



Fitchburg State University Today

Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continues

The university's celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continues this week, with a virtual ceremony that will be shared with the community tomorrow.

The campus observances also include opportunities for members of our community to engage in acts of public service. Learn more at fitchburgstate.edu/mlk.



University celebrates Black History Month in February

In February the university will celebrate [Black History Month](#) with a series of programs and virtual events centered on the theme of The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity.

The black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time.

The black family knows no single location, since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents. Not only are individual black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the black family at large.

Events throughout February will explore these issues with presentations by faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Visit fitchburgstate.edu/bhm to learn more.

Welcome Back



The Spring 2021 semester starts today, a week later than originally planned because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As previously announced, classes will be fully remote today and tomorrow, and then switch to their previously designated modalities on **Wednesday**.

which this semester include mandatory testing for several populations.

Keep up with all of the university's COVID-19 updates on [this page](#), and remember to consult [this dashboard](#) that is updated weekly with campus, city, and statewide numbers.

Electrical Project Update

Meanwhile, the state-funded upgrades to our electrical infrastructure are continuing. Starting this week, crews will be moving to new locations on campus, including:

- Highland Plaza in front of Sanders Administration Building. No building entrance in this area will be closed during this time.
- Between the Conlon IA building and the Antonucci Science Complex. Only the exit from Sanders Lower Level going out to the back of Conlon IA will become an "Emergency Exit Only." Signs have been posted. All other entrances from Conlon and the Antonucci Science Complex will be open.
- Behind Russell Towers and Aubuchon Hall.

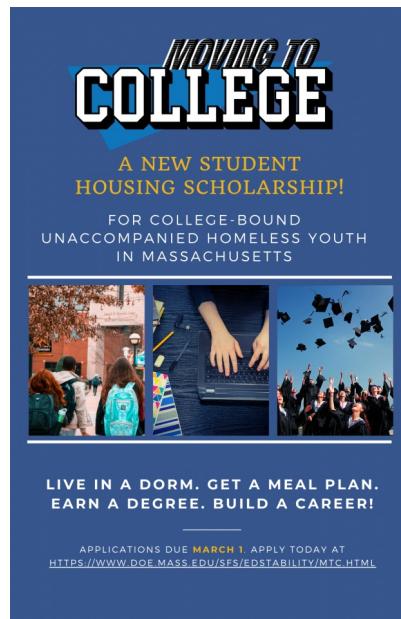
University supporting homeless students

Fitchburg State will support homeless students as part of the Commonwealth's "[Moving to College](#)" scholarship program, designed to support unaccompanied homeless youth from the state as they embark on a college degree.

Scholarships for up to 20 students are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Moving to Work program administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, with additional support provided by the Department of Higher Education, the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Commission and participating campuses.

Applications for the program are due **March 1**.

[Learn more](#)



Campus hosting Global Game Jam Jan. 29-31



The university will once again be part of the [Global Game Jam](#) this week.

In the free virtual event, participants from around the world gather to create a game from scratch in 48 hours. This year's event will start at **4 p.m. Friday**.

The game jam is designed to celebrate creativity while exploring programming, iterative design, narrative exploration and artistic expression. The jam primarily features videogames, but board games can also be designed.

"As a Game Design program, we really value the Global Game Jam because it gets

students out of their bubble," said Professor **Jeffrey Warmouth** (Communications Media), the local game jam site coordinator. "It makes them realize that they're not alone, that there are people all over the world all working toward the same goal at the same time. For

a few days, game developers around the globe are part of one big community, creating games.

Last year's event led to the creation of 9,601 games at 934 locations – including Fitchburg State – in 118 countries. Fitchburg State's site is open to students, alumni and guests, ages 18 and over.

[Click here](#) to see a collection of games produced at Fitchburg State's previous jams.

[Learn more](#)

Speaker Series resumes on Feb. 1 with talk on social justice

The university's Speakers Series returns at 12:30 p.m. **Monday, Feb. 1** with a presentation by Professor Katharine Covino (English Studies) and Cara Mulcahy (Central Connecticut State University) on "Social Justice in the Classroom: How Critical Literacy Can Help Teachers and Students Move Towards Empowerment, Equity, and Transformative Justice." Join with [Google Meet](#) or by phone at (US) [+1 402-284-0222](#) (PIN: 118772082).

Falcon Talks, featuring alumni, faculty and staff, now available online

The [Office of Alumni and Development](#) launched its Falcon Talks series in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, when our ability to gather in person was no longer possible. The series launched as ideas worth sharing, created as a virtual place for Fitchburg State alumni, faculty, students and friends to gather.

Presentations from alumni and faculty cover a variety of topics. We invite you to enjoy the recordings and watch for announcements of future Falcon Talks.

Check out the offerings to date:

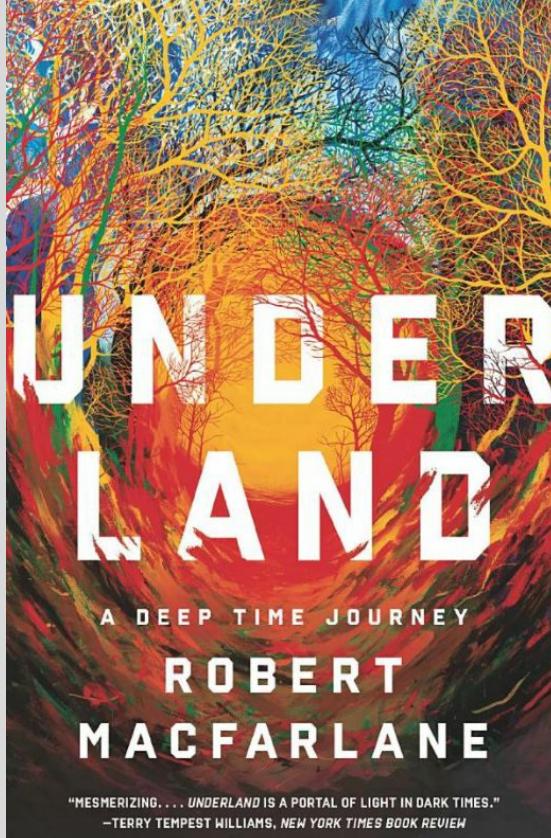
- [Beyond 2020: America, China and World Order](#), with Dr. Michael Miner '08
- [Photography in the age of the Selfie](#) with Rob Comeau '93
- [Cybersecurity: Perspectives in Media, Financial Markets & Innovating Solutions](#) with Mark Fearer '93, '99, Jim Geary '78, and John Honeycutt (as well as our own Sherry Horeanopoulos).
- [See Yourself and Your Town in the Movies! Fitchburg on Film in 1941](#), with Professor Charles Roberts (Communications Media)
- [Elevate Your Virtual Presentation from Competent to Captivating](#) with Kristin C. (Anderson) Link '85



Community Read of *Underland* begins with discussion on Feb. 3

Fitchburg State's [Community Read](#), which brings the campus and wider community together for discussions and explorations of a shared text, this year delves into Robert MacFarlane's acclaimed non-fiction book *Underland: A Deep Time Journey*.

MacFarlane takes readers through caverns and cisterns, root systems and glaciers, tombs and mines, opening our sense of wonder while also revealing the damage



"MESMERIZING.... *UNDERLAND* IS A PORTAL OF LIGHT IN DARK TIMES."
—TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS, *NEW YORK TIMES* BOOK REVIEW

we have done and are doing to the heart and lungs of our planet. He weaves together poetry and geology, science and mythology, as he mines the earth and explores mysteries we usually assign to the stars.

Fitchburg State faculty will lead a discussion of MacFarlane's text at events throughout the semester. The first installment, covering part one of the book, will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, with Professors Kisha Tracy, Ben Railton, Steve Edwards, Collin Syfert and Diego Ubiera of the English Studies Department hosting a discussion on the major insights and stakes of McFarlane's timely work. Join the discussion at <https://meet.google.com/gyz-rtti-me> or by phone at (US) +1 260-344-4141 (PIN: 717740872), and keep up with the latest news and events at fitchburgcommunityread.com.

To receive a copy of *Underland*, please fill out [this form](#).

If you're looking for other ideas on how to incorporate this text into your curriculum, please contact the committee members or use [this form](#).

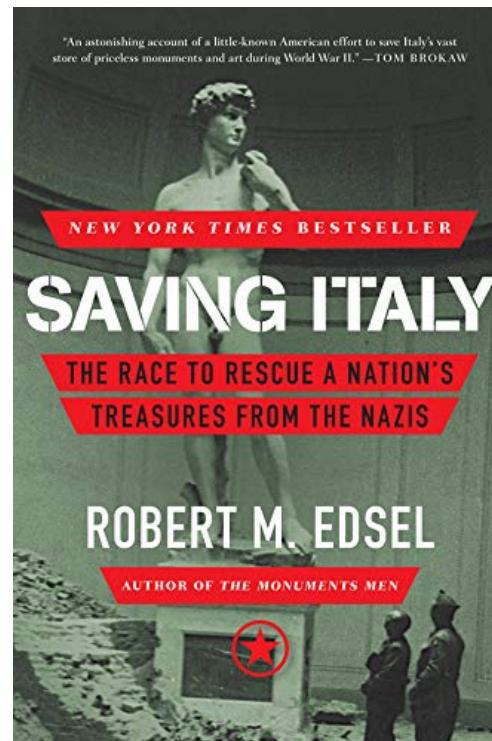
Center for Italian Culture's virtual book club continues next month

The Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State continues its virtual book club in February, with an unforgettable story of epic thievery and political intrigue.

At 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, Professor Teresa Fava Thomas (Economics, History and Political Science) will lead a discussion of the New York Times best-seller *Saving Italy: The Race to Rescue a Nation's Treasures from the Nazis* by Robert M. Edsel. The discussion will be held on [Google Meet](#).

When Hitler's armies occupied Italy in 1943, they also seized control of mankind's greatest cultural treasures. As they had done throughout Europe, the Nazis could now plunder the masterpieces of the Renaissance, the treasures of the Vatican, and the antiquities of the Roman Empire. On the eve of the Allied invasion, General Dwight Eisenhower dispatched art scholars Major Deane Keller and Lt. Fred Hartt of the U.S. Monuments Men on the treasure hunt of a lifetime, tracking billions of dollars of missing art, including works by Michelangelo, Donatello, Titian, Caravaggio, and Botticelli.

[Learn More](#)



Save the Date: Submissions open for Undergrad Research Conference

This year, the Undergraduate Conference for Research and Creative Practice will be conducted virtually (on Thursday, April 22). Submissions for the conference open on **Monday, Feb. 1**, via ugrad-conference@fitchburgstate.edu. Submissions close on Feb. 28.

Career Services and Advising offering student workshops



[Career Services and Advising](#) is offering a six-week [Career Success Certificate](#) for undergraduate students.

The virtual weekly workshops, running at 2 p.m. each Tuesday from Feb. 16 to

March 23, support students in their career exploration and preparation with topics including self-exploration, career research, crafting tailored applications materials, interview skills, and networking.

Space is limited for this program, whose application deadline is **Sunday, Feb. 7**. Students may [apply online](#), and space is limited.

Faculty Notes

Professor Lilian Bobea (Behavioral Sciences) was an invited speaker at Baruch College's School of Public and International Affairs for an event and race and police violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Bobea described racial and class profiling by criminal justice systems as a worldwide phenomenon that occurs in democratic as well as authoritarian systems. Watch the event [here](#).

In December, Professor Bobea took part in a webinar with specialists from Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and Uruguay organized by the Washington Office for Latin America (WOLA), a leading research organization advocating human rights in the Americas. The program, in Spanish, can be viewed [here](#).

Professor Bobea also represents Latin America and the Caribbean as a mandate holder on the United Nations Working Group on Mercenaries, where she and the four other mandate holders publicly condemned President Trump's pardon of four U.S. mercenaries convicted by American courts in the killing of 14 civilians in Baghdad. Read about that work [here](#).

Professor Sean Goodlett (Economics, History and Political Science) authored a piece that was [published](#) by Arc Digital that explored a historical precedent for the Capitol riots earlier this month. To better understand January 6, he wrote, we need to think of that day as part of an ongoing process, not a singularity. And rather than situating it within an American context, where there are no exact parallels, it's more instructive to examine periods of instability in democracies like the French First Republic.

Professor Kyle Moody (Communications Media) wrote an opinion [piece](#) for the Worcester *Telegram & Gazette* in the aftermath of the Capitol riots that reflected on the impact of online conspiracy theories, and what to do about combating them. Unless we address our nation's issues with conspiracy theories and social media, he wrote, these problems are only going to get worse.

Professor Ozge Osay (Economics, History and Political Science) was the co-author of an article entitled "An Intersectional Analysis of COVID-19 Unemployment" that was [published](#) in the Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy. The piece shows that the larger job losses of Black and Hispanic women due to COVID-19 pandemic cannot all be explained by occupational/industrial segregation or educational and geographical differences.

Professor Joshua Spero (Economics, History and Political Science) authored an opinion piece that was [published](#) online by The Hill. Spero's piece, entitled "Bridging the transatlantic divide strengthens the US," describes how the Biden-Harris Administration can use NATO's Partnership for Peace to tackle crises better, manage conflicts, more effectively, and rebuild societies pragmatically.

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