
Fitchburg State University Today

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New portal links students and local part-time jobs

Fitchburg State is launching a new [website](#) that will connect local businesses looking for part-time help with the university's educated and motivated students.

The service will be free for students as well as businesses, and local employers are invited to submit their open positions by visiting studentjobs.fitchburgstate.edu and creating their free profiles.



President Lapidus said the jobs portal has been in the works for several months.

"Many of our students balance their studies with part-time jobs, and we've found that a large number of them go home on the weekends to work," Lapidus said. "We wanted to create a resource that would let them earn money while still taking part in the fullness of campus life. The portal will also give local businesses the opportunity to benefit from our talented and hard-working students."

[Learn More](#)

HR spotlight

Jinawa McNeil arrived last week as the new director of admissions. Her most recent work experience was interim director of admissions and recruitment at University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

"I got a very good feeling for the campus from looking at the website," McNeil said. "It seemed like a campus that was very inviting."

McNeil has been an admissions professional since 2006, though she was first exposed to the discipline when she worked in the admissions office as an undergraduate at North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University. A brief job as an agricultural economist after graduation convinced her to focus on admissions.



Jinawa McNeil

As she acclimates to the area and to the university, McNeil is impressed by what she's seen so far. "My first goal is to get to know the admissions team. They're great people already doing great work," McNeil said. "Then I want to get around campus and be ready to collaborate."

Taking the Lead

The Center for Professional Studies, Crocker Center for Civic Engagement and University Police co-sponsored a conference in October about crisis prevention and intervention, including a close look at how to grapple with the ongoing opioid epidemic.

The conference brought together 80 attendees from over 20 police and non-profit agencies.

"Someone is dying in this country every 10 minutes (from opioids)," Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. said. "We keep hearing we can't arrest our way out of this problem. With compassion, we're going to remove the stigma. We're going to show compassion to the user, and we're going to go as hard as ever at the dealer. It's a community problem, we need a community solution."

Panelists agreed that multiple perspectives were needed to address the issue.



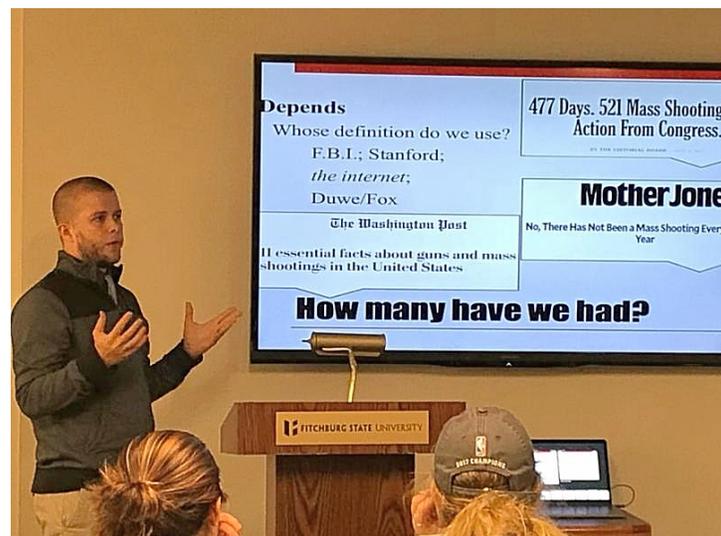
Worcester District Attorney Joseph Early, at podium, greeted guests.

Behavioral Sciences faculty discuss mass shootings

There are no simple answers about the psychology behind mass shootings, and misconceptions abound, according to members of the Behavioral Sciences faculty who spoke at a packed conference in Hammond Hall this month.

"We're seeking a simple answer for what is a very complex problem," Assistant Professor Kori Ryan said. "Violence is not a diagnosis. Mental illness and violence and dangerousness are not the same thing."

She said predicting future behavior is impossible, yet stigmatizing the mentally ill only fuels their sense of isolation and stigma.



Assistant Professor Philip McCormack discusses challenging in tabulating mass shootings.

Assistant Professor Zachary Miner noted that additional research on the topic was essential, but that it was compromised by a longstanding ban on federal funding for such study.

"We're never going to have predictive ability," Miner said.

Transgender activist Nicole Maines encourages progress

Nicole Maines, whose battle for transgender rights led to landmark legislation, spoke on Nov. 1 at Hammond Hall.

Nicole was a teenager in Maine when she went to court for the right to use the girls' bathroom in accordance with her gender identity. The court battle went on for years, culminating with a ruling in 2014 that the school had violated anti-discrimination law.

"What we have right now is the outdated system of a gender binary," Maines said. "One size does not fit all in gender."

We're saying we have two boxes. That's not going to cut it for 7 billion people. It's not."

She likened the campaign for transgender rights to past civil rights struggles. "In 30 states, transgender people don't count as people," she said. "That didn't work in the '60s. Why do think it's going to work now?"

Following the talk, Maines and her parents signed copies of the best-selling book *Becoming Nicole - The Transformation of an American Family*.

The Maines family presentation is part of the university's months-long series of events exploring gender and equality.



Nicole Maines speaking at Hammond Hall

***Into the Woods* continues this week**

Fitchburg State's production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* will take you into a musical journey into the world of fairy tales and beyond this week.

Among the classic characters populating the show are Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Cinderella, a very Wicked Witch and two charming Princes. The show won the 1988 Tony for Best Book and Best Score and was adapted into a major motion picture in 2014.

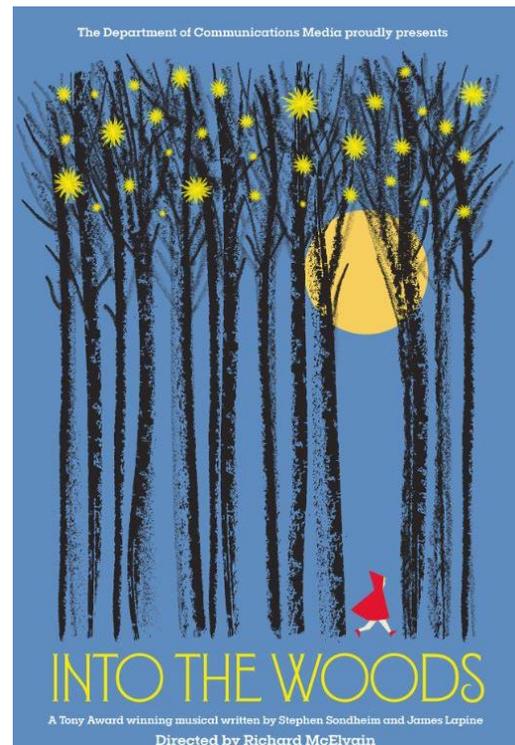
The performances represent the university's first musical production in more than 10 years, according to Professor Richard McElvain (Communications Media).

Into the Woods opened last week and will be performed at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17; and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18.

All performances will be held at the Wallace Theatre for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Admission is \$3. Additional donations will be accepted at the door to support Fitchburg State students' planned trip to mount a production at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland next summer, marking the university's seventh trip to the biggest theatre festival in the world.

Theater fans will also want to mark their calendars for 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the McKay Complex, when McElvain will perform his original one-man show *The Chess Player*. Adapted by McElvain from a story by Stefan Zweig, *The Chess Player* chronicles the struggle inside a prisoner's mind as he battles insanity while held in solitary confinement in a Nazi jail.



McElvain debuted the play this summer at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe where it thrilled audiences and critics. It was one of the 50 best reviewed productions at the Fringe, where literally thousands of productions are presented.

Admission to *The Chess Player* is \$20 for adults and \$10 for Fitchburg State students. All proceeds will support sending students on the upcoming Edinburgh Festival Fringe trip. Additional donations to the trip can be made the night of the performance.



McElvain in *The Chess Player*

Reminders

Harrod Lecture

Professor Yasser Djazaerly (Humanities) will deliver the Harrod Lecture "Shakespear of Arabia and the Road to ISIS" at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 15** at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

Campus Forums

President Lapidus and members of the senior staff will hold a pair of open forums and information sessions for faculty and staff on **Wednesday, Nov. 29** in Kent Recital Hall. These recurring campus-wide gatherings 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.

CenterStage and cultural events

Choral Kaleidoscope performance on Dec. 11

The Fitchburg State University choirs will be joined by local high school vocal ensembles for the free performance *Choral Kaleidoscope* at 7 p.m. **Monday, Dec. 11** in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

The concert will include the Fitchburg State Concert Choir and Chamber Choir under the direction of Professor Jonathan Harvey. The university groups will be joined by the Fitchburg High School Concert Choir, directed by Tabitha Greenlees; the Gardner High School Select Choir, directed by Joanne Landry; the Narragansett Regional High School Concert Chorus, directed by Bobby Rathbone; and the university's a cappella group Harmonic Velocity.



"The six choirs will each perform a set of their own, and the concert will close with several selections performed by everyone all together onstage," Harvey said. "There's a huge variety of music on this program, and that's why it's called *Choral Kaleidoscope*. It's going to be a constantly shifting performance involving many different groups and styles."

For more information on Fitchburg State's music programs, visit fitchburgstate.edu/music.

In the Christmas Mood with Glenn Miller

Fitchburg State invites the community to get into the holiday spirit with the Glenn Miller Orchestra on **Saturday, Dec. 9** at 7 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

Featuring an ensemble of 18 musicians, this holiday concert spectacular brings the season to life with timeless sound and iconic melodies of Miller's unmistakable music. The Glenn Miller Orchestra delighted a packed house when they last visited Fitchburg State, and you won't want to miss this chance to see them again.

Tickets for "In the Christmas Mood" are \$30 for adults; \$28 for seniors and Fitchburg State staff and alumni; and \$5 for students and guests 18 and under. The Weston Box Office, located inside Weston Auditorium, is open Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets may also be purchased [online](#).

[Learn More](#)

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: Line and Shape by Valerie Maser-Flanagan

The work of fiber artist Valerie Maser-Flanagan will be on display in Hammond Hall Art Gallery at Fitchburg State University, 160 Pearl St., through Wednesday, Dec. 27. There will be a gallery talk by the artist followed by a reception at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 15.**

Semantic Satiation in the Gallery at Sanders

Experience a new exhibit that inspires the viewer to look at the familiar from a new perspective. The work of artist Michael Darcy will be on display in the Gallery at Sanders in the Sanders Administration Building through the coming year.

Darcy's exhibit is inspired by the psychological phenomenon of "semantic satiation," in which repeating a word causes it to lose meaning and transforms it into a foreign sound; the same effect is reproduced visually through Darcy's photography and mixed media pieces that are featured in the gallery.

Darcy is a 2014 Fitchburg State graduate, and was identified by faculty as a talented artist whose work was worthy of exhibition in a public gallery. For artists looking to show their work in professional galleries, framing their work is a considerable expense. The Alumni Association sponsored the framing for this exhibit, inviting Darcy to build a body of work to feature in the gallery that Darcy will be able to bring anywhere after this year's show.

Faculty Spotlight

JOIN US! **Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.**
WESTON AUDITORIUM

IN THE CHRISTMAS MOOD
WITH THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

\$30 adults
\$28 alumni, seniors, and staff
\$5 students and 18/under

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTERSTAGE

ORDER TICKETS BY NOV. 10TH receive \$5 off each ticket!

Weston Box Office | Thurs. & Fri. 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. | 978.665.3347
fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage
*Discount applies to new sales (or orders) in person or over the phone.



"Meandering Lines" by Valerie Maser-Flanagan is on display at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery.

Adem Elveren (Economics, History and Political Science) gave a talk at Boston University about the rise of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Turkey. The presentation, entitled "Gender and Social Policy in Turkey in the Era of Islamic Authoritarianism," discussed the ways by which the AKP has mobilized poor women to expand its voter base utilizing an economic structure. The talk was sponsored by Boston University's Pardee School of Global Studies, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies & Civilizations.

Teresa Fava Thomas (Economics, History and Political Science) contributed a chapter entitled "German Immigration to Fitchburg, Massachusetts," to the publication *Kleve am Niederrhein und Fitchburg in Massachusetts - Partnerstädte* by Kurt Kreiten and Kurt Michelis, published in Germany. The book celebrates the 25th anniversary of the sister-city partnership between Kleve, Germany and Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

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