
Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Oct. 15, 2018 - Volume 9, Issue 4

Grant will help university fight opioid epidemic

Fitchburg State is collaborating with the Worcester District Attorney's office on a comprehensive new project to combat the regional opioid epidemic.

District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. announced on Oct. 4 that his office had received two federal grants totaling \$860,000 to investigate opioid overdose deaths as homicides and to divert those suffering from substance use disorder into treatment.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance approved the grant applications in late September.



Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early, left, with President Lapudis and Professor Beth Walsh

[Read more](#)

DHE grant will help RNs earn bachelor's degrees

With the need for baccalaureate level nurses continuing to rise, Fitchburg State announces a \$29,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) that makes it easier for nursing students from three Massachusetts community colleges to complete their bachelor's degrees.

The university received the DHE Higher Education Nursing & Allied Health Grant to develop admissions agreements between Fitchburg State and Quinsigamond, Bristol and Middlesex Community Colleges. The project will

allow associate's degree-earning registered nurses to matriculate into Fitchburg State's online RN to BS in Nursing program while they remain in the workforce.



[Read more](#)

Students host candidate forum and registration drive today

The Student Government Association, the campus MASSPIRG chapter and the Gay Straight Alliance are hosting a "meet the candidates" forum and voter registration drive from **3:30 to 5:30 p.m. today** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall. [Candidates](#) for the state legislature will be in attendance and those who have yet to register to vote for the upcoming election can take advantage of this opportunity to make their vote count. The forum will also contain information about the [ballot questions](#) going before voters on **Tuesday, Nov. 6**.

2nd annual Go Falcons Challenge takes place Tuesday

The 2nd annual [Go Falcons Challenge](#) kicks off **tomorrow**, giving you the opportunity to support your favorite Falcon athletic teams.

Donors can give [online](#) or in person in the Alumni Office in Sanders suite 203. The three teams with the most donors by 11:59 p.m. tomorrow will win additional dollars for their program.

Supporters can also give to their favorite teams by taking part in the Falcon Spirit Signature challenge. To participate, visit the quad tomorrow between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and sign the board of your favorite team. The team with the most signatures by the end of the drive will win \$250 for their program.



[Learn more](#)

Ribbon-cutting for Falcon Bazaar set for Tuesday

There will be a grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the new Falcon Bazaar necessities and food pantry at **2 p.m. Tuesday** in the Volunteer Center in Hammond Hall, room G15. The campus community is invited and encouraged to bring a non-perishable food or personal necessity item.

The Falcon Bazaar is one of the university's multi-pronged efforts to combat [food insecurity](#) among the campus population.

[Learn more](#)



3rd Congressional District candidates debate this Thursday

The new Elect North Central Coalition will host a debate for the candidates vying to represent the 3rd Congressional District at **6:30 p.m. Thursday** at Kent Recital

Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building.

Democratic candidate Lori Trahan, Republican candidate Rick Green and Independent candidate Mike Mullen have been invited to debate, where admission is free and open to the public.

Elect North Central is a coalition of organizations dedicated to making the democratic process accessible and assuring that local and regional issues are examined and addressed by candidates running for office.

[Learn more](#)



3rd Congressional District Debate
ELECT NORTH CENTRAL

Tell your future U.S. Representative what matters to you
Elect North Central is a coalition of organizations dedicated to making the democratic process accessible and assuring that local and regional issues are examined and addressed by candidates running for office.

October 18, 6:30-8PM at Kent Recital Hall Fitchburg State University
Visit ElectNorthCentral.com for more information.

Lori Trahan (D-MA)
Mike Mullen (I-MA)
Rick Green (R-MA)

MODERATOR
Charlie St. Amant
Practitioner in Residence, Suffolk University

PANELISTS
Cassandra Carlson Student Representative, Mount Wachusett Community College
Cliff Clark City Editor, Sentinel & Enterprise
Gary Hutter General Manager, The Item & The Gardner News
Irene Hernandez President, Minority Coalition
Sherman Whitman Host, WPIC Fitchburg

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University observes STEM week

The university will take part in Massachusetts STEM Week (Oct. 22-26) with a number of activities, involving faculty and staff from across the Division of Academic Affairs.

Massachusetts STEM week coincides with National Chemistry Week, and at **6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23** the Biology and Chemistry Club, led by Professor Billy Samulak will host the American Chemical Society presentation "Voyage to Mars: Red Planet Chemistry" in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall. The webcast features experts discussing the challenges of long-term space travel and the materials, biochemistry, and astrochemistry that will make this mission possible.



There will be a screening of the film "The Last Pig" at **6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. The film is a lyrical meditation on what it means to be a sentient creature with the power to kill. Deeply immersive, the film follows a farmer in his final year of raising pigs. At the conclusion of the screening, members of the community are welcomed to engage in a discussion of the ethics and science related to raising farm animals.

The week's events continue **Thursday, Oct. 25**, when Fitchburg State staff will participate in "Designing My Future: STEM Career Expo for Families and Students" at the [Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster](#). Admissions officers will help explain to families how to prepare, apply and pay for a pathway in higher education as one way to enter STEM careers.

Campus hosting flu clinics later this month

Health Services will be holding flu clinics from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall and from **3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1** in the Recreation Center foyer. Most insurances are accepted and visitors are asked to bring their insurance cards to receive shots. Those without insurance can receive the vaccine for \$32 (cash only).

University offering free help with FAFSA forms on Nov. 4

Fitchburg State University will join more than 30 other institutions offering free help on the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) for college-bound students on [FAFSA Day Massachusetts](#). Fitchburg State's financial aid professionals will offer assistance starting at **1**

p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4 at the Antonucci Science Complex, 333 North St.

Every high school senior, college student, and adult-student who will be attending college during the 2019-2020 academic year needs to complete the FAFSA in order to apply for federal, state and institutional financial aid. FAFSA Day Massachusetts, a College Goal Sunday program, provides free help statewide to students and families looking to complete the FAFSA.

[Learn more](#)

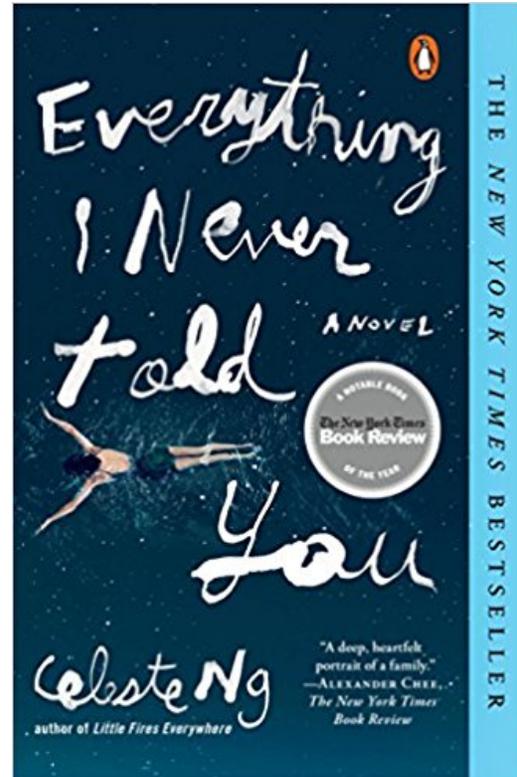
Community Read continues with talks off-campus

Fitchburg State University's [Community Read](#) of 2018-19 - Celeste Ng's acclaimed novel *Everything I Never Told You* - continues in October with book club-style discussions off-campus.

There will be an intergenerational book discuss at **7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23** at the Leominster Public Library pm West Street. Advance registration is required by calling 978-534-7522, ext. 3.

The Leominster Public Library will also host a discussion by the X-Teen Novel Society on **Tuesday, Oct. 30**. Contact Cassandra Hall at chall@cwmmars.org for additional details.

[Community Read Events](#)



Welcome new employees

Please welcome the following new members of the Fitchburg State community:

Kosta Agganis, police officer in the University Police Department, can be reached at x3407 or via email at kagganis@fitchburgstate.edu.

Mary McQuoid, receiving teller in the Student Accounts Office, can be reached at x3107 or via email at mmcquoid@fitchburgstate.edu.

Jennifer Mello, administrative assistant in the Office of Event Management, can be reached at x3737 or via email at jmello9@fitchburgstate.edu.

CenterStage and cultural events

The Fitchburg State [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series continues in October with a performance by acclaimed vocal ensemble [Della Mae](#) at **8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall.

Sensitive yet assertive, intense yet playful, steeped in tradition yet undeniably current, Boston-based "alt-grassy" women have established a reputation as a charismatic live act. Composed of some of the finest players in bluegrass, Americana and beyond, this powerful collective chemistry has vocal, instrumental, and songwriting talent to spare. Expect a fun show with tight harmonies and energy galore.

Tickets (\$28 adults, \$25 for alumni, seniors and staff and \$5

for students) can be purchased [online](#).

On the Conlon Hall Media Wall: *Icarian Dreams*

"Icarian Dreams" is a series of images collected by local drone pilots and displayed on the media wall in the Conlon Hall lobby. The exhibit is on display through Wednesday, Oct. 31, and there will be a wall talk and reception in the Conlon lobby at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 24.**

Musical Falcons student showcase Oct. 27-29

The Fitchburg State University Musical Falcons club will present their third annual showcase at **7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27; Sunday, Oct. 28; and Monday, Oct. 29** in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free and open to the public, though not recommended for audiences under 18.

Ashley Jacobsen is president of the club that mounted a staging of the Green Day musical "American Idiot" last spring. For the upcoming showcase, the 13 performers and 12 crew members will present a "jukebox musical" of tunes from other modern musicals, but reconfigured to reflect an original story based on the seven deadly sins (gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, pride, lust and envy).

Jacobsen said the Weston stage will be transformed into an intimate, black-box style theater, bringing the performers and the audience of just over 50 seats into close proximity. "You'll be immersed into the show itself," she said. "It's definitely going to be a unique style showcase."



Della Mae performs Oct. 20.

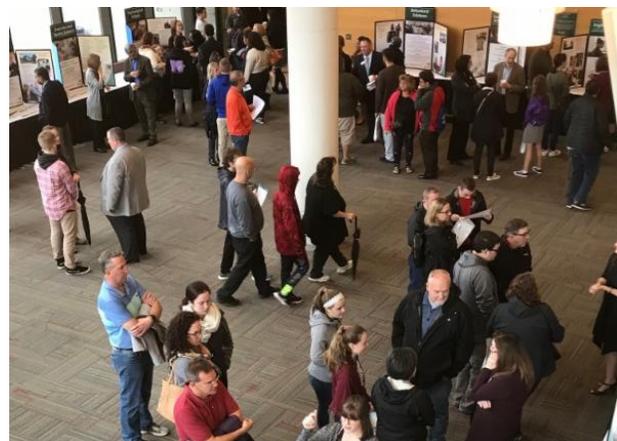


Faculty notes

Professor Emeritus Michael Turk (Economics, History and Political Science) will be presenting his latest book, *Historical Narrative, Urban Space, and a New Cast to Urban Economics: Rethinking Urban Economics from a Conceptual Standpoint* from **3:30 to 5 p.m. today** in Ellis White Lecture Hall. Refreshments will be served.

Save the dates!

- The campus will host two more open houses this fall for prospective students. The next events will be **Saturday, Oct. 27** and **Nov. 10**.
- President Lapidus will host panel discussions for faculty and staff at **10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7** at Kent Recital Hall.
- The holiday tree lighting will be held at **4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29**.



Visitors enjoyed our first open house of the season on Saturday.

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