
Fitchburg State University Today

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Brig. Gen. Henry '84 to deliver commencement address

Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Henry, U.S. Army, retired, will deliver the commencement address at Fitchburg State University's undergraduate [commencement](#) ceremony at 10 a.m. **Saturday, May 19** on the main campus quadrangle.

Gen. Henry graduated from Fitchburg State in 1984 with a degree in industrial technology. The Boston native currently serves as Vice President for Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Programs and Department of Defense (DoD) Agencies for Unisys, a global information technology (IT) company that builds high-performance, security-centric solutions for some of the most digitally demanding businesses and governments around the globe. Before joining Unisys in 2015, he served as the Chief Operating Officer for TapLink, a tech startup company. He also founded Barrow and Associates, LLC, an IT consultancy company.



Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Henry '84

"We are honored to welcome Gen. Henry back to campus to share his inspiring life story with our graduates and guests," Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus said. "His lifetime of service, professional accomplishment and commitment to community set a remarkable example for the Class of 2018 to follow."

Gen. Henry will also be awarded an honorary degree at the commencement ceremony.

Magnarelli to be recognized as one of 29 Who Shine

Samantha Ann Magnarelli, who will graduate in May with a degree in Communications Media, will represent Fitchburg State at the Commonwealth's [29 Who Shine](#) celebration on **Friday, May 4** at the Statehouse.

The event, organized by the Department of Higher Education, represents a standout graduating senior from each of Massachusetts' 29 public higher education campuses.

Honorees are also encouraged to bring a faculty or staff mentor who has been instrumental to their success at the institution. Magnarelli selected Associate Dean of Student Development Hank Parkinson.

"I met Hank during accepted students' day, and

ever since then he has always been there for me whenever I needed a mentor," Magnarelli said. "Without having him on campus I would not be anywhere near where I am today, and I thank him for supporting me since day one."

[Read more](#)



Samantha Magnarelli '18

Elliot Field hosts Special Olympics

The campus welcomed more than 400 athletes to Elliot Field Friday for the 11th annual Special Olympics North Central School Day Games. Athletes from 24 regional schools attended the games, which were supported by 150 Fitchburg State volunteers.

President Lapidus and Vice President for Student Affairs Laura A. Bayless greeted the athletes and other guests that packed the field.



New appointments announced

Jacalyn Kremer has accepted the position of Dean of the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, effective July 1.

Kremer comes to Fitchburg State from Fairfield University in Connecticut. Her work there focused on advancing student learning and supporting faculty teaching and scholarship.

She graduated from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY with a degree in Business and Mathematics. She has a Master's in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University. She also has a Certificate in Higher Education Leadership & Management from UMASS Amherst.

Keith M. Williamson has accepted the position of Dean of the Division of Business and Technology, effective July 1.

Dr. Williamson is an experienced administrator and researcher with significant appointments in industry and academia. He is the former Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at

Virginia State University where he served for over a decade strengthening engineering, computer science, and technology programs and obtaining accreditation through various accreditations. He is currently a Visiting Scholar at Old Dominion University where previously he held a dual appointment as professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director for the Center for Urban Education.

He holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Tufts University, a M.S. in mechanical engineering from Northeastern University, and a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Bucknell University.

Nicole Chelonis was named Director of Digital Learning. In this role, Chelonis will lead the strategic planning effort on campus related to digital learning in close collaboration with faculty, students, staff and administrators and provide guidance across campus for the development of online or hybrid courses and programs.

Chelonis has been with Fitchburg State since May 2017 as the Coordinator of Online Accelerated Programs and Compliance and has also served as the Interim Director of Distance Learning since August 2017. She has assisted in the launch of the university's accelerated online programs, has led the process for acquiring state authorization approvals for the university's online programs and courses, supports the development of online programs and courses and serves as the university representative for Massachusetts Colleges Online.

University again earns Military Friendly designation

For the fourth consecutive year, Fitchburg State has been named a [Military Friendly](#) campus.

The designation is presented in recognition of the university's academic policies and compliance; admissions and orientation; culture and commitment; financial aid and assistance; graduation and career; and military student support and retention.



New Americans to take oath of allegiance Friday, May 4

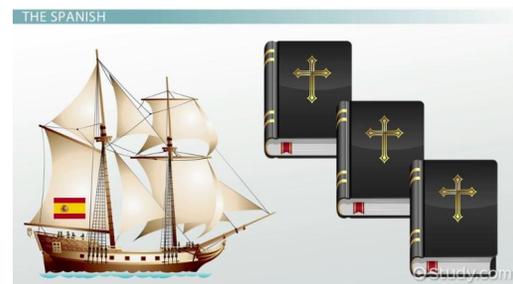
The campus will host a naturalization ceremony at noon **Friday, May 4** in Weston Auditorium where new Americans will take the oath of allegiance. The event, which the campus has hosted for several years, is open to the public.

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.

Speakers Series continues Monday, May 7

The Fitchburg State Speakers Series continues **Monday, May 7** with a talk by **Professor Joe Wachtel** (Economics, History and Political Science) in the Center for Teaching and Learning at the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. "Reformation Origins of North American Colonialism" will be presented from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.



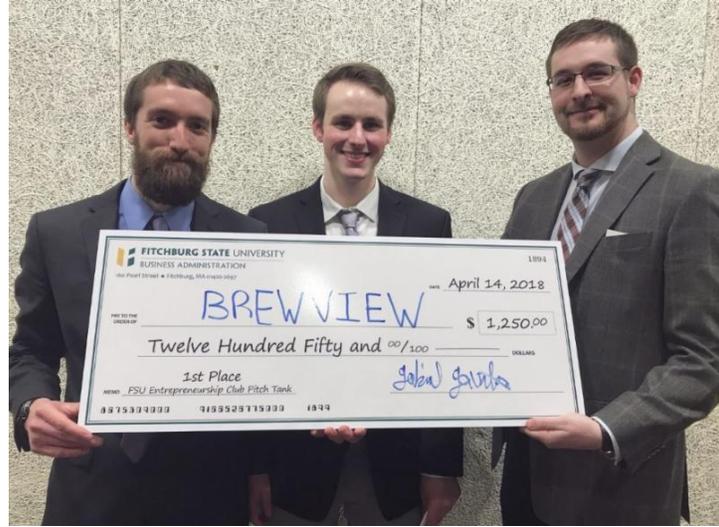
Pitch Tank winner brewing future success

Tyler Sullivan '16, '19 is a longtime beer aficionado, and

thanks to a strong performance by his team at the Entrepreneurship Society's inaugural Pitch Tank contest, he's \$1,250 closer to turning his hobby into a business.

Sullivan's beer-rating app called BrewView won the top prize at the contest, scoring highest among a dozen finalists at the contest's recent judging.

"I've brewed beer myself and I like to drink craft beer," said Sullivan, who's partial to IPAs. "I've used a couple apps before and they seemed to be lacking. I wanted to make an app that's better than what's already out there."



Pitch Tank winners Ben Donahue, Eric Anderson and Tyler Sullivan '16, '19.

Sullivan, who will complete his MBA at Fitchburg State next spring, also earned an undergraduate degree in business administration at the university. He is currently working as an administrative assistant in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

[Read more](#)

Instrumental and choral ensembles perform in May

Fitchburg State's instrumental and choral ensembles will present free concerts in May at Weston Auditorium.

The university's band and instrumental ensembles will present a concert at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, May 2.**

The university's Chamber Choir, Concert Choir and Community Orchestra will perform at 7 p.m. **Monday, May 7** at Weston Auditorium, offering listeners a diverse program of pop, spirituals, classical and contemporary selections.

The combined 100 musicians will share the stage for a performance of Vivaldi's "Gloria" to close the show on May 7.

"This concert includes music about strong beliefs and deep emotions, from many different traditions, in an exploration of what it means for us as humans to believe or feel something with everything we have," said Fitchburg State Professor Jonathan Harvey, who will lead the choral ensembles.

The Community Orchestra, led by Professor Hildy Schilling, is composed of students, alumni, faculty, and other musicians who live in the community. The orchestra rehearses weekly and has performed for numerous events and ceremonies on- and off-campus.

THE GLORY:
Music of Power and Conviction

Fitchburg State Choirs &
Fitchburg State Community Orchestra

Monday May 7, 2018 at 7:00pm

Weston Auditorium
Fitchburg State University

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Faculty Spotlight

Professor Daniel Welsh (Biology/Chemistry) presented his research at the 2018 Northeast Natural History Conference. His talk, entitled "Life in murky water: Examination of fish eye size from habitats of different turbidity levels," focused on work he did with undergraduate students and explored patterns in the eye size of fish from aquatic environments across central Massachusetts.

Professor Kyle Moody (Communications Media) was featured in the Telegram & Gazette's Faculty Forum this month for his views on the future of social media. The piece can be read online [here](#).

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