



Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Feb. 1, 2016 - Volume 6, Issue 10

Stimpson sworn in to Board of Trustees

Carolyn Crowley Stimpson was recently sworn in as a member of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees. Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale administered the oath of office on Thursday, Jan. 28.

An accomplished business leader, Stimpson is co-owner and board member at Polar Beverages Company in Worcester, co-owner and vice president of Wachusett Mountain Ski Area and president of MTNside Ski & Ride in Princeton. The combined companies employ over 2,100 people.

Stimpson received her bachelor's degree from Wheaton College. She and her husband, John, live in Princeton with their three sons. In addition to her business pursuits, she is active in community organizations, including the United Way-De Tocqueville Society, Destination Worcester Executive Board, Marine Biological Laboratory, Clinton Savings Bank and the Family Business Advisory Board.



Carolyn Stimpson

Fitchburg State to help "Re-Imagine the First Year of College"

Fitchburg State has been selected by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) to participate in the three-year "Re-Imagining the First



Year of College" (RFY) project, a sweeping initiative aimed at transforming the first year of college to enhance students' success in their undergraduate years and in the 21st century workplace. Only 44 institutions across the country were selected to participate.

The first year of college has emerged as the critical barrier to student success, the point at which undergraduate institutions experience the greatest loss of students. The objective of the RFY project is to help project participants - and ultimately the broader AASCU membership of 420 state colleges and universities - to implement changes that enhance the first-year student experience and increase student retention and graduation rates, particularly among historically underserved populations.

As part of AASCU's RFY project, Fitchburg State will select and implement proven, innovative strategies and programs, adapting them to the campus's unique environment and needs. The evidence-based strategies focus on four core areas to help first-year students succeed: institutional intentionality, curriculum, faculty and staff roles, and student roles. Fitchburg State will also participate in a learning community along with the 43 other state colleges and universities selected for RFY. The learning community will enable RFY participants to attend national conferences and educational webinars, receive one-on-one mentoring, access online tools and resources, and share ideas, successful strategies and lessons learned with each other.

"We are pleased that these AASCU institutions will commit their enormous talent and knowledge to the success of this initiative, which I believe will have a profound effect on undergraduate education in the 21st century," said George Mehaffy, vice president for academic leadership and change at AASCU. "The state colleges and universities we selected for RFY represent a broad swath of the institutional landscape and exhibit strong leadership and other qualities that are conducive to effecting broad-scale and sustainable change. Together, with the engagement of all campus stakeholders - from students to academic leadership - we will strive to transform the first-year student experience and ensure student success," he added.

"We are honored to be part of this most important initiative, which has the potential to transform higher education," President Lapidus said. "Students across the nation will benefit from the work

happening on our campuses."

AASCU will kick off the RFY initiative with academic leaders attending the association's 2016 Academic Affairs Winter Meeting in Austin, Texas from Feb. 4-6. RFY is being funded by generous grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and USA Funds.

Final provost candidate to visit campus Tuesday

On campus interviews for the candidates for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs position conclude this week.

- [Dr. Lorin B. Arnold](#), Dean of the College of Communication and Creative Arts, Rowan University, will be on campus **Tuesday, Feb. 2**.
- [Dr. Barbara G. Lyman](#), Provost and Executive Vice President, Shippensburg University, visited campus on Jan. 21 and [Dr. Alberto J.F. Cardelle](#), Dean of the College of Health Sciences, East Stroudsburg University, was on campus on Jan. 27.

The schedule for the campus visit will be as follows:

- 8:45 a.m. arrival on campus
- 9 to 10 a.m. Executive Cabinet, President's Conference Room
- 10 to 11:15 a.m. faculty/graduate chairs, Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., lunch with undergraduate department chairs, Antonucci Science Complex Room 314
- 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., academic deans and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Academic Affairs Conference Room
- 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Academic Affairs team, Academic Affairs Conference Room
- 2:30 to 3 p.m., campus tour
- 3 to 4:25 p.m., open session for faculty, staff and students, Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center
- 4:30 to 5 p.m., SGA and students, Hammond G0-1A
- 5 to 5:30 p.m., break
- 5:30 p.m., dinner with President Lapidus

Fitchburg State signs agreement with Japanese university

Fitchburg State has signed a new memorandum of understanding with [Yamaguchi University](#) in Japan that will promote educational collaboration including exchange of students, faculty and

administrative staff. A representative from the campus visited Fitchburg State last week to meet with President Lapidus along with other administrators and faculty.

The agreement will allow each university to allow up to five exchange students per year and spells out other opportunities for collaboration. Yamaguchi University is a comprehensive institution with more than 10,000 students.



Fitchburg State has agreements with several other international institutions, but Yamaguchi is the first in Japan. Students from Fitchburg State will be heading to Japan over spring break as part of a game design course taught by Assistant Professor Jon Amakawa.

For more information on Fitchburg State's international programs, click [here](#).

Commissioner Santiago visits campus

Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos Santiago spent last Thursday, Jan. 28 visiting the Fitchburg State campus and community.

The commissioner's day began with the Board of Trustees, to whom he spoke about the need to align the state's K-12 education system with its colleges and universities. He also toured the McKay Arts Academy, where he learned about the scope of the university's collaboration with the Fitchburg Public Schools. His tour also included visits to the university's game design and nursing laboratories, as well as classrooms and the renovated Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.



Commissioner Santiago met with students during his visit to campus on Jan. 28.

Local political and business leaders also met with the commissioner during the day to discuss

the university's role in the community.

The commissioner also took his message to the Sentinel & Enterprise offices on Main Street, where he met with the editorial board to discuss the importance of funding for higher education and collaboration across sectors.

Community Read explores "I Am Malala"

Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai's acclaimed book *I am Malala* will be explored in Fitchburg State University's Community Read this spring through films, art exhibitions and group discussions. All of the Community Read events are free and open to the public.

Yousafzai's memoir is a remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism and the fight for girls' education, and tells the story of a father - himself a school owner - who championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school.

The events start at 8 p.m. **Tuesday, Feb. 2** in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., with a screening of the Oscar-winning film *A Separation* (2011). This compelling drama tells the story of a married couple faced with the difficult decision to improve the life of their child by moving to another country or to stay in Iran to fulfill an obligation to a deteriorating parent.

Next, the work of artist Lalla Essaydi will be displayed in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery from **Wednesday, Feb. 3** through **Wednesday, April 13**. Essaydi's art, which often combines Islamic calligraphy with representations of the female body, addresses the complex reality of Arab female identity from the unique perspective of personal experience. In much of her work, she returns to her Moroccan girlhood, looking back on it as an adult woman caught somewhere between past and present, and as an artist, exploring the language in which to "speak" from this uncertain space.

The real-life story of the first woman to lead a Muslim nation is told in the film "Bhutto," screening at 8 p.m. **Tuesday, March 1** in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall. Taking an unprecedented position as an Islamic woman, Benazir Bhutto rose to power as prime minister of Pakistan three times. Surviving years of exile and/or imprisonment as well as accusations of corruption, she never relinquished Pakistan as her homeland and a place she wanted to fight for. Pizza will be



served during the movie.

The Community Read keynote speaker and reception will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Monday, March 7** in the Randall Lecture Hall in the Antonucci Science Complex, 333 North St. Dr. Saadia Toor is originally from Pakistan and is currently assistant professor in Sociology, Social Anthropology and Social Work at the City University of New York. Her scholarship revolves around issues of culture, nationalism, gender/sexuality, state formation, and international political economy. Her book *The State of Islam: Culture and Cold War Politics in Pakistan* was published by Pluto Press in 2011.

There will be a panel discussion and reception at 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, April 5** in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, during which Fitchburg State faculty members will discuss the cultural and historical factors surrounding the attempted assassination of Malala Yousafzai.

The events will conclude at 8 p.m. **Tuesday, April 5** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall with a screening of the acclaimed film "Timbuktu" (2014). The film is the story of a cattle herder and his family who find their quiet lives abruptly disturbed by jihadists determined to control their faith.

Pizza will be served during the movie.

"Pink on the Rink" to raise funds for cancer research Feb. 6

The Fitchburg State Falcons ice hockey team will turn pink into green on **Saturday, Feb. 6**, when all proceeds from its showdown with the Westfield State Owls goes to fund breast cancer research.

The ice, and the players' uniforms, will be dyed for the Pink on the Rink event, which starts at 6 p.m. at the Wallace Civic Center, 1000 John Fitch Highway. The event is being run by the Cup Crusaders, which raises funds for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure.

Cup Crusaders Captain Kathy DiRusso said the previous "Pink on the Rink" events-held in Worcester-each raised more than \$10,000 for the cause, with at least as much hoped to be raised at this year's function. Tickets for the Pink on the Rink game are \$10 and can be ordered through DiRusso at kathy@cupcrusaders.com or 978-537-4720. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the event.

"We are honored to partner with the Cup Crusaders for this occasion, which will raise awareness

and funds for a most worthy cause," President Lapidus said.

"It will be a great night in the fight against breast cancer," added hockey coach Dean Fuller.

The Falcons versus Owls game will be bookended by the Fitchburg State alumni hockey game at 4 p.m. and, at 8 p.m., a showdown between Fitchburg High School and Leominster High. Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$4 for students; the \$10 ticket will offer admission to both the Fitchburg State and high school games.

The pink uniforms from the Fitchburg State game will be auctioned off to raise additional funds after the conclusion of the game.

Admission \$10
All proceeds benefit
CUP CRUSADERS
(Susan G. Komen® 3-Day)

PINK on the RINK

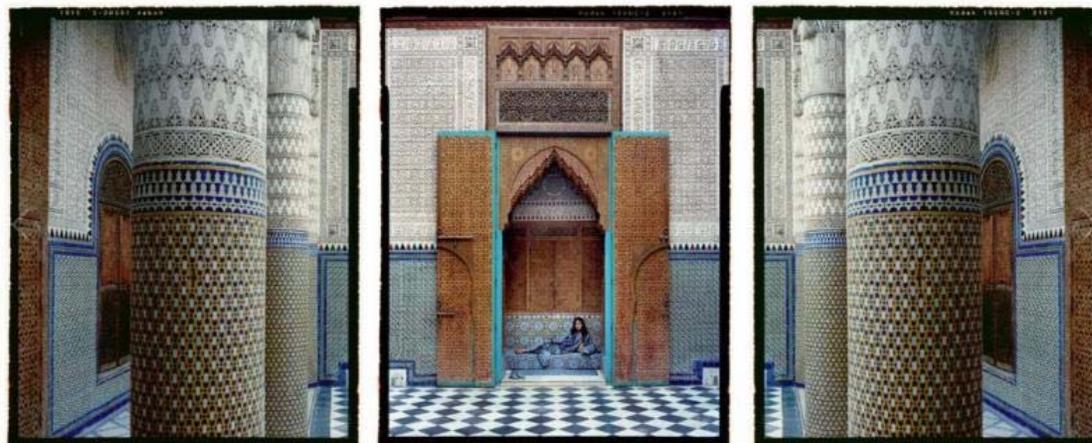
Join us for a great game
and help fund the cure
for breast cancer!

Fitchburg State vs. Westfield State

ICE HOCKEY
Saturday, Feb. 6 at 6 PM
Wallace Civic Center at Fitchburg State University

For tickets contact: Team Captain, Kathy DiRusso
at (978) 537-4720 or kathydirusso@comcast.net
Will Call (978) 665-4555

CenterStage at Fitchburg State



The work of artist [Lalla Essaydi](#) will be displayed in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery from **Wednesday, Feb. 3** through **Wednesday, April 13**.

Lalla A. Essaydi grew up in Morocco and now lives in USA where she received her MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts/TUFTS University in May 2003. Essaydi's work is represented by Howard Yezerski Gallery in Boston and Edwynn Houk Gallery in New York City. Her work has been exhibited in many major international locales, including Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Texas, Buffalo, Colorado, New York, Syria, Ireland, England, France, the Netherlands, Sharjah, U.A.E., and Japan and is represented in a number of collections, including the Williams College Museum of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Fries Museum, the Netherlands, and The Kodak Museum of Art. Her art, which often combines Islamic calligraphy with representations of the female body, addresses the complex reality of Arab female identity from the unique perspective of personal experience. In much of her work, she returns to her Moroccan girlhood, looking back on it as an adult woman caught somewhere between past and present, and as an artist, exploring the language in which to "speak" from this uncertain space. Her paintings often appropriate Orientalist imagery from the Western painting tradition, thereby inviting viewers to reconsider the Orientalist mythology. She has worked in numerous media, including painting, video, film, installation, and analog photography.

"In my art, I wish to present myself through multiple lenses -- as artist, as Moroccan, as traditionalist, as Liberal, as Muslim. In short, I invite viewers to resist stereotypes."

Essaydi's exhibit is part of the university's [Community Read](#) of Malala Yousafzai's memoir, *I am*

Malala.

At the Conlon Hall Media Wall

Photographer Phil Carcia's work (pictured at right) is on display through Tuesday, March 8 at the Conlon Hall Media Wall inside 316 Highland Ave. Carcia will present a wall talk at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 17** at the exhibit.



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