
Fitchburg State University Today

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University again receives Military Friendly designation

The university has earned the 2017 Military Friendly School designation by Victory Media, which has published the comprehensive resource for service members and their families since 2009.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from Victory Media's proprietary survey. More than 1,600 schools participated in the 2017 survey; 1,160 were awarded with the designation. Ratings methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Victory Media with input from the Military Friendly Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.



"We are honored to once again achieve the Military Friendly designation as we remain committed to helping this most deserving population with the attainment of their educational and career goals," Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus said.

According to Daniel Nichols, a Navy Reserve veteran and chief product officer at Victory Media, "Our ability to apply a clear, consistent standard to the majority of colleges gives veterans a comprehensive view of which schools are striving to provide the best opportunities and conditions for our nation's student veterans. Military Friendly® helps military families make the best use of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and other federal benefits while allowing us to further our goal of assisting them in finding success in their chosen career fields."

For more information about Fitchburg State's commitment to attracting and supporting military students, visit fitchburgstate.edu/veterans. The university will be showcased along with other 2017 Military Friendly Schools in the annual Guide to Military Friendly Schools, special education issues of G.I. Jobs and Military Spouse Magazine, and on militaryfriendly.com.

International Education Week arrives

The campus celebrates International Education Week with events and displays celebrating the diversity of the Fitchburg State community.

All week long, photos of Fitchburg State students and faculty traveling abroad will be displayed

on campus, and Chartwells will be featuring global cuisine during dinner hours at the Holmes Dining Commons. There will be Central and South American food highlighted tonight; European food Tuesday; African cuisine Wednesday; traditional Thanksgiving fare Thursday; and Asian food Friday.



Latin dance lessons will be available today from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall.

There will be an international potluck and poetry slam from 5 to 8 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 15** at Miller Oval, featuring readers sharing cuisine and verses from their native lands. Admission is free.

There will be a Bollywood presentation at 5 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 16** in the game room in Hammond Hall featuring Venkata Kota.

The Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness will host a speaker discussing white privilege at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Nov. 17** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall. With the sanctity of diversity, inclusiveness and social justice education very much at the forefront of the national conversation, it's important to understand how stay true to ourselves amid the challenges of those who might not understand or vehemently oppose conversations on diversity. During this talk, Craig Bidiman will use his personal experiences to demonstrate how to manage certain social justice topics with family members. The talk will be light-hearted but will also carry the weight of the implications surrounding the needs of many college students who are afraid to go home and interact with their parents. Bidiman will unpack how to discuss sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health, whiteness/white privilege, Islamophobia, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the rhetoric of hate that has permeated the recent election.

Also **Thursday, Nov. 17**, there will be throwback karaoke sponsored by the Black Student Union from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., also in the main lounge. Admission is free.

Campus hosting regional moot court tournament

The validity of a voter identification law is the topic of this year's American Collegiate Moot Court Association's regional competition, being held this weekend on the Fitchburg State University campus.

The campus is hosting the eastern regional qualifying tournament on Friday, Nov. 18 and Saturday, Nov. 19 in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., bringing together more than 40 teams from 11 colleges and universities from up and down the East coast. Fitchburg State has four teams competing.



The competition pits students on opposing sides of a legal issue as in an appellate court proceeding, testing their facility with applying interpretations of the law before a panel of guest judges.

The top 20 percent of winners from the regional tournaments being held here and at other campuses this weekend will advance to the national tournament at Stetson University Law School in Florida in January. Fitchburg State Professor Paul I. Weizer coaches the university's moot court teams.

This year's hypothetical case concerns a recently married woman who changes her name and is

not allowed to cast a vote because her name doesn't match the voter rolls.

Among other things, competitors must make their case as to whether the voter identification law under discussion violates the political speech and voting rights protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The case can be reviewed in its entirety [online](#).

Cloutier takes oath as chief of university police

At a ceremony including representatives from the university police force and senior leaders from the Fitchburg Police Department, University Police Chief Michael J. Cloutier was formally installed Monday, Nov. 7 at Presidents' Hall.

Chief Cloutier joined the department as deputy chief in fall 2014 after serving nearly five years in investigations and intelligence at Massachusetts General Hospital. Prior to that post he spent 17 years in municipal police service, most recently as a sergeant with the Sturbridge Police Department.

He has played a leading role in the university's emergency preparedness, response and prevention activities since his arrival, including strengthening communication and ties with our neighboring public safety agencies. The department has also expanded its personal safety training efforts for our campus community under his watch.



President Lapidus commended the chief's communication skills and ability to instill the importance of the department's work in the life of the campus.

"What most impresses me about Michael is he's firm when he needs to be, and at the same time he's empathetic and compassionate," President Lapidus said.

Chief Cloutier thanked the president for the confidence he had placed in him.

"Fitchburg State University is a special place," Chief Cloutier said. "It is a place of opportunity where students can invest time and energy into building their futures through education." He noted his wife, Meghan, and brother, Adam, had studied at Fitchburg State.

The chief also thanked the members of the department for their support during his service as interim chief in advance of his formal appointment. "Your professionalism and dedication made my transition that much easier. I look forward to the work that lies ahead because it provides me with the opportunity to collaborate with each one of you."

The chief's son, Michael John, pinned the badge to his father's uniform.

Grant will fund faculty-student research collaboration

One of the largest private grants ever received by Fitchburg State will allow faculty and students to collaborate on intensive research projects focusing on issues of personal fitness and the health of the Nashua River over the next three years.

The university was awarded a three-year, \$240,000 grant from the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee for the collaborative research efforts. It is the third-largest private grant the university has ever received.

"This generous grant from the Balfour Foundation will increase student interest in pursuing research careers and strengthen our campus research culture through hands-on field and laboratory work, personal and professional development, and collaboration between students, their peers, and faculty," President Lapidus said. "We are grateful for the demonstration of support for this important scholarly experience."

The first project will bring together faculty and students from the Business Administration, Earth and Geographic Science, Communications Media and Exercise and Sports Science departments to explore the relationship between health and physical activity. Students from those departments will look at issues of access and physical activity habits, and how those intersect with the healthcare economics for local businesses. Faculty members Renee Scapparone (Business Administration), Jane Huang (Earth and Geographic Science), Viera Lorencova (Communications Media) and Danielle Wigmore (Exercise and Sports Science) will lead the project.



The second project, bringing together the Biology and Chemistry and Earth and Geographic Science departments, will look at the health and community impact of the Nashua River. Historical data and current perceptions will be compiled and compared to conditions, along with a look at water quality. Faculty members Daniel Welsh (Biology and Chemistry), Elizabeth Gordon (Earth and Geographic Science), Aisling O'Connor (Biology and Chemistry) and Jane Huang (Earth and Geographic Science) will lead the project.

The Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, established in 1973, supports a variety of educational organizations. Its funding is generally focused on organizations or programs that provide support for underserved or under-represented populations to prepare for, access, and succeed in higher education, including two-year and four-year institutions.

Fitchburg State sought the grant to provide a high-impact interdisciplinary eight-week research experience that will lead to increases in retention, graduate school attendance, and career preparedness for 15 to 20 students each summer. This project will produce data that is vital to the pursuit of future research grants, further enhancing our research culture and providing additional opportunities for students and faculty to conduct research that will have broader impacts for the community as well.

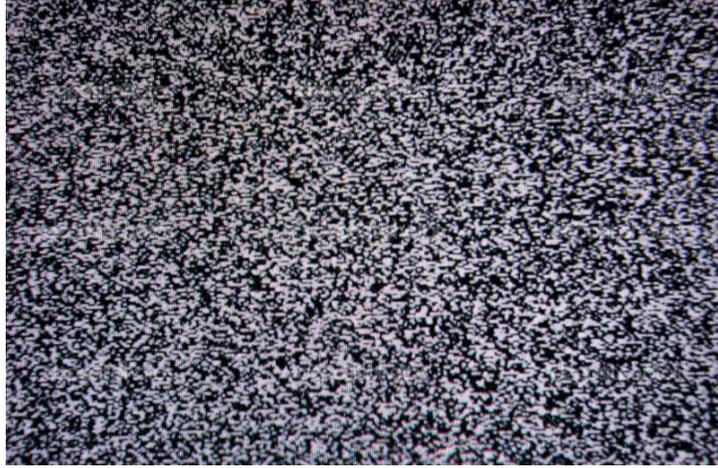
Kendricken Lecture explores impact of "television noise"

The evolving relationship of humans and technology, and the impact of "television noise" on our collective unconscious, will be explored at the Fitchburg State University Communications Media Department's annual David Kendricken Memorial Lecture at 3:30 p.m. **Monday, Nov. 21** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free.

The lecture series is offered in memory of David Kendricken '12, recalled by the department for his boundless curiosity and prodigious energy. The lecture series brings artists whose work and spirit resonate with Kendricken's energy.

This talk, entitled "A Cultural Anthropology of Television Noise," will feature engineer and philosopher Park Doing, who explores relationships between people and technology through

writing, music and visual art. A lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell University, Doing is the author of *Velvet Revolution at the Synchotron*, which explores the different cultures hidden within a modern physics laboratory. His music includes soundscapes that tell the story of the American folksinger Woody Guthrie journeying around the sun and through the solar system. His visual art explores the "Collective Technological Unconscious" created by the joint experiences of different historical stages of television noise. His work, even in academia, is part philosophy, part history, part performance, and, of course, part engineering.



Panel talk to take on trigger warnings and microaggressions

Students, staff and faculty at Fitchburg State and universities across the country are identifying and discussing new questions about conflict and speech on campus. A panel of faculty members will lead a discussion on the topic of trigger warnings and micro-aggressions at 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 30 in room 314 of Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

"This panel will both introduce key questions about speech and conflict on campus and invite audience participation," said Professor Ben Lieberman, from the Economics, History and Political Science Department.

The talk, sponsored by the Center for Conflict Studies, will include professors Rob Carr (Communications Media), Laura Garofoli (Psychological Science) and Kisha Tracey (English Studies).

Theater production *12 Angry Jurors* continues this week

Questions of guilt, innocence and racial bias will take center stage when Fitchburg State University's presents an updated take on a classic drama with *12 Angry Jurors*.

Updated from playwright Reginald Rose's classic *12 Angry Men*, *12 Angry Jurors* is set on a stifling August afternoon in Chicago, 11 months after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. A young Hispanic man is on trial for murder, and his fate will be decided by a group of men and women from varying ages, ethnic groups and social backgrounds.



From left, Nick Spatda, Christin Luna Pereyra, Kelly Stowell and Katie Williams appear in a scene from *12 Angry Jurors*.
Photo by Kara Gravel.

Director Kelly Morgan, a professor in the university's Communications Media Department, said the play continues to resonate 50 years after its debut, with its still timely exploration of themes surrounding immigration, race, sexism, ageism, and the state of our criminal justice system. "History is repeating itself because we have yet to learn from it," said Morgan.

Morgan assembled two all-student casts for the production, with the companies of actors rotating between performances.

12 *Angry Jurors* will be presented in the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex at 67 Rindge Road, Fitchburg. Admission is free. Remaining performances will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18 and Saturday, Nov. 19; and 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19.

The campus will also welcome more than 300 students from area schools for a special matinee performance at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Teaching opportunities in Graduate and Continuing Education

The office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#), as part of the university-wide course scheduling process for 2017-2018, is currently accepting requests from faculty to teach for the summer 2017, fall 2017, winter 2018, and spring 2018 semesters. Faculty members interested in teaching should contact the appropriate department chair to express their interest and for the chair's approval. The call for courses for the year is issued by the Registrar, and the deadline for departments to submit course schedules in EMS is Dec. 2, 2016.

CenterStage and cultural events

In the Gallery at Hammond Hall

The work of sculptor Ruth Rosner, who creates evocative female figures from materials she collects and transforms in her global travels, will be featured in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery as part of the Fitchburg State CenterStage arts and culture series. The gallery is located in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., Fitchburg.

Rosner's exhibit, "Out of Rubble: Women's Voices and the Transformational Power of the Found Object," will run through Wednesday, Dec. 14. There will be a gallery talk with the artist at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 30**. Admission is free.

"Beginning with the face, I work intuitively, excavating from the inside out," Rosner has said. "I incorporate found materials into the figures as I construct forms with wire, plaster, and clay, some from volcanic ash. These are women of all races, ages, rising out of bare bones construction materials, materials from the ground, objects rusted or worn."

The resulting figures stand as guardians, oracles, voices for the voiceless and unheard, she continued.

Rosner, based in Brookline, has been featured in countless Boston-area galleries and exhibitions and her work has been profiled in numerous arts publications.

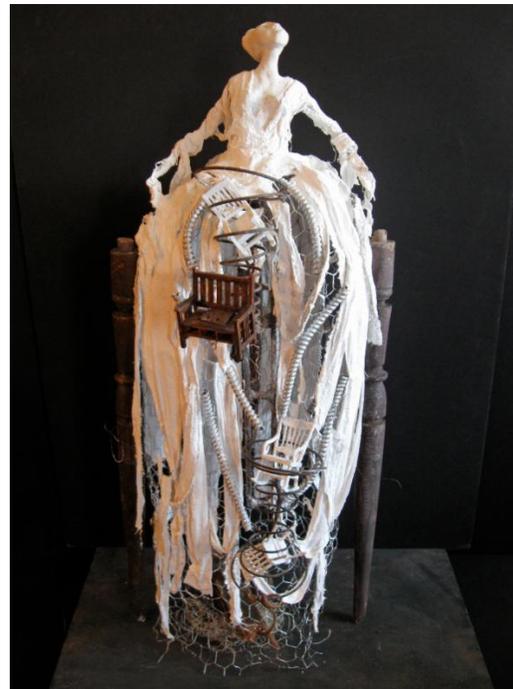
For more on the CenterStage series, visit fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage.

Holiday Pops Concert on Sunday, Dec. 11

Ring in the season with holiday musical favorites performed by the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra when Fitchburg State University [CenterStage](#) presents a special concert at 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11 in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

Whether it's Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker or Jingle Bell Rock, this concert sings "The season



"After the Deluge" by Ruth Rosner

has arrived." The Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra will be joined by soprano Jane Shivick and tenor Richard Monroe for a festive performance filled with holiday favorites and the traditional pops sing-a-long.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for Fitchburg State alumni, seniors and staff; and \$5 for students. Seating is reserved. The Weston Box Office is open 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).



HOLIDAY POPS

with the *Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra*

Sunday, December 11 at 3 p.m. at Weston Auditorium

\$28 adults | \$25 alumni, seniors, and staff | \$5 students & 18 and under.

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