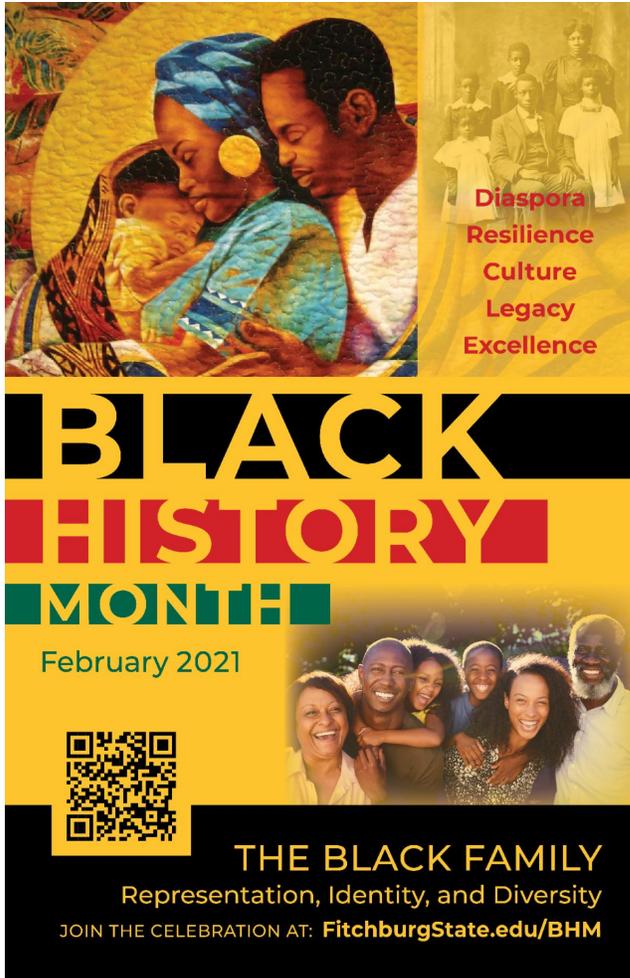


## Fitchburg State University Today

### Black History Month programs continue this week



**Diaspora  
Resilience  
Culture  
Legacy  
Excellence**

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

February 2021

**THE BLACK FAMILY**  
Representation, Identity, and Diversity  
JOIN THE CELEBRATION AT: [FitchburgState.edu/BHM](https://FitchburgState.edu/BHM)

Fitchburg State's celebration of [Black History Month](#), with a series of [events](#) exploring themes centered on the Black family, continues this week.

Fitchburg State's Black History Month committee, including cross-sectional representation within the institution, solicited programs from across all campus constituencies.

The result is a diverse array of events including speakers from the university faculty and student body, as well as alumni and invited guests and performances by university choral groups.

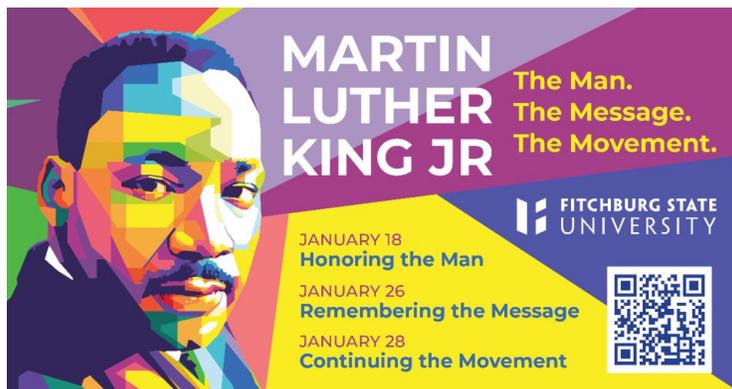
The Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, with support from the Dean's Anti-Racism Grant, is presenting a free, online [film series](#) that focus on the Black Family. They can be viewed by students, faculty and staff through Kanopy (with a Fitchburg State login). Learn more and see the available films [here](#).

[Black History Month Events](#)

### Continuing MLK's Movement through Service

Our university's celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continues a call to action for all of us to [Continue the Movement through Service](#).

The pandemic has caused traditional large scale service opportunities to be limited in scope, but it has not erased the needs of our community. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther



**MARTIN  
LUTHER  
KING JR**

**The Man.  
The Message.  
The Movement.**

**FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

JANUARY 18  
[Honoring the Man](#)

JANUARY 26  
[Remembering the Message](#)

JANUARY 28  
[Continuing the Movement](#)

King Jr. Day, the university has organized a variety of service opportunities that may be performed between now and Feb. 28, either individually or within a collective.

[Read about Service Opportunities](#)

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## Student Spotlight: Erin Donelan among first female Eagle Scouts in state

Erin Donelan '24 always liked hanging out with her brothers on their varied Boy Scout adventures.

“Growing up with two brothers, I found myself wanting to do what they were doing,” said Donelan, 18, a first-year student at Fitchburg State, studying special education with a concentration in teaching students with severe disabilities.



While she gave Girl Scouts a try in her younger years, she pounced at the opportunity to join the Boy Scouts when the national organization opened its ranks to include all in 2019.

For her Eagle Scout service project, Donelan wanted to do something to help children entering the foster care system. A 2020 graduate of Fitchburg High School, Donelan had seen the challenges some of her peers faced when engaged with the social service system.

[Learn more](#)

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## Behavioral Sciences faculty will assist in public safety initiatives

The university has received a \$50,000 grant from the Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative to continue to serve as a research partner on projects addressing youth and young adult delinquency and crime in the Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner areas.

As a local action research partner on the Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI), Fitchburg State will continue its partnership with the City of Fitchburg in a coordinated effort.

**Professors Dara Drawbridge** and **David Weiss** (Behavioral Sciences) will act as a local action research partner to assist the Shannon Site (the city of Fitchburg) with strategic, analytic, technical and research support. This year’s activities include three focus groups with Shannon youth and young adults, trainings on evidence-based practices for reducing delinquency and crime, and assisting partner sites with quality improvement endeavors to enhance programs and practices during COVID-19.

“Fitchburg State is proud to serve as a community partner in this important work that will improve public safety,” President Lapidus said. “This collaboration is a powerful way to put the university’s academic skill sets to work toward addressing community issues.”

[Learn more](#)

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## Moot Court students achieve national ranking in moot court tourney

Fitchburg State continued its



winning ways at the recent American Moot Court Association National Tournament, with students placing 5th in the nation (out of 162 entries) in the appellate brief writing competition.

The students in the appellate brief writing challenge were newcomers to the tournament this year: senior Madison LaRoche of East Templeton and junior Benjamin Hill of Troy, N.H.

Fitchburg State seniors Samantha Beauchamp of Sutton and Theresa Dzierwinski of Ludlow also excelled at the regional tournament and advanced to the national competition.

“Both teams performed very well, winning ballots against schools such as Vanderbilt University, The College of Wooster, Liberty University, and Patrick Henry College,” said **Professor Paul Weizer**, who founded Fitchburg State’s moot court program and is its longtime coach. “This was probably the most competitive season ever and the competition was fierce. I am very proud of the work these students put in and I am thrilled to see them recognized.”

[Learn more](#)

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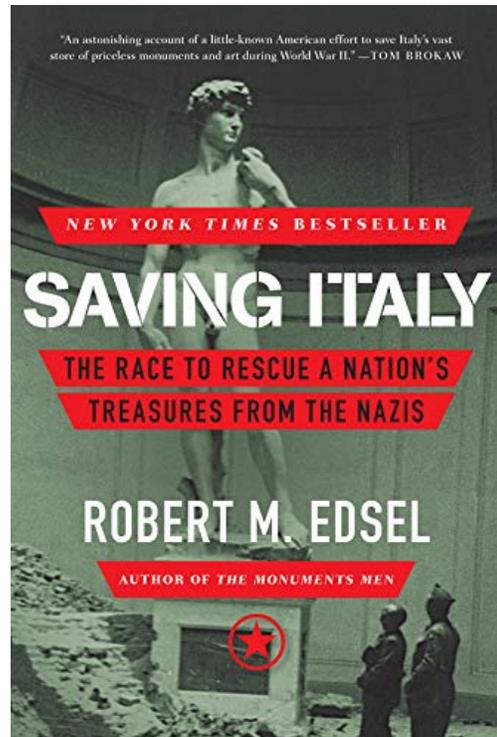
## Reminder: CIC virtual book club continues on Thursday

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. Thursday, 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](#)



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## Reminder: 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 are open until Sunday, Feb. 28, via [ugrad-conference@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:ugrad-conference@fitchburgstate.edu).

## Speaker Series resumes on Feb. 22 with talk on social justice

The university's Speakers Series returns at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22 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).

*Note: This program had been scheduled for earlier this month but was postponed because of inclement weather.*

## CenterStage and cultural events



A searing collection of testimonials on the experiences of racial minorities and a thought-provoking analysis of an artist's own journey are the topics of [Fitchburg State CenterStage's](#) spring art exhibits.

"VOICE" was created by Amanda Loebelenz '20. This educational, interactive art piece is composed entirely of the voices of racial minorities.

Also featured in the gallery is "Raging Youth: Installations" by artist Jean Luc Alexandre. The artist describes his work

as a process-based series of installations amassed from 2D drawings, cutouts, and 3D sculptures placed amongst repurposed found objects.

The pieces are on display in Hammond Hall for members of the campus community and can be viewed [virtually](#) by the public at large.

[Learn more](#)

## Staff Notes

David Petrucci (Capital Planning and Maintenance) retired last week after more than 40 years with Fitchburg State.

Because a traditional retirement party wasn't possible, members of Petrucci's family arranged for a surprise celebratory parade outside the power plant on Friday afternoon. In addition to family and friends, emergency vehicles slowed with lights flashing as they passed while an emotional Petrucci waved and smiled. A large contingent of his university colleagues also gathered to wish him well.



Petrucci, the university power plant chief and CPM trades manager, began his career at Fitchburg State as an HVAC technician in 1979. He was 23 years old and expected to work here for a few years before moving on, but found a rewarding career path. He looks forward to traveling with his newfound free time.

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## Faculty Notes

**Professor Robin Dinda** (Humanities) had two volumes of organ compositions published by Wayne Leupold Editions, "Seasonal Hymn Preludes vol. 10 (Thanksgiving)" and "Seasonal Hymn Preludes vol. 11 (All Saints/Christ the King)", bringing the total number of hymn preludes he wrote for this series to 127. Additional volumes are planned. Wayne Leupold Editions also published his "The Halloween Ball" for organ and narrator, with both music and verses by Dinda. The Sacred Music Press published his "Come, You Lofty, Come, You Lowly", for SAB chorus and keyboard. His "Sechs Lieder ohne Worter" ("Six Songs without Words") were composed for "Die Innovative Orgelschule" ("The Innovative Organ School") which was published in Lucerne, Switzerland by Andrea Kumpe.

**Professor Reid Parsons** (Earth and Geographic Science) co-authored [a paper](#) on Martian climate that was published in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences of the United States of America. He [described](#) the research project and the significance of its findings for a piece on the university website.

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