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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Honorary degrees to be awarded at commencement

Martin F. Connors Jr., the president and chief executive officer of Rollstone Bank & Trust, will be presented an honorary doctorate in commerce at the [undergraduate commencement ceremony](#) on Saturday, May 20 on the main quadrangle. He has served 10 years on the university's board of trustees, including several years as its chairman.

The university will also present an honorary doctorate in science to commencement speaker [Mary Pat Couig '79](#), who serves as program manager in the Office of Nursing Services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, with responsibilities for Emergency Management and the Registered Nurse Transition-to-Practice Program.

[Read more](#)



Martin F. Connors Jr.

### Panel talk today explores Trump's first 100 days

The Center for Conflict Studies will present a panel discussion **today at 3:30 p.m.** entitled "President Trump's First 100 Days: Looking Back, Looking Forward" at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. The panel will include faculty members Eric Budd, Kate Jewell and Paul Weizer from the Economics, History and Political Science Department and faculty member Kyle Moody from the Communications Media Department. Admission is free and open to the public.

The spring's discussions included a panel talk on immigration policy (which can be viewed [here](#) via Fitchburg Access Television) and a presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael Rezendes from the Boston Globe.

[Read more](#)



President Donald J. Trump

## Students to discuss "The Krakow Mystique" on Wednesday

Students from Fitchburg State's course on contemporary Europe will discuss their experiences traveling abroad over spring break during a presentation and discussion at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3 in Miller Hall. The event, which will include a meal of authentic Polish food, is free and open to the public.

Professor Joshua B. Spero taught the course, entitled Europe Today, and accompanied the students to Krakow, Poland in March.

[Read more](#)



## Hadley to be recognized as one of 29 Who Shine

This week the commonwealth will celebrate the accomplishments of students from each of its 29 institutions of public higher education. Graduating senior Breanna Lyn Hadley will represent Fitchburg State as one of Massachusetts' "29 Who Shine" during a ceremony **Friday, May 5** at the Statehouse.

Hadley has embraced opportunities at Fitchburg State and used her talents to enrich the quality of life on the campus. As a member and previous membership recruitment director of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, she has embodied the best tenets of Greek life and community service. Her leadership of the sorority translated into the presidency of the university's Greek Council. She has impacted new students as an orientation leader and stood out among her peers as a member of the university's Leadership Council. Hadley was recognized with leadership awards in her sophomore and junior years, and was asked to serve as student representative to the university's search committee for a vice president for student affairs.

She is studying criminal justice and plans to contribute to the public good by furthering her education and starting a career in law enforcement. Hadley has excelled in the classroom, earning recognition on the dean's list all four years at Fitchburg State and being inducted in the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society as well as performing with distinction in the university's Honors Program since her arrival in 2013.



Breanna Hadley

Beyond campus, she has been active with the Alternative Spring Break program, raising funds and donating her time building and rehabilitating homes for those in need.

The ceremony Friday will also include recognition of faculty and staff mentors for the 29 honorees. Hadley selected Kelli Lundgren, staff assistant in Human Resources, for recognition.

"I had the privilege of working with Kelli for two years on the Alternative Spring Break trip," Hadley said. "She has been nothing but supportive, inspiring and caring. She has pushed me to new heights that I could only have dreamed of. Kelli has been a huge influence on me becoming who I am today."

## University hosts Special Olympics

Nearly 600 student athletes gathered at Elliot Field on Friday, April 28 for the 10th annual Special Olympics North Central Day Games. The event, co-directed by students Rebecca Paquette '19 and Allie D'Orlando '19, was supported by 140 student volunteers.



[Click here](#) to view an inspiring video of the games as they unfolded Friday.

## CenterStage and cultural events

### Instrumental, choral ensembles to perform

Fitchburg State's musical ensembles will perform this month at concerts that are free and open to the public.

The university's band and instrumental ensembles will perform at 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, May 4** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.



The concert band, directed by Michael La Cava, will be playing a mix of new band music, as well as traditional favorites, including the classic "Toccata for Band" and a new work by the composer Robert W. Smith called "Yellow." The band will also play a classic medley from the movie "Aladdin." The guitar ensemble coached by Paul Luria will be playing classical pieces and holiday tunes arranged for guitars.

The jazz band, led by Professor Michele Caniato, will be playing swing era, hard bop, Latin jazz tunes, including an arrangement of Oliver Nelson's "Stolen Moments" and a rendition of Herbie Hancock's Chameleon.

The university's vocal talent will be on display when Fitchburg State's choral ensembles present their annual spring concert at 7 p.m. **Monday, May 8** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free and open to the public. Selected works from American composers from the 18th century to today will be performed at the concert, entitled "Sea to Shining Sea: Choral Music of a Diverse America." The show will span genres from pop to spirituals, classical to jazz, and Broadway hits. The university's concert choir and chamber choir will perform under the direction of Jonathan Harvey.

"This concert is a showcase of the many diverse kinds of music within our country, and our goal is to draw attention to how different and beautiful it all is," Harvey said. "We're performing music by living composers, women composers, black composers, all with an American perspective, but each with their own different perspective on America. We've tried to incorporate as many different kinds of music as possible: classical, Romantic, contemporary, spirituals, musical theater, jazz, pop, and music in between."

## Faculty Notes

**Kevin McCarthy** (Communications Media) is one of the co-producers of the feature documentary "[Stumped](#)" that had its New England premiere on April 26 at the Independent Film Festival Boston. The film chronicles the story of Will Lautzenhauser, who contracted a life-threatening bacterial infection that resulted in doctors amputating his arms and legs. He turned to stand-up comedy as a means to cope with

the tragedy, and the feature documentary chronicles his journey through comedy and life-changing experimental medicine. More on the film can be found [online](#).



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