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## Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, March 18, 2019 - Volume 9, Issue 13

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### State Board of Higher Education approves new programs

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has approved two new degree programs at Fitchburg State University, including the only undergraduate degree in environmental public health offered at any public institution in New England.

The board also approved Fitchburg State's new bachelor's degree in educational studies.



The environmental public health (EPH) degree is an interdisciplinary program spanning community health, geospatial data analysis, social justice, and community service. The major will be available for students who are interested in health sciences but seek an alternative career choice than those offered in traditional STEM or health professions majors. It focuses on the relationships between people and their environment, promotes human health and well-being, and fosters healthy and safe communities.

[Learn more](#)

### MBA program tops in state with majority female enrollment

The Boston Business Journal's latest [rankings](#) of MBA programs in Massachusetts shows Fitchburg State University boasts the largest program with majority female enrollment.

The university, which offers face-to-face and 100 percent online iterations of the MBA program, was ranked fifth in the state for overall enrollment, according to the Business Journal. Of those top five, only Fitchburg State had a majority of women in its program, with more than 54 percent female students.

[Learn more](#)

### Alternative Spring Break students in the news

Once again, Fitchburg State's Alternative Spring Break program had students volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, helping to build houses for deserving families. Last week, students

were at a work site in Florida, where a local news station caught up with them to profile their good works.

Watch the piece [here](#).



## Rescheduled: Speakers Series continues next week

The university's Speaker Series continues at **12:30 p.m. Monday, March 25** with a talk by **Professor DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld** (English Studies) on "The Ordinary as Resistance in Trauma: Continuing the Tradition of Black Women Poetry Writing through Trauma."

The talk will be held in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. Refreshments will be served.



Black women are resilient,  
but this does not mean  
that we do not feel  
the weight of pain.  
this does not mean  
that our shoulders do not  
bend, fracture, or break.  
it is our tears that bait floods,  
our cries that entice hurricanes,  
our sobs that provoke tsunamis.  
it is our pain  
that aches the earth.  
do you feel it?

## 14th annual Drag Show to raise awareness and funds

The Gay Straight Alliance at Fitchburg State University will present the 14th annual drag show at **7 p.m. Thursday, March 28**, building awareness and raising funds for the university's LGBTQ student scholarship fund.

The "Cookies and Queens" annual drag show will be held at the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St., Fitchburg. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for Fitchburg State students and \$10 for the public. Tickets can be purchased at the information desk in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., or [online](#). All proceeds benefit the Fitchburg State LGBTQ+ Scholarship Fund.

[Learn more](#)



## GameCon returns on Wednesday, March 27

The university's annual gaming competition GameCon returns **Wednesday, March 27** at the Athletics and Recreation Center.

Registration starts at

5:30 p.m. while games will run from 6 p.m. to midnight.

There will be individual tournaments for Super Smash Bros, Mario Kart 6, and Rocket League, as well as a cosplay competition.

**GAME CON**

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY  
Wednesday, March 27 • Rec Center  
tournaments • fun to play games • free food • dj • prizes

registration • 5:30pm  
gaming • 6pm-midnight

2019 Tournaments  
6:30pm - Super Smash Bros.  
7:30pm - Mario Kart 8  
7:30pm - Cosplay  
8pm - Rocket League

leave your gear at home • consoles will be provided

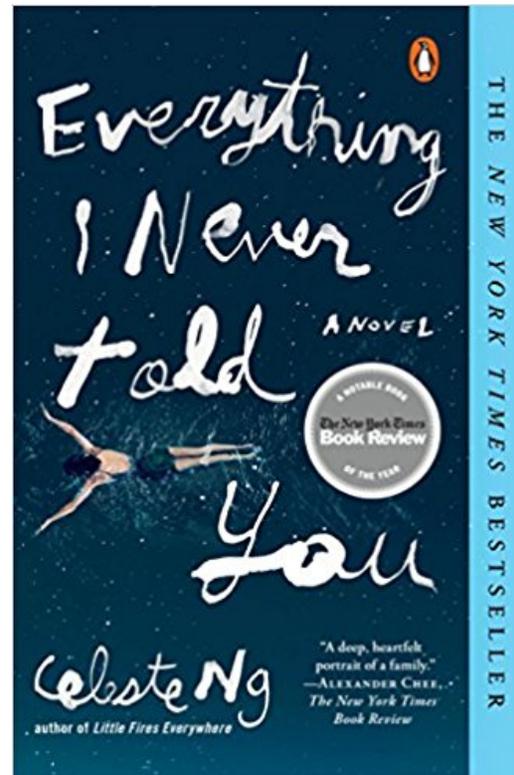


## Community Read keynote event is April 1

Fitchburg State's [Community Read](#) of Celeste Ng's novel *Everything I Never Told You* continues with the keynote event at **6:30 p.m. Monday, April 1** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall. Screenwriter Julia Cox, who is adapting Ng's novel for the screen, 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.

Keep up to date with all Community Read events by visiting [fitchburgcommunityread.com](http://fitchburgcommunityread.com).



## Upward Bound students learn about college options

Twelve of Fitchburg State's [Upward Bound Math & Science](#) students recently attended TRIO Day in New Hampshire. They toured the University of New Hampshire Durham campus, heard a keynote address from Richard Haynes of UNH Admissions, and participated in many evening activities, including mural making, bingo, and a dance.

The following day, they attended a college fair, having the opportunity to see 30+ colleges from around New England. They also participated in workshops on topics like selecting a college that fits, self-discovery through the college essay, and how math and fun can coexist.



Fitchburg State's Upward Bound Math & Science program serves 60 students in grades 9 through 12.

## Save the Date: Panel discussions Wednesday, April 3

President Lapidus and members of the senior staff will hold a pair of panel discussions for faculty and staff on **Wednesday, April 3** in Kent Recital Hall. These sessions provide an opportunity to hear what's happening on campus and also encourage an open dialogue about issues important to members of our community.

The sessions will be held at 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to give everyone an opportunity to participate.

## Graduate and Continuing Education info session April 11

Learn about the educational opportunities available at Fitchburg State University when the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education (GCE) hosts an [information session](#) at **5 p.m. Thursday, April 11**.

The free session, where attendees will have the opportunity to speak with advisors, admission counselors, program chairs, financial aid representatives and register for classes, will take place in Hammond Hall on the Fitchburg State campus.

GCE at Fitchburg State offers more than 45 graduate and undergraduate degree and certificate programs. Whether you're looking for graduate school or undergraduate evening programs, an information session can help get you to where you need to be.

## CenterStage and cultural events

### Plotkin returns this week

For the 11th year, Fitchburg State University [CenterStage](#) will welcome renowned author and gourmand [Fred Plotkin](#) to campus to lead a culinary tour of Italy on **Friday, March 22** and **Saturday, March 23**.

Plotkin's visits are always a popular draw, so guests are advised to buy tickets early. This year's event will focus on the Italian region of Piemonte. Plotkin will enlighten guests about the history, culture and cuisine of this mountainous land. An authentic menu of specialty dishes will set accompany the verbal tour.

Tickets are \$40, inclusive of tax and tap. Advance purchase is required and there will be a cash bar featuring regional wines. There will be seatings at 6 p.m. Friday, March 22; and 12 p.m. and Saturday, March 23 (the 6 p.m. dinner on Saturday is sold out). Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each dinner.



Fred Plotkin

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

The talk is sponsored by the Sandro and Lillian Clementi Lecture Fund of Fitchburg State University.

### Alumni theater group presents staged reading of staff member play

A staged reading of a new play, "Shadows in the Cave," written by Fitchburg State staff member and alumna Samantha deManbey '12, will be presented at **7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 23** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building. Admission is free (with a suggested donation of \$3 to \$10) and open to the public.

"Shadows in the Cave" is about a student who is inspired by a charismatic teacher to lead a rebellion against his high school's standardized testing. At first, his protests are successful, but as pressures mount from the administration and his own family, he finds himself increasingly isolated from his teacher, his friends, and his own sense of reality.

"The play deals with the issue of testing, but also asks larger questions about the value of education in our society and how far someone should go to follow their principles," said deManbey, who premiered her play "Fausted" at the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



Playwright Samantha deManbey '12, left, and director Matthew Cogswell '07, at a rehearsal for "Shadows in the Cave."

The staged reading will be followed by a talk back session with the playwright.

[Learn more](#)

### Skylark Ensemble to present new piece in April

Fitchburg State CenterStage welcomes the vocal Skylark Ensemble to premiere the newly-commissioned "Masterpiece" at **7 p.m. Thursday, April 4** in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building. [Tickets](#) are \$28 for adults; \$25 for Fitchburg State alumni, staff and senior citizens; and \$5 for students.



The performance, sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State University, will be preceded by a talk at 6 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased in the Weston Box Office, located inside Weston Auditorium at 353 North St., which is open 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The box office can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets are also available [online](#).

[Learn more](#)

### Main Stage theater production "Dead Mad" runs April 10-20

A new play that explores how we respond when we're suddenly forced to wake up, take stock, and chart a new course is Fitchburg State University's main stage theater production this April. "Dead Mad," written by Peter Andereg and directed by Denise Alexander, will be performed at the Wallace Theatre for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road, from April 10-20.

The play tells the story of Jason Brooks, who must write an obituary to avoid being haunted by

his mother after she escapes Charon the Ferryman in Hades. In so doing, he confronts the fact that he knows almost nothing about her that is 100 percent true. The play uses a non-linear structure to whipsaw between time periods as characters try to figure out what's real and what's imaginary.

Performances will be at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10** and **Thursday, April 11**; **7:30 p.m. Friday, April 12**; **2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13**; and **2 p.m. Sunday, April 14**. Performances resume at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17** and **Thursday, April 18**; **7:30 p.m. Friday, April 19**; **2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20**.

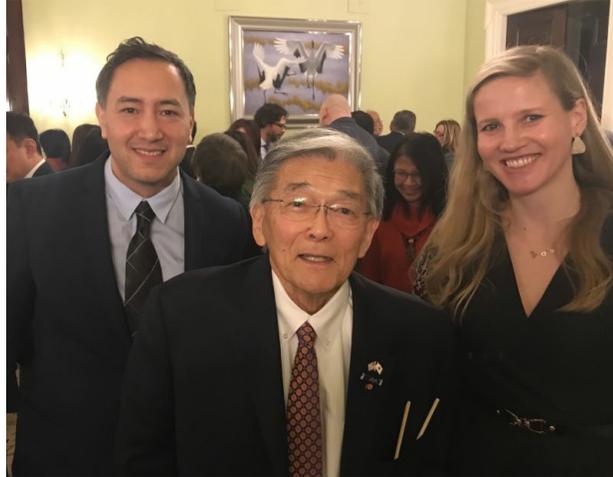
## Faculty notes

**Jon Amakawa** (Communications Media) was invited to the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Consortium meeting in Washington D.C. and a reception hosted by the Japanese embassy.

JACS is an organization in the National Parks Service that works with groups around the country to help preserve and interpret historical sites and stories of Japanese Americans that were forced into confinement sites during World War II. But a big challenge of preserving the history of these sites is that there is little in the way of extant buildings or physical structures that remains.

Amakawa has collaborated with a number of historical organizations to create augmented reality programs to give people a vivid look into history. At the conference he met with many groups that hope to use augmented reality to memorialize these confinement sites and help visitors understand what life was like there.

At the conference attendees met with Congressional leaders to discuss the effects of forced confinement on Japanese Americans during WW2 and the current detention of persons who are undocumented. They also discussed the mission of different groups to preserve the history of confinement sites. Amakawa is currently working with the Heart Mountain Foundation in Wyoming to create an augmented reality program to do just that. He hopes to collaborate with other non-profit groups he met at the conference to help preserve an important part of our history.



Professor Jon Amakawa, left, with former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta at the JACS Consortium meeting in Washington, D.C.

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