
Fitchburg State University Today

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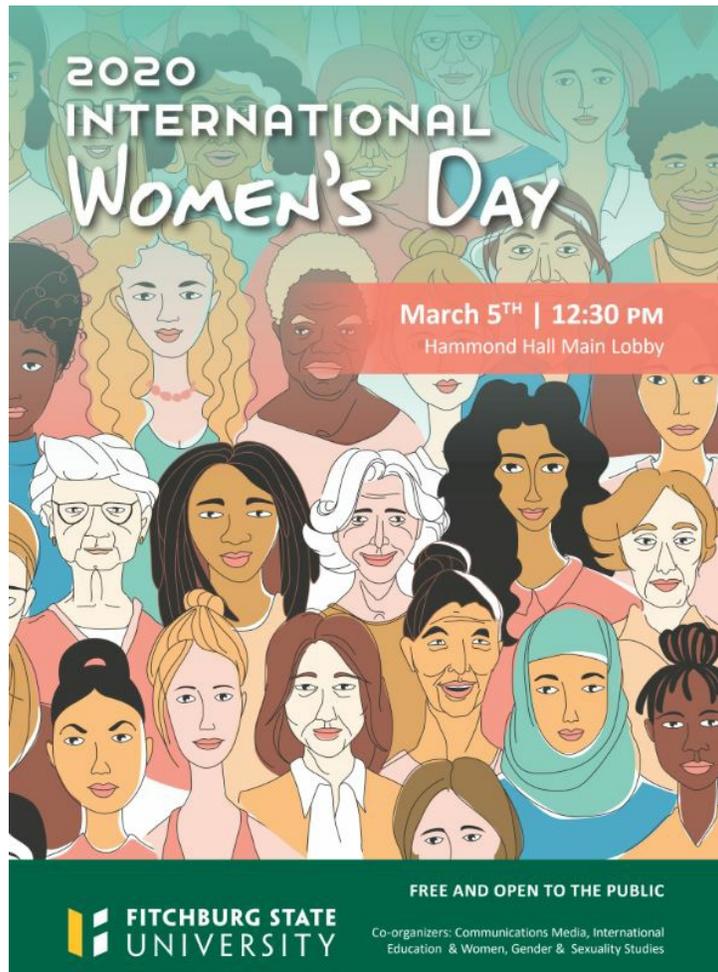
Women's History Month observances begin this week

The university will celebrate Women's History Month in March with a series of programs and talks including a keynote lecture focusing on the economic case for LGBT equality.

The university's observances begin with International Women's Day at **12:30 p.m. Thursday**, in Hammond Hall main lounge. The event will include a "herstory" discussion circle with international students from Albania, Cameroon, Germany, India, Kenya, Morocco, and Nigeria, facilitated by students from Professor Viera Lorencova's intercultural communication class.

The program is organized by the university's Communications Media Department, the Office of International Education, and the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program.

[Learn more](#)



Strategic Planning open forum on March 16

The campus will host an open forum for the [strategic planning process](#) at **3:30 p.m. Monday, March 16** in Kent Recital Hall.

The forum will provide an update on the progress of the plan, as well as an opportunity to engage in conversation about the strategies and ideas that will propel Fitchburg State toward achievement of its goals. The discussion will also look at how the university's plans goals will advance the Commonwealth's top statewide priority for higher education: closing "the achievement gap" by significantly raising the enrollment, attainment and long-term success outcomes among under-represented student populations.

Themed committees have submitted reports to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and their work can be viewed [online](#).

Input and feedback can be submitted anytime by sending email to StrategicPlan@fitchburg.edu.

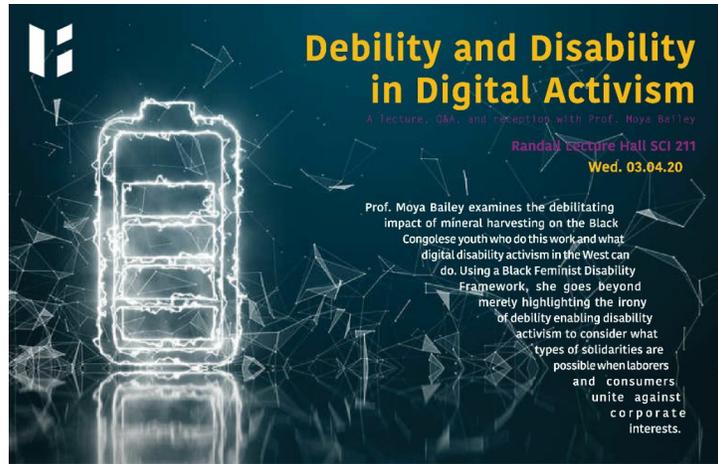
Center for Faculty Scholarship events this week

The Center for Faculty Scholarship is hosting two events this week.

Professor J.J. Sylvia IV (Communications Media) will discuss "Becoming Data: A Digital Humanities Project" as part of the university's Speakers Series **today at 12:30 p.m.** in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. Refreshments will be served.

Dr. Moya Bailey, a digital humanist and race, gender, and disability studies scholar at Northeastern University, will deliver a lecture at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday** in the Randall Science Lecture Hall in the Antonucci Science Complex. A reception will follow.

The talk will look at the impact of mineral harvesting on the Black Congolese youth who do this work and what digital disability activism in the West can do.



"Twisted Intimacy" symposium delved into Cormier archives

Members of the English Studies Department organized and presented the Robert E. Cormier Symposium "Twisted Intimacy" last week in Hammond Hall. The program featured a keynote address by graphic novelist Jarrett Krosoczka.

Presentations looked at the Cormier digital archives in the university library, as well as thematic explorations of Cormier's work. Members of the Cormier family were in attendance.



Students Kat Pellerin, Gregor Goodlett, Lucinda Orne and Matthew Sadowski presented at the Cormier Symposium, moderated by Professor Katharine Covino.

The program was organized by Professor Elise Takehana and Professor Katharine Covino from the English Studies Department, as well as Anna Consalvo (formerly of Fitchburg State and at the University of Texas at Tyler).

Other participants included student panelists who discussed Cormier's work and their experiences working in our library's archives: Gregor Goodlett, Lucinda Orne, Kat Pellerin, Matthew Sadowski, Sarah Desiderio, Paul Kariuki, Brigid McCue, Kelly Mansfield, Peter Morales-Gomez, Lauren Sanders, Nicole Snow, Courtney Soares, and Maggie Woelfel.

Intersection of police and race explored at panel talk

As part of Black History Month, the Black Student Union sponsored a candid conversation about the relationship between

police officers and the Black community last week in Hammond Hall.

Panelists included Police Academy Director Lisa Lane McCarty, University Police Lt. Robert Gilman, and Lorenzo Boyd, director of the Center for Advanced Policing at the University of New Haven.

In a discussion moderated by Student Trustee Crystal Aneke, the panelists discussed the importance of police officers' knowing their communities, and community members' getting to know their police officers. A recurring theme of the discussion was the importance of education and recruitment.



Panelists Lorenzo Boyd, Lisa Lane McCarty, Lt. Robert Gilman and moderator Crystal Aneke at the Black Lives, Blue Lives discussion.

Save the date: Presidential panel talk Wednesday, March 18

President Lapidus and members of the senior staff will hold a pair of panel discussions for faculty and staff at **10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18** 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.

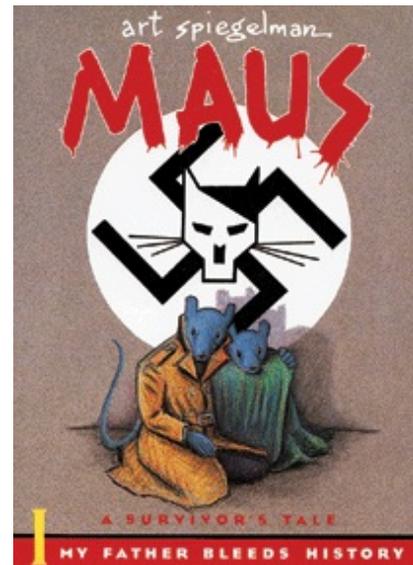
Community Read continues this month

Fitchburg State's Community Read of the acclaimed graphic novel *Maus* by Art Spiegelman continues this semester with discussions and film screenings, as well as a talk with the author himself in April.

Maus is the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust and his son, a cartoonist, who tries to come to terms with his father, his father's terrifying story, and history itself.

The spring events begin with a book discussion and brunch at **10 a.m. Monday, March 16** at the Lunenburg Senior Center, 25 Memorial Drive. Visitors are asked to RSVP by calling 978-582-4166.

The series continues with a screening of the documentary *Breaking the Silence: The Generation after the Holocaust* at **4 p.m. Sunday, March 22** at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St. The documentary features interviews with adult children of Holocaust survivors as they share their memories of growing up with parents who could not recount their years in Nazi camps.



The Community Read is part of the university's [125th anniversary](#) celebration.

[Learn more](#)

Reminder: CPS course on needs of LGBTQIA students

The Center for Professional Studies is

offering a new hybrid course this spring for educators and school staff on supporting LGBTQIA and gender-diverse students in K-12 environments.

The [course](#), which carries one graduate credit or 15 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-approved professional development points, will run April 4 to May 9.

The course, taught by Center for Professional Studies Assistant Director Dani Langdon, is an introduction into the challenges that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+) students face in schools on a daily basis. By understanding terminology, historical context, and preconceived notions the LGBTQIA+ community, educators can begin to creating intentional, inclusive, and supportive learning environments.

The course will explore myths and perceptions, the prevalence and effects of bullying, unintended bias in schools and classrooms, and the laws and policies in place that affect LGBTQIA+ students. This course will give educators the tools to start developing a more inclusive curriculum, navigate conversations around gender and sexual orientation, and foster a respectful and engaging environment where all students can thrive.

[Learn more](#)



Reminder: "Fake news" panel on March 22

Learn how to identify fake news and misinformation online with Fitchburg State faculty and librarians at 11

a.m. Sunday, March 22 at the Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley. Tickets, including brunch buffet, are \$23 and can be ordered [online](#).



This interactive workshop will use real-life examples to cover the impact of misinformation, the importance of truth, and how to spot and fight fake news, regardless of politics.

Panelists will include:

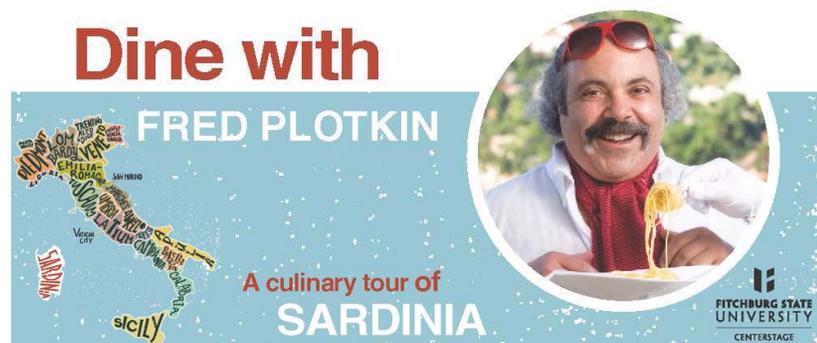
Assistant Professor Wafa Unus (English Studies); **Instruction and Research Librarian Renée Fratantonio** (Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library); **Assistant Professor J.J. Sylvia IV** (Communications Media); and **Assistant Professor Kyle Moody** (Communications Media).

[Learn more](#)

CenterStage and cultural events

Fitchburg State CenterStage invites you to a guided culinary tour of Sardinia when renowned author and gourmand Fred Plotkin [returns to campus](#) in March.

For the past 12 years, Plotkin has curated evenings dedicated to different Italian regions and their history, culture and cuisine. This year's event will celebrate the traditions of Sardinia, the Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea.



Tickets are still available for the seating on **Friday, March 27**, but the Saturday, March 28 event is sold out.

[Learn more](#)

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