
Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Nov. 4, 2019 - Volume 10, Issue 5

Legislators hear from students, faculty on higher ed issues

The university welcomed a delegation from the Legislature's Joint Committee on Higher Education on Friday, Oct. 25, part of the group's ongoing tour of all 29 public campuses in the state.

During the visit, legislators heard about Fitchburg State's unique academic programs and were briefed on institutional needs. Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale also attended and spoke about the strong partnership between the campus and the city.

When they toured the campus, legislators spoke with students in a nursing lab in Thompson Hall and checked out the virtual reality program in the game design labs in Conlon Hall.

The visit also included candid discussions with faculty members and students.



State Sen. Anne Gobi, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, checks out a student-made virtual reality experience while State Rep. Jeff Roy looks on.

125th anniversary events continue

The university's recent 125th anniversary observances brought together hundreds of members of the campus community. The Homecoming pep rally and bonfire on Friday, Oct. 25 and the carnival on Saturday, Oct. 26 were big hits. [Click here](#) to see a photo gallery from the university's Facebook page.

The university's history was also highlighted with an event observing the 50th anniversary of Fitchburg State's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society. **Professor Dan Sarefield** (Economics, History and Political Science), the local Xi Upsilon chapter advisor, welcomed Professor Clayton Drees, president of the national organization, who offered a plaque commemorating the milestone.

The national organization has 400,000 members in 980 chapters.

Upcoming 125th Anniversary events

There will be a Veterans Resource Fair at **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12** in the Main Lounge at Hammond Hall. Fitchburg State has a long and proud history of serving its student veterans. Our Military Friendly campus will host this event designed to show veterans the resources available to them on- and off-campus.

There will be a Community Read book discussion at **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12** in room 210B of the Amelia V.

Gallucci-Cirio Library. Students from the English Honors Society will lead an informal book discussion of this year's Community Read book, *Maus* by Art Spiegelman.



Phi Alpha Theta President Clayton Drees discusses the group's origins.

Later this month, the Communications Media Department's theater program presents *Matches*, a series of nine short, two-person plays written by Peter Anderegge. Anderegge's works comprise an evening of 10-minute plays exploring themes surrounding the idea that happiness is hard to find, and something is always getting in the way. *Matches* will be performed at the Wallace Theatre for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex at **6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19; 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20; 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24**. Admission is free and open to the public. Learn more by clicking [here](#).

[125th Events](#)

Panel discussions set for Wednesday

President Lapidus and members of the senior staff will hold a pair of panel discussions for faculty and staff at **10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Wednesday** in Kent Recital Hall. These sessions 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.

Speakers Series continues today

The Center for Teaching and Learning in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library continues its annual Speakers Series **today at 12:30 p.m.** with a presentation by Professor Jessica Robey (Humanities) entitled "The Roadside Mythology of Peter Beerits."

Light refreshments will be served.

Gmail migration coming this month

Staff and faculty emails will be migrating later this month to Gmail. The Technology Department reminds users that access to current Exchange email will end at **5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22**, with email, contacts, and calendar appointments migrating to Google over the weekend. By **Monday, Nov. 25**, users will start utilizing their new Gmail account.



If the transition is completed sooner, it will be announced in the [News](#) section found on the homepage of the university website.

In preparation, the Technology Department has put together informational sessions on Basic Google Calendar & Email functions. You can sign up for those sessions by clicking [here](#).

Kendricken Memorial Lecture features Walter Wright

Musician and visual artist Walter Wright will present as part of the annual Kendricken Memorial Lecture Series at Fitchburg State University at **3:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.



Wright will share his thoughts on new media, collaboration, and improvisation. He specializes in a blend of improvisation that includes computer programming, electro-acoustic music, video, and performance. What Wright

loves about improvisation is that the performance is "in the moment" and, like real life communication, it is "always open-ended, fraught with possibility."

[Learn more](#)

Reminder: "Intelligent Lives" screens on Thursday

The Douglas & Isabelle Crocker Center for Civic Engagement and the non-profit WORK Inc. that supports individuals with disabilities will present a screening of the film "Intelligent Lives" **Thursday at 3:30 p.m.** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

The film stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities - Micah, Naieer and Naomie - who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce.

JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF *intelligent lives*
a film by dan habib

A movie poster for the film 'Intelligent Lives'. It features a large portrait of a young man in a red shirt, with two smaller inset photos showing other individuals. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern.

INTELLIGENT LIVES stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities—Micah, Naieer, and Naomie—who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce.

[@intelligencedoc](#) [/intelligentlives](#) [intelligentlives.org](#) [@danhabibfilms](#) **OPENING DOORS**

The screening and discussion is designed for students, educators, administrators, teachers, and those interested in learning more about disabilities. Following the movie there will be a live panel discussing their disabilities and some of the following:

- What disabilities look like in our current society?
- How this personal perspective from people with disabilities benefit you?
- Tips for future educators/nursing/law enforcement officers regarding supporting individuals with disabilities.

[Register here](#)

INTELLIGENT LIVES *FITCHBURG* - SCREENING & PANEL

Fitchburg State University
Hammond Building, Ellis White
Nov 7th 2019 • 3:30pm-5:30pm

FREE

Suggested Registration at <https://ilmtruthtalks.eventbrite.com>

Screening sponsored by: WORK, Inc., Fitchburg State University, & Douglas and Isabelle Crocker Center for Civic Engagement



#ilmtruthtalks

Reminder: Ethics of online "catfishing" explored in talk

The ethics of online "catfishing" will be the topic of discussion at a forum hosted by Fitchburg State University students this **Thursday at 6:30 p.m.** at Strong Style Coffee on Boulder Drive. The event is free and open to the public.

"Catfishing" refers to luring someone into a relationship by means of a fictional online persona, as on a dating app or social media. This public discussion will examine the ethics and effects of conversing with a misleading or fake personality online.

Professor J.J. Sylvia IV and **Professor Kyle Moody** from Fitchburg State's Communications Media Department will help facilitate the discussion that will be led by students in Sylvia's course in communications law and ethics.

The event is supported by the Society of Philosophers in America, the Douglas and Isabelle Crocker Center for Civic Engagement at Fitchburg State University, and Strong Style Coffee.

[Learn more](#)

McAloon Memorial Scholarship application deadline nears

The Academic Partnerships Joseph McAloon Memorial Scholarship, named for the professor who taught business courses at Fitchburg State from 1984 until his death this year, will be awarded in his honor to outstanding students who seek to enroll or continue in Fitchburg State's [Online MBA](#) program. It was established through a generous donation by Dallas, Texas-based Academic Partnerships LLC, the university's technology partner for selected university online programs.

The scholarship award for 2019-2020 is \$12,510 which covers all tuition and fees to complete one full Online MBA concentration consisting of 30 credit hours. Interested candidates may review Fitchburg State's Online MBA program options [here](#).

Applications are due by **Friday, Nov. 22**. Selection will be made on or before **Friday, Dec. 13**.

CenterStage and cultural events

MainStage theater production: *Trans Scripts Part 1-The Women*

Fitchburg State University's Communications Media Department will present the award-winning show *Trans Scripts Part 1: The Women* by Paul Lucas as its fall production this month. Performances will be held **Tuesday, Nov. 12** through **Sunday, Nov. 17**. Admission is free and open to the public.

The acclaimed show promises to enlighten viewers and challenge assumptions as the stories of seven transgender women from diverse backgrounds journey through life. The Times of London raved that the play was "thoroughly and hearteningly articulate."

The play chronicles the journeys of Eden, Josephine, Sandra, Tatiana, Dr. Violet, Luna, and Zakia and offers insights on what it means to be a transgender woman across the last 60-plus years, navigating early childhood, sex, dating and more. Because of its mature content, this show is

not recommended for children.

[Learn more](#)

In the Galleries

The sculpture of artist [Pamela Blum](#) will be featured as part of the [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series this fall. "Dolls & Other Things" will be on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through **Friday, Dec. 27**.

At the Conlon Hall Media Wall, "The Paper Hat Game" by Torry Bend is on display through December.

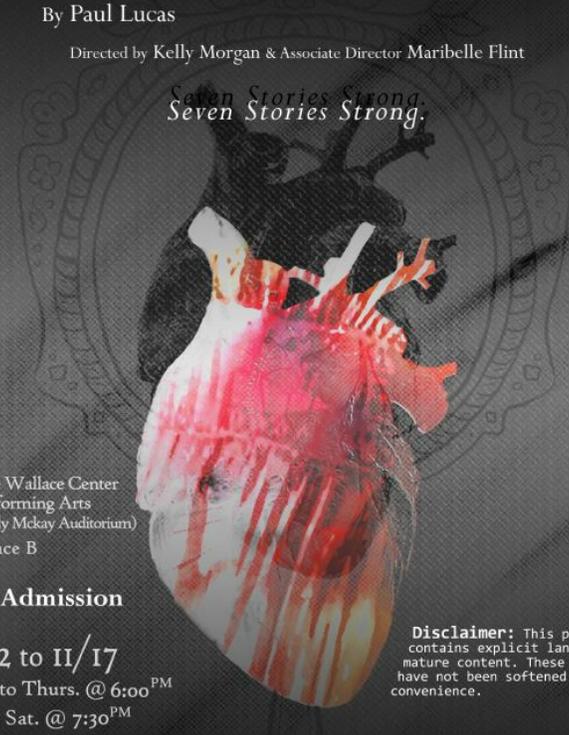
Communications Media Proudly Presents

Trans Scripts Part I: The Women

By Paul Lucas

Directed by Kelly Morgan & Associate Director Maribelle Flint

Seven Stories Strong.



At The Wallace Center
for Performing Arts
(Formerly McKay Auditorium)
Entrance B

Free Admission

II/12 to II/17
Tues. to Thurs. @ 6:00^{PM}
Fri. & Sat. @ 7:30^{PM}
Sat. & Sun.* @ 2:00^{PM}
*No Post-Show Talk

Disclaimer: This play contains explicit language and mature content. These stories have not been softened for your convenience.

Faculty Notes

Professor Katharine Covino-Poutasse (English Studies) was [given](#) the Ann Garland West Excellence in Teaching Award from the New England Association of Teachers of English (NEATE). The award recognizes extensive knowledge of the discipline; interest in and concern for students and the ability to challenge and motivate them; and involvement in professional organizations and/or staff development. Colleagues hailed Covino for "creating a classroom tone that is warm and welcoming, full of humor and engagement, a space where peers meet to talk and think together."

Professor Ben Railton (English Studies) was featured in the [Saturday Evening Post](#). His piece, entitled "Considering History: Does America Owe Its Existence to France and Morocco?" explores the notion that America would not have endured without its foreign alliances, including a foundational one with a Muslim country. Read it online [here](#).

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