
Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Dec. 11, 2017 - Volume 8, Issue 8

Winter Commencement is almost here



The countdown to Fitchburg State's [winter commencement](#) ceremony has begun. The celebration will be held at 6:30 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 22** at the Athletics and Recreation Center.

More than 200 undergraduate and graduate students are expected to attend the ceremony, which will include remarks by President Lapidus as well as the presentation of awards by the undergraduate valedictorian and the recipient of the graduate student leadership award.

[Learn more](#)

New agreement creates opportunities for nursing

Students will have more opportunities to pursue rewarding careers in nursing thanks to a new agreement signed by President Lapidus and Mount Wachusett Community College President James Vander Hooven last week.

The program will grant MWCC's registered nursing graduates admission to Fitchburg State's online RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

[Learn more](#)



President Lapidus and MWCC President Vander Hooven

Pact with QCC opens doors for deaf studies students

A newly signed articulation agreement between Fitchburg State and Quinsigamond

Community College in Worcester will allow the two-year school's general studies-deaf studies graduates to seamlessly continue their education at Fitchburg State.

The agreement provides guaranteed acceptance into the deaf studies and American Sign Language baccalaureate programs at Fitchburg State as long as all criteria are met. Students must meet GPA requirements specified in the agreement, and follow the transfer admissions process for Fitchburg State.



President Lapidus with QCC President Luis Pedraja

[Learn more](#)

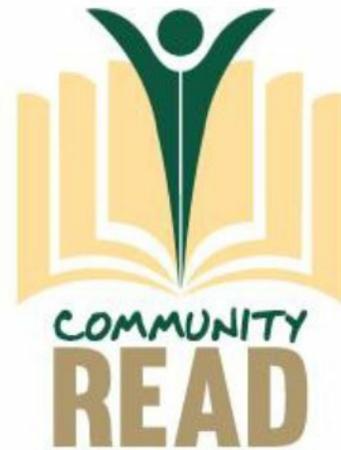
Cast your vote for next year's Community Read

The Community Read Steering Committee is now collecting feedback from the campus on which book to feature in academic year 2018-19.

The three finalists are:

- *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea
- *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
- *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng

Additional information about the authors and books can be found on the [survey link](#). Voting is open to all members of the campus community and area residents. The deadline to vote is 5 p.m. **Wednesday, Dec. 13.**



Events for this year's Community Read - *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan - continue in the spring semester, culminating in a keynote address by the author on Thursday, March 29. Kiernan will attend a reception and book signing at 5:30 p.m. followed by an author talk at 7 p.m., both in the main lounge of Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

[Cast Your Vote](#)

HR spotlight

For **Toby Ethier**, reporting for duty this fall at Fitchburg State University was a sort of homecoming. Ethier joined the campus last month as a locksmith in the Capital Planning and Maintenance Department.

The fourth generation of his family to work in the locksmith business, Ethier found his grandfather's handwriting in some of the old code books on campus, made when he worked on the campus decades ago.

"I've been doing this since I was 13 years old," Ethier said.

In addition to working for the family business, Ethier also worked at Assumption College before joining the Fitchburg State campus.



Toby Ethier

Webinar outlines options for vocational education teachers

Learn about the opportunities for professional licensure and advancement for occupational and vocational education teachers at a free [webinar](#) at 3 p.m. **Wednesday, Dec. 13** through Fitchburg State University's [Office of Graduate and Continuing Education](#).



The webinar will cover topics including requirements and curriculum, admissions and application requirements and more. Webinar attendees will have their application fees waived.

[Learn More](#)

CenterStage and cultural events

The university's choirs will be joined by local high school vocal ensembles for the free performance *Choral Kaleidoscope* at 7 p.m. **Monday, Dec. 11** in Weston Auditorium.

"The six choirs will each perform a set of their own, and the concert will close with several selections performed by everyone all together onstage," Harvey said. "There's a huge variety of music on this program, and that's why it's called *Choral Kaleidoscope*. It's going to be a constantly shifting performance involving many different groups and styles."



[Learn more](#)

Reminder: Employee holiday party Thursday, Dec. 14

President & Mrs. Lapidus cordially invite
all Fitchburg State University employees to a

HOLIDAY GATHERING

Thursday, Dec. 14th | 3:30 to 5:30 PM

FALCON HUB, HAMMOND HALL

Reception with station dining

Faculty Spotlight

Professor Dennis Awasabisah (Biology and Chemistry) had his paper on spectroscopic studies of iron acetate porphyrin compounds published in the peer-reviewed journal *Inorganica Chimica Acta*.

Professor Mary Ann Barbato (Mathematics) led a campus team that included **Professor Amy Wehe** and **instructor Lori Leonard** at the statewide Designing Math Pathways summit last week. Barbato was one of four panelists at the summit selected by the state Department of Higher Education to highlight Fitchburg State's achievements in co-requisite mathematics instruction. Among the highlights of Barbato's presentation was demonstrating to math education leaders from across the Commonwealth how special placement and co-requisite instruction have improved outcomes. Barbato's team plans to consult with Fitchburg State faculty prior to a multi-step roll out of new initiatives here. They will return to the summit in 2018 to continue planning for the implementation.

Newsletter will return in January

This is the final installment of Fitchburg State University Today for the calendar year. The newsletter will return with the start of the spring semester in January.

In the meantime, stay up to date on the latest events by visiting fitchburgstate.edu/news and follow our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Happy holidays!

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