
Fitchburg State University Today

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 - Volume 10, Issue 11

125th anniversary events continue

Our [quasquicentennial](#) celebration continues this semester, including programs and exhibits now on display in the Sanders Administration Building and Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

- **SAVE THE DATE:** We will hold a Quasquicentennial Celebration for students, faculty and staff from **4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1** at the Athletics and Recreation Center. The party will include food, games and a celebration of our institutional history. Watch for additional details in the coming weeks.
- Also this month, we celebrate our athletic programs with events on **Saturday, Feb. 22**. That day's programs will include men's and women's basketball games, as well as alumni reunions and receptions for both teams. There will also be an ice hockey game as well as an ice hockey reunion and reception.

Visit fitchburgstate.edu/125/events to learn about all of the upcoming programs, including the continuation of our [Community Read](#) next month.

University again earns Military Friendly designation

Fitchburg State has earned the 2020-2021 Military Friendly School designation.

"We are honored to once again receive Military Friendly designation," President Lapidus said. "Our campus community is committed to supporting those who served in achieving their academic goals, and we welcome the diverse life experiences that student veterans bring to our institution."

"Our ability to apply a clear, consistent standard to colleges creates a competitive atmosphere that encourages colleges to invest in programs to provide educational outcomes that are better for the Military Community as a whole," said Military Friendly's National Director Josh Rosen.

[Learn more](#)



Police program pact renewed

President Lapidus and
Massachusetts Municipal
Police Training Committee
(MPTC) Interim Executive
Director Robert J. Ferullo

recently renewed the agreement governing the university's groundbreaking [criminal justice](#) program, whose graduates complete, in five years, bachelor's and master's degrees plus certification to work as police officers in municipal departments across the state.

The five-year program, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, graduated its first cohort from the academy in 2018. Approximately 30 students will be completing their baccalaureate degrees in criminal justice this May and will begin their academy curriculum this summer, including firearms, defensive tactics and emergency vehicle operations.



MPTC Executive Director Robert J. Ferullo and President Lapidus shake hands after signing the renewed pact.

"The police program is founded on the principle that better education and training creates better police officers," President Lapidus said. "This program creates a clear path for dedicated students to pursue their ambitions to serve their communities in this vital, continually evolving profession."

"The graduates this program is producing are incredible," said Ferullo. "Leaders in this profession are buying into this program that is turning out well-educated, fully trained police officers."

[Learn more](#)

Black History Month events continue

The university's observance of Black History Month continues this week with a series of events.

- **Today at 4 p.m.:** "From the Streets to the Stage." Motivational speaker Monti Washington's presentations are inspiring, entertaining, educational, and designed to give students a learning experience that provides value that is transferable to real-life situations. OneCard required for admission. This event, in the Hammond Main Lounge, is presented in collaboration with the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness (CDI) with Fitchburg Activities Board (FAB).

- **6 p.m.**

Wednesday,

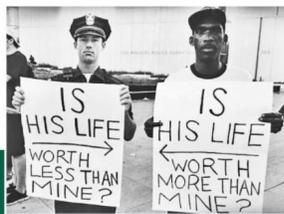
Feb. 26:

"Black Lives, Blues Lives: A Conversation." This panel talk in the Hammond Main Lounge will feature Lorenzo Boyd, PhD from the University of

New Haven as well as Police Program Director Lisa Lane McCarty and University Police Lt. Robert Gilman. Presented by the Black Student Union (BSU), CDI, and University Police.

- **5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27:** "What it means to be Afro Latino." This panel talk in the Falcon Hub is presented in collaboration with BSU and the Latin American Student Organization (LASO).

Black Lives, Blue Lives: a conversation



... about policing within the black community, the relationship between police officers and people of color, and how officer training plays a critical role in the development of positive relationships within communities of color.

PANELISTS: Lorenzo Boyd, Ph.D. | University of New Haven
Lisa Lane McCarty & Robert Gilman | Fitchburg State University

Feb. 26 at 6 PM | Hammond Main Lounge

PRESENTED BY
Black Student Union

Students weighing options after successful NYC auditions

For the seventh year in a row, all of the Fitchburg State University

students and recent graduates who participated in the recent national University Resident Theatre Association (URTA) auditions in New York City are fielding offers from professional theaters and graduate programs across the U.S. and Great Britain.

Savanah Hippert of Worcester, a senior majoring in English Studies with a minor in theater, said it was a rewarding but nerve-wracking experience to audition in front of recruiters from URTA's 43 member universities. She said Professor Kelly Morgan - who directs the university's professional theater concentration - offered her good advice: "Just give a truthful performance."

Hippert took that to heart as she faced the audition. "I like to think, 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained,'" she said. "And people are just people."

[Learn more](#)



Savanah Hippert '20

CPS course will explore needs of LGBTQIA students

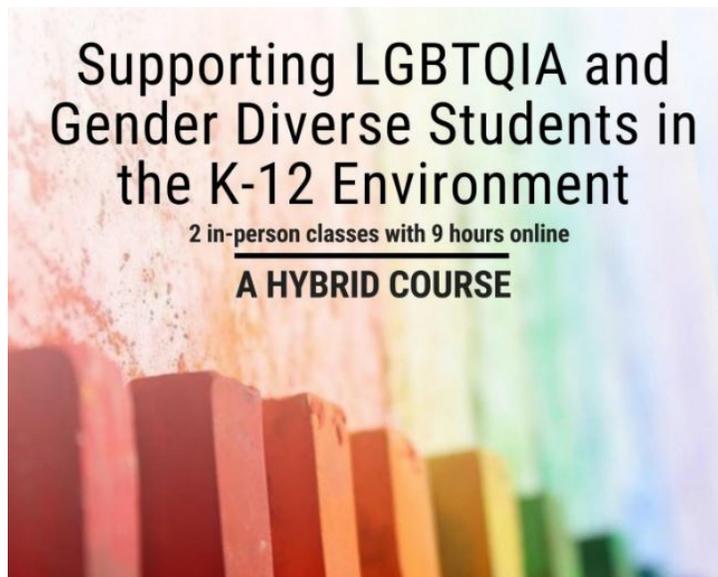
The Center for Professional Studies is offering a new hybrid course this spring for educators and school staff on supporting LGBTQIA and gender-diverse students in K-12 environments.

The [course](#), which carries one graduate credit or 15 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-approved professional development points, will run April 4 to May 9.

The course, taught by Center for Professional Studies Assistant Director Dani Langdon, is an introduction into the challenges that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+) students face in schools on a daily basis. By understanding terminology, historical context, and preconceived notions the LGBTQIA+ community, educators can begin to creating intentional, inclusive, and supportive learning environments.

The course will explore myths and perceptions, the prevalence and effects of bullying, unintended bias in schools and classrooms, and the laws and policies in place that affect LGBTQIA+ students. This course will give educators the tools to start developing a more inclusive curriculum, navigate conversations around gender and sexual orientation, and foster a respectful and engaging environment where all students can thrive.

[Learn more](#)



New "Rock the Flock" campaign will support Falcon Bazaar

The Office of Alumni & Development is launching a new campaign encouraging members of the senior class to give in support of the Falcon Bazaar food insecurity program.

The "[Rock The Flock](#)" senior gift campaign will be visible at donation tables in Hammond Hall and on social media this semester. If every member of the Class of 2020 made a gift of just \$5 (or the cost of two cups of coffee), it would fund the Falcon Bazaar for an entire academic year.



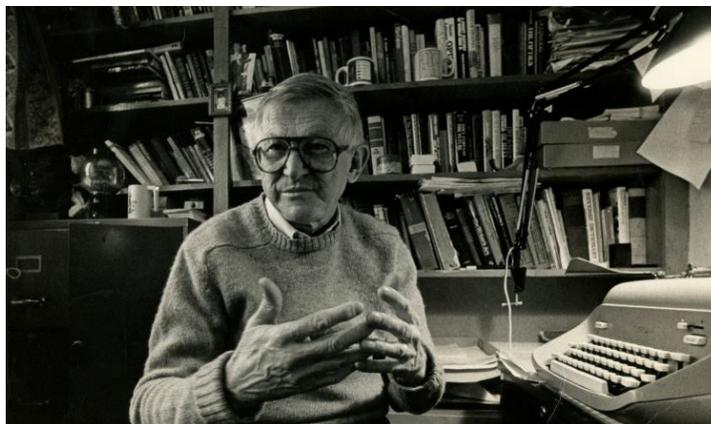
All donors to the campaign will receive an "I Rocked the Flock" sticker and will be entered into a drawing for one of four \$25 bookstore gift cards and a stuffed Falcon. There will also be a grand prize drawn from any gift given by May 1 for four VIP tickets and a reserved parking spot for the May commencement ceremony.

[Learn more](#)

Reminder: Corner Symposium on Feb. 25

The university will open its Robert E. Cormier archive in February for an exploration of themes in the celebrated local author's enduring works.

"Twisted Intimacy: Disturbing Perversions and Genuine Warmth - A Symposium and Archive Exhibit on Robert E. Cormier's Life and Work" will be held from **noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25** in the Hammond Hall main lounge, with a reception to follow in the university archives. Admission is free and open to the public.



Robert E. Cormier

The keynote speaker will be Jarrett J. Krosoczka, author and illustrator of the acclaimed graphic memoir *Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction*. The Symposium programming, sponsored with support from The University of Texas at Tyler, will also include two expert panel discussions featuring university faculty.

The event is part of the university's 125th anniversary celebration.

[Learn more](#)

Panel will address fake news and misinformation online

Learn how to identify fake news and misinformation online with Fitchburg State faculty and librarians at **11 a.m. Sunday, March 22** at the Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley. Tickets, including brunch buffet, are \$23 and can be ordered [online](#).

This interactive workshop will use real-life examples to cover the impact of misinformation, the importance of truth, and how to spot and fight fake news, regardless of politics.

Panelists will include:

Assistant Professor Wafa Unus (English Studies); **Instruction and Research Librarian Renée Fratantonio** (Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library); **Assistant Professor J.J. Sylvia IV** (Communications Media); and **Assistant Professor Kyle Moody** (Communications Media).

[Learn more](#)

CenterStage and cultural events

University hosting Intercollegiate Choral Festival on Saturday

The campus will welcome choirs from across Massachusetts for a concert featuring music by composers of color at **7:30 p.m. Saturday** in Weston Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

This will be the university's first time hosting the Intercollegiate Choral Festival, according to Professor Jonathan Harvey, who directs Fitchburg State's vocal groups.

The show will feature nearly 200 students from nine institutions performing with guest conductor Anthony Trecek-King, president and artistic director of the award-winning Boston Children's Chorus. In addition to Fitchburg State, student singers from Assumption College, Bay Path University, Clark University, College of the Holy Cross, Endicott College, Merrimack College, Plymouth (N.H.) State University, and UMass Boston will perform.

"Bringing together college choirs from across Massachusetts to perform with guest conductor Anthony Trecek-King is such an exciting prospect for Fitchburg State, and the Fitchburg community," Harvey said. "This performance will feature beautiful music by composers of color who are chronically under-performed. It's a chance to hear amazing music that you may not get the chance to hear again."

The festival is produced by the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

2020 INTERCOLLEGIATE CHORAL FESTIVAL



Saturday, February 22

7:30 PM

Weston Auditorium
Fitchburg State University

Anthony Trecek-King, guest conductor

Featuring choirs from colleges and universities throughout Massachusetts with a focus on music by composers of color.



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by Fitchburg State Choirs and the Massachusetts American Choral Directors Association

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