

## Fitchburg State University Today

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017 - Volume 7, Issue 9

### University hosts "Pink on the Rink" benefit game Jan. 21

The Wallace Civic Center ice and the Fitchburg State Falcons' jerseys will be pink on **Saturday, Jan. 21**, when the university once again hosts the Pink on the Rink fundraiser for the Cup Crusaders. All proceeds from the game will go to the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure.

Tickets are \$10, which will admit visitors for the 4 p.m. game pitting Fitchburg State against the Plymouth State Panthers. That game will be followed by a pair of local high school games also being played on the pink ice: Fitchburg High takes on Leominster High at 6:10 p.m., with Lunenburg High battling St. Bernard's at 8:10 p.m.

The games on Jan. 21 will mark Fitchburg State's second time hosting Pink on the Rink. Last year's event raised more than \$10,000 for the cause.

For tickets, contact Kathy DiRusso at 978-537-4720 or [kathydirusso60@gmail.com](mailto:kathydirusso60@gmail.com).



All proceeds benefit  
**THE CUP CRUSADERS**  
(Susan G. Komen® 3-Day)

**PINK on the RINK**

**SATURDAY  
January 21**

WALLACE CIVIC CENTER  
**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Admission \$10**  
Pink ice and three exciting  
hockey games—all for the cure!

FOR TICKETS, CONTACT:  
Kathy DiRusso (978) 537-4720  
[kathydirusso60@gmail.com](mailto:kathydirusso60@gmail.com)

TICKET OFFICE / WILL CALL:  
(978) 665-4555

**4:00 PM**  
Fitchburg State vs. Plymouth State

**6:10 PM**  
Fitchburg H.S. vs. Leominster H.S.

**8:10 PM**  
Lunenburg H.S. vs. St. Bernard's H.S.

### Registration open for ALFA spring offerings

Fitchburg State's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area ([ALFA](#)) launches another series of informative, non-credit daytime classes, trips, special events and speaker series this month.

The [spring courses](#) span fitness classes and nature walks to film screenings and explorations of contemporary topics including gender identity and religion. Learn to play the harmonica or write poetry, or brush up on your bridge

game. Explore the American love affair with the automobile and dive into the intersection of politics and the media. There are dozens of courses to choose from, taught by community members and Fitchburg State faculty.

Most ALFA courses are taught on the Fitchburg State campus, but others are hosted in community settings. Tuition is \$30 per course, with a maximum of six per semester.

ALFA provides an opportunity for lifelong learners to meet and share interests in an informal setting and pursue learning for enrichment and personal growth. The spring sessions run from January to March and March through April. Registration and payment for the first spring session is due **Monday, Jan. 23**, while registration and payment for the second spring session is due **Monday, March 13**.

In addition to the classes, ALFA will continue its free Food for Thought and Shirley Pick Lecture Series this spring. Presentations

include WINTERLUDE: ALFA's second annual film day on Monday, Jan. 9 in Fitchburg State's Hammond Hall, room G09, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring faculty members Eric Budd and Joe Moser, who will lead a screening and discussion of films exploring the immigration experience. Guests should bring a brown bag lunch. Admission is free but pre-registration is recommended by visiting [fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](http://fitchburgstate.edu/alfa), or by calling 978-664-3706.

On Tuesday, March 28 at 2:30 p.m., Bruce Wenning from the Ecological Landscape Alliance will present "Insects in the Garden: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. The talk will help visitors identify insects that will help their gardens grow, as well as those who will chomp it to the ground. Admission is free.

On Tuesday, April 18 at 2:30 p.m., Nick Langhart will present a discussion of Worcester's historical past. The talk, at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., will set the stage for a bus tour on Monday, May 1 that will take visitors through the city. Tickets for the bus tour are \$45 and include a hot buffet lunch.

ALFA will conclude the spring semester with a series of programs on Tuesday, April 25. The Shirley Pick Spring Series presents Edie Clark at 11 a.m. in the main lounge of Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Exuding warmth and humor as a speaker and in her written works, Edie Clark has been writing about New England in feature stories for Yankee magazine for the past 30 years. The talk is followed by a luncheon at noon. The lunch is \$10 per person and guests must register in advance by calling 978-665-3706.

Also on April 25, a Food for Thought lecture on bird migration will be given at 1:45 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Learn about the amazing feats of bird migration, how and why birds migrate, and the dangers and distances they face. Broadcast veteran Ray Brown of WCRB 99.5 FM will be the featured speaker. A regular guest on NPR's "Weekend Edition Saturday" with Scott Simon, Brown has combined his radio career with a passion for birds for more than 10 years. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Visit [www.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa) to see the full spring offerings, or contact [alfa@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:alfa@fitchburgstate.edu) or call 978-665-3706 for additional information. The ALFA office is located in room C-154 of the McKay Complex at 67 Rindge Road, Fitchburg.



Spring 2017

ALFA

Adult Learning  
in the Fitchburg Area

FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY



**Team finishes strong in Moot Court competition**

Fitchburg State students Abigail M. Kennefick and Aleah I. Fisher finished 25th in the country at the recent American Collegiate Moot Court Association national tournament in Florida, distinguishing themselves among a field of 360 teams that competed at the regional level and 80 teams at the finals.

Fisher is in her last year at Fitchburg State, as she will be heading to the University of Massachusetts Law School next year as part of a "3+3" program in which students can earn their bachelor's and law degrees in six years. Kennefick is a senior majoring in political science and plans to attend law school next year.

The moot court competition pits students on opposing sides of a legal issue as in an appellate court proceeding, testing their facility with applying interpretations of the law before a panel of guest judges. This year's case concerned the validity of a hypothetical voter identification law.



Fitchburg State's moot court team finished in the top 25 in the country at the recent national tournament at Stetson University College of Law in Tampa, Fla. Shown here, from left to right, are Fitchburg State alumna and assistant coach Christine Brigham, professor and coach Paul Weizer, students Abigail Kennefick and Aleah Fisher, and alumna and assistant coach Alyne Butland.

"This experience was one I won't soon forget," said Fisher. "The lessons I learned and the skills I obtained will help me throughout law school and in my future career. This was one of the most challenging courses I have ever taken, but it was by far the most rewarding. There were teams from all over the country and yet, there was this one moment when we overheard another team saying, 'You better watch out for those Fitchburg girls,' and I think that's a testament to what Fitchburg State students can accomplish. It was incredible to see that we were really able to hold up against the rest of the country."

"The Moot Court national tournament was one of the most challenging, and skill shaping experiences of my undergraduate career," added Kennefick. "Aleah and I faced fierce competition, and through our oral advocacy strength, analytical reasoning and composure under pressure we achieved a spot amongst the top 6 percent in the country. I cannot thank my coaches enough for their guidance in what has undoubtedly been the most influential experience in my education thus far as an aspiring litigator. The real life skills earned in moot court are an invaluable asset as I enter my first year of law school prepared, excited, and, most importantly, confident."

Fisher and Kennefick won two of three preliminary matches on the first day of the national tournament held this month at the Stetson University College of Law in Tampa, Fla., and advanced to the second day of competition. The national tournament included 80 teams from 36 institutions, with just four from Massachusetts.

"They performed well and represented the school with distinction," said Professor Paul I. Weizer, who coaches the university's moot court team.

## Climate change topic of documentary screening on Jan. 26

The documentary film "This Changes Everything," inspired by Naomi Klein's recent book of the same title, will be screened at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Jan. 26** in the Randall Lecture Hall of the Antonucci Science Complex. The screening is sponsored by the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

All are welcome to attend, and students from courses that address the environment, economics, and/or social justice are specifically encouraged.

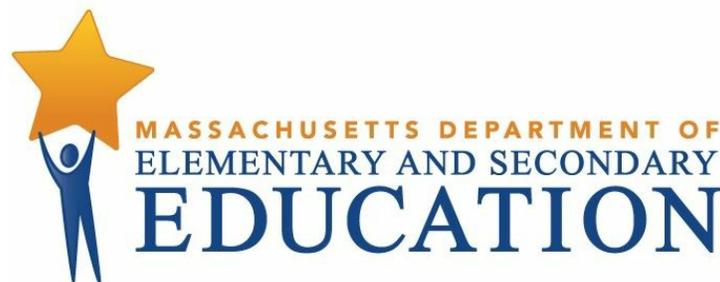
The film portrays communities on the front lines of climate change, from Canadian tar sands to southern India, Beijing, and beyond. Not simply another film that tries to scare the audience with the effects of global warming, it aims to empower by showing communities that are organizing and resisting the economic forces disrupting their lives. More detail about the film can be found [here](#).

The screening will last approximately one hour, followed by a discussion.



## Campus hosting DESE forum on K-12 education on Jan. 31

Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Mitchell Chester will preside over a regional [town hall meeting](#) to discuss the successes and challenges of the state's K-12 public education system at 6 p.m. **Tuesday, Jan. 31** in Hammond Hall. The forum will also look at how the education department and school districts work together to support teaching and learning at the local level. The commissioner's opening presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.



The program is co-sponsored by the Fitchburg Public Schools and Fitchburg State University. Participating school districts include Fitchburg, Ashburnham-Westminster, Groton-Dunstable, Leominster, Montachusett Regional Vocational-Technical and North Middlesex.

Registration and refreshments begin at 6 p.m., with welcome and opening presentation at 6:30. There will be an audience Q&A from 7:15 to 7:55 p.m., with closing remarks before the 8 p.m. conclusion.

To learn more or to register, visit [doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=9477](http://doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=9477).

## Community Read events include keynote by author Putnam

Author Robert Putnam will present a keynote lecture about his book *Our Kids: The American Dream*

in *Crisis* to cap off Fitchburg State University's [Community Read](#) this spring. The address will be preceded in February and March by other talks and film screenings that explore themes in Putnam's work.

*Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* is a New York Times bestseller and "a passionate, urgent" (The New Yorker) examination of growing social inequality in the United States. Putnam's volume offers a personal and authoritative look at a new American crisis where a growing "opportunity gap" has emerged over the past 25 years. The crisis challenges the traditional assumption that Americans who have talent and try hard will succeed.

Throughout the Community Read, which began last fall, the campus and wider audience is invited to explore Putnam's book and the topics it raises. All of the Community Read events are free and open to the public.

The university recently received a grant for \$3,000 from Mass Humanities to support its Community Read programming.

Mass Humanities grants inspire considered thought, conversation and action through the humanities. See more about the work Mass Humanities does to improve civic life in Massachusetts at [masshumanities.org](http://masshumanities.org).

The spring's Community Read events begin with an intergenerational community panel discussion at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 16** at the Leominster Public Library, 30 West St., Leominster. The panel will feature area high school students and community members discussing the American dream and whether it is still achievable for all. Local high school students are creating entries for an essay contest on the topic, and the winners will be invited to participate in the event.

A look back at the Market Basket boycott of 2014 will be held at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 22** at Ellis White Lecture Hall at Hammond Hall on the Fitchburg State campus, 160 Pearl St., including a short documentary by Fitchburg State Professor Kevin McCarthy. The event will also include in-person testimonies from Market Basket employees and veterans of the boycott.

The programming continues with a movie marathon starting at 11 a.m. **Saturday, March 4** at the Leominster Public Library, 30 West St., Leominster. The Mount Wachusett Community College Humanities Project will present the films *Modern Times* (1936) and *The Devil and Miss Jones* (1941). The films will be introduced by Fitchburg State Professor Joseph Moser, who will also lead a post-screening discussion. Lunch will be provided and registration is required. Visitors may register by visiting the library website or by calling 978-534-7522. This event is co-sponsored by the Community Read and the Leominster Public Library.

There will be a community discussion of the book at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 8** at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St. Another discussion will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 22** at the Lunenburg Public Library, 1023 Massachusetts Ave., Lunenburg, co-sponsored by the library and the Lunenburg Council on Aging, led by Fitchburg State Professor David Weiss.

Putnam's keynote address will follow at 7 p.m. **Tuesday, April 4** at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public.



# OUR KIDS

The American Dream  
in Crisis

ROBERT D. PUTNAM

author of *Bowling Alone*

**CTL sponsors Celebration of Teaching Week in March**

The Center for Teaching and Learning will hold its first Celebration of Teaching Week from March 20-24. A number of events are planned, including:

- Advising Advice Session at 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 20
- CTL Teaching and Learning Hour at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21
- Poster session and celebration reception at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23
- 2nd annual Medieval Studies Conference for middle and secondary educators on Friday, March 24
- Open classroom visits (on a volunteer basis)
- Ongoing poster session highlighting our faculty's teaching
- Thank a Teacher opportunities

Faculty interested in opening their classrooms for visits by other faculty, staff, alumni or students are asked to contact [Kisha G. Tracy](#) by Tuesday, Jan. 31, and include the course names and numbers they are opening, the date and times they are offered and their location. Volunteers for the poster sessions are also due by Jan. 31, with the posters themselves delivered to the Center for Teaching and Learning by March 10.

## CenterStage and cultural events



"Black Ice" by Madeleine Altmann.

The sculptural video installations of artist Madeleine Altmann will be on display in gallery spaces at Fitchburg State from **Wednesday, Jan. 18** through Wednesday, Feb. 22 as part of the [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series.

Altmann will discuss her work at a gallery talk at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 1** at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery, 160 Pearl St. A reception will follow. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Fitchburg State exhibition, entitled "Refuge - Nothing is Everything," will include a display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery as well as the media wall at Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave.

"Video can be a weapon for change and a tool for repair," Altmann said. "This current body of video art provides the necessary pause, a simulacrum of calm amidst a frantic digital world. These videos invite the viewer to slow down and be absorbed by luxuriant color, captivating textures and elements of rhythm and repetition."

Altmann has been active in visual arts for most of her life. Starting in photography she moved on to television, interactive telecommunications and video art. Along the way she has exhibited her work around the world and accumulated a variety of accolades including awards from the American Film Institute and Sony Pictures.

Born and raised in Brazil and England, she moved to the U.S. to attend Hampshire College for undergraduate studies in film and video. She went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute and a master's in professional studies from New York University, where she received the Interactive Media Pioneer Award.

Along with her single channel installations, Altmann works with her husband, engineer Andreas Uthoff, to create the sculptural elements of the monitors on display. She resides with her family in the Greater Boston area.

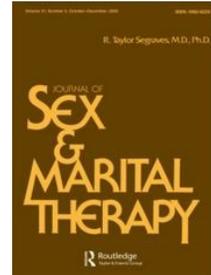
Altmann delves into the intersection of nature, technological change, and visual representation. Building on a diverse set of influences, from Henry David Thoreau to Rebecca Solnit and Bill Viola, this work strives to present a landscape of both our internal and external worlds. We see a simple walk through the woods with a dog as the cosmic experience, echoing the belief that local is universal. Reiterated in the six-panel piece called "Black Ice," the microscopic is the

macroscopic.

Many of the works take sculptural forms. Various technologies like pro-grade media players, embedded raspberry pi computers, 4K or HD displays, obsolete CRT monitors and discarded computer screens from the e-waste pile are all imbued with timeless landscapes and ritualistic experiences.

## Staff notes

**Martha Favre** (Health Services) and **Robert Hynes** (Counseling Services) are co-authors of the article "Integrating Male Reproductive Health Services: One University Clinic's Story" published in the January 2017 edition of the Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy.



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