
Fitchburg State University Today

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Additional commencement honorees announced

Our Father's House, the Fitchburg agency that provides shelter and services to homeless individuals and families in Northern Worcester County, will be awarded the President's Medal at Fitchburg State University's undergraduate commencement ceremony on **Saturday, May 19** on the main quadrangle.

Incorporated in 1983, Our Father's House is a private, non-sectarian agency that emphasizes the dignity of the individual and through its programs encourages and

assists each guest to become self-sufficient. A related mission is to educate the public concerning the problem of homelessness and further to advocate possible solutions.

Our Father's House Executive Director Judith Nest-Pasierb will accept the President's Medal on the agency's behalf.

[As previously announced](#), the commencement address on May 19 will be given by Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Henry, U.S. Army, retired, a 1984 alumnus of Fitchburg State.

The undergraduate ceremony will also include remarks by valedictorian Kristen Ann Windoloski, a mathematics major from Easthampton.

The university will host its graduate commencement ceremony at 6:30 p.m. **Thursday, May 17** at the Athletics and Recreation Center at 130 North St. President Lapidus will deliver the address at that event, where the Graduate Student Leadership Award will be presented to Michelle Downey of North Andover, who is completing a master's degree in special education.

State highlights 29 Who Shine

Fitchburg State graduating senior Samantha Ann Magnarelli was honored at the Statehouse recently as one of the "29 Who Shine" in public higher education in Massachusetts.

The annual event, organized by the Department of Higher Education, recognizes a standout graduating senior from each of Massachusetts' 29 public higher education campuses.

Gov. Charlie Baker, Secretary of Education James Peyser and Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos Santiago were among the officials who



celebrated the achievements of Massachusetts' students at the celebration.

[Learn more](#)



Samantha Magnarelli with Gov. Charlie Baker at the 29 Who Shine event.

Students compete in national advertising competition

Fitchburg State took on schools from across the Northeast this spring when 30 students from Professor Robert Carr's Writing for Advertising class presented at the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) District 1 competition.

Each year, the American Advertising Federation hosts this competition that provides over 2,000 college students with the real-world experience of creating a strategic advertising, marketing, and media campaign for a corporate client. After the nine-month preparation of the project, students then present this work and pitch their marketing campaign to a panel of advertising professionals at the district, semi-final, and national levels.

[Learn more](#)



Students Dominique Goyette-Connerty '19, Meighread Dandeneau '20, Jessica Coates '19, Nick Trotto '18 at the National Student Advertising Competition.

Campus hosts 3rd Congressional District debate

Eleven Democrats seeking to become the next U.S. Representative for the 3rd Congressional District took part in a debate at Kent Recital Hall on May 9.

The event was co-sponsored by the Sentinel & Enterprise and the Sun of Lowell in partnership with

Fitchburg State and the Boston Herald.

Vice President for Student Affairs Laura Bayless welcomed a packed audience and Professor Paul Weizer (Economics, History and Political Science) served on the panel that posed questions to the candidates.

Because of the volume of candidates, the questions were posed in two rounds. Click [here](#) to read the Sentinel & Enterprise account of [round one](#), and click [here](#) to see their take on [round two](#).



Landry recognized by construction management organization

The New England chapter of the Construction Management Association of America recognized the Landry Arena renovation project with a project achievement award at the organization's 24th annual awards luncheon in Boston on May 9.

The organization recognizes achievement in construction management, the professional service that applies effective management techniques to the planning, design, and construction of a project from inception to completion for the purpose of controlling time, cost and quality.



Faculty Spotlight

Professor Keyvan Karbasioun (Humanities) took a group of students to Spain over Spring Break as part of a course on Spanish art and culture. The trip was organized with the Office of International Education. During the trip, the group visited historic cities and towns such as Girona, Besalú, Barcelona (all three in Catalonia/Cataluña/Catalunya), Valencia and Madrid. Except for Madrid, all the above-mentioned cities are Catalan (Català)/Valencian (Valencià) speaking regions of Spain.

Professor Catherine Buell (Mathematics) was invited to speak at the University of Cambridge, UK for their first [Ethics in Mathematics conference](#) ([click here](#) to read her blog post about the conference).

Buell was also recently invited to speak at the [SUMS Series](#) at Brown University on Math and Social Responsibility.

Professor Patricia Arend (Behavioral Sciences) was interviewed by National Public Radio for a piece about updated wedding fashions. The piece can be read online [here](#).



Professor Karbasioun and his students in Spain, spring 2018.

The newsletter will return in September

This is the final issue of the Fitchburg State University Today newsletter for the academic year. The newsletter will return after the start of the semester in September.

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