
Fitchburg State University Today

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 - Volume 9, Issue 9

Lt. Gov. Polito presents grant funds for ideaLab programming

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito visited the ideaLab in the Theater Block last week to announce \$500,000 in Urban Agenda Grant awards, including \$60,000 to support ideaLab programming.

"When we empower local leaders and projects that thoughtfully address the unique issues facing our urban centers, we have an outsized impact on the lives of residents," Lt. Gov. Polito said. "The Urban Agenda Grant Program relies on the strong partnerships between local government, non-profits and the business community that are critical to fostering economic success and building stronger neighborhoods in every region in Massachusetts."

"We are grateful for the Baker-Polito Administration's support of the ideaLab, where we hope to continue linking the university's facilities and faculty and student expertise to the community's needs," said President Lapidus. "This project embodies the collaborative spirit that will help renew downtown Fitchburg and supports the continued growth of its creative economy."

Congresswoman Lori Trahan, elected last November to represent the 3rd District, also recently toured downtown Fitchburg to speak with President Lapidus about the Theater Block project and to learn about other revitalization projects now under way in the community. The tour, which was covered in in the [Telegram & Gazette](#) and the [Sentinel & Enterprise](#), included the ideaLab and game design studio space, as well as the artist community being developed in the former B.F. Brown School.

[Learn more](#)

Open house at ideaLab on Tuesday, Jan. 29

The campus community is invited to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the Theater Block renovation with an open house at the ideaLab from **10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29**. The open house will follow a ribbon-cutting ceremony that starts at



From left, State Sen. Dean Tran, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, State Rep. Stephan Hay, President Lapidus, and Fitchburg Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale

10 a.m. that will feature remarks from President Lapidus and Fitchburg Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale.

The ideaLab and game design studio are located on the second floor of the theater block at 717 Main St. Students will be using the space this semester for the first time.

Parking for the open house is available on Main Street and behind 700 Main St. There will also be shuttle service between campus and the theater block from 10 a.m. to noon on Jan. 29, with service departing campus from the Miller Hall turnaround.

Those planning to attend the open house are asked to [RSVP](#) today.



University celebrates MLK legacy

Fitchburg State observes Martin Luther King Day this month with talks and film screenings based on the theme, "Progressing the Dream: Passion in Action." The events begin at **4 p.m.**

Thursday in Hammond Hall Room G01 with a screening and discussion of the film *Sorry to Bother You* (2018).

MLK PROGRESSING THE DREAM: PASSION IN ACTION

SAVE THE DATES

THURS., JAN. 24 / Film: *Sorry to Bother You*, Hammond Hall, G01

THURS., JAN. 31 / Annual Celebration

Photo Exhibit: *Activism Through the Years*
1st floor Library through **FEBRUARY 22**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Nika Elugardo
Massachusetts State Representative

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

There will also be a keynote address at **3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31** by Massachusetts State Rep. Nika Elugardo. That event will open with performances by the McKay Arts Academy choir and Fitchburg State University Choir. The location for this event is still being determined but will be shared with the campus as the date approaches.

A photo exhibit, "Activism Through the Years" will be on display on the first floor of the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library through February 22.

For more information about the events, please contact [Brittanye Mackey](#).

Moot Court teams continue tradition of success

Fitchburg State continued its streak of strong showings at the American Moot Court Association national championship this month, with a team finishing in the top 10 percent of teams in North America.

Riley Grinkis '18 of Gardner and Matthew Murphy '20 of Milton made it to the second day of oral arguments in the national competition, and also finished second overall in the brief writing contest. Fitchburg State students Kajahna Matos '20 of Lawrence and Theresa Klobucher '20

of Lowell finished 10th in the brief writing competition.

Grinkis graduated from Fitchburg State in December and is headed to Northeastern University Law School on a full scholarship. Matos and Klobucher will enroll this fall at UMass Law School through our [partnership](#) whose graduates will complete bachelor's and law degrees in six years.



Students Matthew Murphy '20, Riley Grinkis '18, Kajahna Matos '20 and Theresa Klobucher '20 at the moot court national tournament.

Winter Commencement a celebration to remember

Hundreds of undergraduate and graduate degrees were conferred at the Winter Commencement ceremony in December.

Check out a [photo gallery](#) on the university's [Facebook page](#), and relive the ceremony on video on our [YouTube page](#).



New edition of *Contact* available online

The winter edition of *Contact*, the alumni magazine, is now online.

Inspired by the first graduating class of recruits in our groundbreaking police program, this issue focuses on various disciplines related to criminal justice and public safety.

Read the stories in the "To Serve and

Protect" series online [here](#), or [click here](#) to view a PDF of the entire magazine.



Hockey games to raise funds for ALS research

The Fitchburg State Falcons will take the ice against Plymouth State for the Glenn Roberts Memorial Hockey Game at **5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2** to raise funds for the ALS Association Massachusetts Chapter and the Glenn Roberts Memorial Scholarship at Fitchburg High School. The game will be played at the Wallace Civic Center, 1000 John Fitch Highway.

Glenn Roberts died in 2013 at age 49 after a brave fight against ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Roberts, who worked at Mount Wachusett Community College for more than 20 years, completed a master's degree in counseling psychology at Fitchburg State in 1992. His wife, Debra Roberts, is a triple Falcon, completing degrees at Fitchburg State in 1990, 1994 and 2003.

Tickets for the game are \$10 and will grant admission to the

Fitchburg State and Plymouth State game at 5 p.m. as well as the Fitchburg High School versus Lunenburg High School game at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance by contacting David Bodah at 781-255-8884. Tickets will also be available at the door. Entry will be free to students with a OneCard.



GLENN ROBERTS MEMORIAL Hockey Game

"Glenn's Friends" will also host a free open skate from **7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1** at the Wallace Civic Center, sponsored by Fidelity Bank. Donations for the ALS Association and memorial scholarship will also be accepted at the open skate. Skaters may bring their own skates or rent skates for \$6 a pair. All proceeds from skate rentals will be donated to the cause.

Saturday, February 2

WALLACE CIVIC CENTER

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Presented by
GLENN'S FRIENDS
to support



and the Glenn Roberts
Memorial Scholarship
at Fitchburg High.

5:00 PM



Fitchburg
State



Plymouth
State

7:30 PM



Fitchburg
H.S.



Lunenburg
H.S.

\$10 / TICKET

For tickets in advance, contact:
David Bodah at 781-255-8884.
Tickets will also be sold
at the door.

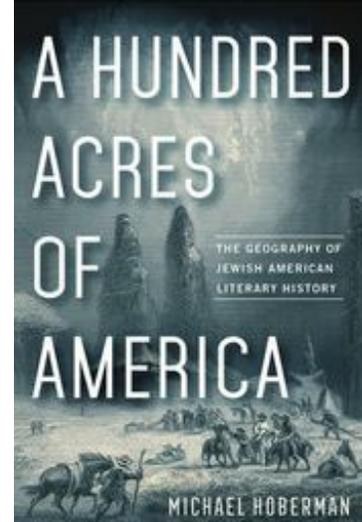
Faculty talks in library

The Center for Faculty Scholarship and Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library invite the campus community to celebrate two faculty recent faculty publications. Both events will be held in the University Archives (S03-Hammond Hall). Light refreshments will be served.

At **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5**, Professor **Michael Hoberman** (English Studies) will discuss his recently published book, *A Hundred Acres of America: The Geography of Jewish American Literary History* (Rutgers University Press, 2018). More information about the book can be found [online](#).

At **3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20**, Professor **Josh Spero** (Economics, History, & Political Science), will discuss his

recently published book, *Middle Powers and Regional Influence: Critical Foreign Policy Junctures for Poland, South Korea, and Bolivia* (Rowman & Littlefield International, 2019). More information about the book can be found [online](#).



Efforts to boost retention rates highlighted

The university received a grant from the Department of Higher Education to help improve retention and graduation rates for male Latino students.

The state's grant program supports efforts to close opportunity and achievement gaps, improve college completion rates, and make college more accessible to Massachusetts residents.

The university's work was highlighted in a recent front-page [story](#) in the *Sentinel & Enterprise*.

Teaching opportunities 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 on **Tuesday, Feb. 19**.

CenterStage and cultural events

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. Wednesday, Feb. 20**.

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.

On the Conlon Hall Media Wall: "Cold Hudson" by Billy Wirasnik

Short films by filmmaker and sound designer Billy Wirasnik will be on display in the Conlon Hall Media Wall through Monday, March 4. Wirasnik will give a wall talk at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6**.

A classically trained electronic musician and pitched percussionist, Wirasnik designs sound for storytellers and interactive media makers. In his work he explores his

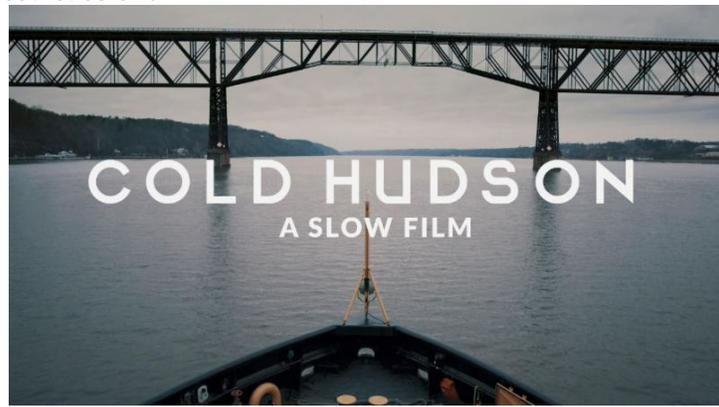


"Water Meditation" by Colleen Pearce

interest in combining natural aural aesthetics and observational film, creating space in media for reflection, activity and critical thought.

Community Read continues this spring

The [Community Read](#) of Celeste Ng's novel *Everything I Never Told You* will continue at **2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12** with a panel discussion in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.



The talk will explore various ways of viewing and considering the intersections of gender, race, family, self, and identity performance at work within Ng's piece.

Visit fitchburgcommunityread.com to stay up to date with events in the series.

Staff notes

Associate Dean for Student Development **Hank Parkinson** has been selected to serve as a member of the New England College Personnel Association ([NECPA](#)) Executive Board as state coordinator for Massachusetts. NECPA's mission is to promote the ideology and philosophy of individuals committed to student development in higher education. The organization serves students by providing its membership opportunities for professional development through education and social opportunities. Diverse in its membership, New England College Personnel Association serves its members by promoting formal and informal communication, providing online resources, and sponsoring workshops. It also encourages generation, dissemination, and utilization of applied knowledge about college students and the field of college student services; provides programs which embrace enhanced student development and professional development; and provides a voice and space for discussion of issues affecting higher education.

Assistant Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education **Lisa Moison** was the keynote speaker at the 20th Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration at the First Church Unitarian Universalist in Leominster on Jan. 21. Moison talked about how prison writing programs can help the incarcerated find their voice, an identity, and an outlet.

Faculty Notes

Teresa Fava Thomas (Economics, History and Political Science) presented a paper on "Allied Bombing of Rome and Palestrina Italy: Strategic Debate and Process of Recovery, 1943-45" to the New England Historical Association conference at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. She also addressed the Sons of Italy Cristoforo Colombo Lodge Annual Dinner at the Oak Hill Country Club on the topic "Celebrating Columbus Day in 1938: Italian Americans in Massachusetts."

James Colbert, Professor Emeritus (Humanities) announced the publication of his translation of "John Duns Scotus" by Étienne Gilson. This is the largest of Gilson's previously untranslated works. The volume was published in December by T & T Clark, an imprint of Bloomsbury Academic.

Updated form to request publicity

The university has a new online form for faculty and staff members to request publicity for events and accomplishments. Please use [this link](#) to direct requests to Director of Public Relations Matthew Bruun.

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