
Fitchburg State University Today

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University's student support initiatives get national attention

The university's efforts to promote student success and civic engagement were highlighted in separate presentations for a national audience at an [American Association of State Colleges and Universities](#) (AASCU) conference this month in Florida.



Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alberto J.F. Cardelle and **Assistant to the Provost for Student Success Sean Goodlett** discussed a variety of Fitchburg State's efforts to boost retention and credit completion. Strategies including academic coaching, the first-year experience seminar and supplemental and co-requisite instruction are helping students get on track and stay the course in their academic careers.

Also at the conference, **Crocker Center for Civic Engagement Coordinator Professor David Weiss** and Cardelle discussed Fitchburg State's evolving model of "applied scholarship" as modeled by the new Community Research & Consulting Group. The group engages faculty in projects that solve real problems and answer practical questions that meet the needs of community agencies and non-profits, with the simultaneous benefit of accelerating faculty scholarship and facilitating professional development as well as tenure and promotion processes.

[Read more](#)

Crocker Center looks to quantify faculty/staff engagement

The [Crocker Center for Civic Engagement](#) would like to know how involved members of our campus are in their respective personal communities.

All faculty, librarians, staff, and administrators are asked to provide the Crocker Center with important information about their volunteer and civic activities in the region through a [Crocker Center community involvement feedback survey](#). The overall goal of the survey is to provide Fitchburg State and the Crocker Center with important information about the abundance of community involvement and how much our Fitchburg State Community is "giving back" to their local communities.



Those who wish to respond anonymously are assured that confidentiality is a priority, and whatever information is shared on this survey cannot be identified.

Participants who access the survey will be randomly selected to receive one of two \$50 Dunkin'

gift cards. Participants who wish to be entered into the drawing will be provided with a link to the entry within the survey.

Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Theater students make an impression in NYC

Eight Fitchburg State students are weighing professional and educational options after participating in the recent National University Resident Theatre Association (URTA) auditions and interviews in New York City.

Over the past six years, Fitchburg State's theater program has a 100 percent record for students being made offers through the national auditions, said Professor Kelly Morgan, who coordinates the university's theater concentration. The URTA auditions and interviews bring together faculty from dozens of top training programs and hundreds of prospective MFA candidates in all areas of theatre including acting, design and technology, directing, stage management and arts leadership. Candidates have the opportunity to be seen by recruiters from among the associations' 43 member universities and other prominent institutions.

"The entire experience is something that you could never imagine, but also something that the Fitchburg State students are well trained to handle," said Lauren Esper '19 of Grafton.



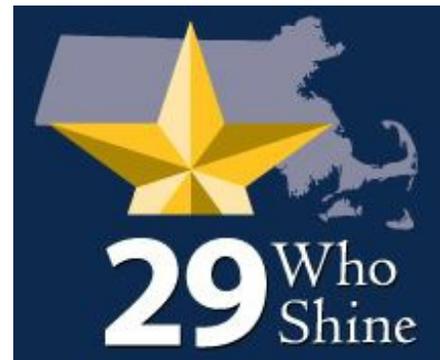
Lauren Esper '19.

[Read more](#)

Nominations sought for Dept. of Higher Ed's 29 Who Shine

The university is now soliciting nominations for a student graduating in May to represent Fitchburg State as one of the state of Massachusetts' "29 Who Shine," the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's commencement season awards program recognizing 29 outstanding student graduates from the Commonwealth's public higher education system.

Each honoree from a community college, state university or University of Massachusetts campus is nominated by a faculty or staff member, or by a university awards committee.



The student must be a Massachusetts resident who has made an outstanding civic contribution to the state and intends to remain in the Commonwealth upon graduation.

This year's 29 Who Shine celebration will be held at **2 p.m. Friday, May 13** at the Statehouse. Nominations - including the student's name, major, future plans and a brief narrative about why they deserve to be selected - may be sent to [Associate Dean of Student Development Hank Parkinson](#) or [Director of Public Relations Matt Bruun](#) for consideration. Nominations should be sent by **Friday, March 1**.

Another strong year for nursing exam results

Once again, Fitchburg State's nursing students have demonstrated excellence in the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) for calendar year 2018. The exam, designed to measure entry-level nursing competence, is administered four times a year. For

2018, 95 percent of Fitchburg State's nursing students passed the exam.

Fitchburg State has enjoyed strong passing scores for many consecutive years, outperforming many public and private institutions in the state.

[Read more](#)



Students graduate from new Falcon Leadership training

Twelve Fitchburg State University students last week completed the inaugural Falcon Leadership Certification, designed to foster the development of crucial skills including communication, decision-making, influence, and teamwork.

The program was developed by Assistant Dean of Student Development Hank Parkinson and Professor of Business Administration Michael Greenwood. The program, begun in the fall semester, included workshops on key skills sought by employers today. The students met with mentors and completed three hours of field experience to put the skills they were learning about into practice, and finished the program with a reflection paper illustrating their understanding of key leadership skills.

Program participant Edward Brown '21 of Hyde Park said the program was rewarding, from the class experiences to working with mentors like Vice President for Student Affairs Laura A. Bayless. "I have gained many meaningful skills through the program, especially meeting with my mentor, Dr. Bayless," he said.

[Read more](#)



Pictured at the conclusion of the Fitchburg State University Falcon Leadership Certification course, from left to right: front row, Vice President for Student Affairs Laura A. Bayless; Mary Anyini Kwofie '20; Aleah Daveiga '19; Andrea Duncan '20; and Victoria Weisenhorn '20; back row, Sterley Dimanche '19; Eddie Brown '21; Ellicen Ramon Pena '19; Heather Holmes '22; Colin Everton '20; Alexander Ramos '19; Brian Farmer '20; President Richard S. Lapidus; and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alberto J.F. Cardelle.

Crocker Center links campus expertise with community needs

On a recent morning, Fitchburg State University Professor of Business Administration Michael Greenwood led a roomful of representatives from the Fitchburg social service agency LUK Inc. through a daylong strategic planning workshop. The organization provides community-based prevention, intervention, education, and support services for youths, adults and families.

The program took place through the university's [Community](#)



Research & Consulting Group of Professor Michael Greenwood (Business Administration) led the Crocker Center for Civic the strategic planning workshop for LUK Inc. Engagement. The effort links university faculty and staff expertise with community needs.

[Read more](#)

CDI's Inclusive Dialogue Series continues Thursday

The staff and students from the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness will continue its Inclusive Dialogue Series at **3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall with a talk by Chris Haigh, M.Ed., the co-lead facilitator for the LeaderShape Institute. The Institute is a national organization that is committed to creating "a just, caring, and thriving world where all lead with integrity and a healthy disregard for the impossible."

Refreshments will be served.

Industrial Technology hosting job fair for students Feb. 26

Students are invited to introduce themselves to the companies that build Massachusetts when the university's Industrial Technology Department and Associate General Contractors of Massachusetts (AGC MA) present a career fair from **1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall.



The career fair will feature AGC MA members and allied organizations. The participating companies will be looking for students for their summer internship programs as well as for graduating students in construction, architecture, accounting, and marketing positions.

For more information, please contact [Professor Nirajan Mani](#).

Acclaimed Italian writer Dacia Maraini to speak on March 5

Acclaimed novelist, playwright, poet, and journalist Dacia Maraini will discuss her work at **5 p.m. Tuesday, March 5** in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall.

The daughter of a Sicilian princess and a Florentine ethnologist, Maraini was interned in a Japanese concentration camp with her family for refusing to recognize Mussolini's Republic of Salo. She went on to become one of the clearest voices for social justice of her generation.



During a life of world travel, she has written novels, short stories, plays, several investigative studies, and collections of poetry and essays, and her works have been translated into more than 30 languages and adapted for award-winning films.

She has won major Italian literary prizes and was a nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2012.

Maraini's visit is sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture and the university's Division of Arts &

Scenes from a Classroom: Game Design capstone takes shape

On a recent weekday morning, groups of students presented rough sketches of video games they had designed over the past two weeks. Only three of the four games being shown off on this morning would be greenlit for development over the coming semester.

These students are seniors, completing the capstone program in their game design majors. Fitchburg State hosts the only baccalaureate game design program in any public institution in Massachusetts, and as of this semester the capstone is located in the ideaLab in the Main Street Theater Block downtown.



A screenshot of the early iteration of "Project Magus," now in development by game design students downtown.

In the early days of the semester, these 22 students were tasked with developing pitches for a game. Working in teams, they came up with prototypes and early animation to demonstrate the games and their objectives. On this particular morning, they presented the work "Shark Tank" style to game design faculty members Jeff Warmouth, Jon Amakawa and Les Nelken, along with theater faculty member Kelly Morgan.

[Read more](#)

Reminder: teaching opps in Grad and Continuing Education

The Office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) is currently seeking requests from faculty to teach for the summer 2019, fall 2019, winter 2020, spring 2020, and summer 2020 semesters, in both the day division and in GCE.

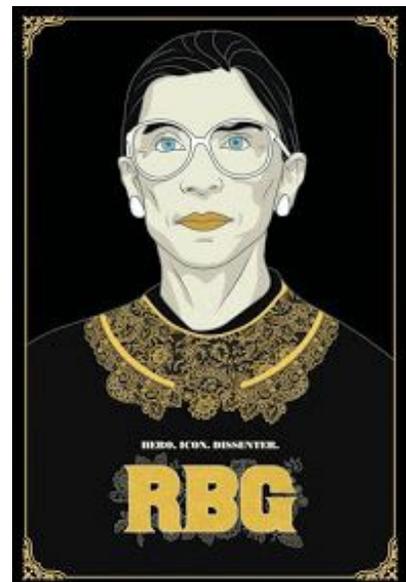
Faculty members interested in teaching through GCE should contact the appropriate department chair to express their interest and to obtain the chair's approval. The call for courses for the year is issued by the Registrar and closes **today (Tuesday, Feb. 19)**.

Reminder: "RBG" screens on Feb. 20

The acclaimed documentary "RBG," about Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, will screen at **3:30 p.m. tomorrow** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. The screening is free and open to the public.

The presentation is sponsored by the Center for Conflict Studies, the Minor in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, and FemCon.

The screening will be followed by a brief discussion.



Reminder: MLK exhibition on activism on display in library

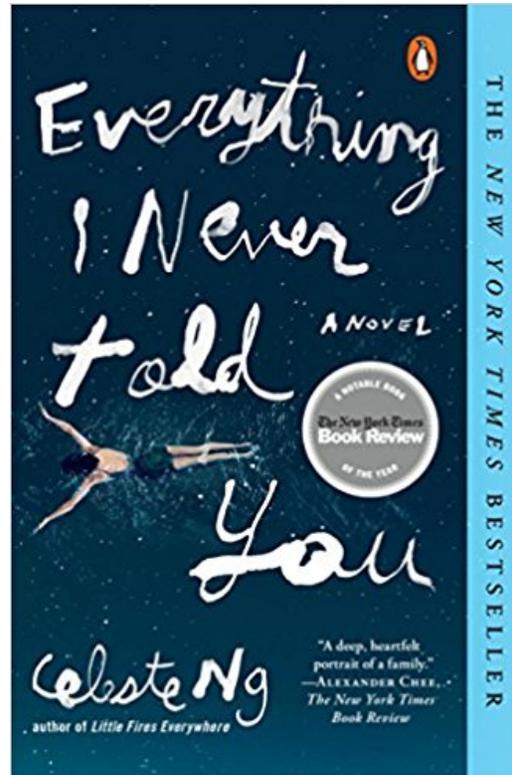
The university's Martin Luther King Jr. observations continue this month with a photo exhibit, "Activism through the Years," on display through **Feb. 22** in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

Community Read events continue this month

Fitchburg State's [Community Read](#) of Celeste Ng's novel *Everything I Never Told You* continues with a series of talks, exhibitions and screenings that will be held on- and off-campus. The acclaimed book focuses on love, loss, and the meaning of family.

Among the Spring events:

- The [Leominster Public Library](#) will host a presentation from **1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23**, by Assistant Professor Kevin McCarthy (Communications Media). "Who Am I? Identity and Belonging in Multiracial America," is a screening and discussion on multiracial identity using short clips and documentaries.
- Back in Fitchburg, there will be an opening reception from **1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 2** at the [Fitchburg Art Museum](#) for its exhibition "Everything We Never Told You," featuring artistic work by students at Fitchburg High School based on lessons learned from the Lee family in Ng's book. The exhibit will be on display through March.
- The Community Read Keynote Event will be held at **6:30 p.m. Monday, April 1** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall, when we welcome screenwriter Julia Cox, who is adapting Ng's novel for the screen. Cox will discuss the process she used to create her screenplay and the intersection of art and industry when transforming a novel to film. There will be a book and movie trivia event after the talk.



Voting is also now open for the 2019-20 Community Read book. Read the choices and cast your vote at <https://survey.fitchburgstate.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=18K3518K#>.

Keep up to date with all Community Read events by visiting fitchburgcommunityread.com.

CenterStage and cultural events

The Forge Theater Lab, including alumni and students, presents new works

New plays written by Fitchburg State alumni will be presented at staged readings on campus this spring with the series beginning at **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.

The readings will be staged by The Forge Theater Lab, founded by Fitchburg State Professor Kelly Morgan and several university alumni with a mission to develop new works. The opening show is "Chasing the Ghost" by Ashley Rogers, an award-winning playwright whose work has been performed



Meighread Dandeneau '19, left, and Noah Dawson '14 in a scene from "Chasing the Ghost."

throughout the country. Rogers, who graduated from Fitchburg State in 2006, will be in attendance for a discussion of the play after the reading.

"Chasing the Ghost" deals with potent topics including online bullying and the #MeToo movement. It contains profanity and disturbing situations and is not recommended for children under 14.

[Learn more](#)

"The First Ladies Coalition" to be presented on Feb. 27

Acclaimed actress Ginger Grace will bring her one-woman show "The First Ladies Coalition" to Fitchburg State for a performance at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27**. Admission is free and open to the public. The performance will be in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.



Photo Credits:
First Ladies courtesy of Smithsonian
Ginger Grace by Francisco Escobar:

The 90-minute performance encapsulates the lives of Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson and Mary Todd Lincoln through the eyes of the fictional Colleen, an ex-con, immigrant and survivor of domestic abuse. It describes the impact of women in politics from the perspective of the women themselves, revealing secrets well-kept and shedding light on their contributions to political representation today, as well as the #MeToo movement and social justice.

Grace developed the play after touring nationally opposite Rich Little in "The Presidents," in which she played every First Lady from Jackie Kennedy to Hillary Clinton. "The First Ladies Coalition" premiered at the Bridge Theatre in New York City in 2012.

Grace has also toured with her production of William Luce's "The Belle of Amherst," in which she plays Emily Dickinson. Learn more about Grace and "The First Ladies Coalition" at firstladiescoalition.com.

Grace will also be presenting a theater workshop from **10 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 27** in Weston Auditorium.

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: "Touchstones" by Colleen Pearce

The work of artist Colleen Pearce is now on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery. There will be a gallery talk with the artist at **3:30 p.m. tomorrow**. The exhibition is part of the Fitchburg State University [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series.

She studied ceramics, drawing and painting, receiving a diploma from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, and a BFA from Tufts University. While living in Australia, she earned a diploma in art history from the Gallery of New South Wales. She has taught at Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. She has been a guest lecturer at deCordova and Tufts on topic of the development of art in children. She was the recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Grant in 2011 and recently received her MFA at Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



"Water Meditation" by Colleen Pearce

Faculty Notes

Christopher Picone (Biology/Chemistry) was featured in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette's latest [Faculty Forum](#), which looked at what each of us can do to make a difference regarding climate change. Picone's piece can be found online [here](#), and is also reproduced with additional hyperlinks on the university's [website](#).



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