
Fitchburg State University Today

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President Lapidus formally installed as 11th president

President Lapidus vowed to maintain a focus on student success, foster diversity and inclusiveness and continue to embrace the institution's host city in his inaugural address as the 11th president of Fitchburg State University.

More than 800 people gathered Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Athletics and Recreation Center to witness the milestone, which included remarks from U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, State Secretary of Education James A. Peyser and Commissioner of Education Carlos Santiago, along with local dignitaries and more than 20 delegates from other institutions of higher education.



The ceremony highlighted the university's collaboration with its city and region, embodied by local elected leaders, and reflected its international flavor with a march of flags carried by students, faculty, staff and community members from more than 30 countries.

Commissioner Santiago administered the ceremonial oath of office, and President Emeritus Robert V. Antonucci presented Lapidus with the President's Medal, adorned with the names and years of service for Fitchburg State's previous 10 leaders.

Lapidus outlined a vision for his administration in his inaugural address.

"We must be united in support of our mission as a public university and remain firmly rooted in our philosophy of student centrality with a teaching and learning focus," Lapidus said. "As a public higher education institution, access is an important part of our mission and a role we play as a means of fostering social opportunity and social mobility. While access is important, so too is affordability."

To that end, Lapidus vowed the institution will commit to keeping tuition and fees affordable.

"However, access and affordability without excellence is just a hollow promise," he added. "We will continue to infuse our curricula with high impact applied learning practices such as internships, competitions, civic engagement exercises, and faculty-led research and creative projects."

Lapidus also said the university will continue to strengthen academic programs and create new and unique programs of study to serve the aspirations of its students and meet the needs of the state's workforce, infusing those programs with

technology. Those programs also be grounded in a liberal arts foundation, he added.

"We cannot be an excellent comprehensive university if we do not insure that students are exposed to the humanities, the fine arts and the liberal arts," he said.

Lapidus also said Fitchburg State must embrace inclusion and appreciate the richness that stems from diversity among its faculty, staff and students. "Our campus must remain a welcoming place where everyone feels safe and is treated with respect. I'm committed to these principles and will continue to work hard in support of strengthening our inclusive culture," he said.



President Lapidus was sworn in by Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos Santiago, at right.

"Our goal is to create a learning community that reflects the region, thus producing a rich tapestry woven together by the broadest range of cultures, experiences, beliefs and orientations. It doesn't matter from what station of society our students come from. Every student comes to the university with a future vision of themselves and they must be given the opportunity to succeed and bring that dream to fruition.

"We are here to learn from each other and if we only share a narrow and agreed upon singular understanding on topics of importance there is not much room for intellectual growth," he continued. "We are far better served by using the power of diversity to solve problems and better our collective lives."

Lapidus also vowed to continue building upon the strong relationship between the campus and the city in which it resides.

"The university does not, and should not, operate in a vacuum," he said. "Surrounding this beautiful campus is an important part of our history, character and success: the city of Fitchburg. Public universities are inextricably linked with the communities that surround them and possess a unique opportunity to both serve them and benefit from them. We each can be viewed as a valuable resource to the other and must find ways to engage and be responsive to the broad-based needs of our shared constituencies. Both might be viewed as teacher and student."

Fitchburg State has several mechanisms to promote civic engagement and enjoys robust partnerships with other institutions in the region, he said. Leveraging the creativity of the student body can also be beneficial as the campus looks to extend its footprint onto Main Street.

"As a university we are committed and stand ready to provide leadership with city-based planning initiatives and look forward to our shared future with the city, its mayor and the surrounding region as we collectively seek to improve our community," Lapidus said. "We understand that we cannot be a great university without a strong and lasting connection to the city and region that we serve."



Lapidus cited the institutional symbols of the saxifrage, the so-called rock-breaking flower that can grow through cracks, and the falcon, with its great speed and resourcefulness, as touchstones to build upon.

"This is a challenging time for all of higher education, but it's also an exciting time. As the saxifrage and falcon validate, with perseverance comes opportunity and with opportunity comes positive change," he said. "I know that with your help and commitment we as an institution and as

a broader community are well positioned to transform the lives of many and shape the leaders that will be charged with the weighty task of building a better tomorrow. Thank you very much, and go Falcons."

Inauguration and Homecoming Week a success

The university has finished its Inauguration and Homecoming Week, and it was a great success. Students, faculty, staff and community members took part in a series of enlightening and entertaining programs that celebrated the richness of Fitchburg State University.

Photos from the week are posted on the university's [Facebook page](#), along with the student-run [Falcon Buzz page](#). Follow both to keep up with the latest news.



Economist James Galbraith's presentation on economic inequality drew a huge crowd on Tuesday night.

Learn about green building techniques with lecture Tuesday

The campus American Institute of Architecture Students Club will present an "Introduction to Passive House Standards" with architect Michelle Apigian, AIA, LEED, AP, AICP, from ICON Architecture at 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Oct. 18** at Conlon Hall, room 201A. Admission is free.

The "passive house" is a rigorous, voluntary standard to promote energy efficiency in buildings, reducing their ecological footprint.

Buildings designed and built to the PHIUS+ 2015 Passive Building Standard consume 86 percent less energy for heating and 46 percent less energy for cooling (depending on climate zone and building type) when compared to a code-compliant building. PHIUS+ 2015 is the first and only passive building standard based upon climate-specific comfort and performance criteria aimed at presenting an affordable solution to achieving the most durable, resilient, and energy-efficient building possible for a specific location.

This summer, Apigian was awarded the credential of Certified Passive House Consultant (CPHC) by the Passive House Institute U.S., one of just under 600 people in North America to hold such certification.

A promotional graphic for a lecture. At the top is a photograph of a modern building with large windows and a wooden facade. Below the photo is a blue banner with white text: "Introduction to Passive House Standards". Underneath that, in smaller white text on a blue background, it says "Speaker: Michelle Apigian, AIA, LEED, AP, AICP From ICON Architecture". To the right of the text is a small icon of a house with a sun. Below the main text is a white box with a blue border containing the date and time: "Tuesday, October 18th @ 3:30 In Conlon 201A". Below that, in smaller text, it says "FREE, Campus Community Invited". To the right of this box is a portrait of Michelle Apigian, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. At the bottom of the graphic is a blue bar with white text: "FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY" on the left and "Presented By: AIAS Club" on the right. A small text box at the bottom left of the graphic reads: "Passive House is an energy efficient building or home. It results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling."

3rd annual Science Symposium being held Oct. 20

Join faculty members from the mathematics and science departments for the third annual science symposium at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 20** in the Lisciotti Pavilion of the Antonucci Science Complex. Pizza will be served during the event, where

faculty members will be presenting posters about their research.



State of political discourse to be explored Oct. 24

In an election season unlike any other in modern times, the role of conflict in political speech will be explored by Fitchburg State University faculty members in a discussion at 3:30 p.m. **Monday, Oct. 24** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

Professor Rod Christy from the Economics, History and Political Science Department and Professor Robert Carr from the Communications Media Department will explore the issue through their disciplines.

"This is a timely topic of great concern to the Fitchburg State community, the public, and, indeed, the nation," said Professor Ben Lieberman of the Economics, History and Political Science Department, who will moderate the discussion.

President to host panel talks on Oct. 25

President Lapidus has scheduled panel discussions for the campus community at 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Oct. 25** in Kent Recital Hall in Conlon. The president will be joined by members of the senior staff to discuss a variety of topics. The panel will also take questions from the audience.

The "History of Digital History" topic of talk on Nov. 2

The profession and discipline of history is undergoing rapid change in the digital age, and its evolution will be the topic of a lecture at Fitchburg State University at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 2 in the Randall Lecture Hall in the Antonucci Science Complex, 333 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.

Ohio State University Associate Professor David Staley will present "A History of Digital History," which aims to contextualize the present moment in the discipline of history, discussing the emergence of the field of digital history, and at the same time situating this development within a larger historical moment - the transition from a print culture to a digital culture.

Staley is a widely-published scholar and expert on digital history/digital humanities, on the history of education and technology, and the future of education. He has served as a consultant in the creation of programs in digital history/digital humanities for colleges and universities.



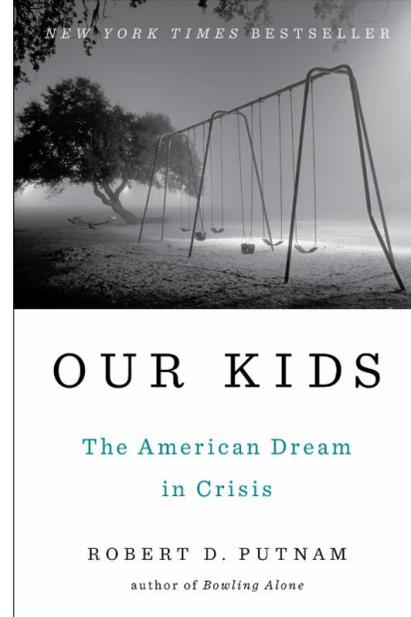
David Staley

Community Read continues

Fitchburg State's [Community Read](#) of Robert Putnam's *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* will continue with a screening of the "Inequality for All" will screen at 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 1** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. The film will be introduced by Assistant Professor

Christa Marr. Admission is free. The film explores the issue of economic inequality with Robert B. Reich, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley, and Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration. Time Magazine named him one of the ten most effective cabinet secretaries of the twentieth century.

Our Kids is a New York Times bestseller and "a passionate, urgent" (The New Yorker) examination of the growing inequality gap. Putnam's volume offers a personal and authoritative look at a new American crisis where a growing "opportunity gap" has emerged over the past 25 years. The crisis challenges the traditional assumption that Americans who have talent and try hard will succeed.



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.

Campus police offering self-defense, first aid courses

The Fitchburg State campus [police department](#) is once again offering a series of education courses for all members of the campus community, including self-defense, CPR and active shooter response. The programs are offered free of charge.

Community first aid and CPR training will provide individuals with the practical skill set and knowledge to provide basic and critical care to a sick or injured person until full medical treatment or a first responder is available.



The remaining fall courses will be offered **Wednesday, Oct. 19** from 5 to 9 p.m. in Hammond S08; and **Wednesday, Nov. 16** from 5 to 9 p.m. in Hammond S08. Attendees are asked to register by contacting Lt. William Fisher at wfisher@fitchburgstate.edu. Space is limited.

On **Wednesday, Oct. 26**, the police will start their next Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) System course for the year. The 12-hour self-defense course is a program of realistic tactics and techniques for women, beginning with awareness, prevention, risk education and avoidance and progressing to hands-on defensive training. To register, contact Lt. Donald Brickman at dbrickma@fitchburgstate.edu. Additional RAD courses will launch in the spring.

The police force's active shooter response training is also continuing this year, with training sessions continuing in the spring semester. Campus offices or organizations may request a training by contacting Chief Cloutier at mclouti4@fitchburgstate.edu.

Additional details on the police force's other community outreach programs can be found on their [website](#).

Webinar to be held Oct. 20 for forensic nursing program

Learn about Fitchburg State's online graduate degree in forensic nursing with a free webinar at 1 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 20**. Visit <http://info.fitchburgstate.edu/forensic> for more information or to register.

Fitchburg State's Master of Science in Nursing is designed for registered nurses who wish to pursue advanced leadership positions in the community and the health care system. The forensic nursing program, run entirely online, prepares nurses to apply their knowledge and skills to a variety of settings, including emergency health services, schools, correctional facilities, law enforcement agencies, insurance companies and law firms.



The 30-minute webinar will outline the program and how it can meet the needs of a busy professional schedule. Requirements and curriculum, admissions and the application process will be covered. Participants in the webinar will be eligible to have their \$40 application fee waived.

CenterStage and cultural events

Center for Italian Culture explores late Renaissance and early Baroque eras

The Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State marks its 16th year this fall with another series of talks and performances focused on the late Renaissance and early Baroque eras.

The Renaissance ("rebirth") was a period of great flourishing of the arts, supported by the patronage of Italian city states such as Florence and Venice, and the popes in Rome. Classical Humanism stimulated the recovery, study, and translation of ancient Greek and Roman texts, and artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo infused classical principles with modern scientific procedures in their studies of anatomy and observations of the natural world.

The invention of the movable type printing press gave rise to a thriving music publishing industry. Madrigals, motets, and masses flooded the market ushering in a veritable golden age of a-cappella singing. Musicians such as Giovanni Gabrieli contributed to the expansion of instrumental music, Claudio Monteverdi pioneered the nascent opera, and Antonio Vivaldi followed with the concerto genre.

November 9 at 7 PM
KENT RECITAL HALL
FREE ADMISSION

Elise Groves SOPRANO
Caroline Rossiter Olsen MEZZO-SOPRANO
Sean Lair TENOR
Elijah Blaisdell BARITONE
Triton Brass Quintet

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR ITALIAN CULTURE

FACULTY TALK:
The Restoration of Musical Performance Venues in Venice and Rome
OCT. 26 AT 12:30 PM | KENT RECITAL HALL

Dr. Teresa Fava Thomas will discuss efforts to save and restore historic Italian churches and performance halls where musicians like Vivaldi, Palestrina, Monteverdi, and Strozzi played their music four hundred years ago.

The programs start with a talk by Professor Teresa Fava Thomas entitled "The Restoration of Musical Performance Venues in Venice and Rome." The lecture will be presented at 12:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 26** in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Admission is free. Thomas will discuss efforts to save and restore historic Italian churches and performance halls where musicians like Vivaldi, Palestrina, Monteverdi, and Strozzi performed their music 400 years ago.

Programming continues on **Friday, Nov. 4**, with a lecture and demonstration on brass music and composition with French horn player Shelagh Abate and composer Michele Caniato. That program will be held at 12:30 and 2 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall. Admission is free.

There will also be a concert at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 9**, in Kent Recital Hall entitled "Music in the Age of Humanism and Scientific Revolution: Composers of the Renaissance and Baroque Era," featuring Elise Groves, soprano, Carlone Rossiter Olsen, mezzo-soprano, Sean Lair, tenor, Elijah Blaisdell, baritone, and the Triton Brass Quintet. Admission is free.

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.

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](#).

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: Reversible Floating Spaces

The richly layered, abstract and colorful work of artist Marina Thompson is on display at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through October 26.

Thompson's paintings explore a richly layered, abstracted, and introspective experience of her encounters and conversations with people, with herself, and with the world. This colorful and graphic work merges printmaking with oil paint, gouache, flashe, and the ancient art of encaustic.

Learn more about the artist at her website, marinathompson.com.



"Subsequent Antecedents" by Marina Thompson

Faculty notes

Adem Elveren (Economics, History and Political Science) saw the publication of his article "The Nexus of Economic Growth, Military Expenditures and Income Inequality" (co-authored with Ünal Töngür) published in Quality and Quantity.

Another article, "Feminization of Labour and Profit Rates: Evidence from OECD Countries," by **Elveren, Christa Marr (Economics, History and Political Science)** and alumnus Yvonne Renard, was published in Applied Economics Letters.

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