



## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Mayor Wong to receive President's Medal at commencement

Fitchburg Mayor Lisa A. Wong will be awarded the President's Medal at Fitchburg State University's 119th commencement exercises [winter ceremony](#) at 6:30 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 18**, in recognition of her many contributions to the community.

The ceremony will be held at the university's Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St. The university will award more than 350 undergraduate and graduate degrees this winter.

"We are honored to recognize Mayor Wong's accomplishments and legacy during our winter commencement ceremony," President Lapidus said. "Among her many achievements, the mayor has been a strong force in bringing the university and city closer together."



Mayor Wong

Lisa A. Wong is completing her fourth term as mayor of the city of Fitchburg. She was elected

to that office in November 2007 at the age of 28, and is the first minority mayor in Fitchburg and the first female Asian American mayor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As a strong fiscal manager, Mayor Wong built up the city's stabilization fund from \$20,000 to over \$5 million, lowered crime through innovative partnerships, improved the schools and redeveloped the city by attracting investments back into mills and the downtown. She is a leader in conservation efforts, setting aside over 1,700 acres for permanent conservation and building parks and trails along the Nashua River, allowing for more tourism, as well as enjoyment by the citizens of Fitchburg.

Mayor Wong grew up in Massachusetts and attended Boston University where she received a dual bachelor's degree in international relations and economics, and a master's degree in economics. She began working for the Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority in 2001 and became the agency's executive director in 2004. In that role, she managed several urban renewal projects to revitalize Fitchburg, such as the redevelopment of a former General Electric facility into a modern business complex.

Mayor Wong has become known throughout the state as one of the most effective leaders in economic restructuring, environmental affairs, and redevelopment projects and was recently asked to head the Gateway Cities Initiative statewide. She is married to Anthony Soto and stepmother of four children, including two who are currently serving in the Marines.

## Moot Court team headed for nationals - again

Fitchburg State is once again bound for the American Collegiate Moot Court National Tournament following a strong showing at the regional competition held Nov. 20 and 21 on campus. The regional tournament included 54 teams from 14 schools spanning New England, New York, Virginia and Canada.

The advancing teams will compete in the national tournament at California State University at Long Beach in January.



Participants in the moot court competition argue the legal merits of cases before panels of judges, akin to an appellate court proceeding. The participants deliver prepared statements and also field questions from the judges in the course of timed arguments. This year's [case](#) concerns issues related to higher education and the rights of children of undocumented immigrants.

Fitchburg State advances to the nationals for the 16th year in a row and will be represented this year by seniors Jonathan DePina of Brookline and Christina Barbaro of Winchendon. The pair finished in the top 16 teams on Saturday after earning a third place seeding from their work on Friday. They lost to the eventual fourth place team in a tight round of legal argument Saturday morning.

Another Fitchburg team broke into the second day of competition and finished in the top 32. The team of senior James Schneider of Rockland and junior Abigail Kennefick of Harvard lost on a very close split decision ballot to close out their Saturday competition.

Also of note, two teams, sophomore Aidan Horgan of Princeton and senior Dan O'Donnell of Hanscom Air Force Base, as well as senior Andrea Ramirez of Hudson, and senior Kaitlin Ouellette of Fitchburg finished 33rd and 34th, respectively, just missing the top 32 and a chance to continue the competition on the second day. Individual accolades also saw O'Donnell awarded the 20th place individual orator award out of 108 competitors, while DePina and Ouellette were the second and third highest individual orators for Fitchburg State.

Fitchburg State's Moot Court team is coached by Assistant Professor Eric Boehme from the Economics, History and Political Science Department, assisted by Keith Greiner and Christina Brigham, both professional lawyers and Fitchburg State graduates.

Additional detail on the moot court association and the legal case under discussion can be found [online](#).

## Learn the Nuts and Bolts of starting a business on Dec. 1

The Business Society is hosting an informational seminar at 5:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Dec. 1** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall for anyone interested in starting a new business.

The "Nuts & Bolts" forum will feature four guest speakers who will present on topics such as how to structure your company, financing and marketing. Speakers will provide snapshots of

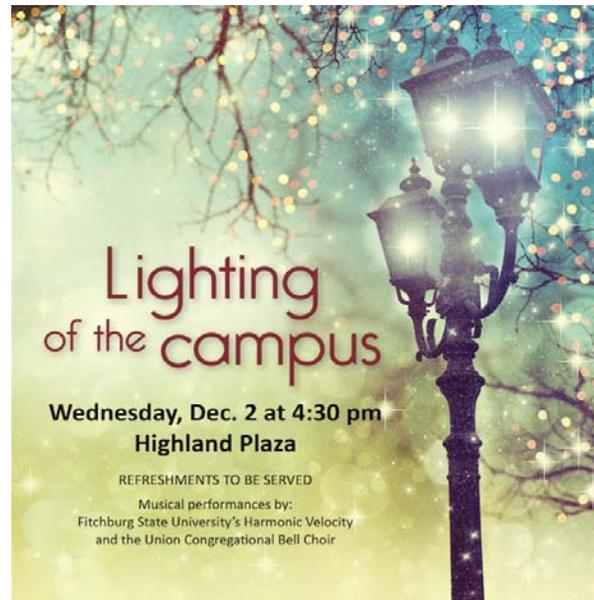
what is needed to get started and will include time for questions from the audience.

Admission is free and open to the public.

## Lighting of the Campus on Wednesday, Dec. 2

The campus community will celebrate the start of the holiday season with the lighting of the campus on **Wednesday, Dec. 2** at 4:30 p.m. on Highland Plaza.

The event will include musical performances by Harmonic Velocity and the Union Congregational Bell Choir. Refreshments will also be served.



## Winter choral, instrumental ensembles perform in December

The university's choral and instrumental ensembles will present their annual winter concerts in December. Admission is free and open to the public for these concerts, sponsored by the Humanities Department at Fitchburg State.

The choral concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. **Monday, Dec. 7** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. It will be the 27th and final concert conducted by Associate Professor Marjorie Ness, who is retiring in December.

Performers will include the university choir and chamber singers, along with soloists Sarah Morin, Nathania Demosthenes, Eric Brodeur, Coty Markee-Culbreth and Lois Dwira, conducted

by Ness and accompanied by pianist Roy Imperio. Also performing on Dec. 7 will be Harmonic Velocity, the student-led a cappella group under the direction of Devin Saviuolo and Theo Demosthenes.

Choral works performed will span the Renaissance through contemporary Broadway and pop selections.

The winter band and ensembles concert will be held at 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 10**, also at

Weston Auditorium. At that concert, the university's jazz band will play music ranging from hard bop era tunes such as Mr. P.C. by John Coltrane to bossa nova by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Latin jazz by Freddie Hubbard. The concert band will be playing a mix of new band music as well as traditional favorites and holiday classics.

The Humanities Department performances conclude at 3 p.m. **Sunday, Dec. 13** with the end-of-semester student recital for the Foundation Music Lesson Program at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. The performance will feature students of all ages displaying their skills on a variety of instruments.

More information can be found at [fitchburgstate.edu/music](http://fitchburgstate.edu/music).

## **New bridge program offered for military-trained LPNs seeking bachelor's degrees in nursing**

Fitchburg State now offers a bridge program for licensed practical nurses who completed their training in the military and are seeking their bachelor of science degrees in nursing.

Interested students are encouraged to attend the next Graduate and Continuing Education [information session](#) on **Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016** from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Hammond Hall.



The Military LPN to BS in Nursing Bridge Program is designed to transition the military-trained Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to the role of a baccalaureate prepared Registered Nurse.

Graduates of this program will be prepared to meet the societal healthcare needs in a variety of settings. Respect for diversity, social responsibility, and a commitment to excellence in nursing care are emphasized.



The program represents another element of Fitchburg State's commitment to serving the needs of returning veterans.

For more information, visit [fitchburgstate.edu/militarylpn](http://fitchburgstate.edu/militarylpn).

Click [here](#) to sign up for the GCE information session.

## Internship scholarships available

The university has once again received funding designed to increase internship opportunities for our students. [Scholarships](#) are now available for the upcoming academic year. The deadline to apply for the spring is **Friday, Nov. 27** and for the summer is **Friday, April 8, 2016**.

The State University Internship Incentive Program (SUIIP), operated through the university's financial aid office, is funded by the Fitchburg State University Foundation and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The scholarship is available to current full-time day undergraduate students who are Massachusetts residents, have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and have a valid 2015-2016 FAFSA on file with the Financial Aid Office.

All majors will be considered but priority will be given to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and business/finance majors. Scholarships are available for 3-12 credit internships and amounts will range from \$500-\$5,000.

For more information and a link to the application, visit [www.fitchburgstate.edu/scholarintern](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/scholarintern).

## Dyslexia specialist program offered through GCE

Fitchburg State is offering a new guided studies program for dyslexia specialists, preparing students with skills for a variety of careers in disciplines including literacy coaching or special education.

The [Guided Studies-Dyslexia Specialist](#) program is run through the university's Office of Graduate and Continuing Education and is a concentration within its Master of Education in Special Education degree. It is designed to meet the needs of individuals seeking a master's degree as well as Wilson Language Training Level I and Level II certification.

For more information, visit [fitchburgstate.edu/dyslexia](http://fitchburgstate.edu/dyslexia). To learn more about this and other Fitchburg State GCE options, visit [fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infoession](http://fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infoession).

## GCE details winter, spring offerings

The Office of Graduate and Continuing Education has posted its winter and spring schedules. All the course offerings can be viewed on the seats list through the Registrar's office.

The GCE [winter session](#), run completely online, runs from Monday, Dec. 28 through Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016.

The GCE [spring semester](#) runs from Wednesday, Jan. 20 through Monday, May 16. Course registration began on Nov. 2.

GCE students may also use [this link](#) to contact their advisors; undergraduate day students should contact their regularly assigned advisors.

## CenterStage at Fitchburg State

### A Holiday Performance: Alpin Hong takes the stage in December

Music is in the air for the Fitchburg State University CenterStage holiday performance featuring acclaimed pianist Alpin Hong on **Saturday, Dec. 12** at 7 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

He's been called "Victor Borge, Horowitz and Billy Joel all in one" thanks to his unique combination of stunning technique, emotional range and amazing sense of humor.

Hong is a pianist for all ages, a spectacular showman who captivates with ease. Join us on this most merry of nights for a festive mix of traditional holiday tunes and classical selections that will bring audiences young and old to their feet.



Alpin Hong performs Saturday, Dec. 12.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors, Fitchburg State alumni and staff; and \$5 for students. The Weston Box Office, located at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St., is open Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).

### **In the Galleries**

The Conlon Hall Media Wall inside 316 Highland Ave. will feature an exhibition of old and new work by faculty member Sally B. Moore.

Vulnerability: situations sitting on edges, beings pushed to the brink of non-being, architecture falling through in search of a more possible place. Assistant Professor Sally Moore uses her work to sort through obstacles and anxieties in her own life and, by extension, situations in the world.

Moore will present a wall talk on her work on **Wednesday, Dec. 9** at 3:30 p.m. in Conlon Hall.

### **Faculty Show**

Art and Communications Media faculty have been creating new works in photography, sculpture, design, painting, drawing, film, video and mixed media. The biennial exhibition highlighting some of their best and recent works will run through Wednesday, Dec. 16 at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery.



"Remember" by Sally Moore

## Faculty Notes

**Eric Budd** (Economics, History and Political Science) attended the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association in Philadelphia from November 12-14. Budd was the discussant for the panel "How Politics Shapes the Economy," and presented a paper entitled "Changing our Stories, Changing our Politics: The Politics of Abortion and Same Sex Marriage in the US and Ireland."

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