
Fitchburg State University Today

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 - Volume 7, Issue 15

Mary Pat Couig '79 selected as commencement speaker

Mary Pat Couig, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, a 1979 graduate of Fitchburg State University, will deliver the address at the institution's undergraduate commencement ceremony on **Saturday, May 20** on the main quadrangle. The ceremony is part of the university's [121st commencement exercises](#).

Couig serves as program manager in the Office of Nursing Services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, with responsibilities for Emergency Management and the Registered Nurse Transition-to-Practice Program. In that role, she advises the Veterans Health Administration Chief Nurse Officer on public health emergency preparedness issues and represents the Chief Nurse Officer and Office of Nursing Services on a national level on public health emergency preparedness committees and initiatives. These initiatives support VA's national mission to ensure preparedness to provide services and protect people and in time of crises.



Mary Pat Couig '79

"Dr. Couig is a dedicated public servant who has spent a career improving the health of our communities," said President Lapidus. "Her long record of personal accomplishment will no doubt resonate with our graduates and their families, and we are honored she will share her story with the Class of 2017."

Couig was previously recognized by Fitchburg State with its distinguished alumna award in 2003.

Couig manages and provides oversight for the national RN Transition-to-Practice Program. This year-long program helps new registered nurses transition into their professional roles. She also works collaboratively with Veterans Health Administration program officers and nurse executives to address complex national healthcare delivery and nursing practice issues.

She completed an active duty career in the U.S. Public Health Service as an assistant surgeon general (rear admiral) and the Chief Professional Officer for the Nurse Category. As a senior health care executive she developed policy and provided leadership to the service's Commissioned Corps and Civil Service nurses. She worked closely with the Office of the Surgeon General and senior leadership in the Department of Health and Human Services in the development and

implementation of national and global public health initiatives.

Couig received her associate's degree in nursing from Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield before completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Fitchburg State. She then received a master's degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore and her PhD from the Graduate School of Nursing, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md.

She and her husband, Dr. Merton V. Smith II, live in Maryland and have two children.

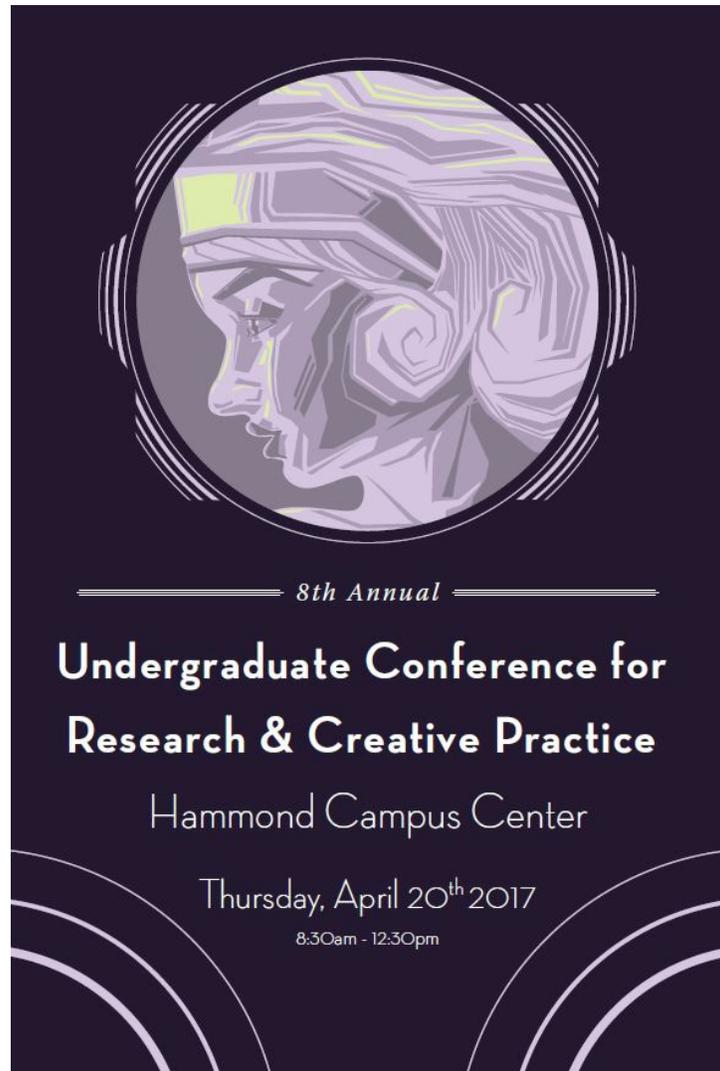
Additional honorees for Fitchburg State's upcoming commencement ceremonies will be announced soon. The university will hold its graduate commencement ceremony at 6:30 p.m. **Thursday, May 18** at its Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St.

Research conference, honors convocation this week

The university is suspending its day classes **Thursday, April 20** to allow the entire campus community to participate in a daylong celebration of student accomplishment. The Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Hammond Hall, followed by the 40th annual Honors Convocation at 2 p.m. in Weston Auditorium.

The research conference, sponsored by the university's Office of Academic Affairs and its Student Government Association, consists of presentations by Fitchburg State students from all departments to promote both creativity and scholarship. Faculty members sponsor and judge the student submissions to the conference, now in its eighth year.

[Read more](#)

A dark blue poster for the 8th Annual Undergraduate Conference for Research & Creative Practice. At the top is a circular graphic of a stylized human head profile in shades of purple and blue, with glowing yellow and green lines representing neural activity or data. Below the graphic, the text reads: "8th Annual" in a small, italicized font, followed by "Undergraduate Conference for Research & Creative Practice" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below that, "Hammond Campus Center" is written in a smaller white font. At the bottom, the date "Thursday, April 20th 2017" and the time "8:30am - 12:30pm" are displayed in white. The poster features decorative white curved lines at the bottom corners.

Criminal Justice concentration gets formal launch

Leaders from Fitchburg State and the state Municipal Police Training Committee signed an agreement this month codifying the university's "4+1" criminal justice program that will result in candidates earning bachelor's and master's degrees, and full police certification, in five years.

The first cohort of students to complete the bachelor's program will graduate next month and

begin their master's studies this summer. By next year, they will be "street ready" to work in any municipal police department in Massachusetts.

President Lapidus and MPTC Executive Director Daniel Zivkovich signed a memorandum of agreement on April 4 formalizing the program that launched two years ago. The criminal justice police concentration now has 96 students, from the first cohort completing their undergraduate degrees next month to 68 first-year students.



President Lapidus with
MPTC Executive Director Dan Zivkovich

"This program provides a set of skills that are not afforded to many other students interested in the policing world," Lapidus said. "We're not cutting any corners here. We're just adding tools to the toolbox."

[Read more](#)

Comm Media Lecture Series wraps up year on April 18

Fitchburg State's Communications Media Department Lecture Series concludes at 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, April 18** with a talk by legendary photographer Marie Cosindas at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center, 291 Highland Ave.

Cosindas will talk about her career as a pioneering woman in photography and present some of her extraordinarily rich portrait and still life color photographs including some of the photographs she made for celebrated feature films such as *Glory*, *The Sting*, *Oklahoma Crude* and *Scrooge* (the musical) among others.

The lecture series is curated by Associate Professor Stephen Goldstein of the Communication Media Department and supported by the university's Ruth Butler Grant.

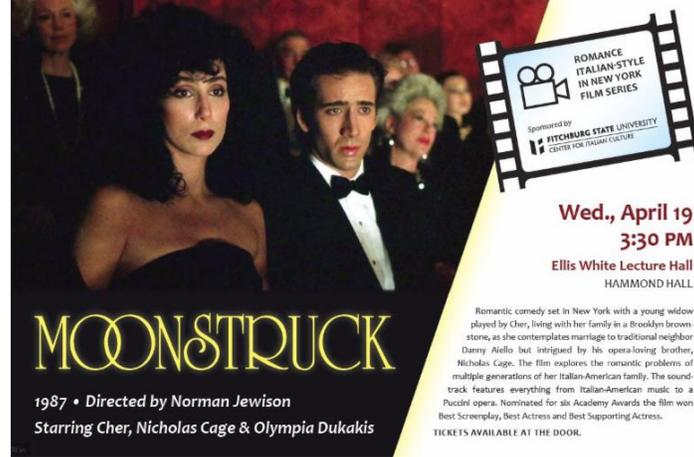


"Masks" by Marie Cosindas.

CIC presents "Moonstruck" on April 19

As part of the Center for Italian Culture's "Romance, Italian Style in New York" film series, the university will screen the Academy Award-winning romantic comedy "Moonstruck" on

Wednesday, April 19. The film tells the story of a young widow played by Cher, living with her family in a Brooklyn brownstone, as she contemplates marriage to traditional neighbor Danny Aiello but intrigued by his opera-loving brother, Nicholas Cage. The film explores the romantic problems of multiple generations of her Italian-American family. The soundtrack features everything from Italian-American music to a Puccini opera. Nominated for six Academy Awards.



Earth Day observances include talks and presentations

Fitchburg State will observe Earth Day with a series of events and discussions supported by its [Sustainability Advisory Committee](#).

The observations begin with a panel talk at 4 p.m. **Wednesday, April 19** at the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall sponsored by MASSPIRG. State Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) and a panel of faculty members including Chris Picone (Biology & Chemistry) and Liz Gordon (Earth and Geographic Sciences) as well as student activist Tallie Foster will discuss climate change. Topics will include the science, effects, policies and individual actions related to human-caused climate change.

A dozen students will be presenting on the topic during the Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice **Thursday, April 20**. The sustainability-themed research projects will be highlighted at a poster session entitled

"Sustainability and Climate Change" on the street level of Hammond Hall. All student presenters will be given a re-usable water bottle as an incentive for reducing waste and making use of more sustainable water bottle re-filling stations on campus.

The discussions move off-campus on **Wednesday, April 26**, when the Lunenburg Lifelong Learning Series presents a screening of the film "Chasing Ice" at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Lunenburg Middle-High School, 1079 Massachusetts Ave. Admission is free and open to the public.

Webinar April 25 focuses on master's in middle school ed

The Office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) will present a free [webinar](#) **Tuesday, April 25** for visitors to learn more about its new initial licensure programs leading to the Master of Education in

MASSPIRG CLIMATE PANEL
WITH
Professor Liz Gordon
Science behind climate change
Professor Chris Picone
Climate change's effect on us
FSU Student Tallie Foster
How we can stop climate change
Senator Jamie Eldridge
What the 100% clean energy bill means for MA
GET A FREE WATER BOTTLE AND CHANCE TO WIN OTHER PRIZES
THE HUB
APRIL 19TH 4PM
FitchburgState.com

Middle School Education, launching in the fall of 2017.

Assistant Professor William G. Cortezia, graduate chair of early childhood, elementary and middle school education programs at Fitchburg State, will lead the 30-minute webinar along with Interim Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education Brian P. Bercier, GCE Advising Services and Support Coordinator Marylyn Gainan and Graduate Admissions Counselor Shelby Cota.



Participants will learn about curriculum, admissions, application requirements and more and will be eligible to have their admission application fee waived.

The webinar will be offered at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 25.

Fitchburg State's new Middle School M.Ed. will offer four initial licensure concentrations: English, history, mathematics and general science. It will be available as an online hybrid, low-residency format, and the MAT or GRE tests are not required for admission.

"The new middle school program will provide the candidate with a better understanding of what the needs are for the pre-adolescent in their academic and social development, as well as the individualized concentration," Cortezia said.

To learn more or to register, please visit info.fitchburgstate.edu/middleschool-webinar.

Take Back the Night gets 10th observance this month

The university will hold its 10th annual Take Back the Night event at 7 p.m.



FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

FAVE – FITCHBURG ANTI-VIOLENCE EDUCATION

Wednesday, April

26 on the main quad. For 10 years, the campus community has come together at this event 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 affected by such violence.

The event gives the opportunity for members of our community to share their stories in a supportive space, receive resources, and demonstrate Fitchburg State's continued commitment to stand against sexual violence in our community and beyond.

Members of the campus community interested in speaking at Take Back the Night - whether to tell a personal story or share that of another survivor, or via poetry, music or artwork - should contact FAVE Program Co-coordinator Amanda Sapienza in Counseling Services at asapienza@fitchburgstate.edu. Artwork can also be dropped off anonymously in Counseling Services in Hammond 317.

[Read more](#)

International Poetry Month observed with readings April 27

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library will present a joint program with the Fitchburg Public Library and Fitchburg High School on **Thursday, April 27** in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall. The Community Poetry Café will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. and will include three featured poets.

Additional readers are invited to sign up and read from their favorite works or present original work.

**COMMUNITY
POETRY CAFE**

.....

**JOIN US FOR AN
EVENING OF POETRY**

.....

FEATURED POETS:
DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld, Megan Normandin,
Christian Reifsteck & YOU!

.....

FALCON HUB, HAMMOND HALL
FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
Parking on corner of North & Pearl Streets

THURSDAY : **HOW IT WORKS**
APRIL
27
6:00PM

1. Select an original or favorite poem.
2. Sign up for a time slot when you arrive
3. Read your poem. Please keep readings to 3 minutes or less.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

Sponsored by Fitchburg Public Library, Fitchburg High School and Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

Panel talk on May 1 explores Trump's first 100 days

The Center for Conflict Studies will present a panel discussion at 3:30 p.m. **Monday, May 1** on "President Trump's First 100 Days: Looking Back, Looking Forward" at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. The panel will include faculty members Eric Budd, Kate Jewell and Paul Weizer from the Economics, History and Political Science Department and faculty member Kyle Moody from the Communications Media Department. Admission is free and open to the public.

The spring's discussions included a panel talk on immigration policy (which can be viewed [here](#) via Fitchburg Access Television) and a presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael Rezendes from the Boston Globe.

[Read more](#)



President Donald J. Trump

Industrial Technology students shine at competition

Fitchburg State was well represented at the Technology & Engineering Education Collegiate Association (TEECA) competition held earlier this spring in Dallas. In the technology challenge,

Fitchburg State students David Hilton, Corey Coleman, Peter Jones and Jack Arsenault placed third. Another third-place finish was logged in the problem-solving category by students Corey Coleman, Shannon Belski, Victoria Floeck, Adam Gentile, Jairo Hernandez, Peter Jones, Jack Arsenault and Noah Lebel. Students David Hilton, Peter Jones and Noah Lebel also ranked in the transportation challenge.

Professor James Alicata was recognized as the distinguished faculty advisor of 2016-17.

Pictures from the events can be found on the Fitchburg State TEECA chapter's [Facebook page](#).



CenterStage and cultural events

Visions, the juried honors showcase of the year's best original student work in the Communications Media Department, will be held **Wednesday, April 26**. The entire campus and local community looks forward to this annual event, which consists of a gallery art exhibition, a film/video screening, and a presentation forum.

The exhibition will open with the Visions Forum at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall, followed by the alumni panel at 4:30 p.m. There will be a gallery opening at reception at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery at 5:30 p.m.. The events move to Weston Auditorium for the theater showcase at 7 p.m., followed by the film and video screening at 8 p.m., also in Weston.

[Read more](#)

Instrumental, choral ensembles perform in May

Fitchburg State's musical ensembles will perform in May at concerts that are free and open to the public.

The university's band and instrumental ensembles will perform at 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, May 4** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.

The concert band, directed by Michael La Cava, will be playing a mix of new band music, as well as traditional favorites, including the classic "Toccata for Band" and a new work by the composer Robert W. Smith called "Yellow." The band will also play a classic medley from the movie "Aladdin." The guitar ensemble coached by Paul Luria will be playing classical pieces and holiday tunes arranged for guitars.



PITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

VISIONS

We cordially invite you to join us in celebrating the talent and creative accomplishments of our students.

FREE ADMISSION, RECEPTION, AND REFRESHMENTS.

www.fitchburgstate.edu/visions

OPENING:
Wednesday, April 26 **2017**

A JURIED HONORS EXHIBITION OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA STUDENT WORK

The jazz band, led by Professor Michele Caniato, will be playing swing era, hard bop, Latin jazz

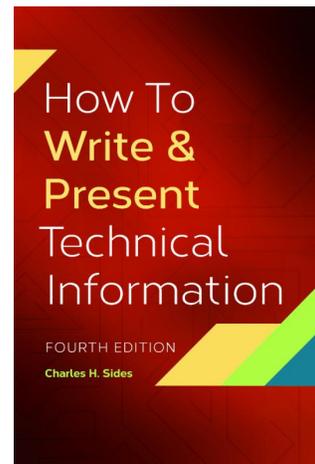
tunes, including an arrangement of Oliver Nelson's "Stolen Moments" and a rendition of Herbie Hancock's Chameleon.

The university's vocal talent will be on display when Fitchburg State's choral ensembles present their annual spring concert at 7 p.m. **Monday, May 8** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free and open to the public. Selected works from American composers from the 18th century to today will be performed at the concert, entitled "Sea to Shining Sea: Choral Music of a Diverse America." The show will span genres from pop to spirituals, classical to jazz, and Broadway hits. The university's concert choir and chamber choir will perform under the direction of Jonathan Harvey.

"This concert is a showcase of the many diverse kinds of music within our country, and our goal is to draw attention to how different and beautiful it all is," Harvey said. "We're performing music by living composers, women composers, black composers, all with an American perspective, but each with their own different perspective on America. We've tried to incorporate as many different kinds of music as possible: classical, Romantic, contemporary, spirituals, musical theater, jazz, pop, and music in between."

Faculty Notes

Charles H. Sides (Communications Media) has published *How to Write and Present Technical Information*, 4th edition, ABC-CLIO Publishing, 2017.



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