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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Women's History Month celebrated

Fitchburg State will commemorate Women's History Month in March with a series of [programs](#) that celebrate women who advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Programs include the Nancy Kelly Memorial Lecture at 2 p.m. **Thursday, March 21**, in which Rachel O'Leary Carmona will present "Fostering Our Feminist Future." Carmona, executive director of the Women's March, will discuss her activism work and the future of feminism in the U.S. and the rest of the world. The talk will be delivered in the Randall Lecture Hall of the Antonucci Science Complex. Admission is free and open to the public.

Other programs include a keynote address by the City of Worcester's Commissioner of Health and Human Services Matilda "Mattie" Castiel, M.D. at 7 p.m. **Tuesday, March 26** in the main lounge of Hammond Hall. Dr. Castiel will discuss her identity, public health, and her role as commissioner in this address, for which admission is free and open to the public.

Another highlight will be Women in the Arts on **Thursday, March 28**. The program will include works and performances by university students, faculty, staff and members of the wider community, including music, acting, film, painting, photography and poetry. The program will start with an exhibition at 3:30 p.m. with a performance at 4 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building.

[Read more](#)

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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2024

**MARCH 5, 2024- MARCH 28, 2024**

 **FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**  
CENTER FOR DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVENESS



### Speakers Series continues today

The university's Speakers Series continues in person **today at 12:30 p.m.** with a talk by **Professor David Svolba** (Humanities) entitled "Could There Be a Conscious AI?"

The talk will be given at the [Center for Teaching and Learning](#) in the [Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library](#).

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## Virtual talk today with screenwriter Ted Kupper

The Communications Media and English Studies Departments present a virtual talk today at 12:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall with screenwriter Ted Kupper, whose credits include the screenplay for "Corner Office" (2023) and the graphic novel *Let Go*.

The talk will be facilitated by Associate Professor Mary Baker (Communications Media) and Associate Professor Frank Mabee (English Studies).

Join Professors Mary Baker and Frank Mabee for a virtual talk with

## Ted Kupper

the scriptwriter for the film *Corner Office* (2022 <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13849558/>) and writer on the graphic novel *Let Go* (<http://www.letgocomic.com/>), as well as lots of other stuff (The Review the Future podcast, tv writing, animation).



### Ted Kupper BIO

Ted Kupper is a screenwriter with a decade's experience writing scripts for film and television studios, including Paramount, Universal, Illumination and AMC, as well as for independent producers. He wrote the feature films *CORNER OFFICE* (2023, Director: Joachim Back) and *PERFECT* (2018, Director: Eddie Alcazar), and was a staff writer for season 4 of USA's *Mr. Robot*. His work has premiered at SXSW, Tribeca, and Raindance. He also co-wrote, with Jon Perry and illustrator Cecilia Latella, the graphic novel *Let Go* (2018, SLG). Ted lives in Los Angeles with his partner Julie, an editor, and their dog, Philo.



## THE FOREVER SHUTDOWN: the Hamilton Woolen Strike of 1934

by Professor Teresa Fava Thomas



The Hamilton Woolen Mill was established in Southbridge, Massachusetts in 1806 when "merino mania"—investment in rare breeds of sheep for the value of their fleece—drove to sheep breeding and the establishment of woolen mills in New England. In the depths of the Great Depression in 1934, the United Textile Workers launched a nation-wide general textile strike, which closed Hamilton Woolen Mill three times during months of labor violence. The company was shutdown permanently and liquidated leaving one thousand workers jobless and destroyed a million-dollar payroll.

## Harrod Lecture Series continues Tuesday

Professor Teresa Fava Thomas (Economics, History and Political Science) will present "The Forever Shutdown: The Hamilton Woolen Strike of 1934" at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Presidents' Hall.

The Hamilton Woolen Mill was established in Southbridge in 1806 when "merino mania" - investment in rare breeds of sheep for the value of their fleece - drove to sheep breeding and the establishment of woolen mills in New England. In the depths of the Great Depression in 1934, the United Textile Workers launched a nationwide general textile strike, which closed Hamilton Woolen Mill three times during months of labor violence. The company was shut down permanently and liquidated, leaving 1,000 workers jobless and destroying a million-dollar payroll.

HARROD  
LECTURE  
SERIES

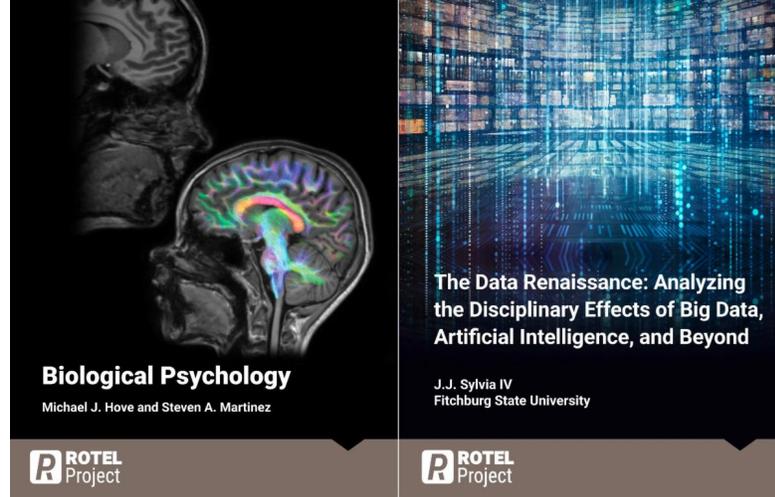
March 5, 2024 | 3:30 PM  
PRESIDENTS' HALL



## New ROTEL volumes published

Associate Professor

**Michael Hove**  
(Psychological Science)  
and **Associate Professor**  
**J.J. Sylvia**  
(Communications Media),  
members of the Remixing  
Open Textbooks through  
an Equity Lens ([ROTEL](#))  
community, saw the  
publication of books that  
promote diversity, equity,  
and inclusion.



- Hove and alumnus Steven A. Martinez co-authored [Biological Psychology](#), which covers the biological bases of behavior and mental processes. It explores how biological factors like genes, hormones, neurotransmitters, and brain structures influence psychological components like thoughts, emotions, memories, and actions. This free and open textbook provides a wide ranging and up-to-date introduction to the main topics and methods of biological psychology.
- Sylvia's book, [The Data Renaissance: Analyzing the Disciplinary Effects of Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Beyond](#) delves into the complexities of data's role in various industries and its broader impact on society. It highlights the challenges in investigating data practices, citing examples like TikTok, where algorithms and data handling are closely guarded secrets. The content, contributed by students under the guidance of an expert, covers a wide range of topics, including the ethical aspects of generative AI in education and the workplace, and case studies reflecting real-world experiences.

Fitchburg State is one of six Massachusetts institutions participating in the ROTEL grant. This project, funded by the U.S. Department of Higher Education, provides stipends for faculty to remix and/or develop accessible, intentionally inclusive open [textbooks](#) and other open educational resources (OER) that reflect students' local and lived experiences.

## Campus community input sought for mission review

A university-wide committee is currently reviewing Fitchburg State's mission, vision and core values. Its goal is to lay the foundation of this important work during this academic year and to then pause to allow our next president to participate in the process.

The committee has conducted an initial review and discussion of the mission statement and now invites all members of the campus community to provide feedback by completing a [brief survey](#).

Follow the process on the mission review [webpage](#).

## We want to hear from you!



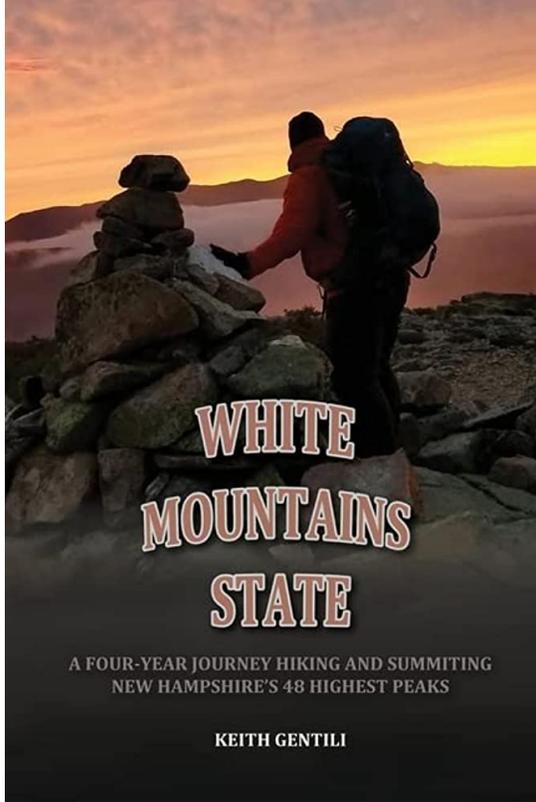
We are currently reviewing our university **Mission Statement** and invite you to participate in a short survey.

SCAN TO TAKE THE SURVEY

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

## Community Read programs continue this week

The [Community Read](#) of alumnus Keith Gentili's book *White Mountains State: A Four-Year Journey Hiking and Summiting New Hampshire's 48 Highest Peaks* continues



with a series of events this spring, including a talk by the author himself.

The Fitchburg Public Library will host a book discussion of *White Mountains State* at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday** at 166 Boulder Drive. Admission is free and open to the public.

Back on campus, there will be a screening of the film "Wild" (2014) starring Reese Witherspoon at **4 p.m. Thursday** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Associate Professor Kevin McCarthy of the Communications Media Department will host a discussion of the film after the screening. This event is co-sponsored by the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State, the Fitchburg Public Library, and Mount Wachusett Community College.

The campus will welcome *White Mountains State* author Keith Gentili at **5 p.m. Thursday, March 21** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall. Gentili, a Fitchburg State graduate, will be joined by other alumni who are featured in his book during the talk. There will be a social

hour with refreshments before the speaking program begins at 6 p.m.

[Learn more](#)

## CIC's *Nuovo Mondo* film series continues on March 21

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

The screenings continue at **5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21** with a screening of *Fuocoammare* (Fire at Sea) (2016), a gripping Italian documentary film directed by Gianfranco Rosi. This film, which was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, was shot on the Sicilian island of Lampedusa during the on-going European migrant crisis, and sets the dangerous Mediterranean crossing by migrants against a background of the ordinary life of the islanders.

[Learn more](#)

## NUOVO MONDO A Century of Migrations from and to Italy



**2023 – 2024 PROGRAMMING SERIES**

LECTURES, FILM SERIES, FOOD EVENTS,  
DISCUSSIONS, WORKSHOPS, and more!

[fitchburgstate.edu/nuovo-mondo](http://fitchburgstate.edu/nuovo-mondo)



This series is  
brought to you by



**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**  
CENTER FOR ITALIAN CULTURE

## Psychedelic science and mental health is topic of panel talk March 19

The medical, scientific and social aspects of psychedelic-assisted therapy will be discussed when Fitchburg State hosts a panel discussion of experts from medicine, neuroscience and clinical practice at **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19** at the main lounge of Hammond Hall. Admission to the talk is free and open to the public.

Psychedelics, such as psilocybin and MDMA, are promising treatments for mental-health disorders including addiction, depression, anxiety, and PTSD. The expert panel will discuss psychedelic-assisted therapy as well as future prospects and challenges.

The panel discussion will be moderated by **Associate Professor Michael Hove** (Psychological Science). Panelists will include:

- Yvan Beussant (MD, MSc, Harvard Medical School, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute), a hematologist, palliative care physician, and clinical investigator, with training in psychedelic research and therapy. He studies the effects and mechanisms of psilocybin- and MDMA-assisted therapy on depression, pain, and existential distress in patients with serious illness.
- Francis Guerriero (MA, LICSW), a therapist, trainer, supervisor, and clinical social worker in private practice. He trains and supervises local clinicians in psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. He was a therapist on a national study of MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD, deemed a breakthrough therapy by the FDA and currently under FDA review for approval.
- Alexandre Lehmann (PhD, McGill University, Montreal), a cognitive neuroscientist and a psychedelic science advisor to media and nonprofits. Fascinated by the therapeutic potential of music and non-ordinary states, he has been involved in ketamine and psilocybin research.

The event is sponsored by the university's Psychological Science Department and its School of Health and Natural Sciences.



Psychedelics, such as psilocybin and MDMA, are promising treatments for mental-health disorders including addiction, depression, anxiety, and PTSD. This panel, featuring experts from medicine, clinical practice, and neuroscience, will discuss psychedelic-assisted therapy and research. Ethical, legal, and social aspects of psychedelic-assisted therapy will be addressed, as well as future prospects and challenges.

Panel moderated by Psychology Professor Michael Hove, Ph.D.



## Tickets on sale for 17th annual Drag Show on Thursday, April 4

The Gay Straight Alliance will present its 17th annual benefit drag show at **7 p.m. Thursday, April 4**, an event designed to entertain, enlighten, and share a great cultural experience with the community.

The "Dancing Queens" drag show will be held at the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St., Fitchburg. Proceeds from the show will support the LGBTQ Student Scholarship at Fitchburg State. The program is labeled as New England's largest and oldest drag show. [Tickets](#) are available now.

[Learn more](#)

## Counseling support available to students

[Counseling Services](#) recently advised students about the launch

of a new telehealth and wellness platform called Uwill. The recognized and reputable student mental health and wellness platform is designed specifically for college students. Uwill offers students free, immediate access to teletherapy and wellness programming through its easy-to-use online platform. Students have been provided instructions regarding how to access this resource.

Uwill also offers students a direct crisis connection. For students experiencing a mental health crisis, help is available 24/7/365, by calling 833.646.1526. As always, if a student is experiencing a medical emergency, it's best to call the University Police Department (978-665-3111, from the Fitchburg State campus), or 911, if off-campus.

Beyond Uwill, Counseling Services remains ready and available to support students, in-person in Hammond 317, by phone at 978.665.3152 or scheduling appointments online.

Students receive  
**FREE Immediate Access to TELETHERAPY**



**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

Click or scan to get started using your school email.



Private. Secure. Confidential.

Experiencing a mental health crisis? Help is available 24/7/365  
**833.646.1526**  
*If you are experiencing a medical emergency call 911.*



### Keep up with campus happenings on the Burg Blog

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

Among the recent articles and slideshows, see scenes from the premiere of student (and award-winning filmmaker) Tonia Magras' documentary "[More than Our Skin](#)," the [Young Falcons Academy Week](#) in which local students came to campus during their February vacation, Counseling Services' [Kabobs with Rob](#) event, and a [writing retreat](#) the campus hosted for students in Fitchburg High School's Honors Academy.

[Burg Blog](#)

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