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## Fitchburg State University Today

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 - Volume 8, Issue 14

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### Research Conference and Convocation to be held Thursday

The ninth annual [Undergraduate Conference for Research and Creative Practice](#) will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Thursday, April 19** throughout Hammond Hall. Undergraduate day classes are suspended so the campus community can join in this celebration of student learning.

The Spring Convocation will follow at 2 p.m. in Weston Auditorium.

The [research conference](#) consists of presentations by Fitchburg State students from all departments to promote both creativity and scholarship, and there is significant involvement with the Fitchburg State faculty as both sponsors and judges of the work.

"With a collection of oral presentations, films, and posters on subjects like designing a video game, the chemistry of fighting bedbugs, taboos in film, and women's experiences across the globe, it will be difficult (if not impossible) to walk away from the day without having learned at least 10 new things," said **Professor Erin MacNeal Rehrig** (Biology/Chemistry), the conference chair.

[Learn more](#)

### Learn about microaggressions at talk today in Hammond G01

Vice President for Student Affairs Laura Bayless will lead a workshop for students, faculty and staff to explore the concept and impact of microaggressions **today from 3:30 to 5 p.m.** in Hammond G01.

The event's format is a combination of lecture and participation, with a small group activity.



"Fitchburg State is committed to creating an environment where all members of our community can thrive and succeed. One piece of that is the sense that all are welcome and belong," Bayless said. "Microaggressions - often unintentional slights, snubs, and insults that occur every day - can send strong messages that not everyone does, in fact, belong at Fitchburg State. This session is designed to explore the concept of microaggressions and help participants identify 1-2 personal action steps toward creating a welcoming, affirming, inclusive campus environment. Small things make a big difference."



Formal RSVPs are not required, but those interested in attending are encouraged to [email Student Affairs](#) so organizers will have enough seats.

The event is sponsored by the university's Leading for Change Workgroup.

## Appeals Court justices share wisdom with students

Massachusetts Appeals Court justices heard oral arguments in six civil and criminal cases during their satellite session in Hammond Hall on Friday, April 6, providing the campus and wider public a look at this segment of the judicial process.

Even more valuable to Fitchburg State students, however, was the time the justices spent speaking with them after the day's last case was heard and over lunch in the Falcon Hub.



Appeals Court Associate Justice James Lemire, left, speaks with students in the Falcon Hub.

"My experience speaking with Associate Justice James Lemire was unforgettable," said Alexander Ramos, the student trustee-elect and a member of the university's Moot Court program. "His knowledge and experience of settling legal disputes caused me to realize the amount of weight the law has in our society in both civil and criminal cases. I was honored to have the opportunity to be able sit with Justice Lemire, for he is truly a mentor for any aspiring lawyer or judge in Massachusetts."

[Learn more](#)

## Students speak out in favor of downtown revitalization project

Students from Professor Christa Marr's (Economics, History and Political Science) service learning class attended last week's Fitchburg City Council meeting to offer testimonials in support of plans to redevelop the former BF Brown School into an artist community.

The council approved a \$1.6

million appropriation to start repairs to the building, with the overall project expected to take several years to complete.

Read the Sentinel & Enterprise coverage of the meeting [here](#).



At last week's City Council meeting, from left: NewVue Communities Executive Director Marc Dohan, Fitchburg State students Eirik Larson, Ethan Decker, Maria Gamez, Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale, Fitchburg Art Museum Director Nick Capasso, students Pen Occhipinti, Xena Xiong, Caroline Anderson, and Professor Christa Marr.

## Take Back the Night on Wednesday, April 18

The university will hold its 11th Take Back the Night event at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, April 18** on Hammond Plaza (between Hammond and Thompson Hall). The event is organized by [Counseling Services](#) and [FAVE](#).

Take Back the Night events are organized on campuses nationwide to promote sexual violence awareness, and communicate a message not only of intolerance for any and all acts of violence, but also of compassion and support for those who have been subjected to such violence. This event has drawn hundreds of Fitchburg State students, faculty, and staff in past years, and continues to have a powerful impact on our community.



## Historian explores legacy of Vietnam War on April 26

The Vietnam War and its impact on public faith in American exceptionalism will be discussed in the Spring 2018 Graduate History Lecture "Exceptional Victims: American Nationalism since the Vietnam War" at 7 p.m. **Thursday, April 26** in the Randall Lecture Hall in the Antonucci Science Complex.

The lecture will be given by UMass Amherst History Professor Christian G. Appy.

The Vietnam War deeply undermined public faith in American exceptionalism. Never before had such a wide range of citizens questioned the claim that the United States is a unique and invincible force for good in the world, always on the side of freedom, democracy, and human rights. Appy argues in his lecture

that, in the decades after Vietnam, a new form of American exceptionalism was cobbled together, ever more nationalistic, defensive, bombastic, and xenophobic.

[Learn more](#)



**Exceptional Victims:**  
**American Nationalism since the Vietnam War**

**Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m.**  
**Science Lecture Hall (SCI 211)**

A reception will follow.



**Christian G. Appy**

Author & Professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst

*"...the new American exceptionalism is the belief that the world's greatest nation is not the envy of the world, but the victim of outrageous and inexplicable attacks from nonwhite countries and cultures."*

## Elliot Field hosts Special Olympics Friday, April 27

The Special Olympics North Central School Day Games will be celebrated **Friday, April 27** at Elliot Field.

Five hundred athletes from 24 regional schools will be on hand when the games begin at 9 a.m.

The university will have 150 volunteers assisting at the site, including faculty, staff and students.



## Police program students get close look at domestic violence

Students in Fitchburg State's criminal justice police program experienced a powerful program on relationship violence when the internationally acclaimed play *Mind Games* was performed at Kent Recital Hall.

All of the police program students were required



to attend the performance and engaged in a panel discussion afterward that focused on the themes explored in the play.

The professional production came recommended by Secretary of Public Safety Daniel Bennett and the state's Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), with whom the university has collaborated to create its unique [4+1 police program](#).

President Lapidus greeted the students at the start of the event, thanking Secretary Bennett and MPTC Executive Director Dan Zivkovich for bringing the opportunity to campus.

[Learn more](#)

## Graduate students inducted to Alpha Sigma Lambda

Graduate and Continuing Education hosted the 9th annual Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society induction ceremony on **Thursday, April 5**, where 17 continuing education students were inducted.

**Professor Thomas Murray** (English Studies) was also inducted as the honorary inductee for his contributions to Continuing Education. In the past five years, Dr. Murray has taught more than 25 courses for GCE in addition to his full-time load in the day division. His care and concern for his students is always evident, as is his passion to share his love and appreciation for literature with his students, and with his colleagues.

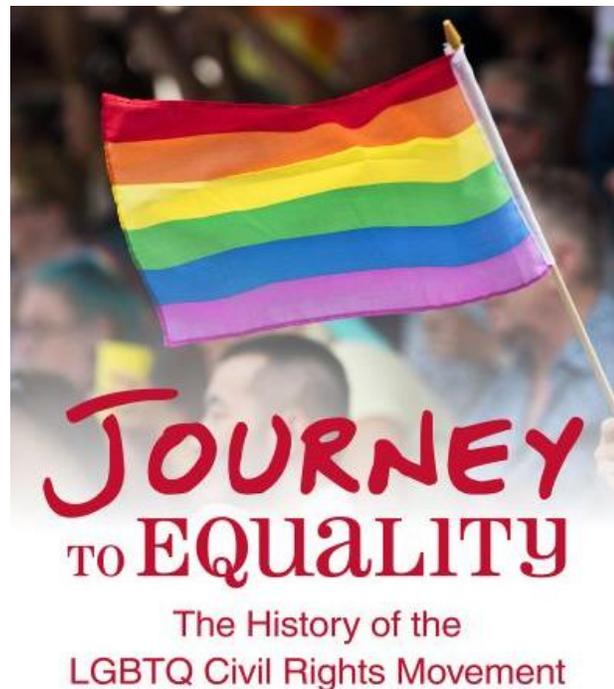
Alpha Sigma Lambda was established in 1945, and is the oldest and largest chapter-based honor society for full and part-time adult students. The society honors undergraduate learners who pursue non-traditional degree pathways in evening, blended or online programs, achieve and maintain high scholastic standards while continuing to balance a number of life responsibilities.

The criteria for membership includes earning at least 24 credits at Fitchburg State and ranking in the top 20 percent of the eligible students who are seeking their first undergraduate degree.

## Reminder: LGBTQ series continues this month

The university's year-long series "Journey to Equality: The LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement" continues next week with a queer poetry reading and open mic night at 7 p.m. **Thursday, April 26** at the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall.

[Learn more](#)



## CenterStage and cultural events

**Main Stage Theater Production - *The Women of Lockerbie*, through April 21**

Thirty years after the terror bombing of an airliner that crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland, Fitchburg State University's

theater program presents the play, *The Women of Lockerbie*, which explores the grief and lasting impact left in the wake of the crash.

"Grief is a visitor that stays too long," according to the play, which will be performed at the Wallace Center for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road, Fitchburg, through Saturday, April 21.

Admission is \$3 and open to the public, with proceeds supporting the cast and crew's voyage to Scotland in August to perform the show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

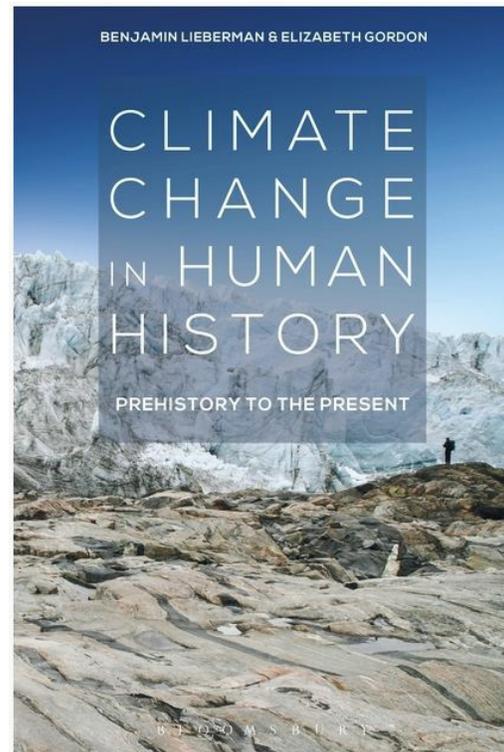
[Learn more](#)



## Faculty Spotlight

**Professor Eric Budd** (Economics, History and Political Science) was the co-external reviewer for SUNY Oneonta's Political Science and International Studies majors. This was his third external review, having previously served at Salem State and Franklin Pierce.

**Benjamin Lieberman** (Economics, History and Political Science) and **Elizabeth Gordon** (Earth and Geographic Sciences) will be recognized when the Center for Faculty Scholarship and the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library host a gathering celebrating the publication of their new book *Climate Change in Human History: Prehistory to the Present* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2018). The celebration will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, April 18** in the University Archives in Hammond Hall, room S03. Light refreshments will be provided.



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