



## Fitchburg State University Today

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 - Volume 6, Issue 15

### Barbara Wilson '80 to deliver commencement address May 21

Barbara A. Wilson, a 1980 alumna of Fitchburg State and the co-founder and president of Wilson Language Training, will deliver the address at the university's [undergraduate commencement exercises](#) on **Saturday, May 21** at 10 a.m. on the main quadrangle.

[Wilson Language Training](#)'s mission is to provide professional learning and ongoing support to literacy educators across the country. She has been dedicated to individuals with dyslexia for over 30 years since her work at the Massachusetts General Hospital Reading Disabilities Clinic where she taught adults with dyslexia how to read. She authored the Wilson Reading System-in use by more than 25,000 teachers across the nation-based on that work and reading research.

"Barbara Wilson is an accomplished educator whose literacy programs are changing the lives of students across this nation every day," President Lapidus said.

"We are honored that she will be sharing her experiences with our graduates this May."



Barbara A. Wilson

Wilson, who co-founded the company with her husband, Ed, oversees graduate courses and clinical practicums on teaching reading to students with a language-based learning disability, which lead to Wilson certification. This certification is an integral component for several university programs that are accredited by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA). She also provides a voice for students with dyslexia, with presentations-keynotes and workshops-at more than 300 national and international conferences.

She has also consulted on several research grants for older students, and was invited to the White House to speak to the President's Domestic Policy Adviser on Education regarding the issue of literacy in America's middle and high schools. Last summer, she testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in support of H.R. 3033, the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia (READ) Act which was

signed into law this February.

Wilson also leads her company's work with school districts on their Response to Intervention implementation and has authored two additional programs: Wilson Just Words for older students with a word-level deficit and Foundations for students learning to read in K-3. Wilson currently serves on several committees for the International Dyslexia Association and provides professional expertise and consultation to other organizations dedicated to reading and dyslexia.

Wilson was previously recognized by Fitchburg State with its Distinguished Alumna Award in 2009. She received her M.Ed. from Simmons College, Boston, and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Becker College, Worcester.

Additional honorees for Fitchburg State's upcoming commencement exercises will be announced soon.

## Undergrad research conference and convocation on April 21

Continuing a tradition of highlighting academic excellence, Fitchburg State University will host its annual Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice on **Thursday, April 21** in Hammond Hall.

The day will also include the annual Honors Convocation at 2 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. All but Graduate and Continuing Education classes are canceled for the day so the campus community can celebrate student accomplishment. The events are open to the public.



The research conference includes presentations from Fitchburg State students from all departments, promoting creativity and scholarship. Faculty members serve as sponsors and judges of the student work, which takes the form of poster and oral presentations, media showings and performances.

The student work will relate to course research, creative work in the visual and performing arts, independent study, community service or study abroad.

The conference's opening ceremony will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Oral presentations will follow from 9 to 10 a.m. throughout Hammond, followed by poster presentations, student artwork exhibitions and puppetry performances between 10 and 11 a.m. There will be a creative writing showcase and oral presentations from 11 a.m. to noon, with a performance by the university's Jazz Band from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Falcon Hub. Lunch will be served in the Falcon Hub at noon, with the closing ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

The 39th Honors Convocation will follow at 2 p.m. in Weston Auditorium. The ceremony will include the presentation of 225 awards and scholarships to students, along with recognition of

faculty members for promotion, tenure and retirement. The faculty awards for research and excellence in teaching will also be announced at the convocation.

## New campus video invites viewers to "Defy Expectations"

The campus debuted its new admissions video to widespread acclaim last week. The 2-minute piece was first shown to students at a screening in the Holmes Dining Commons and then shared on social media, where it quickly went viral.

Watch the video on the university's YouTube page [here](#).



## Bilingual debut of *The White Apron* explores class issues

The Fitchburg State theater program in association with its Humanities Department will be present the American premiere of *El Delantal Blanco* (*The White Apron*) by Sergio Vodanovic and translated by Luz Elena Denney at Percival Auditorium in Percival Hall, 254 Highland Ave. Admission is free.

The short play, running about 20 minutes, will be presented twice each night, once each in Spanish and English. The performances will be at 6 p.m. **Wednesday, April 20** and **Thursday, April 21**, and at 7:30 p.m. **Friday, April 22** and **Saturday, April 23**.

"This production celebrates the rich teaching career of Dr. Maria Jaramillo of the Humanities Department who will be retiring this spring," said Professor Richard McElvain, who is directing the show.

"We asked Dr. Jaramillo to select a favorite play and she chose this one because she knows and admires the author, and it investigates the abuse of the lower classes in South American society," added Professor Kelly Morgan. "It is a subject that has resonance for American society as well."

The play tells the story of how a lady and her maid, enjoying a day at the beach, turn their worlds inside out and upside down by the exchange of clothing, specifically the white apron emblematic of the serving class.

Morgan asked Luz Elana Denney to translate the work, which will be presented in both languages at each performance. "It will be easy to see it in both Spanish and English and enjoy how the same story plays differently in different languages," he said.

The performances on Wednesday and Thursday will begin with the Spanish version, followed by the English, with the order reversed for the Friday and Saturday shows.

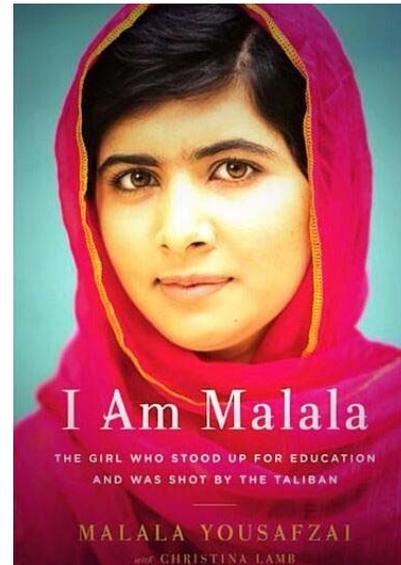
The casts includes Kiara Pichardo and Delaney Barry, recently seen on campus in *Bad Jews* (produced by the Falcon Theatre Company and Theatre on Tap), along with Samantha Wheatley, who appeared in the university's main stage productions *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Noises Off*. Theater majors Stephanie Bisono and Christian Luna Pereyra also appear in the play. McElvain, the director, recently appeared in the Academy Award-nominated film *Joy*.

## Community Read of *I Am Malala* concludes this month

The [Community Read](#) of Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai's acclaimed book *I Am Malala* concludes in April.

Yousafzai's memoir is a remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism and the fight for girls' education, and tells the story of a father - himself a school owner - who championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school.

The film "It's A Girl" will screen at 4 p.m. **Thursday, April 21** at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St. Director Evan Grae Davis' film looks at the phenomenon of babies killed, abandoned or selectively aborted because they are girls. This devaluation of females has led to rampant violence against women and a growing female "gendercide."



There will be also be a community book discussion of Malala's book at 6 p.m. **Wednesday, April 27** at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St.

## ALFA concludes spring series with concert, talks on April 26

The internationally renowned world music artist and world fusion pioneer [Randy Armstrong](#) will perform a free concert at 11 a.m. **Tuesday, April 26** at Fitchburg State University as part of the [Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area](#) (ALFA) program's Shirley Pick Spring Series.

The concert will be held in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

The program is one of a trio of events that wrap up ALFA's spring programming on April 26. The day will also feature a luncheon and art exhibition, as well as a presentation on bees and their impact on the ecosystem.



Randy Armstrong

Randy Armstrong has appeared on more than 30 albums and film scores, performed at Carnegie Hall and festivals at Lincoln Center. He has shared the stage with such music greats as Dizzy Gillespie, the Paul Winter Consort, King Sunny Ade, Eddie Palmieri, Babatunde Olatunji, Michael Hedges, Richie Havens and others.

He is the co-founder of Do'a World Music Ensemble and Unu Mondo and leader of the Randy Armstrong Trio & World Fusion Ensemble. With his collection of more than 300 instruments from around the world, including guitars, sitar, balafon, djembe, Lakota courting flute, koto, charango, mbira and a wide variety of percussion and stringed instruments, he has amazed audiences throughout the world. His fifth album with Do'a, entitled "World Dance," reached the top 10 of several national charts including #7 on Billboard.

Also on April 26, ALFA will host a world food and art show from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. The luncheon is \$12.50, with reservations due by Friday, April 18. The art show will feature the talents of ALFA artists.

The events conclude at 1:30 p.m. with the Food for Thought presentation "The World of Bees: To Bee or not to Bee." In this talk, Gail Allo will explore how the current plight of bees impacts our lives through the discussion of the vital pollinator role of bees in nature; bee natural history; bee-keeping practices, and the struggling bee populations. Allo is an active ALFA instructor who serves on the group's board and its Food for Thought committee. She holds a passion for bees and bee-keeping.

For more information about ALFA, visit [www.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa) or call (978) 665- 3706.

## Community Orchestra to perform April 26

The Fitchburg State Community Orchestra will present its spring pops concert at 7:30 p.m. **Tuesday, April 26** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Admission is free.

The orchestra will play a variety of music including *Palladio*, *Game of Thrones*, *Kashmir*, *I'm Shipping Up to Boston*, and *All About That Bass* (featuring bass player Stephan Arsenault).

## VISIONS 2016 coming April 27

Visions, the juried honors showcase of the year's best original student work in the Communications Media Department, opens **Wednesday, April 27** with an alumni panel talk at Ellis White Lecture Hall.

The panel will be followed at 4:30 p.m. by the Visions Forum, and then the gallery showing and reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery. There will be a theater showcase in Weston Auditorium at 7 p.m., followed by a film and video screening at 8 p.m.

For more information, including a list of accepted works, visit the Communications Media Department's Visions [website](#).

**VISIONS 2016**  
Communication Media Student Honors Exhibition

OPENING:  
WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 27, 2016

EXHIBITION DAYS:  
APRIL 27 TO  
JUNE 29, 2016

VISIONS IS A JURIED HONORS EXHIBIT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA DEPARTMENT AT FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY. WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE TALENT AND CREATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR STUDENTS.  
FREE ADMISSION, RECEPTION, AND REARRANGEMENTS.

3:30 PM	ALUMNI PANEL	ELLIS WHITE LECTURE HALL
4:30 PM	VISIONS FORUM	ELLIS WHITE LECTURE HALL
5:30 PM	RECEPTION & GALLERY OPENING	HAMMOND HALL ART GALLERY
7:00 PM	THEATER SHOWCASE	WESTON AUDITORIUM
8:00 PM	FILM AND VIDEO SCREENING	WESTON AUDITORIUM

in Coelynn McIninch's post in Visions [Big Photo](#) [Options](#) [Share](#) [Feedback](#)

## Legacy of the "war on terror" to be explored May 2

The legacy of 15 years of a "war on terror" will be explored in a panel discussion at 3:30 p.m. **Monday, May 2** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public.

The topic will be explored by Fitchburg State faculty members Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) and Heather Urbanski (English Studies) with graduate student and veteran Ross Caputi.

The talk will draw on experts from the campus to introduce a discussion of the lessons and legacy of a war on terror that has helped to shape the country - and the world - for nearly 15 years. The panel will look at the lessons and legacy from multiple perspectives.

## Omaggio Duo performs Wednesday, May 4

Fitchburg State will welcome the Omaggio Duo - featuring cellist Ning Tien and pianist Monica Tessitore - for a free concert at 7:30 p.m. **Wednesday, May 4** in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

The performance is sponsored by the university's [Community Music Lesson Program](#), for which Tien is an instructor.

The Omaggio Duo will perform music from four continents, including compositions by Shirish Korde, Bohuslav Martinu, Arvo Part, Astor Piazzolla, Igor Stravinsky, Zhao Zhang and Yan Linda Zheng.

The Community Music Lesson Program offers private and group lessons in voice, guitar, ukulele, banjo, piano, violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, flugelhorn, drums, percussion and other instruments. Lessons are offered in 30-, 45- or 60-minute increments for 5-, 10- or 15-week courses. Enrollment is open year-round.



Monica Tessitore and Ning Tien

For additional information, contact the university's Center for Professional Studies at [cps@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:cps@fitchburgstate.edu) or 978-665-3636.

## Choral, instrumental concerts offered in May

Fitchburg State's instrumental and choral ensembles will present their spring concerts in May. Admission is free and open to the public.

The university's jazz and concert band, including jazz and jazz-rock standards, band marches and popular music, will perform at 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, May 5** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

The university's concert choir will perform at 7:30 p.m. **Monday, May 9** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

## Celebrations

As the academic year draws to a close, several celebrations are in the works for members of the campus community, past and present. Among them:

A celebration of the life of Gunther Hoos, who died in December. The memorial will be held at 2:30 p.m. **Saturday, April 30** at in Ellis White Auditorium in Hammond Hall. A reception will follow the memorial across campus in the film and video area on the third floor of Conlon Hall, which was his home as a professor, colleague, advocate and friend to so many for almost three decades. All are welcome who have been touched by his legacy, even if you never met him as a person. Those who plan to attend the service are asked to RSVP to his daughter, Tanya Crowley, at [tanya\\_crowley@yahoo.com](mailto:tanya_crowley@yahoo.com).

There will be a celebration of the life of Sarah Sadowski on **Saturday, April 30**. Sadowski, who worked in the university's Expanding Horizons Program, died earlier this year after a long struggle with cancer. More detail on the celebration and efforts to support her daughters can be found at <http://sarahstrong33.blogspot.com/?m=0>.

On **Wednesday, May 4**, the Exercise and Sports Science Department will host a farewell gathering for retiring faculty member David Antaya. The gathering will be held at Miller Hall from 3 to 5 p.m..

On **Thursday, May 10**, the Education Department will host a gathering for retiring faculty member Ronald Colbert. The gathering will be held at Miller Hall from 3 to 5 p.m.

## CenterStage at Fitchburg State

### Explore Emilia-Romagna, Italy

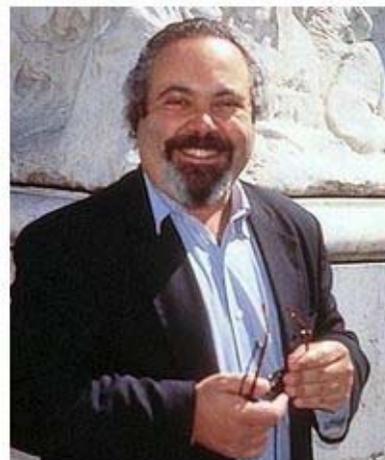
[CenterStage](#) offers an expertly guided culinary tour of the Northern Italy region of Emilia-Romagna at 6:30 p.m. **Friday, April 22** and **Saturday, April 23** at the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

Fitchburg State favorite Fred Plotkin returns to enlighten guests about the history, music and culture of Emilia-Romagna, the region that many call the heart of Northern Italian food from prosciutto and Parmigiano-Reggiano to an array of fresh pasta and balsamic vinegar.

An authentic menu of specialty dishes will set the stage for the renowned author and gourmand's verbal tour of the region and a cash bar featuring regional wines will be available.

This event is sponsored by the Sandro and Lillian Clementi Lecture Fund of Fitchburg State University.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, inclusive of tax and tip. Advance



Fred Plotkin

purchase is required. The Weston Box Office, located inside Weston Auditorium at 353 North St., is open 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).

## Faculty Notes

**Michael T. Greenwood** (Business Administration) presented a talk titled "Selling Change" at the request of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce, to its Professional Sales Group.

**Christa Marr**  
(Economics, History  
and Political Science)  
welcomed Sen.

Jennifer Flanagan to  
an honors course on  
current events and  
service learning.  
Flanagan met with  
students about her  
legislation concerning  
substance use  
treatment, education,  
and prevention. She spoke with the class for the full 75 minutes about the opiate crisis and how she is addressing the situation as a government official. Flanagan graduated from Fitchburg State with a Master's in mental health counseling.



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