
Fitchburg State University Today

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State leaders tout "transformative" theater project

Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash toured Fitchburg State's Main Street theater project last week, touting the redevelopment's transformative potential for the region.

"What Fitchburg State is creating is remarkable," Ash said. "We want to help you create what is a transformative project in the downtown."

State and local political and economic development leaders took part in the discussion that described the university's partnership with NewVue Communities to create an interdisciplinary learning space that will benefit students and community members.



[Learn more](#)

Renovated Landry Arena to benefit campus and community

The Carmelita Landry Arena at the Wallace Civic Center was re-dedicated in January in recognition of the facility's evolution into a state of the art strength and conditioning facility for Fitchburg State athletes and exercise and sports science students.

The building also contains a turf practice field that will be available for public access when not in use by the university.



The renovated arena will continue to bear the name of Carmelita Landry, known as the "Fitchburg Speed Queen" in the 1930s and 1940s. One of the most successful speed skaters of her time, Landry's career included 23 championships and induction into the Speed Skaters Hall of Fame.

[Learn more](#)

Students rank nationally at moot court tournament

Students Riley Grinkis '19 and Aidan Horgan '18 finished tied for fifth place in the country in the brief writing portion of the American Moot Court Association's recent national tournament in Texas.

"Placing fifth in the country in the brief writing competition meant so much to me," said Horgan. "I proved to myself that I had what it took to compete with any undergraduate in the country in the highest level of legal debate. It proved that as Fitchburg State students, we can go toe to toe with any other school's best."



At the national moot court tournament, from left: Anthony Ferrari '19; Professor (and coach) Paul Weizer; assistant coach Alyne Butland; assistant coach Tina Brigham; competitor Matt Murphy '20; competitor Riley Grinkis '19 and competitor Aidan Horgan '18.

[Read more](#)

Speaker Series continues today at 12:30 in CTL

The university's Speaker Series continues its programming with a talk by **Professor Adem Elveren** (Economics, History and Political Science) today in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. "The Transformation of Welfare Regime in Turkey in the Era of Islamic Authoritarianism: A Gendered Political Economy Perspective" will be presented at 12:30 p.m.

Celebrating the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement

The Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library is sponsoring a series of programs this spring that explore gender and equality. *Journey to Equality: The LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement* will provide timely, relevant and engaging LGBTQ programming to the campus and North Central Massachusetts. All events are free and open to the public.

The events continue at 2 p.m. **Friday, Feb. 9** with a public reading by author Clarence Harlan Orsi of his essay "Taking Stock: Queering Gender Narratives" in room G-01 at Hammond Hall. The reading will be followed by a writing prompt and activity along with time for discussion.

Harlan Orsi is the author of many acclaimed essays and short stories. He has published writing in many celebrated journals, including *n+1*, *Cream City Review*, *Electric Literature*, *New England Review*, and *Passages North*. He teaches English at Cecil College in northern Maryland. Learn more about Harlan Orsi at claireharlanorsi.com.



Clarence Harlan Orsi speaks Friday, Feb. 9.

[Learn more](#)

Communications Media Lecture Series returns Feb. 13

The university's Communications Media Lecture Series this spring features celebrated photographer Roger Farrington and world-renowned multimedia artist Xu Bing.

The spring series begins at 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, February 13** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, with Boston-based commercial and public relations photographer Roger Farrington, who will talk about his 25 years of experience in the business of theater and celebrity events photography.

[Learn more](#)



Photographer Roger Farrington, who took this photograph of John Lennon recording his final album, will speak on Feb. 13

Harrod Lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 14 explores immigration

Professor Ben Railton (English Studies) will present the Harrod Lecture "Exclusion & Inclusion: The Battle to Define America" at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 14** at Presidents' Hall.



FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Exclusion & Inclusion:
THE BATTLE TO DEFINE AMERICA

Feb. 14, 2018 | 3:30 PM | Presidents' Hall

by **Ben Railton, Ph.D.**
ENGLISH STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Community Read continues

Our year-long Community Read of *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan continues this spring with panel discussions, musical performances, film screenings and a keynote address from the author. Admission to all the events is free and open to the public.

Professor **Erin Rehrig** (Biology & Chemistry) will moderate a panel discussion at the Leominster Public Library at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 15** entitled "Women Making a Difference," co-

sponsored by the university's Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program.

Back on the main campus, Professor Joseph Moser (English Studies) will introduce a screening of the Cold War classic film "Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" (1964) at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 28** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Professor Moser will also facilitate a post-film discussion.

[Learn more](#)



Self-defense and first aid courses among free police offerings

University Police have launched their spring safety courses this week, with free offerings for the campus community focused on personal safety and health.

Courses include groundbreaking violence prevention strategies as well as traditional self-defense and first aid classes.

"These courses are offered to promote safety and empower members of our community," University Police Chief Michael J. Cloutier said. "We are happy to collaborate with other campus departments to create these opportunities."



[Learn more](#)

University shares in MassDevelopment grant

The Massachusetts Development Finance Agency has awarded \$100,000 in matching manufacturing career grants to 12 Massachusetts partnerships, including the North Central Massachusetts Development Corp. in Fitchburg.

The local grant will support the corporation's partnership with Fitchburg State, Mount Wachusett Community College, SteelFab Inc., Rocheleau Tool & Die, Nypro and the North Central Massachusetts Manufacturing Roundtable.

The funding will address stigmas surrounding manufacturing careers by connecting school officials, students and parents with local manufacturers.

HR Spotlight: Susan Beddes, Career Counseling and Advising

For **Susan Beddes**, who joined the Career Counseling and Advising Center this semester, working at Fitchburg State marks a return to her roots.

A native of Worcester, Beddes worked most recently at Drew University in New Jersey, where she was an advisor supporting international students and students for whom English was a second language.

The Fitchburg State posting attracted her because it would let her get back to New England, and to a state university whose mission she supports.

"I really like working one-on-one with students," she said.



Susan Beddes

Graduate Education Fair to be held on Feb. 20

Fitchburg State's office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) will host a graduate education fair for undergraduates and prospective students to learn about the graduate program offerings here and at nearly a dozen other regional public and private institutions. The fair will be held from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Feb. 20** in Hammond Hall at 160 Pearl St. Admission is free.



The program will include breakout sessions with academic advisors and coaches on how to prepare for graduate school as well as what to expect in continuing education at the graduate level.

[Learn more](#)

Webinar on SPED offerings to be held Feb. 22

Educators interested in learning about the special education (online/hybrid) graduate degrees and certificates offered at Fitchburg State are invited to take part in a [free webinar](#) at 5 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 22.**

The webinar will cover requirements and curriculum, admissions and application requirements and more. Attendees will also be able to have their admission application fees waived.

[Learn more](#)



International and Conflict Studies address looks at global shipping

The university's International and Conflict Studies Keynote

Speaker Series will feature a look at international maritime law and the global shipping industry on **Wednesday, Feb. 28** at 7 p.m. in Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

Andrew Pottel, a 2009 Fitchburg State alumnus, will deliver the address. Pottel is dean of students at Northeast Maritime Institute and director of policy and legal affairs for the Dominica Maritime Administration.



"We're very excited to welcome Mr. Pottel back to campus to offer his insights and experiences on international law and maritime shipping, both from perspectives gained in travel professionally around the world and from keen academic insights in his capacity at the Northeast Maritime Institute," said Professor Joshua B. Spero.

[Learn more](#)

Bayless to give keynote address at student affairs conference

Vice President of Student Affairs **Laura A. Bayless** will deliver the keynote address to the "All of the Above" conference on **Saturday, Feb. 10**. The conference is hosted by Massachusetts National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, New England College Personnel Association, and Boston Area College Housing Association.

The "All of the Above" conference is dedicated to helping new professionals, graduate students, and eager undergraduate students prepare for a career in higher education administration and student affairs.

Bayless will talk about stepping outside of our comfort zones to take on new challenges and make a difference.

Student selected for NCAA Division III immersion program

Mary Cardona-Foster, a senior majoring in communications media, was selected as one of 40 students nationally to attend the NCAA Convention Division III Student Immersion program in Indianapolis last month.

The selected students were fully funded to attend the convention, and were exposed to Division III, its members and its governance process. In addition to the scheduled Division III programming, grant recipients received DiSC training, and attend welcome and debrief meetings.

Athletic Director Sue Lauder said Cardona-Foster has worked closely with her office for three years, even though she is not a student-athlete herself. "She's one of those students you just know is going to do a good job," Lauder said.

The goal of the immersion program is to build a pipeline of talented ethnic minority candidates, with an interest in Division III coaching and/or administration, in an effort to ultimately diversify the division.

The Division III Student Immersion Program is held annually in conjunction with the NCAA Convention. Ethnic minority students, preferably juniors and seniors, with a strong interest in a career in Division III athletics (coaching and/or administration) are encouraged to apply.

CenterStage presents "Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry" on Feb. 10

Experience The Who's classic rock opera

"Tommy" reborn as an unforgettable bluegrass work by the progressive Missouri-based band The HillBenders when Fitchburg State [CenterStage](#) welcomes the band on **Saturday, Feb. 10** at the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$25 for senior citizens and Fitchburg State alumni and staff; and \$5 for Fitchburg State students. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 8 p.m. performance.

Tickets can be purchased at the Weston Box Office in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St., Fitchburg, or by calling 978-665-3347. The box office is open 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).



The HillBenders perform Saturday, Feb. 10.

[Learn more about "Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry"](#)

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: Faculty Show

The biannual faculty show continues in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Wednesday, Feb. 21.



Faculty Spotlight

Professor Susan Wadsworth (Humanities) will have two works from her 2014 sabbatical trip highlighted at the next Sitka Gallery opening in Fitchburg. One work is from Dead Horse Point State Park in Utah and the other is from the Theodore Roosevelt Park in North Dakota. The gallery opening will be from 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10 at 454 Main St. The gallery is open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 10



"Dead Horse Point" by Susan Wadsworth

a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays 10-6. Wadsworth also has two works inspired by a 2016 trip to Italy in the Faculty Show in Hammond Hall Art Gallery.

Four Fitchburg State faculty members have been published in the New England Faculty Development Consortium's peer-reviewed Exchange. **Assistant Professor Lena Ficco** (Psychological Science) presented her work on "imposter phenomenon" at the NEFDC conference last year as well as for the university's Center for Teaching and Learning, at the summer course redesign workshop. **Assistant Professor Katherine Covino** (English Studies), **Associate Professor Viera Lorencová** (Communications Media) and **Associate Professor Heather Urbanski** (English Studies) received a CTL Pedagogical Discussion Group award to research gender studies in higher education. They and **Associate Professor Patricia Arend** (Behavioral Sciences) presented a poster at the NEFDC conference and also presented for the CTL.

Reminder: "Stick it to Alzheimer's" this week

The Fitchburg State Falcons ice hockey team will join with local high school athletes to raise funds for Alzheimer's research on **Friday, Feb. 9** and **Saturday, Feb. 10**, honoring the legacy of longtime Falcons Hockey Coach Terry McNabb.

The "Stick it to Alzheimer's Open Skate" will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, where monetary donations will be accepted at the door for Terry McNabb's Team, participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries for the Townsend Ecumenical Outreach will also be accepted Friday night, as McNabb was also a supporter of that organization.

The events continue Saturday, Feb. 10 with Terry & Bette McNabb's Game, in memory of the late coach and youth hockey advocate. Fitchburg State will take on Framingham State at 5 p.m., with the players clad in purple jerseys to raise Alzheimer's awareness. The game will be followed by high school action between North Middlesex Regional and Lunenburg.

Tickets that allow visitors to see both games are \$10 apiece, and all proceeds will go to Terry McNabb's Team.

[Learn more](#)



Terry McNabb

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