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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Undergraduate Research Conference returns in virtual form Thursday

Excellent scholarly and creative work from Fitchburg State students will be celebrated at the virtual [Undergraduate Conference for Research and Creative Practice](#) on Thursday.

The day will offer a diverse and engaging collection of asynchronous presentations available in an online program. The event is open to the public.

In addition to academic talks, poster presentations, and creative writing pieces, the site also features recorded performances from the Chamber Choir and the Fitchbyrds (Fitchburg State's jazz band) will be viewable. ARteries, the juried exhibition of student artwork, will also be presented in an [online gallery](#) format.

A new component of this year's conference is the Scholarly Gallery, which features student work that was completed in the past year including the Disability Heritage exhibit assembled by English Studies Professor Kisha Tracy's students and "Our Reckoning," a showcase of student performances directed by Communications Media Department Professor Mary Vreeland, among other exemplary projects.

[Learn more](#)

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### Trahan leads discussion of Women in Leadership

[U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan](#) engaged in an informative and entertaining [conversation](#) with members of the campus community at last week's virtual Women in Leadership event.

The program, moderated by President Lapidus, featured a question-and-answer session that included several students who asked the



**BLOOMING IN ADVERSITY**

Though we have all faced challenges and change this year, we come together to celebrate our students' academic achievements. Come see how our students have blossomed during a trying year, and learned to apply their knowledge to real-world challenges.

This virtual showcase of student research and creative work has something for everyone. Join us and be inspired by our students' creativity, knowledge, and accomplishments!

**April 22, 2021**  
This is a virtual event.

 **FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE**  
for Research and Creative Practice

LEARN MORE AT [fitchburgstate.edu/ug-conference](https://fitchburgstate.edu/ug-conference)

Artwork by Jaida Wozniak, class of 2020



Congresswoman for insights on a variety of topics.

"We need strong women ready to hit the ground running," Trahan said. "I've seen first-hand how conversations change when a woman is at the table."

Trahan discussed being part of the largest-ever cohort of women to serve in the U.S. Congress, the importance of including diverse voices in setting policy and legislation, and the value of creating opportunities for the next generation, such as the Fitchburg State interns her office has hosted.

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

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## Theater Block highlighted in tour of downtown redevelopment

Massachusetts Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy toured downtown Fitchburg last week to get a closeup look at the public and private development that is remaking the city.

Kennealy's tour included a look at the Main Street Theater Block, already home to the game design studio and interdisciplinary ideaLab, and the site of a planned redevelopment of the long-shuttered theater itself.



President Lapidus described the theater project as an anchor in the city's efforts to revitalize the downtown corridor.

"There's a gravitational pull that will support restaurants and other businesses on Main Street," Lapidus said. "We're on our way."

"We need to support small businesses and we need to support our downtowns," Kennealy said. "They're the lifeblood of our communities, and we need everyone at the table to get this work done."

[Learn more](#)

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## Service learning class creates Positivity Tour of downtown Fitchburg

A new project spearheaded by a Fitchburg State Honors class is designed to help make the community aware of the transformative changes now taking shape in downtown Fitchburg.

The resulting "[Positivity Tour](#)" is now up and running.

With major private and public developments poised to transform the heart of the city, **Professor Christa Marr** (Economics, History and Political Science) and students in her current events and service learning wanted to get the community involved.

"I always like this class to be something that's community facing," said Marr. "We knew an event was out of the question this year, but we wanted to get people downtown. We decided, why not a positivity tour?"

[Learn more](#)

**The Positivity Tour**

Join a virtually guided tour through Fitchburg.

See some amazing locally made art.

Join themed scavenger hunts on social media to win prizes.

April 1st through May 15th

Find us on social media:  
 Instagram: @fsupositivytour  
 Twitter: @FSUPositiveTour  
 Facebook: FSU Positivity Tour

To join, simply visit the interactive map and start the tour!

Disclaimer: We are not monitoring the competition of this tour, so use your discretion while completing it: watch for traffic, be mindful of time of day, and if possible we will try to update our social media pages in the event of construction/detours/other possible hazards to completing the tour.

Use the QR code to access the map!

## Panel talk on April 26 looks at segregation and education

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY  
AMELIA V. GALLUCCI-CIRIO LIBRARY

Dean's Film Selection

**TEACH US ALL**

A Panel Discussion on Segregation & Education in the United States

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 3:30 PM

**Jeremy Roche**  
Principal  
Fitchburg High School

**Lynn D'Agostino**  
Instructor  
Education Department  
Fitchburg State University

**Katharine Covino**  
Assistant Professor  
English Studies Department  
Fitchburg State University

**Dana Meyer**  
Graduate Student  
Education Department  
Fitchburg State University

1 First watch the film online:  
[tiny.cc/TeachUsAllFilm](http://tiny.cc/TeachUsAllFilm)  
Note: FSU login is required to access

2 Join the virtual discussion panel at:  
[meet.google.com/ncc-whpx-rjz](https://meet.google.com/ncc-whpx-rjz)

For more information go to [cutt.ly/TeachUsAllEvent](https://cutt.ly/TeachUsAllEvent)

Or scan the QR Code with your phone:

Funding for film licensing provided by the FSU Dean's Anti-Racism Grant

The Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, in partnership with the university deans, will present a panel talk at 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 26 exploring themes raised in the film "Teach Us All" including segregation and education in the United States.

The panel will include: Fitchburg High School Principal Jeremy Roche; Lynn D'Agostino (Education); Professor Katharine Covino (English Studies); Dana Meyer, graduate student; and moderator Dean Nancy Murray of the School of Education.

To take part in the discussion:

Google Meet: [meet.google.com/ncc-whpx-rjz](https://meet.google.com/ncc-whpx-rjz)

Livestream: [stream.meet.google.com/stream/8387babc-63da-4777-babb-dd1cdc9787b9](https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/8387babc-63da-4777-babb-dd1cdc9787b9)

• Phone: (US) +1 803-999-5523 PIN: 680 428 615#

Learn more, including how to stream the film, at [cutt.ly/TeachUsAllEvent](https://cutt.ly/TeachUsAllEvent).

## Students collect nearly \$200,000 in scholarships and awards

Fitchburg State recently recognized nearly 200 students with scholarships, awards and certificates in celebration of academic accomplishment.

The [Honors Convocation](#) is typically part of a day-long celebration of student achievement on the university's campus, but this year's event could not be held as usual because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The financial awards totaled nearly \$200,000 and included recognitions bestowed by individual academic departments as well as certificates presented in the name of accomplished alumni. The awards recognize scholarship and service.

[Learn more](#)

## CIC presents "Translating Crisis" talk on Wednesday

The first-ever English translation of a seminal work of Italian history will be discussed when the [Center for Italian Culture](#) presents an author talk by **Professor Rala Diakité** (Humanities) and her co-author Matthew Sneider at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday**.

The virtual presentation, entitled "Translating Crisis: A New Translation of a Medieval Florentine Chronicle by Giovanni Villani," is free and open to the public. All are welcome for this opportunity to learn something new about Florence, medieval history, Italian language, and translation.

Giovanni Villani's *Nuova Cronica* is one of the great monuments of 14<sup>th</sup> century historical writing in Italy. Written in vernacular Italian, the chronicle traces the rise to glory of the chronicler's city of Florence. And yet, towards the end of the work, Villani describes a period of crisis – struggles against external enemies, urban uprisings, natural disasters, bank failures, a brief experience of tyranny, and the impending plague of 1348.

To join the discussion, go to [meet.google.com/wjt-ewqw-syb](https://meet.google.com/wjt-ewqw-syb), or join by phone at (US)+1 401-526-8585, PIN: 715 616 049#.

The Center for Italian Culture presents:

# Translating Crisis:

A New Translation of a Medieval Florentine Chronicle  
by Giovanni Villani

An author talk by Rala Diakite & Matthew Sneider  
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 | 3:30–5:00 p.m.



Towards the end of his *Nuova Cronica*, as Giovanni Villani's faith in Florence's lofty destiny is tested by a period of crisis – war, urban uprisings, natural disasters, bank failures, tyranny, and the impending plague of 1348 – he continues to perceive the signs of God's Judgment in earthly affairs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[centerforitalianculture@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:centerforitalianculture@fitchburgstate.edu)

**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

Join with Google Meet  
[meet.google.com/wjt-ewqw-syb](https://meet.google.com/wjt-ewqw-syb)  
Join by phone  
(US) +1 401-526-8585 PIN: 715 616 049 #

## MassPIRG hosting Earth Day trivia on Wednesday



Fitchburg State's **MASSPIRG** chapter is celebrating Earth Day with a trivia contest at **5 p.m. Wednesday**. All of their Earth Week events are being held online. [Click here](#) to register to participate.

## Center for Faculty Scholarship Research Colloquium to be held April 28

The Center for Faculty Scholarship will host its second annual Faculty Research Colloquium from **3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 28**. The theme for this year's event is "Inequality in the Economy, Society and Culture."

Presenters will include:

- Professor DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld (English Studies)
- Professor Adem Elveren (Economics, History and Political Science)
- Professor Viera Lorencova (Communications Media)
- Professor Christa Marr (Economics, History and Political Science)

To attend, please go to <https://meet.google.com/doy-jtmt-bbn?authuser=0>.

## Graduate school applications topic of SGOCE workshop on May 1

Interested in applying to graduate school but don't know where to start? Fitchburg State's [School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education](#) is here to help. The school will host a free, virtual [information session](#) at **10 a.m. Saturday, May 1** that will cover all the bases.

The graduate application workshop will let attendees learn about:

- How to submit your application and supporting materials
- Important deadlines and dates for summer and fall 2021 enrollment
- Financial aid and payment information
- Why earning a graduate degree now can help you reach your personal and professional goals

Attendees will have their \$50 application fees waived.

To learn more and to register, please visit <https://admissions.fitchburgstate.edu/register/GradAppWorkshopMay2021>.

## Staff Notes

Our Student Affairs division was well represented at Massachusetts NASPA, New England College Personnel Association, New England Student Conduct Association, and the Boston Area College Housing Association's recent panel discussion "Fall 2021: Navigating the New Normal." **Vice President for Student Affairs Laura Bayless** moderated the discussion, on which **Housing and Residential Services Director Christopher Medley** served as a panelist.

**Nathan Emery** (Student Development) was selected as the Showcase Selection & Marketplace Coordinator for the National Association of Campus Activities conference in Hartford 2021. In this position, he will be leading a team of volunteers to review and select live acts for the conference, and during the conference he will be managing the vendor and agency marketplace to ensure fair business practices.

## CIC welcomes Fred Plotkin for virtual series on films of Federico Fellini

Fitchburg State's [Center for Italian Culture](#) will take a closer look at the works of celebrated filmmaker Federico Fellini with a series of virtual [programs](#) that will let audiences explore the work through the eyes of author and lecturer Fred Plotkin.



“Fellini 101: Conversations with Fred Plotkin” will start at 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 2**, with a presentation on *La Strada* (1954). The series continues at 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 9** with a discussion of *I Vitelloni* (1953), and concludes at 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 16** with a look at *Amarcord* (1973).

This series is presented with the generous support of Fitchburg State’s Center for Italian Culture

and the Sandro and Lillian Clementi Lecture Fund, in collaboration with the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State , the Fitchburg Public Library and the Leominster Public Library.

Learn more, including how to view the films, [here](#).

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