

---

## Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, May 13, 2019 - Volume 9, Issue 17

---

### Commencement week arrives

This week the university celebrates its [123rd commencement exercises](#). The [Graduate Commencement](#) ceremony will be held at **6:30 p.m. Thursday** at the Athletics and Recreation Center. President Lapidus will deliver the commencement address at the ceremony, which will also include remarks by Christine Foote-Lucero, winner of the Graduate Student Leadership Award.



The [Undergraduate Commencement](#) ceremony is scheduled for **10 a.m. Saturday**

on the main quadrangle. Steven Borges '90, executive vice president and chief executive officer of Nypro Healthcare, will deliver the commencement address and will also receive the President's Medal. Anna M. Clementi, vice chair of the Fitchburg State Board of Trustees, will receive an honorary degree in recognition of service to the university and wider community. And class valedictorian Madison Medina, graduating with a degree in criminal justice as part of our 4+1 police program, will also address our graduates and guests.

[Learn more](#)

### Speakers Series wraps up year with interdisciplinary talk

The university Speakers Series concludes its season with a talk **today at 12:30 p.m.** with a presentation by **Professor Joe Wachtel** (Economics, History and Political Science) and **Professor Jon Amakawa** (Communications Media) entitled "Games Technology in Public History."

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

### University partnering in efforts to "activate" Mill Street

MassDevelopment and the civic crowdfunding platform Patronicity have launched a new Commonwealth Places campaign with the Fitchburg State University Foundation and Reimagine North of Main to activate Mill Street, a remote alleyway in downtown Fitchburg.

The organizations will transform the concrete road into a unique, temporary park using low-cost, flexible design solutions like movable astroturf, planters, and modular decking, which can serve as seating or a music venue. The park will feature murals and other works of public art, and decorative window treatments will be placed on nearby buildings. Organizers will also make available a street cart where vendors can sell their food and goods, enabling entrepreneurs to take advantage of increased foot traffic.



[Learn more](#)

## New agreements will support nursing objectives

Newly-signed agreements between Bristol Community College, Middlesex Community College, Mount Wachusett Community College and Quinsigamond Community College will guarantee students' seamless admission to Fitchburg State's baccalaureate nursing programs.

The collaborations will help the state meet the Massachusetts Action Coalition goal of having 66 percent of the state's nurses hold a B.S. in Nursing degree by 2020, and 80 percent by 2025.



These agreements are designed to help students achieve their academic and professional goals while supporting the state's public health objectives.

## Pact will lead to exercise and sports science degrees

Students graduating from Mount Wachusett Community College's physical therapy assistance program will now be able to bring 75 credits to Fitchburg State University's baccalaureate level Exercise and Sports Science programs.

Qualifying MWCC graduates will be able to transfer to the [clinical exercise physiology](#) or [strength and conditioning](#) majors.

The agreement signifies the ongoing commitment between these two institutions of higher education to promote coordinated curricula of the highest quality.



## Ramos, Weizer celebrated at 29 Who Shine event

Graduating senior **Alexander Ramos Jr.** and **Professor Paul Weizer** (Economics, History and

Political Science) were recognized at the Statehouse during the [29 Who Shine](#) event celebrating standout student and mentors from each of the state's public higher education campuses.

Ramos, the student representative to the university's Board of Trustees, is completing a degree in political science. He selected Weizer as his mentor for his ongoing support of his personal and professional aspirations.

See more pictures from the celebration [here](#).



## Game Studio students unveil spring semester creations

This spring marked the first semester that students in the capstone [game studio](#) course worked exclusively out of the ideaLab at the Main Street theater block. Last week they unveiled the three games that were developed over the course of an intensive semester of prototype, iteration and testing.

The students from the various design and production teams shared their experiences and lessons learned in a forum at the Randall Lecture Hall in the Antonucci Science Complex.

Learn more about the games at <https://punchbrook.github.io>.



Dab Revo, one of the games produced by the Spring 2019 Game Studio students, is a music and rhythm game that focuses on self expression.

## Haskins Mathematics contests draws hundreds

Three hundred students from 13 area high schools recently visited the Fitchburg State University campus to take part in the 39th annual Elizabeth Haskins mathematics competition.

Students tested their skills in a challenging exam and attended sessions exploring different facets of the discipline with university faculty and students.



The winning students, joined by Professor Jenn Berg and Professor Gerald Higdon.

Here are two sample problems from the contest:

How many ways can the letters in "mathematics" be rearranged to a unique word (sequence of letters)?

1. 11!      (b) 8!      (c) 11!/8      (d) 11!/8!      (e) 8!/8

The correct answer is (c); the symbol 8! means 8 times 7 times 6 times 5 times 4 times 3 times 2 times 1.

Here is another sample problem: How many ordered pairs of positive integers satisfy the equation  $20x + 19y = 2019$ ?

- (a) 2      (b) 4      (c) 6      (d) 8      (e) 10

The correct answer is (c).

[Learn more](#)

## CenterStage and cultural events

A staged reading of a new play, "Good Grief," written by Fitchburg State University alumna Mary Darling '14 will be presented at the university **7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 25** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$3 to \$10 and open to the public. The staged reading will be followed by a talk back session with the playwright.



"Good Grief" director Noah Dawson '14 and playwright Mary Darling '14 at a recent rehearsal.

"Good Grief" follows recovering addict Maggie as she deals with the sudden loss of her younger brother. It explores a journey of loss, recovery, and hope in the age of social media. This performance is not recommended for children under age 14.

This is the third of four new plays written by Fitchburg State alumni that will be presented this spring. A staged reading is a presentation of a play in which actors read from a script, but have rehearsed the scenes to help the audience imagine what the play would look like in a full production. This series of staged readings will be presented by [The Forge Theater Lab](#), founded by Fitchburg State Professor Kelly Morgan and several university alumni with a mission to develop new works. Learn more on their website, [www.theforge.ink](http://www.theforge.ink).

[Learn more about "Good Grief"](#)

The Forge Theater Lab will present its fourth reading of the season with "The Lowell Offering at **7:30 p.m. Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15** at Kent Recital Hall. The staged reading will be followed by a talk back session with the playwrights, Fitchburg State alumnus Andy Bayiates '97 and Genevra Gallo-Bayiates. Admission is free with suggested donations of \$3 to \$10 at the door.



"The Lowell Offering" is a historical drama about the lives of women who worked in the Lowell mills at the start of the industrial revolution. In 1840 a group of factory workers began publishing the world's first magazine written solely by women; it was called "The Lowell Offering."

This is the story of the magazine's editor, Harriet Farley, and a labor activist, Sarah Bagley, and the rise and fall of their friendship, the magazine, and Lowell's "Mill Girl" culture.

[Learn more about "The Lowell Offering"](#)

## Housing units available for upcoming academic year

Three units at the university-owned faculty/staff housing at 132 Highland Ave. will be available for rent starting this summer. These apartments are within walking distance of campus (two blocks) making it possible to engage in the entire spectrum of academic and co-curricular activities that occur here at Fitchburg State.



Living Room



Kitchen-1



Kitchen-2



Bathroom



Laundry & Bathroom



Bedroom

All units are recently renovated and include full kitchen with stainless steel appliances, laundry area with washer and dryer, separate living and dining areas, and one off-street parking space. The apartments are unfurnished.

- Unit 1 - one-floor unit on the first floor with two bedrooms and one bathroom. \$1,200/month, available beginning of August.
- Unit 3 - two-floor unit with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. \$1,300/month, available end of August/beginning of September.
- Unit 4 - two-floor unit with two bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms. \$1,300/month, available beginning in July.

The monthly rent includes water/sewer and city trash collection. Tenant is responsible for heating/cooling, electricity and hot water.

Those interested in renting one of these units should contact Beth Keene at x4795 or [bkeene1@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:bkeene1@fitchburgstate.edu).

## Faculty notes

**Adem Elveren** (Economics, History and Political Science) was featured in the Telegram & Gazette's Faculty Forum which focused on the topic of Worcester County as a destination to live, work and play. All the submissions on the topic may be found [here](#).

## Newsletter will return in September

This is the final edition of Fitchburg State University Today for the 2018-19 academic year. The newsletter will return in September. To keep up to date with happenings on campus during the summer months, please visit [fitchburgstate.edu/news](http://fitchburgstate.edu/news).

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Fitchburg State University | 978-665-3000 | [fitchburgstate.edu](http://fitchburgstate.edu)

STAY CONNECTED:

