
Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, April 29, 2019 - Volume 9, Issue 16

Commencement honorees announced



Anna M. Clementi

Fitchburg State will celebrate the contributions of students and community members at its upcoming 123rd [commencement exercises](#) in May.

At the undergraduate commencement ceremony on **Saturday, May 18**, Nypro Executive Vice President and CEO **Steven D. Borges '90** will deliver the [commencement address](#). Borges will also be awarded the President's Medal at the ceremony in recognition of his service.

Anna Maria Clementi, a longtime leader and philanthropist, will be presented an honorary degree during the undergraduate ceremony. She is in her second term on Fitchburg State University's Board of Trustees and was one of the founding members of the university's Center for Italian Culture. She has also been active for 30 years with

the Fitchburg Art Museum.

Madison Medina of Pelham, N.H., will address her fellow graduates as valedictorian of the Class of 2019 during the undergraduate ceremony. Medina is completing her undergraduate degree in criminal justice but will return to campus the week after commencement to start a 17-week police academy and then a one-year master's program. Medina has also distinguished herself as a student-athlete, competing on the women's soccer and softball teams.



Madison Medina



Christine Foote-Lucero

Christine Foote-Lucero of Loveland, Colo., will speak as recipient of the Graduate Student Leadership Award during the graduate commencement ceremony at **6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16**. A licensed registered nurse for 17 years, she is completing her degree in forensic nursing. She has diverse clinical experience and has presented at state and national conferences on a variety of forensic and trauma topics, as well as testified before government leaders on issues related to her field.

[Learn more](#)

Celebration of Joseph McAloon Wednesday, May 1

The Business Administration Department will host a celebration of the life and contributions of Professor Joseph E. McAloon at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1** in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall. McAloon, who was a valued member of the university community for 35 years, died suddenly this month.

Though he had retired in 2018, he stayed on as chair of the MBA program. His service to the Business Administration Department and Fitchburg State as a whole includes his work as a

professor, department chair, program chair, and union president. His contributions were defined by an unyielding dedication to his students and a ceaseless commitment to his fellow faculty members.

Wolfman named new VP of Institutional Advancement

President Lapidus has announced the appointment of **Jeffrey A. Wolfman** as the institution's new vice president of institutional advancement. He will report to campus on **Monday, May 6**.

The appointment was made after a national search that included input from across the campus community.

"Jeffrey Wolfman brings more than 40 years of experience in fundraising, development and annual giving to his new role," President Lapidus said. "His expertise and proven track record of success will be valuable assets as Fitchburg State moves forward on capital projects and campaigns around building and supporting student success and opportunity."

"I am excited to be joining Fitchburg State University on its upward trajectory," Wolfman said. "This is a tremendous opportunity to be part of a dynamic university that is embedded in an exciting, growing region of Massachusetts. The cornerstones are in place to attract new forms of support that will advance the teaching and research mission of the university and enhance the quality of life throughout the region and the Commonwealth."

Since 2010, Wolfman had been director of development at Hampshire College, and prior to that spent two years as director of institutional advancement at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Connecticut.

Wolfman's higher education experience also includes many years with the UMass system, including serving as vice chancellor for institutional advancement at UMass Dartmouth and director of principal gifts at UMass Amherst. In these roles he designed and implemented comprehensive fundraising campaigns and led large-scale institutional development programs.

Wet weather doesn't dampen spirits at Special Olympics

The university hosted the annual Special Olympics North Central Massachusetts Day Games at Elliot Field on Friday, bringing together 600 athletes and more than 200 volunteers for an empowering exhibition of spirit.

President Lapidus, Dean of Students Bill Cummings and Dean of Education Bruno Hicks welcomed the athletes and families who gathered on a wet Friday morning to enjoy the games.



Ramos one of 29 Who Shine

Alexander Ramos Jr., graduating in May with a degree in political science and the student representative to the Board of Trustees, will be recognized in Boston this **Friday, May 3** as one of Massachusetts' public higher education's 29 Who Shine.

The ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Friday in the Statehouse.

Ramos has distinguished himself as a standout scholar and leader throughout his time at Fitchburg State, starting as a high school student when he began dual enrollment courses

on campus. He immediately impressed university faculty with his talent and intellect, and continued to excel over the rest of his time at the university, being named to the Dean's List and President's List in recognition of stellar academic performance.

Professor **Paul Weizer** (Economics, History and Political Science) will also be recognized during the event on Friday as Ramos' mentor.

"Dr. Weizer has consistently gone above and beyond in his support of my personal and professional aspirations, from advising me on what classes to take to prepare for law school to counseling me about whatever hardships I encountered," Ramos said. "I am forever indebted to him for his guidance and teachings."

[Learn more](#)



Alexander Ramos Jr.

Alum Matthew Zanghi, M.D. discusses health professions

Matthew Zanghi, M.D., a 2007 Fitchburg State biology graduate, will discuss his experiences going from the university to a career in medicine at **3:30 p.m. tomorrow** in Room 243 of the Antonucci Science Complex. All students interested in careers in health professions are encouraged to attend.

Zanghi will discuss his residency in internal medicine and his work as a physician at the Fitchburg Adult Medicine practice in downtown Fitchburg, mere blocks from the house where he grew up. He is also a member of the faculty at UMass Medical School.

Light refreshments will be served.

Discussion and screening explore legacy of War on Terror

The legacy of the War on Terror will be explored with a panel talk and film screening at **4 p.m. Wednesday, May 1**. "Remembering Fallujah: Repairing Memory, Rebuilding Communities and Restoring Justice" will be held at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Iraqi city of Fallujah has become an epicenter of geopolitical conflict, where foreign powers and non-state actors have repeatedly waged war in residential neighborhoods with staggering humanitarian consequences.

The impact of this event will be explored with a screening of the award-winning animated film *Le Parfum d'Irak* and a community discussion of the aftermath of the siege of Fallujah.

[Learn more](#)

Remembering Fallujah

Repairing Memory, Rebuilding Communities, and Restoring Justice

Wednesday May 1st
4:00pm - 6:00pm
Fitchburg State University
Hammond: Ellis White Hall

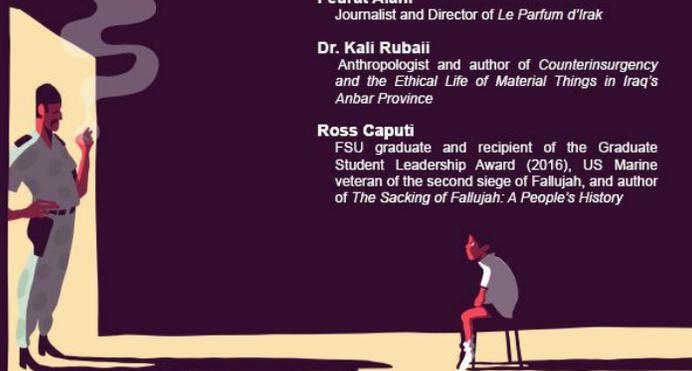
The Iraqi city of Fallujah has become an epicenter of geopolitical conflict, where foreign powers and non-state actors have repeatedly waged war in residential neighborhoods with staggering humanitarian consequences.

Join us for a screening of the award winning animated film *Le Parfum d'Irak* and community discussion on Fallujah. The director, Feurat Alani, along with scholars Ross Caputi and Dr. Kali Rubaii will be in attendance to discuss the ongoing conflict in Fallujah and their different approaches to studying and raising awareness about a city that has been at the center of the Global War on Terror.

Feurat Alani
Journalist and Director of *Le Parfum d'Irak*

Dr. Kali Rubaii
Anthropologist and author of *Counterinsurgency and the Ethical Life of Material Things in Iraq's Anbar Province*

Ross Caputi
FSU graduate and recipient of the Graduate Student Leadership Award (2016), US Marine veteran of the second siege of Fallujah, and author of *The Sacking of Fallujah: A People's History*



In Collaboration with
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Hosted by
English Studies Department
FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Cosponsored by
Center for Conflict Studies
FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Campus hosting naturalization ceremony Friday, May 3

The campus will host a naturalization ceremony at noon **Friday, May 3** in Weston Auditorium where new Americans will take the oath of allegiance. The event, which the campus has hosted for several years, is open to the public.

Participants in the ceremony will be checking in starting at 10:30 a.m. While the scheduled start time for the ceremony is noon, visitors are advised to arrive by 11:30 a.m. as the ceremony may begin sooner if the parties and judicial staff complete their preparations earlier. The ceremony itself lasts only a few minutes.

Members of the campus community are advised to be mindful of increased vehicular traffic preceding the event.

Share your ideas for 125th anniversary

This coming academic year, Fitchburg State will celebrate the institution's 125th anniversary. This is an opportunity to celebrate our history and to share the accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty and staff.

The campus community is invited to help highlight the robust array of programming and exhibitions that the university hosts each year. To that end, members of the campus are invited to [submit proposals](#) for events they would like included under the 125th anniversary label, as well as suggestions for new events to observe this landmark. Every submission will be reviewed by the 125th Anniversary Committee, which includes representatives from across the campus, including students and alumni.

As with the inauguration week celebrations in 2016, we will be looking for proposals that are



diverse in presentation and philosophy; will engage members of the wider community; engage students; reflect and appeal to our alumni; and are unique and creative in thought and presentation. If you are interested in making a programming proposal for the anniversary year, please fill out [this survey](#) by **Friday, May 3**.

Reminder: ALFA program on Russian icons on April 30

[Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area](#) (ALFA) will present the grand finale of its Shirley Pick Spring Series with a talk on Russian icons at **11 a.m.**



Tuesday, April 30 in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. The talk will be followed that afternoon by a discussion with author Neville Frankel, whose novel *On the Sickle's Edge* is partly set in Russia and Latvia.

Laura Garrity-Arquitt from the [Museum of Russian Icons](#) in Clinton will give the talk at 11 a.m. that will be presented in concert with performances of Ukrainian operatic arias and folk songs sung by noted soprano Olga Lisovskaya. This program will complement the afternoon program, where Frankel will talk about his multigenerational thriller, love story and coming-of-age tale that takes readers to Eastern Europe, South Africa and the U.S.

Admission is free and lunch can be ordered for \$11. Guests are asked to register online at marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa, or to contact the ALFA office at 978-665-3706. Space is limited.

Reminder: Students discuss European experiences May 1

Fitchburg State students who spent their spring break in Europe for a political science class will discuss their experiences at a public forum **Wednesday, May 1** in Miller Oval. The evening will begin with refreshments at **6 p.m.** followed by the students' presentation from **7 to 8:30 p.m.** Admission is free.

The students were part of Professor Joshua Spero's political science class "Europe Today." In March they visited the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Poland.

Students in the course have been studying the roots of contemporary Europe, particularly the post-Communist era with the fall of the Berlin Wall, collapse of the Soviet Union, re-emergence of democracy in Central-East Europe, and subsequent challenges post-9/11.



Professor Joshua Spero and his students underground in Poland's Wieliczka Salt Mine, just outside Kraków.

Campus hosting mathematics conference May 31-June 1

The Spring 2019 sectional conference of the Northeast Section of the Mathematics Association of America will be held at Fitchburg State on **May 31** and **June 1**.

Invited speakers for this conference are:

- Meredith Greer (this year's Battle's Lecturer), Bates College will speak on "Discovering Mathematics Through Epidemiological Models"
- Chad Topaz, Williams College will speak on "Diversity Through a Data Science Lens"
- Shelly Jones, CCSU will speak on "Teaching Mathematics for Social Justice: Using Culturally Relevant Pedagogy as The First Step"

- Carol Schumacher, Kenyon College (and Vice President of the MAA) will speak on "Art forgery, differential equations, and swindling Herman Göring."

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) is the largest professional society that focuses on undergraduate mathematics education. Its mission is "to advance the mathematical sciences, especially at the collegiate level."

[Learn more](#)

CenterStage and cultural events

Fitchburg State's instrumental and choral ensembles will present their spring concerts in April and May, giving audiences free evenings of entertainment.

The university orchestra and concert band will present their spring performance at **7:30 p.m. tomorrow** in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. The Fitchburg State Community Orchestra will perform classical and pop music, featuring student violinists as soloists. The Concert Band will perform music based on folk songs and mythology, featuring the collegiate premiere of "Nyx" by Brandon Nelson. The orchestra and band will join together to perform "Italian Folk Festival."

The events continue at **7 p.m. Monday, May 6** when the university's choral groups present "Showtime," featuring music from the stage and screen, at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. The concert will feature music connected to film and theater, from opera choruses to show tunes, and Shakespearean settings to vocal jazz, spanning the 1500s to the 21st century, according to Professor Jonathan Harvey, who will conduct the choral show featuring voices from university students and faculty.

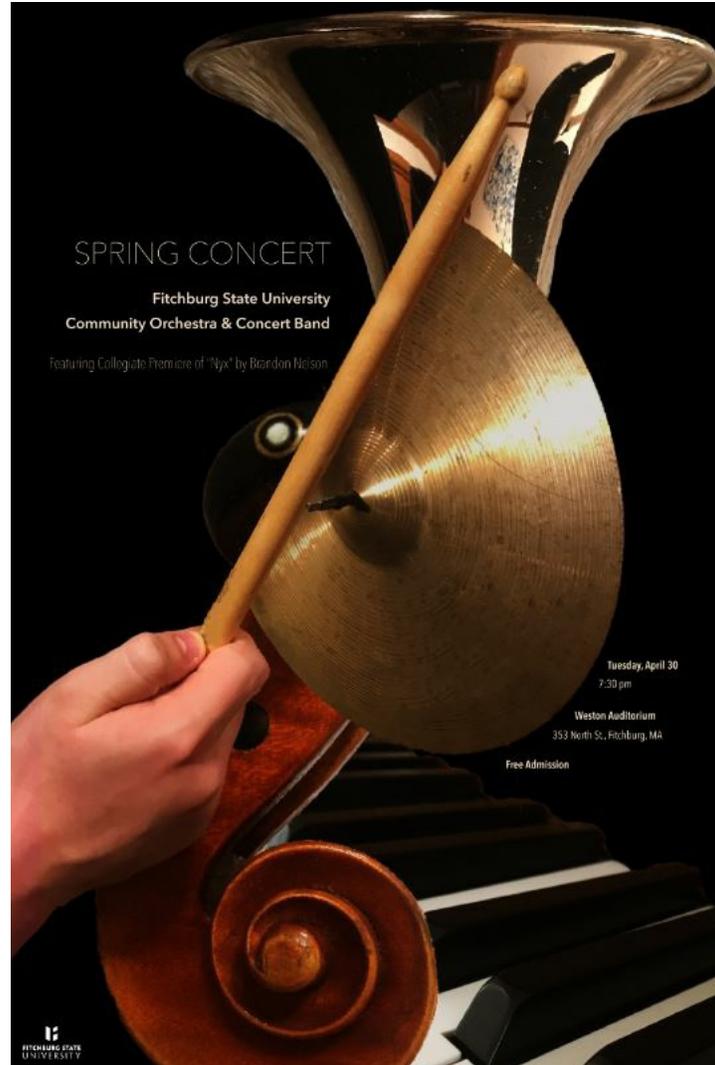
"We're especially excited to be performing a piece by Massachusetts-based composer Gregory W. Brown, who has come and worked with the choir as we prepared his piece," Harvey said. "It's a setting of some drinking songs from Shakespeare, and it is a brilliant and hilarious musical depiction of drunkenness, with kazoos."

The concerts continue at **7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8**, with the spring jazz performance will be offered at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

To learn more about the university's musical offerings, please visit fitchburgstate.edu/music.

Faculty notes

Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) attended the conference "E Pluribus Unum? Memory Conflicts, Democracy & Integration" earlier this month at Clark University. He also brought the university's Model UN team to Mount Holyoke College for a Model UN competition.



James Colbert (Humanities, Professor Emeritus) reports that his translation of Gilson's "Theology and the Cartesian Doctrine of Freedom" has been published by St. Augustine's Press of South Bend. Dr. Colbert also presented a paper on "The Discussion of Immortality in Nascent Europe" at the recent Sewanee Medieval Colloquium on "Loves and Afterlives."

Adem Elveren (EHPS) was interviewed for the Turkish edition of Marie Claire (Marie Claire Türkiye) on the topic of "brain drain" from Turkey. The issue was published this month.

Kevin McCarthy's (Communications Media) short documentary "[Scenes from a Protest](#)" was one of 16 films screening in the IFFBoston Short Documentary competition this month. The film documents the boycott of Market Basket that drew national attention. Several student productions were also featured at the IFFBoston film festival.



Chris Picone (Biology/Chemistry) will discuss frog conservation in the Nashua River Watershed at **7 p.m. Friday, May 8** at Stevens Memorial Library in Ashburnham. The event is hosted by the Nashua River Watershed Association. Picone will discuss the interrelated causes of rapid declines and extinction of frog populations around the world, as well as the effects of aquatic herbicides on pond-breeding frogs in Ashburnham. Pre-registration to attend is requested by contacting KateM@nashuariverwatershed.org. Learn more [here](#).

J.J. Sylvia IV (Communications Media), **Kyle Moody** (Communications Media), **Wafa Unus** (English Studies) and **Renée Fratantonio** (Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library) presented a panel at the 2019 Eastern Communication Association annual conference held in Providence, R.I. on April 11. The panel, titled "Grappling with the Political Future of Fake News," examined multiple approaches to understanding and combating the issues associated with fake news. These approaches showcased the panel's work on research related to Russian use of social media in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, civic engagement initiatives at public libraries, the role of university libraries in information literacy, and the importance of local journalism in challenging the issue of fake news.

Additionally, Sylvia presented the paper, "Toward a Posthuman Informational Ontology: Implications and Impacts for Communication and Media Studies." This work was awarded as a top paper in the division and was presented as part of the panel for Top Papers in the Philosophy of Communication.

Kisha Tracy (English Studies) had an article published in the *Washington Post* about global reactions to the devastating fire at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. You can read her piece, "Why you don't need to be French or Catholic to mourn the Notre Dame fire," [here](#).



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