
Fitchburg State University Today

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University purchases Main Street theater block

Fitchburg State has purchased the Main Street theater block, promising to revitalize a distressed section of downtown with plans to create laboratory and entrepreneurship space, and ultimately to restore the 28,000-square-foot theater itself. The theater has been idle for nearly 30 years.

President Lapidus said the university pursued the sale because it was looking to expand the campus footprint downtown, and the space will create opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and entrepreneurship studies. The building is located at 689-717 Main St.



An artist rendering of the renovated theater block.

"We are excited about the possibilities for the theater block," Lapidus said. "In addition to creating opportunities for learning and cultural enrichment, we are hopeful it will play a significant role in the city's ongoing revitalization efforts."

The first phase of renovations is expected to be complete by the fall 2017 semester, when laboratories for the university's game design program will open. Fitchburg State is the only public institution in the state with a game design program.

Entrepreneurship has been a recurring theme of interest from students and faculty since Lapidus arrived on campus in 2015. The second floor space and the first-floor storefronts that will be renovated in the second phase of the theater project will create numerous opportunities.

The university will be looking for external partners to assist in the renovation of the theater itself, said Lapidus, who added he would like to see the space used for campus theater productions as well as outside artists and performers. Dialogue within the campus community has already generated ideas, and Lapidus said additional forums will be held to determine the future use of the facility.

"The size and character of the theater create many exciting opportunities for the university, the city and the entire region," Lapidus said. "We are looking forward to working with the city on bringing this project to the next level."

Restoration of McKay Arts Academy library celebrated

The library at the McKay Arts Academy recently underwent a comprehensive renovation and

restructuring thanks to months of effort from the staff of Fitchburg State University's Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

The McKay Arts Academy is a preK-8 school on the Fitchburg State campus, serving approximately 700 students. The library's renovation was celebrated with an open house last week that included remarks from President Lapidus, Superintendent of Schools Andre Ravenelle, Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale, interim Dean of the Library and Academic Support Centers Sean C. Goodlett and McKay Principal/Associate Dean Lourdes Ramirez.



Mayor DiNatale spoke at the McKay library open house.

Staff members from the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library spent the summer cataloging McKay's holdings and organizing the renovated space into a workable lending library. The library space was also redesigned with new carpeting and replacement furniture.

"McKay is an important component of Fitchburg State University, a unique resource for our teacher candidates and a source of great pride for the school," said President Lapidus. "This collaboration builds on a strong foundation connecting the university with the wider community."

"Fitchburg State is a tremendous partner, and this project is emblematic of the collaborative spirit between the campus and the Fitchburg Public Schools," said Ravenelle. "On behalf of all our students, I'm grateful for the university's ongoing assistance and resourcefulness."

Goodlett said the project involved moving more than 5,000 books from McKay to the main campus for review. Outdated or damaged materials were replaced, and thousands of newly cataloged books were brought back to the school and properly categorized and then shelved.

All of the McKay items were also folded into a new online public access catalog that is linked to the university's computer system, Goodlett added.

Goodlett credited the work of library staff members Patricia Langevin and Nancy Turnbull, among many others, as well as Doug Thomas and Heide Messing from the university's Office of Capital Planning and Maintenance, for the hundreds of hours of effort involved in rebuilding the McKay library.

Students bound for moot court national tournament

Two Fitchburg State University students will be competing at the American Collegiate Moot Court Association's national tournament at Stetson university Law School in Florida this January after a strong finish in the regional competition earlier this month

Fitchburg State hosted more than 40 teams from 11 colleges and universities for the regional tournament.

Aleah I. Fisher, a pre-law major, and Abigail M. Kennefick, a senior majoring in political science, will represent one of 80 teams competing in the national

tournament. Their performance placed them in the top 20 percent of students nationally in the competition. Fisher is in her last year at Fitchburg State, as she will be heading to the University of Massachusetts Law School next year as part of a "3+3" program in which students can earn their bachelor's and law degrees in six years.



At the recent regional competition, Moot Court team members (left to right), front row: Miranda Monaghan, Emily Langlais, Assistant Coach Alyne Butland, Alea Fisher and Jacob Heller; back row: Devon Moran, Assistant Coach Christine Brigham, Austin Cyganiewicz, Abigail Kennefick, Troy Sargent and Coach Paul Weizer.

The moot court 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. This year's case concerns the validity of a hypothetical voter identification law.

"I am very proud of the strong performance by Aleah and Abby in this fiercely competitive program," said Professor Paul I. Weizer, who coaches Fitchburg State's moot court teams. "These students distinguished themselves at the local tournament and I look forward to a strong showing in January."

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

Partnership renewed with Sizer School

Fitchburg State and the Sizer School have signed a memorandum of understanding that continues its early college high school pathway focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Now in its third year, the program offers Sizer's eleventh and twelfth grade students the opportunity to earn up to 15 college credits while still in high school.



President Lapidus and Sizer School Executive Director Courtney Harter sign the MOU.

The agreement to extend this program for another year was recently signed by President

Lapidus and Sizer School Executive Director Courtney Harter. The program is supported by a Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Program grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

"This program will help students gain access to a high-quality collegiate experience at the same time it helps the state meet its needs for skilled workers in the STEM fields," Lapidus said.

"Sizer is thankful for our partnership with Fitchburg State University," said Harter. "The collaboration, coordination, and communication necessary to develop and sustain an Early College High School initiative is substantial; without great dedication this would not have happened. This pathway has provided opportunities for Sizer students to experience college and earn credit, well in advance of making the transition from high school to college. It sparks their interest, pushes their thinking, and expands their opportunities. As a school that values Think, Care, and Act, we believe Fitchburg State's commitment to this program exemplifies our core mission and vision, and we are proud to continue our partnership."

The program, referred to as STEM ECHS, is designed to increase the rate of college-going for students currently underrepresented in higher education and to build an accelerated route linking secondary education with postsecondary educational opportunities. It is the hope of both parties that the successful implementation of this program will lead to improvements in student achievement in STEM subjects and increased enrollment in STEM college majors, especially for low-income, female, underrepresented minority, or first-generation college students.

The model combines rigorous high school academic standards; college readiness standards; a variety of academic supports; community service opportunities in the STEM field; and the opportunity to earn up to 15 college credits while in high school. Upon successful completion of the STEM ECHS program, students would be accepted into the Industrial Technology or biology programs at Fitchburg State if all other university admissions criteria are met. Six of the eight seniors plan to pursue a STEM major and career, and six have applied or plan to apply to Fitchburg State.

Sizer School, located in Fitchburg, is a free public charter school serving approximately 350 students in grades 7-12 from 30 surrounding towns.

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.

Conflict and Speech on Campus: From Trigger Warnings to Micro- Aggression



"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.

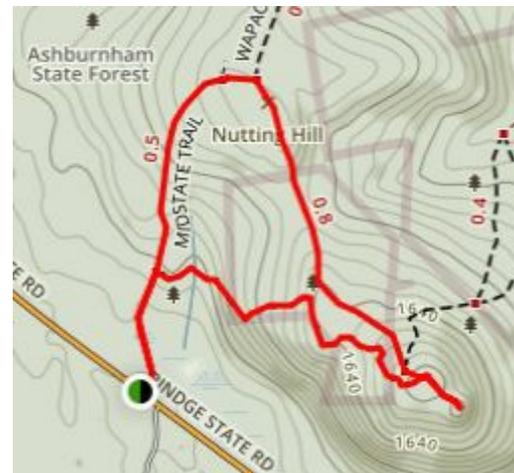
The talk, sponsored by the Center for Conflict Studies, will include professors Rob Carr (Communications Media), Laura Garofoli (Psychological Science) and Kisha Tracey (English Studies).

Clubs sponsor Watatic Mountain run/walk on Dec. 3

The Biology and Chemistry Club and the Outdoor Adventure Club are co-sponsoring a Watatic Mountain run/walk this **Saturday, Dec. 3**. The three-mile excursion will start from the Watatic Mountain parking area on Route 119 in Ashburnham. The fun run starts at 11 a.m. sharp, with the walk/hike following at 12:30 p.m.

The event is open to all, including leashed dogs. In addition to the climb, there will be some discussion of the mountain's natural history. More information on the trail can be found [here](#).

A Fitchburg State vehicle will be leaving from the Antonucci Science Complex at 10:30 a.m. and noon. For more information, contact Professor Chris Picone at cpicone@fitchburgstate.edu.



Business Society offering "nuts and bolts" seminars

The Fitchburg State Business Society will kick off its "nuts and bolts" seminar series for entrepreneurs at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

The two-hour seminar will offer advice on how to build a business from the ground up, with expertise in law, public accounting, commercial lending and marketing. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

The society will offer monthly, in-depth seminars starting in January.



Nuts & Bolts

Seminar Series for Entrepreneurs

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.

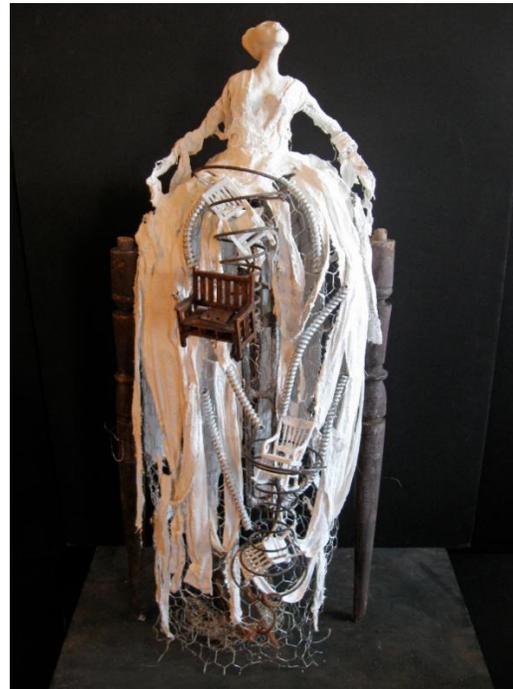
Rosner's exhibit, "Out of Rubble: Women's Voices and the Transformational Power of the Found Object," will run through Wednesday, Dec. 14. There will be a gallery talk with the artist at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 30.** Admission is free.

"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.



"After the Deluge" by Ruth Rosner

Choral and instrumental ensembles present winter concerts

The Fitchburg State University choral ensembles will be joined by singers from the Fitchburg High School and Leominster High School choruses for "Winter around the World" at 7 p.m. **Monday, Dec. 5** in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free.

Performers at the concert will include the Fitchburg State Concert Choir and Chamber Choir (including university students and faculty), the Fitchburg State Community Chamber Orchestra (including students, faculty and staff members), the student a cappella group Harmonic Velocity and the Leominster and Fitchburg high choruses.



Choral director Jonathan Harvey, who arrived at Fitchburg State this fall, reached out to the local high school music directors soon after his arrival.

"It's going to be a big show," Harvey said. "I'm very excited about bringing together all of these

musicians. It's such a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and learn from each other."

The concert will include traditional seasonal selections as well as music from around the world.

The university's instrumental ensembles will perform at 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, Dec. 8** at Weston Auditorium. Admission is free. The concert band, directed by Michael La Cava, will be playing a mix of new band music, as well as traditional favorites and holiday music.

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, and Latin jazz tunes.

For more information on the music program at Fitchburg State, visit fitchburgstate.edu/music.

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 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.

Shivick has been praised by The New York Times for her "character and vocal richness," while The Boston Globe said "Shivick has a voice evenly glamorous throughout its compass and an engaging stage presence." She debuted and performed the role of La Donna in Opera Providence's world premiere of Enrico Garzilli's *Michelangelo* to critical acclaim at the Providence Performing Arts Center in Rhode Island, where "she sang perhaps the finest song in the show, the touching "Deep in Your Heart" (The Providence Journal).

An accomplished singer, Shivick is equally at home in opera, oratorio, concert, and recital. The Boston Herald states, "Shivick's slightly exotic-toned soprano sounded lovely in an aria from Massenet's *Hérodiade*. But she particularly impressed with her remarkably subtle delivery of the famous "Un bel di" from Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*.

Monroe has performed as a tenor soloist with numerous organizations throughout New England, including the Arcadia Players, the Assabet Valley Mastersingers, the Master Singers of Worcester and the Salisbury Singers. Recent operatic performances include the role of Don Jose in Bizet's *Carmen* with Greater Worcester Opera, and solo performances with the



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.

 FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY



Soprano Jane Shivick

Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra.

No stranger to musical theatre, Monroe has served as musical director for Booth Productions, Wachusett Theatre Company and Worcester County Light Opera. He is currently the director of music at Our Lady of the Angels Church and the chair of the Fine Arts Department of Saint John's High School where he teaches music and religious studies.

[Tickets](#) for the Holiday Pops concert 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](#) by visiting fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage.

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