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## Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, April 3, 2017 - Volume 7, Issue 14

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### New vice president and deans appointed

President Lapidus announced the appointment of **Laura A. Bayless** as the university's new vice president for student affairs, effective July 2017. The university also appointed new deans for its Divisions of Arts and Sciences, Health and Natural Sciences, and Graduate and Continuing Education.



The vice president for student affairs role is new, while the dean positions were filled by existing staff and faculty on an interim basis. Comprehensive national searches for the leadership positions included

representation from all campus constituencies and robust feedback from a series of open forums with the finalists.

- **John C. Schaumloffel**, currently professor in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at SUNY College at Oneonta, will become the dean of health and natural sciences.
- **Franca R. Barricelli**, currently associate dean in the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, has been named the next dean of arts and sciences.
- **Becky A. Copper-Glenz**, currently associate provost for Graduate, Continuing Education, Educational Partnerships and Extended Campus at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, was named the next dean of graduate and continuing education.

[Read more](#)

### Sexual assault awareness month events

Fitchburg State University will observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April with events and talks designed to educate the campus and wider community. Throughout the month, Fitchburg Anti-Violence Education ([FAVE](#)) will distribute teal ribbons at various locations for individuals to wear and show support for sexual assault awareness.

This spring the university also welcomed Denise Zahui Gboignon to the campus community. She is a sexual violence campus advocate with Pathways for Change Inc., and is embedded on campus through a memorandum of agreement the university and Pathways signed last year as part of its ongoing efforts to foster a safe and supportive community.

Members of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority will be spending 36 hours in a swing to raise awareness and dollars for the Rape Abuse Incest National Network (RAINN).



Denise Zahui Gboignon

The Swing-A-Thon starts at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 5 and will last until 9 p.m. Thursday, April 6.

"As college students, sexual assault is a major topic on campuses across America, and the women of Alpha Sigma Tau want to support and give a voice to both the women and men that feel as though they cannot speak about it in hopes to end the violence," said Emma Murphy, president of the university's AST chapter.

About 40 members of the chapter will be taking part in the event. Donations to RAINN may be made at the event, or at a table AST will staff in Hammond Hall daily from noon to 2 p.m. or the Holmes Dining Commons from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. through April 5.

[Read more](#)

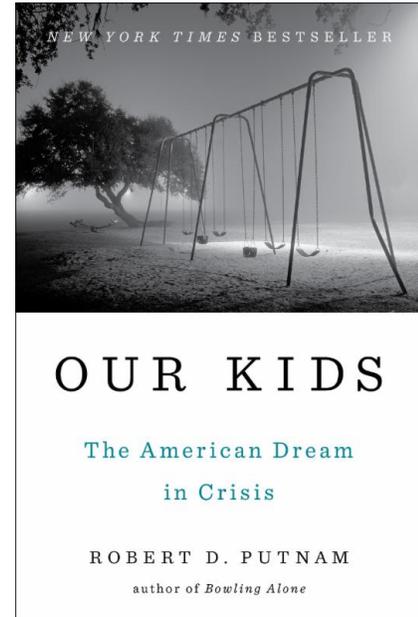
## Author Putnam to discuss *Our Kids* Tuesday

Fitchburg State will wrap up its Community Read of Robert Putnam's *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* with a keynote lecture by the author at 7 p.m. **Tuesday, April 4** at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public.

There will be an open reception with the author starting at 5:30 p.m. in the main lounge at Hammond.

*Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* is a New York Times bestseller and "a passionate, urgent" (The New Yorker) examination of growing social inequality in the United States. Putnam's volume offers a personal and authoritative look at a new American crisis where a growing "opportunity gap" has emerged over the past 25 years. The crisis challenges the traditional assumption that Americans who have talent and try hard will succeed.

[Read more](#)



## Public forum April 6 on downtown theater plans

The community is invited to take part in a forum to discuss the possible uses of the Main Street theater block. The forum will be held at 7 p.m. **Thursday, April 6**, at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

Fitchburg State purchased the building in 2016 and will begin renovations to the second floor of the building this spring, including entrepreneurial laboratory space.



## Pulitzer winner Rezendes to discuss importance of journalism

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael Rezendes from the Boston Globe will present "the Power of Journalism in a Perilous Age" next week, part of the Center for Conflict Studies' spring programs.

Rezendes' talk will be given at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, April 12** in Randall Lecture Hall in the Antonucci Science Complex, 333 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.

An investigative reporter and political writer, Rezendes was a member of the Boston Globe Spotlight Team for nearly a decade and shared a Pulitzer Prize for investigating the cover-up of

sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. He has probed a wide array of additional topics, including the September 11 attacks, prison suicides, healthcare costs, and the role of money in presidential politics.

[Read more](#)



Rezendes

## GCE to hold information session on Monday, April 10

The Office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) (GCE) will host a free [information session](#) on **Monday, April 10** at 5 p.m., where attendees will have the opportunity to speak with advisors, admission counselors, program chairs, financial aid representatives and register for classes. The session will take place in Hammond Hall on the Fitchburg State campus.



There will be special group breakout sessions beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the LPN to BS in nursing bridge program; online RN to BSN; Master of Science in Nursing (forensic); graduate special education (dyslexia specialist, moderate, severe, guided studies, reading specialist and BCBA graduate certificate), now delivered as an online hybrid; education (early childhood, elementary and middle school); and counseling. Drop in anytime between 5 and 6:30 pm to speak with program advisors for additional graduate and undergraduate programs not listed above.

Those who attend the information session who haven't yet applied for admission to Fitchburg State can have their admissions application fee waived for their summer or fall applications. Applications must be received by May 10 to qualify for the waiver.

Visit [fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infosession](http://fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infosession) to register for the information session or call (978) 665-3182 for more details.

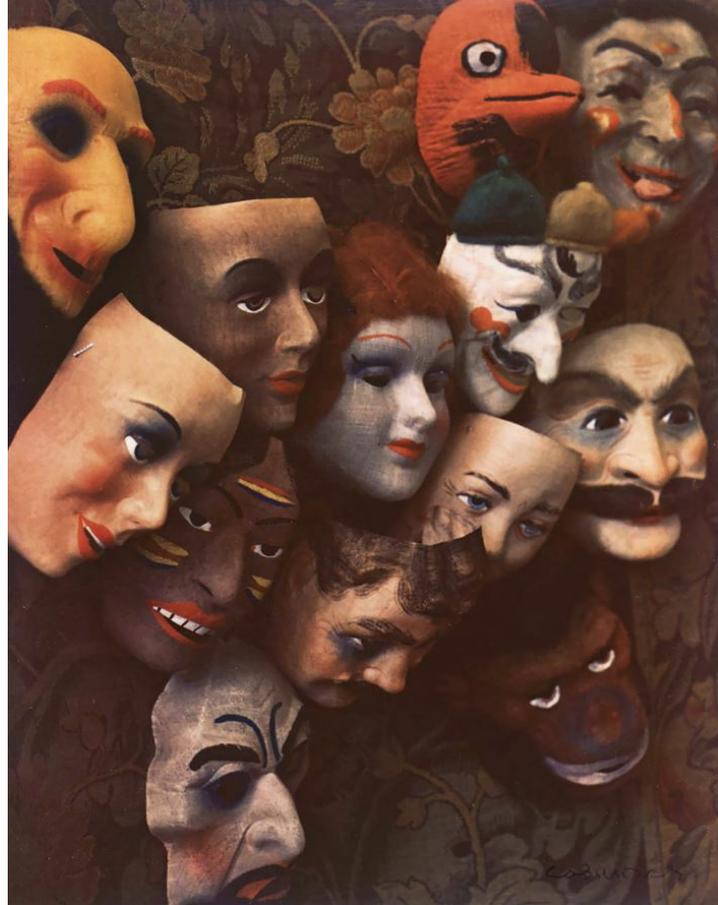
## Comm Media Lecture Series wraps up year on April 18

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.

## 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 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](http://info.fitchburgstate.edu/middleschool-webinar).

## CenterStage and cultural events

A new comedy positing Abraham Lincoln as the founder of social media will be performed in April as the main stage production by the Communications Media and Industrial Technology departments.

"The Peculiar Distraction of Abraham Lincoln's Social Media" was written by Fitchburg State alumnus Andy Bayiates and directed by Professor Richard McElvain. The funny, touching and topical play will be performed at the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Admission is free but donations to the theater program will be accepted at the door.

The play will be performed at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6; Wednesday, April 12 and Thursday, April 13; 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 7, Saturday, April 8, Thursday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15; and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8, Sunday, April 9 and Saturday, April 15.

**In the Falcon Hub: Puglia, a Dinner with Fred Plotkin, April 7 and 8**

Fred Plotkin returns to campus to enlighten the community about the history, culture and, perhaps most importantly, cuisine of the Southern Italian region of Puglia. An authentic menu of specialty dishes will set the stage for the renowned author and gourmand's verbal tour of the region. A cash bar featuring regional wines will also be offered.

This popular annual event sells out quickly. Seatings will be held at 6:30 p.m. **Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8** in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Tickets for this reserved seating event are \$35 and can be ordered [online](#) or by visiting the Weston Box Office inside Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. The box office is open from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and can be reached at 978-665-3347.

Come experience the traditions of Puglia through this delightful culinary and cultural adventure.

Plotkin's talk is sponsored by the Sandro and Lillian Clementi Lecture Fund and the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State University.

**In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: ARteries, through April 12**

ARteries, the university's biannual exhibition showcasing the strongest original student work in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed-media art, is on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Wednesday, April 12. Student submissions to the show were reviewed by a faculty jury for acceptance.

COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA & INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENTS  
PROUDLY PRESENT

THE PECULIAR  
DISTRACTION  
OF MR. LINCOLN'S  
SOCIAL  
MEDIA

ABE LINCOLN.  
PRESIDENT. EMANCIPATOR.  
INVENTOR OF SOCIAL MEDIA?

A FUNNY, TOUCHING,  
AND TOPICAL PLAY.

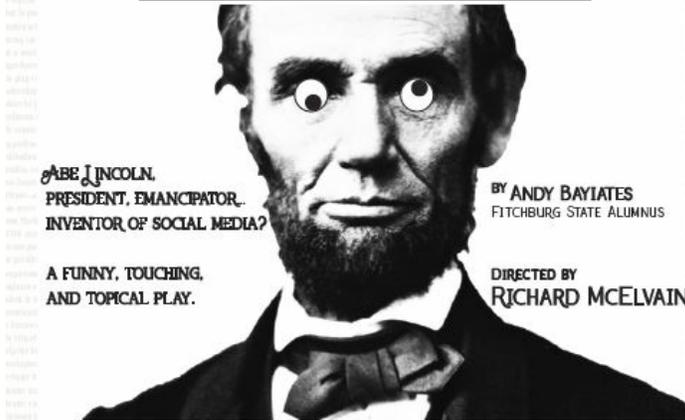
BY ANDY BAIATES  
FITCHBURG STATE ALUMNUS

DIRECTED BY  
RICHARD MCELVAIN

APRIL 6, 12, 13 6:30 PM  
APRIL 7, 8, 14, 15 7:30 PM  
APRIL 8, 9, 15 2 PM

WALLACE THEATER  
MCKAY COMPLEX

FREE  
ADMISSION



Fred Plotkin returns to campus this week.

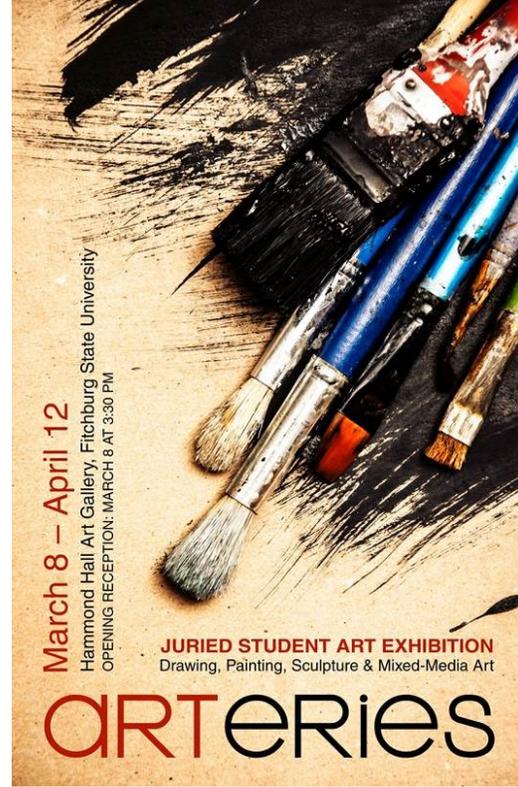
FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## On the Conlon Hall Media Wall: Dave Fischer, On Copper Wings

The abstract video art of Dave Fischer will be on display at the Conlon Hall Media Wall through Wednesday, April 19. By popular demand after the artist's talk on March 29, there will be another wall talk with the artist at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, April 12** with a reception to follow.

"On Copper Wings" is described as a film made by insects. No individual insects are listed in association with it - it is thought that hundreds of millions of insects worked on this production. The movie tells the story of the insect creation myth, which involves the insect development of science and technology, insects time traveling to 450 million years ago to rescue the early proto-insects from the Ordovician-Silurian extinction event, and genetically modifying them to be more competitive.

Dave Fischer is an artist from Providence, Rhode Island. He creates videos using a combination of algorithmically processed video, still photographs, and pure geometry. He writes all his own software for manipulating and editing video, and maintains a cluster of high-end late-90's servers for running the batch-mode computations.



## Faculty notes

**Kisha G. Tracy** (English Studies) received the Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education Professional Development Award in support of a project entitled "Teacher-Photographer: Transforming Perceptions of Cultural Heritage with Image," the first phase of which she presented at Bard College last week.

**Daniel Welsh** (Biology/Chemistry) is first author on a new paper entitled "Condition-dependent reproductive tactics in male smallmouth bass: evidence of an inconsistent birthdate effect on early growth and age at first reproduction." This article has been accepted for publication into The Journal of Zoology and will be in print in an upcoming issue.

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