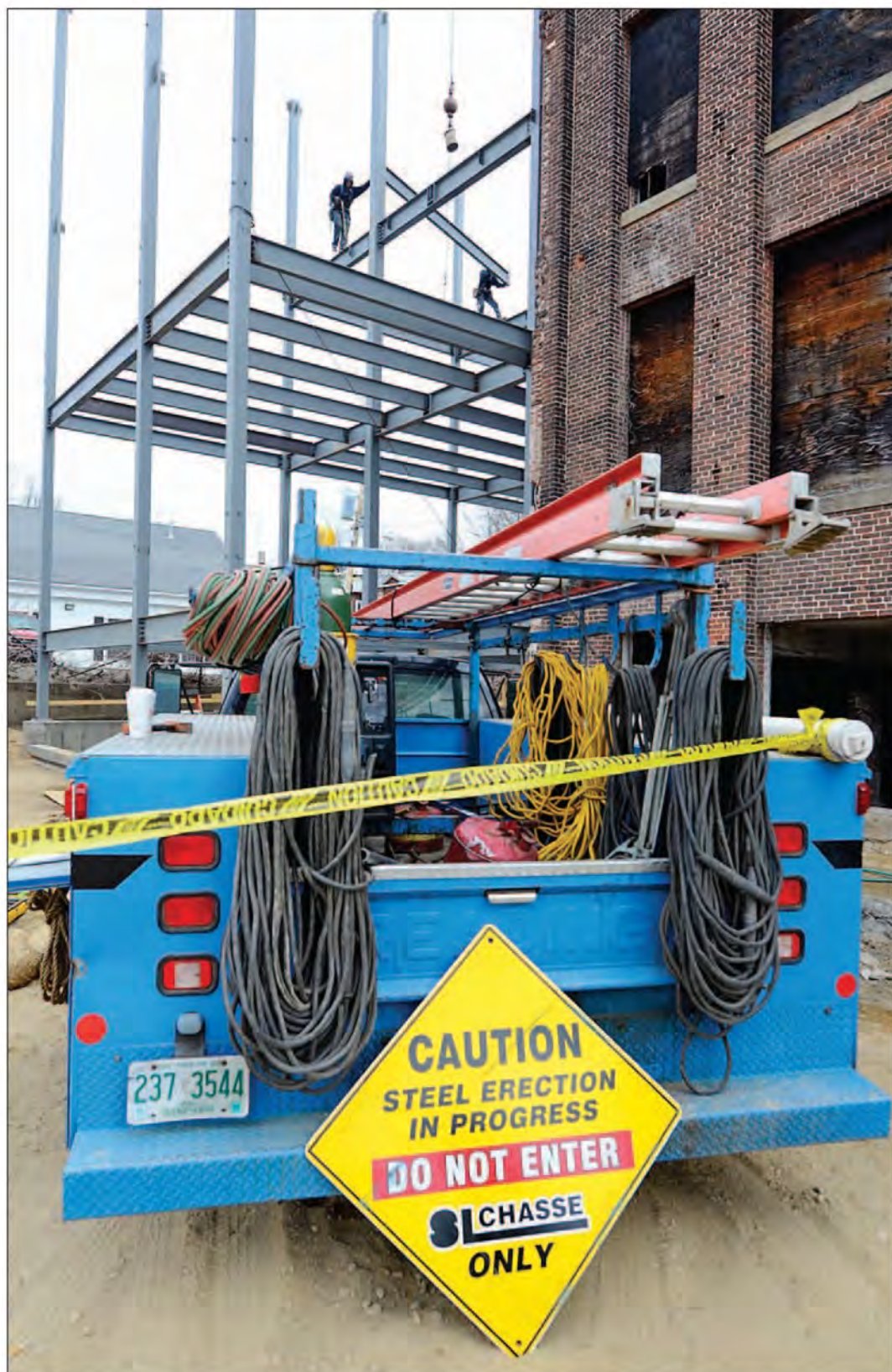
FITCHBURG — The dilapidated, brick building behind the Fire Department on North Street had sat in disrepair for more than a decade.

In February, however, efforts began to renovate the former Simonds Manufacturing Building, the last remaining piece of the Simonds Complex built in 1918 to manufacture armaments for the U.S. during World War I.

By August, the historic building will be turned into loft-style student housing, with 39 suites to accommodate 153 Fitchburg State University students, said Ellen DiGeronimo, champion of the project, at a groundbreaking ceremony held at the 45 North St. building Friday morning.

Simonds Hall, as it will now be called, will be open for students for the fall 2012 semester. Rent will be \$700 per month,

Please see **FSU/5**



SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / BRETT CRAWFORD

Construction workers guide a steel beam into place as the former Simonds Manufacturing Building at 45 North St. in Fitchburg is being redeveloped into student housing for Fitchburg State University.

Student housing under construction

FSU/From Page 1

all utilities included.

The \$11 million project is being led by Preservation Mill LLC and carried out by Hutter Construction Corp., both of New Ipswich, N.H.

This week, steel beams began to be applied to either side of the building, for two additions.

"The steel was delivered on Monday, and by Tuesday when I arrived, it was kissing the sky," said DiGeronimo, a longtime supporter of the development and revitalization of Fitchburg.

Beginning as Simonds Saw & Steel Co. in 1832 under the guidance of Abel Simonds, the company became very successful and quickly expanded. From 1904 to 1934, Simonds Manufacturing Co. filled the block bordered by Main, North, Willow and Green streets and employed more than 1,000 people, making it one of the largest contributors to the city's manufacturing-based economy.

His son Alvan Simonds, president of the company during World War I, left his post in 1917 to become a captain in the ordnance department at the U.S. Reserves corps in Washington, D.C. There, he supervised the purchase and production of helmets and similar materials. The Simonds company offered its services to the military, volunteering to make steel helmets for American troops. Though the company did not make the helmets, the government accepted their expertise gained from a study of the process, and Simonds went on to create armor plates used for protecting gun crews, artillery carts, railway gun mounts and other vehicles.

The building now known as Simonds Hall, at its former 26 Willow St. address, was constructed in 1918 as an addition to accommodate an order of 10,000 armor plate shields for the Russian government, for which the company was an



COURTESY OF BRUCE RONAYNE HAMILTON ARCHITECTS, INC.

An artist's rendering of what the exterior of Simonds Hall on North Street in Fitchburg will look like when completed.

exclusive contractor.

Despite its past, DiGeronimo and developer Russell Barnaby had difficulty convincing the state the building was deserving of historic status. After some prodding, Secretary of State William Galvin awarded Barnaby and his partners \$400,000 in Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits for the project.

They also had difficulty finding a financier for the project, according to Barnaby.

"We went to over 20 banks and institutions looking for someone to believe in our project," Barnaby said at the groundbreaking, explaining they were all doubtful of its viability. "We went to many sources, who told us not to do it. They said it was too risky, it's in Fitchburg, or we don't know about student housing."

He and DiGeronimo thanked Lawrence Erickson, executive vice president of Framingham Co-Operative

Bank, for being willing to give Fitchburg a chance.

FSU President Robert Antonucci welcomed Preservation Mill to the neighborhood, telling them he appreciated their coming to the city "with enthusiasm and willingness to make a difference."

Barnaby, Mayor Lisa Wong, Rep. Stephen DiNatale, D-Fitchburg, and Tilly Ryan, chief of staff for Sen. Jennifer Flanagan, D-Leominster, thanked DiGeronimo for her efforts in getting the project under way.

Born and raised in Fitchburg, DiGeronimo served three terms on the Fitchburg City Council in the 1970s, then went on to work as associate commissioner and then as commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Public Works under then-Gov. Michael Dukakis. After 14 years as executive director of the Salem Chamber of Commerce, DiGeronimo returned to Fitchburg in 2005 and has been involved with many aspects of the city.

LOCAL & REGIONAL NEWS

Local updates throughout the day

telegram.com

FITCHBURG

Newest dorm links to the past

FSU redoing old factory

By Lynne Klafft
CORRESPONDENT

FITCHBURG — Old will be melded with new, and by the end of August the Simonds factory building on North Street will have a new face, a new life and a new name, Simonds Hall, housing Fitchburg State University students.

Ground breaking for the work on the 94-year-old manufacturing plant happened yesterday morning. General contractor Hutter Construction of New Ipswich, N.H., already has crews erecting steel for the additions that will flank the brick building that once manufactured armor plate shielding for World War I rapid-fire gun carriages, trains and armored cars.

The \$11 million project will turn the brick building that has stood vacant for 10 years into 39 loft-style suites for 153 students. Amenities of the rental units include 12-foot ceilings, on-site security, study and lounge areas, central air conditioning, full-time residence assistants on each of the four floors, a resident director and a five-minute walk to the main campus.

"The first time I drove down Main Street and saw so many slate roofed buildings, the charming Victorian architecture, I knew this was a real community. This project is about the promise of Fitchburg and what is to come," said Russell Barnaby of Precision Mill LLC, developers of the project.

The historic building will be named Simonds Hall in honor of the company's important economic and civic contribution to Fitchburg's past and future, according to Mr. Barnaby.

Simonds was founded in 1832 by Abel Simonds with John T. Farrell as a small scythe shop. The family business, along with Butterick, Burleigh and Brown, Putmans and Crocker, was part of the industrial boom that the city experienced in the latter half of the 1800s.



T&G Staff/RICK CINLAIR

Steel workers scramble across girders as they erect an addition to the Simonds factory building to be used for student housing at Fitchburg State University.

Simonds

From Page A3

Simonds expanded into the production of circular, cross-cut, band and hand saws, and high-grade sheet steel production over the decades, winning awards at the world's fairs in Atlanta in 1882, Chicago in 1893 and Paris in 1900.

"Ninety-four years ago Gifford Simonds erected this building to handle the overflow of war orders and by the end of 1918 hundreds of workers were making armor plate, including 10,000 armor plate shields for the Russians," said Ellen M. DiGeronimo lifelong resident of Fitchburg who researched the history of the building.

From 1904 to 1934 Simonds Manufacturing Co. occupied the entire block covering Main, North, Green and Willow streets in downtown Fitchburg, employing more than 1,000 people.

After the war, the plant was converted to the manufacture of steel rule and flat ground die steel, according to Jack Keating who was manager at the plant



T&G Staff/DON LANDGREN JR.

for 11 years. The building is the last of the original Simonds complex.

"They moved us to the plant on Intervale Road in South Fitchburg in 1956. That plant was built in 1930 and was famous because it was the first window-less plant in the world. It was written up in architectu-

ral digests," said Mr. Keating.

Currently, the company is known as Simonds International and continues to manufacture band saws, files, saw blades and machine knives.

Abel Simonds' great-great-granddaughter, Annie Simonds Clifford of Marblehead was present at the ground breaking ceremony, wielding a shovel along with Fitchburg State University President Robert V. Antonucci, Mayor Lisa A. Wong, state Rep. Stephen L. DiNatale, D-Fitchburg, Ms. DiGeronimo, Mr. Barnaby, and Robert and Steven Hakala of Preservation Mill.

Completion of work is scheduled for Aug. 17, in time for students to move in before the start of fall semester at the university. The project was awarded \$400,000 in Massachusetts Historic Tax Credits and expects to see federal government tax credits as well.

"This is a remarkable, fantastic project recreating this building for students. My family is happy, pleased to death about this terrific project," said Ms. Clifford.

Mayor: Fitchburg schools dedicated to arts education

By Alana Melanson

amelanson@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — According to results of a survey recently released by Fitchburg State University's Regional Economic Development Institute, 70 percent of North Central Massachusetts schools have cut funding for arts education during the past three academic years.

Fitchburg Public Schools are "going against the trend" because the district has increased arts funding for several

Please see **SCHOOLS/7**

Art education a priority in Fitchburg

SCHOOLS/From Page 1

years, Mayor Lisa Wong said in discussing the results at the School Committee meeting Monday night.

The survey also questioned local business owners, 83 percent of whom said they believed there is a correlation between cultivation of the arts and economic development.

"I think this is proof that we are moving in the right direction," Wong said at that meeting.

Fitchburg Public Schools Business Manager Robert Jokela said Friday it's not so much that Fitchburg has increased its arts funding but more so that it has been maintaining the staff it has, rather than cutting it.

Jennifer Jones, director of arts and after-school programs for the district, agreed.

"Even through tough times we've had a real commitment to the arts," she said Friday. "We have full-time art and music teachers in every building. What is exemplary about our district is rather than cutting positions, we've kept them."

Superintendent Andre Ravenelle, who is himself an artist and at one point during his college education studied art therapy, said the caliber and passion of the teachers the district hires also make a considerable impact on students.

"Jennifer doesn't only hire art teachers — she hires artists who are teachers," he said of Jones. "They bring the practical education piece, but also the passion for art, which just becomes contagious with the kids."

What also makes Fitchburg different, Jones said, is that most school districts also don't have, or have done away with, somebody with a position such as hers, that is dedicated to coordinating and advocating for art and music, as well as seeking out as much grant funding as possible in order to continue and bolster these programs.

Part of her job has been securing funding through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program administered through the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which accounts for much of the arts and fitness after-school programs in the city, many of which are considered exemplary by the state



SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE PHOTOS / BRETT CRAWFORD

Jen Scopelliti looks at artwork with her daughters Lily Scopelliti, 6, and Kaden Scopelliti, 9, at the 9th Annual Student Art Show at Rollstone Studios, Thursday night. The Fitchburg districtwide show titled, "Preserving a Sense of Place From a Child's Perspective," included art from children in Grades 1-8.

and serve as models for other districts, she said.

Though there are fees for the programs, in many instances they are waived or at least reduced for high-poverty children, Jones said, to ensure that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, are guaranteed access to activities — such as dance, or learning how to play an instrument — they may not have otherwise.

Aside from providing an avenue for self-expression, involvement in the arts has also been shown to aid in brain development and assist in learning in other areas, such as math, she said.

"Kids find their identity through the arts," Jones said. "They find out who they are. Some kids come to school just because they want to be there for art, or for band, or to stay after school for dance, or poetry, or creative writing."

Despite times that have called for some difficult cuts to be made, the arts have survived in Fitchburg, she said — something she attributes to Ravenelle's hand.

Jones said involvement with the arts has also been shown to deter dropout rates.

"If you take away these things, you take the spirit out of the program and you take the spirit out of the kids," she said. "We want everyone to feel connected, to be engaged."

This philosophy is something that has certainly influ-

enced the district's reasoning for keeping the arts funded in the manner they have.

"My concern is, when you cut something, are you cutting the lifeline of some kid, who does well in school because they're involved in sports, or debate club, or art?" Ravenelle said.

According to Ravenelle, most students who participate in extracurricular activities have an attendance rate between 94 and 96 percent, and grade point averages between 3.2 and 3.5.

"There is a correlation," he said. "When students are happy and succeeding in some aspect, they tend to do well overall."

Ravenelle's feelings on the matter are supported by some national research figures.

A 2005 Harris Interactive poll, referenced in the REDI report, found that 93 percent of Americans believe the arts are vital to providing a well-rounded education; 86 percent agreed that an arts education encourages and assists in the improvement of a child's attitude toward school.

Eric Gregoire, a REDI research intern, sent the survey — the very first REDI has distributed community-wide — to 22 individuals working in the public school districts of Fitchburg, Leominster and Lunenburg. Of these, 10 chose to respond. Six respondents were principals and four were teachers. He said in his report

that the respondents came from every level of elementary and secondary education: one representing prekindergarten to kindergarten, two from grades one to five, one from grades six to eight, and six from grades nine through 12.

Of the 10 respondents, Gregoire says seven are from Fitchburg, one is from Leominster and two are from Lunenburg — so if the three respondents from Leominster and Lunenburg all answered that their arts funding had decreased, that means at least four Fitchburg respondents still felt arts funding had been cut, despite what city and school officials have said.

Gregoire acknowledges "this was an initial survey of this population and the conclusion that I draw from the data can only be viewed as preliminary, contingent upon further research and investigation into this population."

He, along with other students and staff involved with REDI's Creative Economy: Cultural Outreach and Economic Development will delve further into their findings at a public research forum to be held on Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at the President's Hall in the Mazzaferro Center at 291 Highland Avenue on the FSU campus.

Follow Alana Melanson at [facebook.com/alanasentinel](https://www.facebook.com/alanasentinel) or at twitter.com/alanamelanson.



Students, family, and friends view art displayed at the 9th Annual Student Art Show at Rollstone Studios, Thursday night.

Sentinel & Enterprise

YOUR HOMETOWN - YOUR NEWSPAPER

SERVING ASHBURNHAM, ASHBY, FITCHBURG, LANCASTER, LEOMINSTER, LUNENBURG, SHIRLEY, TOWNSEND AND WESTMINSTER

TUESDAY, April 10, 2012

www.sentinelandenterprise.com

75 cents

FSU students study effects of arts education

By Alana Melanson

amelanson@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University professors and former student interns involved with the Regional Economic Development Institute shared the findings of their arts-related research at a public forum Monday night

at the Mazzaferro Center.

The presentation, titled "Using Music, Art, and Health for Cultural Outreach and Regional Economic Development," was led by humanities professor Jane Fiske and two of the three students who conducted research during the last academic year.

They sent surveys to educators, business and health-care professionals in Fitchburg, Leominster and Lunenburg, requesting their thoughts on the arts and how they apply to their respective industries and the economy.

Former student Eric Gregoire, who focused on arts edu-

cation, reported that 70 percent of 10 out of a pool of 22 possible respondents stated they felt that arts funding in their institutions had been cut over the past three years.

Gregoire said more research and conversation would be necessary to further

Please see **ARTS/4**

FSU students release studies of arts education's effects

ARTS/From Page 1

examine the cultural and economic landscapes discussed, and that it would be worth investigating whether students who participate in after-school programs in the various districts have differing perceptions of school than their peers who do not.

"If they're involved in a program that has some sort of art component to it, are they consistent with some national studies saying that students are more comfortable in the school setting when they have that part to their day?" he said.

About 80 percent of responding educators felt there is a connection between art education and local economic development, Gregoire said.

Former student Amanda Rossi, who focused on arts and the economy, said she sent the survey to 150 businesses in Fitchburg, Leominster and Lunenburg. Of the 150, only 15 responded, meaning only a 10 percent return rate.

"The results were definitely very tentative, certainly not conclusive by any means," Rossi said. "But it's still interesting to see, when you take a slice of the business professionals in our area, what their perception was."

While the majority of the business-sector respondents were not familiar with the idea of a "creative economy," 86 percent believed there is a correlation between cultivation of the arts and economic development.

When asked whether they believe that improving the vitality of the arts could improve their business, 74 percent agreed or strongly agreed.

Participants said doing so would attract new clients to the area as well as positively impact their bottom line, Rossi said.

Rossi's report states: "Improving bottom-line profits is an exceptionally direct impact and is typically what upper management uses to determine the allocation of funds, thus, the fact that 33 percent of participants selected this as a way in which they believe the arts affect their business is significant."

However, when asked if their business would be willing to allocate funds for improving the vitality of the arts in the region, the majority, 53 percent, was unsure, while 27 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed, and only 20 percent agreed or strongly agreed, her report adds.

During her research, Rossi also explored the El Sistema music program, founded in 1975 by Jose Antonio Abreu and 11 other students in a parking garage in Venezuela,

and has grown tremendously since.

Since its inception, the number of orchestras in the country has grown from two to "over 60 children's orchestras, almost 200 youth orchestras, 30 professional adult orchestras and dozens of choruses," Rossi said, noting that it has reached out to 300,000 of the nation's neediest children as young as 2 or 3, performing with and watching their peers perform, as well as inspiring similar programs in more than 25 countries.

"The proliferation of music was just one aspect of the success of that program," she said, adding that it has positively shaped the course of many of its participants' lives.

Rossi included in her presentation a quote from Gustavo Dudamel, conductor of the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, which has received international acclaim.

"Music certainly changed my life ...," Dudamel is quoted as saying. "I can look back now and see that many of the boys from my class went on to become involved in drugs and crime. Those who played music did not."

Research done on Scotland's El Sistema offshoot, Big Noise, found that 93 percent of parents reported their children were happier, while 80 percent reported improved concentration, and 70 percent had hope for the future, Rossi said.

State Rep. Stephen DiNatale, D-Fitchburg, pondered what it might take to get a similar program started within the city, noting that the apparent benefits are wide-reaching, from changing individual lives to making the community safer.

Fiske presented a final piece on behalf of former student Heather Roberts, who was unable to make it to the forum, on the role of art as therapy. She outlined such benefits as its ability to reduce stress and depression, develop self-reflection and confidence, and improve one's quality of life through sensory exploration.

Roberts worked with a local Brownie troop, as well as two separate groups of developmentally and physically disabled adults in Gardner and Lancaster, to see how they responded to working with clay, or in one case, Play-Doh.

"Regardless of age or developmental levels, physical or intellectual limitations, through creativity and imagination, we find our identity and our reservoir of healing," Fiske echoed Roberts' conclusion.

Follow Alana Melanson at [facebook.com/alanasentinel](https://www.facebook.com/alanasentinel) or at twitter.com/alanamelanson.

Monday, April 9, 2012

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Our
146th
year

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
telegram.com
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Young councilor makes the most of everything



T&G Staff/RICK CINCLAIR

Nicholas J. Carbone represents Ward 5 on the Fitchburg City Council.

‘Mr. Fitchburg’

Abilities are put to work

By Paula J. Owen
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

FITCHBURG—Some call him “Mr. Fitchburg”—and the young newcomer to local politics plans to live up to his nickname while proving people with disabilities are just the same as everyone else.

Nicholas J. Carbone, 26, is a promising young lawyer, and, if he has his way, he will open his own law firm and one day receive a judgeship. He is wrapping up classes in May at the

Massachusetts School of Law in Andover, and has already prosecuted cases while working as an intern in the Worcester district attorney’s office. He also interned for state Rep. Stephen L. DiNatale. He is one of the youngest people ever elected to Fitchburg’s City Council. He also plays bass guitar in a band.

He is also living with Friedreich’s ataxia, an inherited disease that causes progressive damage to the nervous system,

Turn to **Carbone**/Page A8

Nicholas J. Carbone

Age: 26, one of the youngest ever elected to City Council.

Education: Graduating in May from Massachusetts School of Law in Andover; graduated from Fitchburg State University in 2009, B.A. political science; graduated from Fitchburg High School in 2005.

Experience: Elected to City Council in November 2011. Worcester district attorney’s office and for state Rep. Stephen L. DiNatale.



T&G Staff File Photo/RICK CINCLAIR

Nicholas J. Carbone campaigns for Fitchburg city councilor on Election Day, Nov. 8.

Carbone

From **Page One**

resulting in symptoms ranging from gait disturbance to speech problems, and in some cases, early death. He was diagnosed at 12 — when he was still able to walk.

He says his wheelchair is not what he wants people to see, and he hopes to help make a lasting impact on the city that he grew up in and loves.

“A lot of things I do now are things I would have done anyway,” Mr. Carbone said. “That is what I want to show: Don’t let a disability or anything slow you down. I led my law school’s trial team to national competition, ran for council, still work out and play sports. Those are things that some average, regular people don’t do.”

He said he understands that the progressive nature of his disease means making the most of his time. He hopes to help revive the city and transform it into more of a college town during his tenure on the council.

“I have a greater sense of urgency than most people,” he said. “While I hope to be around for a long time, my condition means there are no guarantees. I want to prove that people with disabilities are just the same as everyone else.”

City Councilor Marcus L. DiNatale, 29, who also started his run in local politics at a young age, in 2005 on the Fitchburg School Committee, said Mr. Carbone’s accomplishments are not surprising to him. The two have served on the council together since January.

“I expect that from him, because of the person he is,” Mr. DiNatale said. “Regardless of his disability, his character shines through. I know what he is capable of, and what an asset he is to the community. It speaks to fact that he belongs on that city council and he is doing a great job, in my opinion.”

Former councilor and mayoral candidate Joseph D. Solomito said he knew Mr. Carbone would do a great job representing his ward on the council.

“I’ve known him since he was a little kid,” Mr. Solomito said. “He grew up with my son. He has overcome a lot and has a lot of determination.”

He said Mr. Carbone never let his physical challenges get in the way.

“Both he and his parents go beyond that,” he said. “How many people go through college and then law school with those kinds of physical challenges? You can’t help but admire his determination not to be limited by any physical challenges. He is just a really, really good kid.”

Before his diagnosis, Mr. Carbone’s parents noticed he was developing differently from his other siblings, well before he realized there was something wrong. No one else in his family has the rare inherited disease, which affects one in 22,000 to 29,000 people. The disease slowly wears away structures in areas of the brain and spinal cord. Both his parents, however, learned they are carriers of the disease, after their son’s diagnosis.

“My parents knew more than I did,” he said. “Me and my siblings are pretty close in age. There were indications for them. They could see how my brother was progressing as a normal teen and that I was a little different. Things I was really good at or I thought I was good at — kids my age were surpassing me in, when I was one of the ones with more talent.”

He loved playing basketball in school and he said as his disease progressed, it became more and more difficult.

“I was picked first a lot by coaches and then I was getting booted down year to year lower on the roster,” he said. “I wasn’t in a wheelchair until two and a half years ago. In some ways, I was kind of prepared for it, I guess. Looking at others with my disability and people with other disabilities, I’ve done a lot of good things both in and out of my wheelchair.”

Mr. Carbone said he feels fortunate that his symptoms are milder than those of the six other people in Massachusetts with the disease whom he has met.

“My speech is not as affected as a lot of people with this illness,” he said. “I’ve met a lot of people with disabilities — that has probably been the most empowering thing for me the last few years.”

NEIGHBORS

Fitchburg State University alumnus **Ethan F. Becker**, an author, international speech coach and developer of communication training and coaching programs, will deliver the address at Fitchburg State's undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 19.

Mr. Becker, who will also be awarded an honorary degree, is a 1993 graduate of Fitchburg State. He is president of the the Speech Improvement Company Inc. and the co-author of "Mastering Communication at Work." He has developed and delivered motivational training programs on various topics related to communication worldwide. He has worked with Harvard University, Apple Computer, the New York Giants, Bain Capital, Biogen, IBM and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Becker studied communications media at Fitchburg State. He earned an MBA from the school of business at Capella University in Minneapolis and is working toward a doctorate.

■

■ The Fitchburg State University Foundation's five-year capital campaign has received a major boost as it enters its final months: a \$100,000 challenge grant from **Gregg P. Lisciotti**, president and founder of Lisciotti Development Corp. of Leominster.

Mr. Lisciotti last year completed a 10-year term on the university's Board of Trustees. His challenge grant will match any new gifts and pledges received by the foundation between now and June 30.

A website devoted to the grant can be found at www.fitchburgstate.edu/challenge.

"Gregg has been an invaluable asset to this institution, from his service as trustee and chairman of the board to the work he did with our students," Fitchburg State President **Robert V. Antonucci** said. "This extraordinary gift marks a milestone in our capital campaign and further demonstrates Gregg's ongoing commitment to Fitchburg State. I applaud his generosity and look

"The gift serves two purposes," Mr. Lisciotti said. "The first is to encourage faculty, friends and alumni of Fitchburg State to give back to an institution that has provided opportunity to generations of students. The second is to raise awareness about the need for private support of public higher education. We now receive only about a third of our operating budget from the state. Without these private donations we could not maintain the access to a quality education that has so long been our hallmark."



Mr. Becker



Mr. Lisciotti

In the swing



SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JOHN LOVE

Alpha Sigma Tau, a sorority at Fitchburg State University, held its annual Swing-a-thon For RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network), which began at noon Thursday, April 12, and ended at noon Friday. Alicia Janowicz, Melanie Walsh and Melissa Boudreau, all juniors at FSU, seem in good spirits with 19 hours to go in the swing for a good cause.

FSU names O'Donnell alumni rep to trustees

FITCHBURG — Frank O'Donnell of Swampscott was sworn in earlier this month as the alumni representative to the Fitchburg State University board of trustees.

A 1993 FSU graduate, O'Donnell was selected by the Alumni Association to replace Beverly Farias, who recently completed a 10-year term on the board. He previously served as a member of the university's alumni board of directors from 1999 to 2012, and is a highly accomplished national-security executive.

After earning his bachelor's



O'Donnell

degree at FSU, O'Donnell simultaneously completed his law degree at Suffolk University Law School and his master's in public administration at Suffolk's Sawyer School of Management.

Before starting his current position as vice president for mission support at Lawrence-based defense contractor Cargo Security Management International, O'Donnell was a principal for another small defense contractor, SM Consulting. He helped that company grow into a \$100 million-per-year organization.

In 2008, SM Consulting was

sold to Science Applications International Corp., one of the world's largest defense contractors. O'Donnell served as vice president in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division until leaving the company in 2011 to join CSML.

Art, science meld in show by museum, FSU students

By Paula J. Owen
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

FITCHBURG

FITCHBURG — A new exhibition is blurring the divide between art and science through experimental films, poetry readings, music and performance art.

The exhibition, "Tales from a Test Tube," runs from April 21 through July 27 at the Warner Babcock Institute of Green Chemistry, 100 Research Drive, Wilmington, with an opening reception from 1 to 4 p.m. April 21 at the institute.

The exhibition is curated by Jerry Beck, director of marketing and community engagement at the Fitchburg Art Museum, in collaboration with a class of Fitchburg State University students led by professor Robert Carr.

The concept is for students, artists, scientists and the public to come together to learn how art and science combine to create a more environmentally safe and sustainable world, Mr. Beck said.

The artists offer an exquisite assortment of drawings, paintings, glassworks, ceramics, mixed media, sculpture, photography, film and video, he said.

"Each work of art is a footprint for crossing the previously black and white boundary between science and art," he said. "This exhibition promotes some important artists and how their work responds to the preservation of the natural world as a unifying life force and the key to our ultimate survival."

One of the features of the exhibition draws an eclectic audience of teachers, students, scientists and business leaders from around the world, Mr. Beck said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Oil Spill" by Tim Légnos is among the artworks displayed in the "Tales of a Test Tube" exhibition, a collaboration between the Fitchburg Art Museum and students at Fitchburg State University.

"The institute, founded by Dr. John Warner, is taking expansive steps in the field of chemistry toward making the world a less toxic environment," Mr. Beck said. "This means using nontoxic chemicals, such as replacing petroleum-based materials with eco-friendly substances such as plants, water and carbon dioxide, producing less waste and designing techniques that minimize energy requirements and use renewable materials."

"It is not a philosophy," Dr. Warner said. "It is not a social movement. It's a science. Today, we need the arts and sciences to come together in new and unprecedented ways. They both need creativity that can lead to critical ecological changes that will sustain us and the world we

live in."

Participating artists include Merrill Comeau, Jay Critchley, Bob Harmon Jr., Alexa Kleinbard, Tim Legros, Charles Mayer, Peter McLean, Alison Nesbitt McTyre, Kate Gilbert Miller, Karen Moss, Ian Murray, Stephanie Nichols, Patrick Pierce, Michael Rivera, Collette A. Shumate Smith, Tom Stanford, Ilene Sunshine, Steve Syverson and Michal Truelsen.

For more information, call (978) 590-3759 or visit www.fitchburgartmuseum.org.

EDITORIAL

Another step in Fitchburg renewal

Old New England mill cities must change or die, and the redevelopment of two dilapidated buildings near Fitchburg State University into private student housing is more proof that Fitchburg is not going down without a fight.

Work is well under way at the former Dillon Elementary School on Day Street and at former the Simonds Manufacturing Building off North Street, behind the Fire Department's headquarters. Barring unexpected construction delays, both projects are scheduled to begin serving students by the fall.

The former Dillon School, which will be called Dillon Hall, has been gutted and is being redeveloped by 75 Day Street Trust into two- and four-bedroom apartments and one larger apartment to suit five people, for a total of 45 bedrooms.

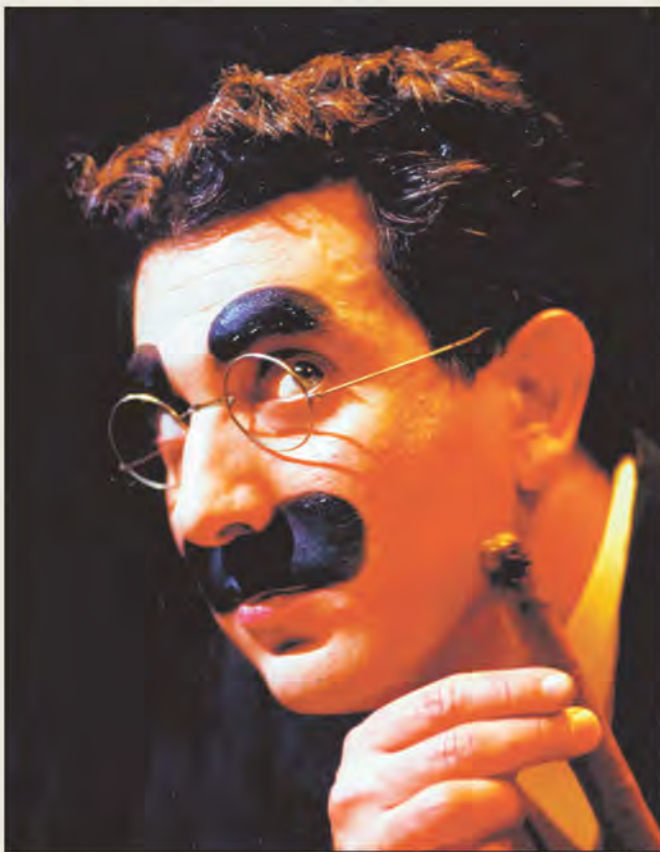
The former Simonds building, which was built in 1918 to originally make armor-plate shields for the Russian government, will be transformed into 39 suites to house 153 Fitchburg State University students. Ellen DiGeronimo, an avid cheerleader for the city who understands the value of public-private partnerships, helped the building's owner, Russell Barnaby of Preservation Mill LLC, secure \$400,000 in Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits for the project.

As she championed the project, DiGeronimo nicknamed it "The Little Building That Could." It's an apt name, considering Barnaby was refused financing for the project by some 20 institutions before Framingham Co-operative Bank said yes.

Both dorms will be built as part of the city's new Student Housing Overlay District, which aims to improve the quality of off-campus student housing while easing restrictions on such multiple-bed residences.

These projects are a huge win for the city and university. Parents who send their children to FSU want to be assured that if their children live off-campus there are safe and clean options. At the same time, both projects bring FSU students closer to Main Street, where it is hoped they will patronize the businesses and cultural offerings downtown.

There is no one magic pill that will transform the city. Instead it will take several remedies — such as these two redevelopment projects — to bring change to Fitchburg, and make it "The Little City That Could."

Don't miss

SUBMITTED PHOTO

FITCHBURG — The secret word is “Marx” when Frank Ferrante presents his acclaimed one-man show “An Evening with Groucho” in its only Central Massachusetts appearance at 8 p.m. April 28 at Weston Auditorium, Fitchburg State University, 160 Pearl St. Tickets are \$25; seniors and Fitchburg State faculty and staff, \$22; Fitchburg State University students and children 18 and younger, \$7. For more information, call (978) 665-3347 or visit www.fitchburgstate.edu/cultural.

At FSU, sharing visions of a city revitalized

By Alana Melanson

amelanson@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — While some focused on popular culture topics such as the mathematics of the zombie apocalypse, other Fitchburg State University students outlined plans to better parts of the city and the region at Thursday's Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice.

Regional Economic Development Institute interns and university seniors Shane Burdick, Matthew Gordon and Rachel Lindstrom were among the latter at the third annual event.

Burdick, 22, of Pittsfield, chose to focus on the redevelopment of the block containing the Rollstone Congregational Church in a way that he says would "better serve the community and revitalize the visual aspects of a pivotal point" in the downtown, a bridge between the university and the city, "while serving as an architectural landmark to promote tourism and economic development in the surrounding communities." He chose the location due to its strategic placement for the utilization of public transportation.

Using design principles and ideas from Jane Jacobs' "The Death and Life of Great American Cities," a book that critiques modern planning policies and promotes human interaction through architecture, Burdick discussed mixed use of buildings, incorporating both daytime and nightlife activities, allowing for greater

pedestrian walkability and the interconnection of old and new structures. He designed a new building, with a brick facade, that incorporated such varied uses as a restaurant, retail space, student housing and professional practices for different industries, as well as including outdoor benches and a fountain tied to the Nashua River.

He also focused particularly on widening sidewalks and encouraging outdoor events, leading to more people spending time outside and interacting with one another.

"The theory is, with more people watching each other, it will lead to less crime," Burdick said.

Lindstrom also focused on an area that would draw students from the university to the downtown area, with her architectural study of combining the recently closed The Rabbit Hole bookstore with Chaibo Coffee & Tea House in the empty space adjacent to Destaré martini bar at 320 Main St.

"Instead of losing everything The Rabbit Hole has to offer, we're proposing that it merge with an already successful business," the South Easton native said.

Her design would allow both to co-exist, while increasing cafe space and allowing for

separate areas for children and a performance venue for poets, musicians and other creative artists.

Lindstrom also explored renovations that would need to be made to make the space Americans with Disabilities Act compliant, such as adding a handicapped ramp outside the

building and adding an elevator within, and to bring the structure up to code regulations.

Gordon, 23, of Fitchburg, who worked with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and researched open space and recreation

opportunities in the 2.5-mile radius around the West Fitchburg commuter rail station in the works for the MRPC's recently begun Wachusett Smart Growth Corridor Plan, chose to share his findings.

The plan, which would affect portions of Fitchburg, Leomin-

ster and Westminster, focuses on fostering opportunities for drawing people and businesses to the region and furthering economic development.

Gordon's work centered around utilizing and connecting existing trails and other recreation spots, preserving natural beauty and resources and studying previously completed master and other plans for the area. He found the different municipalities shared many common interests and goals, but also vastly underestimated their population growth.

"What some estimated their populations would be 30 years out are actually what they are today," Gordon said. "They wildly underestimated the potential of the area."

According to associate political science professor and REDI faculty director Joshua Spero, events such as this one are "a great way for faculty and students to get to showcase student research that goes beyond the classroom and, in many cases, has significant impact in the community."

Spero said students who



SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / ALANA MELANSON

FSU senior Rachel Lindstrom, of South Easton, presents her design concept centered around merging Chaibo Coffee & Tea House and The Rabbit Hole, a former bookstore on Fitchburg's upper Main Street.

graduate from FSU are likely to remain in the region and become "the backbone of the workforce."

Follow Alana Melanson at [facebook.com/alanasentinel](https://www.facebook.com/alanasentinel) or at twitter.com/alanamelanson.

Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

TO: Board of Trustees	DATE: May 8, 2012
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: 19-11/12
SUBJECT: Board Officers	

It is requested that the Board of Trustees of Fitchburg State University vote to approve the following slate of officers effective July 1, 2012:

Carol T. Vittorioso, Chairperson
Martin F. Connors, Jr., Vice Chairperson
Anna Maria Clementi, Clerk

Minutes of Meeting Held on May 8, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

4:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

300 Highland Avenue, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Sanders Building

Trustees Present: Robert Babineau, Jr., Anna Maria Clementi, Martin F. Connors, Jr., Matthew Costello, Anthony Mercadante, Frank O'Donnell, Robert Pontbriand, Carol Vittorioso

Trustees Absent: David Mullaney, Gladys Rodriguez-Parker, Cynthia Stevens

Also Present: Robert V. Antonucci, Robin Bowen, Jay Bry, Cathy Canney, Gail Doiron, Nathan Gregoire, Chris Hendry, Kelli Lundgren, Jessica Murdoch, Henry Parkinson, Michael Shanley, Steve Swartz

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vittorioso at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Vittorioso opened the meeting requesting any public comments.

Mr. Robert Pontbriand stated that this was his last meeting as a Trustee as his second term would expire in July, 2012. Robert said it has been a great privilege to serve the #1 institution. He thanked the Board, the president and all his colleagues at the university and mentioned he was proud of all that has been accomplished over his 10 years of service. The president thanked Mr. Pontbriand for dedicated service to the Board.

The consideration of the Board of Trustees minutes from April 11, 2012 were presented.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Pontbriand and seconded by Mr. Connors it was

Voted: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 11, 2012 as presented.
(8-0)

The president requested that the FY2013 Budget be presented as the first topic.

The president referred to page six of the budget packet. The university has a modest budget of \$83,336,834, which has been tentatively approved. The final budget should be available by the start of the 2012-2013 academic year. The largest expenses show on the Operating Expense pie chart on page eight of the budget packet, which are salaries and benefits. The university has frozen most positions or they have been left unfilled, with the exception of faculty positions. The largest revenue source is tuition and fees, followed by state appropriation.

We currently have \$14 million in assets available from the MMDT for the science facility, renovations of educational buildings, technology improvements, etc. The president stated this is more than we've had in the past. We will have a \$1.7 million deficit, but we have reserves from short-term cash investments that will cover the deficit.

President Antonucci then said the Finance and Administration sub-committee met and they are requesting a \$400 fee increase as well as a \$10 technology fee increase for day school students for the fall semester 2012. The president then pointed out the fee comparison chart on page seven of the budget packet. Fitchburg State will be second in total tuition and fees, but our fee increase is one of the lowest across the state universities.

The president referred to the pie charts stating that approximately 40 percent of the operating expenses are salaries and benefits, which are fixed costs per the collective bargaining agreements. We are receiving money to cover the collective bargaining costs. He also pointed out that the university will retain the out-of-state tuition in the amount of \$1.4 million, which makes a difference for us. The president said we may not need our reserve funds because of the mild winter. We saved money on heat, snowplowing, electricity, etc. We will receive the re-calculated budget in September, but it is not likely that the Senate will supply any additional monies. He stated as far as the fee increase proposed, the president said that all of the universities have settled on fee increases, with the exception of one, and that our proposed increase is one of the lower ones requested.

Dr. Babineau asked about the in-state vs. out-of-state tuition. The president clarified that out-of-state tuition is more than in-state tuition. Universities are able to retain the out-of-state tuition; however, less than 10 percent of our students are out-of-state residents.

Currently we pay \$32 million in salaries based on 580-600 full-time faculty and staff members. The budgeted salary numbers have collective bargaining increases built into them as appropriated. The state is funding the collective bargaining fees of \$1.6 million as part of a state-wide negotiated contract. This is the first time this has happened.

Ms. Clementi asked how we compare to other institutions as far as salaries. The president said all the state universities are comparable. The only variation would be if there was a different number of tenured faculty or people that have been at their institution for a long time.

Mr. Costello questioned why we don't have more funds for scholarships? The president stated that we could have chosen to raise fees and offer financial aid or keep fees as is and not offer financial aid.

Mr. Costello asked for clarification on the technology fee increase. The president said technology costs continue to rise and in order to stay current, we need to increase the fee by a nominal amount. Mr. Steve Swartz responded by providing an example that Apple has discontinued the white Mac Book, which a large number of our faculty members have. The only option is to purchase the Mac Book Pro models, which makes the costs of laptops rise by 20 percent.

Mr. Costello stated he was concerned with the trends of rising fees and questioned how affordable Fitchburg State is. The burden is on the students, and Fitchburg State being toward the top of the fee chart is concerning. The president agreed that it is a constant struggle trying to balance the budget. Increasing fees balances the drop in state appropriation. We base the budget on 3,400 students. Generally we have 800 freshman and 400 transfer students included in this number. We have no problems with Nursing or Communications Media enrollment, however, enrollment is not growing as it has in the past, but we are still okay. We have to

work a little harder on recruiting.

Mr. Michael Shanley added that there seems to be a marketing issue with the city of Fitchburg as it is not as attractive as other state universities. Framingham State is our biggest competitor as it is closer to Boston and is a higher socioeconomic area. They have attributes we are unable to match. There is a misconception of Fitchburg having a high crime rate, when, in actuality, Boston University and several others are comparable to the crime rate here. We are constantly fighting the battle because of poor public perception.

President Antonucci stated that we currently have 857 deposits for next year. These are committed students.

Ms. Vittorioso asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Connors and seconded by Mr. Mercadante it was

Voted: to accept the recommendation and increase the day school fees \$400 and the
(8-0) technology fee \$10 as presented for FY2013.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Connors and seconded by Mr. Mercadante it was

Voted: to accept the recommendation and increase the GCE Undergraduate and
(8-0) Graduate fees as presented for FY2013.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Mercadante and seconded by Dr. Babineau it was

Voted: to accept the recommendation and increase the Extended Campus fees
(8-0) as presented for FY2013.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Connors and seconded by Mr. Mercadante it was

Voted: to accept the FY2013 budget as presented.
(8-0)

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Pontbriand and seconded by Mr. Mercadante it was

Voted: to accept the recommendation to roll forward the ongoing capital project funds
(8-0) into the FY2013 budget.

The president then mentioned the vote for the new “pub” space in Hammond. A vote is required to change the name to Falcon Hub and to renew the beer and wine license with the new capacity. He said the Falcon Hub is a place for students/staff to hold events. It is student run, so there is a sense of responsibility on their part. The president then introduced Dr. Henry (Hank) Parkinson to provide additional information.

Dr. Parkinson stated the Falcon Hub’s capacity has been increased from 180 to 300. In order to renew the license and change the name, we need a Board vote approving both. The Pub was renamed by the SGA and other students to better reflect a place to convene. Beer and wine

are not always available; the Hub is not open “just to be open.” It is a place that is primarily open for events such as sports games, dances, karaoke, elections, etc. In general, the Hub is open three times a week. Students must submit requests to utilize the space so that adequate staffing is available to staff it. The Hub is typically open on weekdays as most students are not here on the weekends. Dr. Parkinson said the Hub is an 18+ facility and therefore all people are carded at the door and all students are trained to check I.D.s. The license resides in Dr. Parkinson’s name and stipulates that the Hub must close by 1:00 a.m., but generally it closes by midnight.

Chairman Vittorioso asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Pontbriand and seconded by Mr. Costello it was

Voted: to approve the Falcon Hub license and name change as presented.
(8-0)

The president then presented the recommendations for the FY2013 Board of Trustees slate of officers. Recommended are:

- Chairman – Carol T. Vittorioso
- Vice Chairman – Martin F. Connors, Jr.
- Clerk – Anna Maria Clementi

Upon a motion duly noted by Mr. Pontbriand and seconded by Mr. Costello it was

Voted: to approve the FY2013 Board of Trustees slate of officers as presented.
(8-0)

Ms. Vittorioso mentioned she will be holding a meeting before the fall semester begins to recommend members for the sub-committees, consisting of the Academic Affairs Committee, the Student Affairs Committee, the Finance and Administration Committee.

The president noted the notifications and the enclosures in the book:

- Trust Fund Report
- Executive Summary
- Quarterlies
- News articles
- Undergraduate Conference Brochure
- Honors Convocation Brochure

President Antonucci then gave his report. He reminded everyone of the upcoming commencements on Thursday, May 17 for graduates and Saturday, May 19 for undergraduates. He stated these are exciting events for the entire campus community. Please let Ms. Lundgren know if you plan on attending.

The president also mentioned the last day of classes is Friday, May 11 and typically this is a very busy time of year with student celebrations. The university is working very closely with Fitchburg police to keep our students safe. Most of the students are responsible, however, there are usually a few that may get out of hand. Most incidents occur off-campus and involve

open container violations. The Fitchburg police try not to bother students unless things get out of hand. It was noted that every school has these issues as students are celebrating either a graduation or the end of the year, which is expected. A letter was emailed to students from the Fitchburg police chief asking for cooperation as well as extending congratulations.

Mr. Costello then thanked the Board and the president for their guidance and support during his time as the Student Trustee. He enjoyed his time and learned a great deal in this capacity.

The president then thanked Mr. Costello for representing the Board as the Student Trustee and wished him well. He then welcomed Mr. Nathan Gregoire as the newly-elected Student Trustee.

The president said anyone interested in the Fitchburg State golf tournament in July, please let us know. He also mentioned the Capital Campaign Closing Event was a success. The venue was beautiful and all ran seamlessly.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert A. Pontbriand, Clerk
Board of Trustees