
Fitchburg State University Today

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Irving Wing formally named at ceremony

The university community celebrated the naming of the Irving Wing of the Antonucci Science Complex during a ceremony Thursday, Oct. 15.

The Irving Wing is named in honor of Donald R. '72, '79 and Karen A. Irving '90 in recognition of their exemplary commitment to enhancing public higher education and Fitchburg State. Donald Irving is a member of the university's Board of Trustees and also serves on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.



President Lapidus, left, unveils the new name with Karen and Don Irving, at right.

In 2012, the Irvings created the Pay It Forward Scholarship, which has provided renewable support for 14 students since its inception. Recipients of the \$5,000 scholarships are encouraged to give back to the institution in the future. Another eight Pay It Forward scholars will be named this year.

"Don and Karen Irving represent Fitchburg State's highest ideals," said President Lapidus. "They have been extremely generous with their resources and talents, creating opportunities for future generations of students. It is a fitting tribute to their legacy that we dedicate this state of the art facility in their name."

The Irving Wing of the science complex spans 55,000 square feet and houses the university's chemistry and biology laboratories along with other research and instructional space.

"This is an incredible honor for Karen and me," said Irving, whose roots at Fitchburg State go deep; his father enrolled after returning from service in World War II, and the young family lived in a barracks that was erected to serve all the other returning veterans. That barracks, Irving said, was located on the spot where the laboratory wing that bears the family name now stands.

Irving returned to campus to complete two degrees of his own, in 1972 and 1979. "I left here with a great education that allowed me to succeed in a number of different areas," he recalled. "It was an education that I could afford."

Irving taught for six years before going into business, and later wanted to start his own

company. He recalled telling his wife they would need to mortgage their home and accrue substantial debt to make it a reality. Karen Irving agreed, and they were off. The company, Data Guide Cable Systems, thrived. And he said nothing was more satisfying than giving someone some assistance and then watching them take off and succeed.

"We feel these kids should have the same shot that we did," he said, recalling some good advice he received early in his career - "Success unshared is failure."

Karen Irving recalled leaving her studies at Fitchburg State in 1969 with just two semesters left, vowing to return soon to complete her degree. Life intervened, and as her family grew she decided to finish what she had started. She completed her degree in early childhood education in 1990.

"Fitchburg State is the number one state university because of a caring and knowledgeable faculty and staff who are here to help people achieve the life goals they have," she said.

In recognition of the challenges facing mothers in pursuit of their degrees, several of the Pay It Forward Scholarships are designated for working moms.

U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas also spoke at the ceremony and described the importance of philanthropic giving.

"The public sector cannot do it by itself," Tsongas said. "You need a philanthropic base of people who have benefited, done well, remain engaged and understand they have an important role to play."

During the ceremony, President Lapidus read a letter from Adam S. Hoeg, a 2014 Fitchburg State graduate and one of the first Pay It Forward scholars, who described the life-changing impact of his scholarship.

"That impact is immeasurable," Hoeg wrote. "I was able to graduate with my best friends at Fitchburg, a day I refer to as the happiest day of my life. I am now in my last year of graduate school in Ohio, about to complete my M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration, where I received an assistantship that paid for my housing and full tuition for two years. Here I also work to help students achieve their educational goals as an academic coach, and am currently job searching in the Massachusetts area in the fields of admissions and academic services, as the on campus portion of my program ends in December.

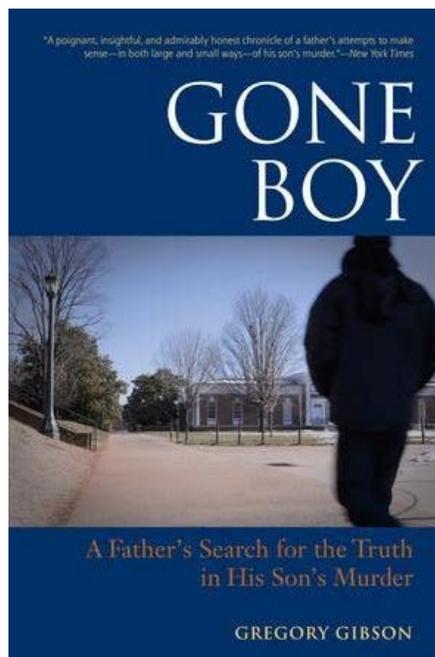
"It is likely I would not have made it this far, without the help of the Irvings. Their generosity has created an impact that is now allowing me to help change the lives of students from all over the country. They have created a domino effect, which I plan to spend the rest of my life making sure is still going strong.

"Don and Karen," Hoeg continued, "from the bottom of my heart, as well as my family's, thank you for helping me when they weren't able to. Thank you for helping all of us reach our goals. I look forward to the day when I am able to give back to the University, in even a fraction of the way that you have. You aren't just giving scholarships; you're giving us access to our dreams. The two of you are beyond deserving of this recognition and dedication, and I hope that it is something that stays with you forever."

Gun violence focus of author's talk on Tuesday, Oct. 20

Fitchburg State University welcomes author Gregory Gibson for a discussion on **Tuesday, Oct. 20** at 3:30 p.m. in the Randall Lecture Hall of the Antonucci Science Complex, 333 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.

When Gibson's 18-year-old son was killed in a shooting rampage on a college campus in Western Massachusetts in 1992, he found himself undertaking an unusual, highly personal investigation to discover the truth about his son's murder. The result was his acclaimed book *Gone Boy: A Walkabout*. Gibson will discuss his book, an exploration of gun violence in America that shows a man talking his way out of grief with toughness, honesty and a sense of humor.



Gregory Gibson will discuss his experiences on Oct. 20

Galen Gibson and a professor were killed on Dec. 14, 1992 during a shooting rampage at Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington, Mass., by an honors student who had bought an assault rifle over the counter that morning. Three other students and a college security guard were injured. The shooter, Wayne Lo, is serving two life sentences without possibility of parole.

In a column for The New York Times published days after the mass shooting at Shady Brook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Gibson lamented the continuation of gun violence in America.

"In the wake of Galen's murder, I wrote a book about the shooting. In it I suggested that we view gun crime as a public health issue, much the same as smoking or pesticides," Gibson wrote in the Times. I spent a number of years attending rallies, signing petitions, writing letters and making speeches, but eventually I gave up. Gun control, such a live issue in the 'early' days of school shootings, inexplicably became a third-rail issue for politicians."

Gibson continued by reflecting on "the inevitable lament, 'How could we have let this happen?' It is a horrible question because the answer is so simple. Make it easy for people to get guns and things like this will happen. Children will continue to pay for a freedom their elders enjoy."

Gibson's presentation is sponsored by the Behavioral Sciences Department and the Office of Academic Affairs.

Opportunities and Experiences in the Chemical Industry

The Biology-Chemistry Club and Business Society welcome Phil Papoojian '78 for a talk on "Opportunities and Experiences in the Chemical Industry."

The talk will be given at 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Oct. 20** in room 243 of the Antonucci Science Complex. Refreshments will be served starting at 3:10 p.m.

Papoojian, who graduated from Fitchburg State with a degree in chemistry, is currently head of mergers and acquisitions for Protex International, a French company that specializes in a wide variety of markets including agriculture, fine chemicals, electronics, paper, perfumes and water treatment.



Phil Papoojian '78

Until recently, Papoojian was president and chief operating officer of Mereco Technologies Group Companies, which he sold to Protex International in 2014.

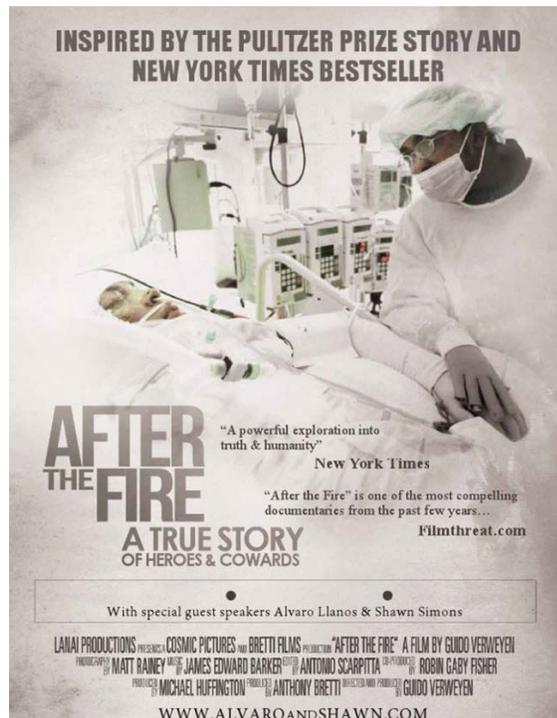
After graduating from Fitchburg State, Papoojian completed an MBA and has enjoyed a successful career. In this talk, he will discuss his journey from Fitchburg State to his current position at a multi-national company, his experience of the chemical industry, the importance of a strong foundation in chemistry and science as well as people skills, and advantages of a Fitchburg State University education.

Film screening and discussion of "After the Fire"

Where's the nearest exit to where you are right now? What if that exit was blocked, how would you escape? Would you know how to get your colleagues, your patients, your students, and/or your fellow residents out? Would you know what to do in an emergency?

If the last thing you remember about fire safety was stop, drop and roll, then it's time for a refresher. According to FEMA and the USFA, firefighters respond to an average of 3,810 fires in college residence halls and greek housing each year. According to the Center for Campus Fire Safety, almost 80 percent of fire-related fatalities in student housing occur off-campus. Are you prepared?

On **Tuesday, Oct. 20** at 3:30 and at 8 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, the campus welcomes Alvaro Llanos and Shawn Simons, who survived the Seton Hall University fire on Jan. 19, 2000, that claimed three lives and injured 56 others, including students and firefighters. Llanos and Simons will show the documentary "After The Fire" and discuss their experiences. Copies of the book *After the Fire* are also available in the library.



Members of the Fitchburg Fire Department and Fitchburg State University Police Department will also be on hand to answer questions.

Flu clinics this week

The university has contracted with Maxim Health Systems to offer the annual flu clinic on campus. The campus community is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated to help decrease the risk of spreading influenza, commonly referred to as the flu.

Maxim accepts a number of health insurances, listed below, which will cover the cost of the vaccine. Visitors are asked to bring your insurance card to the flu clinic.

For those without an insurance plan that covers the cost, the vaccine is \$25 dollars and can be paid by cash or check.

The clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Tuesday, Oct. 20** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall and 5 to 7 p.m. in the Holmes Dining Commons; and from 9 to 2 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 21** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall.

The following insurance plans will be accepted:

Aetna, Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Rhode Island or Texas; Harvard Pilgrim; Tufts Health Plan; Unicare; Fallon; Connecticare; Humana; Florida Blue; Health Spring; Sierra Health and Life; and SummaCare.

Mayoral debates planned

The university will co-sponsor a debate between the two candidates vying to become the next mayor of Fitchburg on **Thursday, Oct. 22** at 7 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall. President Lapidus will moderate the event, featuring candidates Stephen DiNatale and Andrew Couture.

Another debate will be held at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 28** in Leominster City Hall featuring Mayor Dean J. Mazarella and challenger John Roberge.

Author and alum R.A. Salvatore to speak at Fitchburg Public Library

Best-selling author R.A. Salvatore '81, '91 will be the guest speaker at 6:30 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 22** when the [Fitchburg Public Library](#) at 610 Main St. hosts its author's night.

As one of the fantasy genre's most successful authors, Salvatore - a Leominster native - enjoys an ever-expanding and tremendously loyal following.

The public is invited to engage in a lively discussion, followed by refreshments. Admission is free.



R.A. Salvatore will speak at the Fitchburg Public Library on Oct. 22

Children's Halloween Party to be held Sunday, Oct. 25

Fitchburg State's fraternities and sororities will once again transform Thompson Hall into a fun-filled haunted house when the annual Children's Halloween Party is held Sunday, Oct. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. Admission is free and open to all.

The party has been a Fitchburg State tradition for about 25 years, originating for children of faculty, staff and students at the university. The festivities are now open to all, with activities like pin the nose on the pumpkin, pumpkin bowling, face-painting, crafts and musical chairs featured on the ground floor of Thompson Hall, while the basement is transformed into haunted tunnels.



"I am so proud of the Greek fraternities and sororities for putting on this event," said Shane Franzen, associate director of student development. "This is a tradition that has stood the test of time and it's really great to see this group of men and women pull together to put on such a

marvelous event for Fitchburg State and her community."

The event is organized by the university's Sigma Sigma Sigma, Phi Sigma Sigma and Alpha Sigma Tau sororities, and its Sigma Pi and Sigma Tau Gamma fraternities.

Contact Franzen at sfranzen@fitchburgstate.edu for additional information.

Campus hosts bone marrow registry drive on Oct. 29

The campus will host a bone marrow drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 29** at the main lounge of Hammond Hall.

The local drive is being organized in honor of 26-year-old Brendon Rearick, a North Middlesex Regional High School graduate who was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease known as aplastic anemia. Aplastic anemia causes the bone marrow to fail, producing insufficient white blood cells to fight infection, insufficient red blood cells to transfer oxygen and insufficient platelets that clot blood and prevent bruising. The only known cure for the disease is a bone marrow transplant, similar to treatments used to combat leukemia or lymphoma.

To sign up for the registry, potential donors need only fill out an application and have their cheeks swabbed. Information will then be collected for Be The Match, operated by the National Marrow Donor Program that manages the largest and most diverse marrow registry in the world.

The local drive is sponsored by Fitchburg State's offices of Alumni & Development, Athletics, Health Services, Recreation Services, Upward Bound, along with the Biology & Chemistry Club, Business Society and the campus chapters of Alpha Sigma Tau, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Sigma Tau Gamma.

For additional information, contact Jennifer St. Peter at bethematch@ribc.org or by phone at 401-714-6240. Visitors can also learn more about Brendon Rearick by clicking [here](#).

Speaker Series continues on Nov. 2

The university's Speaker Series will open for the academic year on Monday, Oct. 5 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Center for Teaching and Learning. All the talks will be held the first Monday of the month, and refreshments will be served. The following speakers have been scheduled:

Elisabet Takehana (English Studies) will present "Baroque Aesthetics in Contemporary Literature" on Monday, Nov. 2.

Helen Obermeyer Simmons (Communications Media) will present "Home on the Range: The Story of the Nokota Horse" on Monday, Feb. 1

Eric Boehme (Political Science) will present "Race and Mass Incarceration: The New Jim Crow or the Same Old Capitalism?" on Monday, March 7.

James Colbert (Emeritus, Humanities) will present "Intranquillitas Ordinis, St. Augustine on War and Peace" on Monday, April 4.

Bruce Duncan (Geo-Physical Sciences) will present "Cosmology Since 1901" on Monday, May 2.

Learn about MBA offerings at free webinar on Nov. 4

Learn about the variety of options for pursuing an MBA at Fitchburg State University through a free, 30-minute [webinar](#) on **Wednesday, Nov. 4** at 1 p.m. Whether looking for an on-campus, online or hybrid MBA program, Fitchburg State has it covered.

Attendees will learn about:

- Fitchburg State's online (complete in 17 months) and on-campus programs, including requirements and curriculum
- Admission and application requirements
- Tuition, fees and payment plans
- Financial aid and scholarship opportunities

Interested parties who aren't available for the live webinar may register now and will receive a recording later. All are encouraged to tweet along during the event using the hashtag #fitchburgmba.

"I thought going back to school would feel like a chore, but I am really enjoying my time in the MBA program at Fitchburg State," said current MBA student Ashley Walters of Leominster. "I was drawn to the program because of the flexibility it offers in taking evening, weekend and online courses. However, the opportunities to learn from faculty who are truly interested in seeing me succeed and collaborate with classmates from such diverse backgrounds has enriched my experience and continues to exceed my expectations."

Visit fitchburgstate.edu/gce/webinars/mba2015 to learn more or to register.

Center for Italian Culture celebrates 15 years with music, talks

The Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State celebrates its 15th year with a host of events in October and November, including a concert celebrating Italian music from the past 100 years - and the 100th birthday of Frank Sinatra.

The celebration, dubbed *Canti e Cantici: Cent' Anni di Musica e Cultura Italiana* (A Hundred Years of Italian Music and Culture), culminates in a free concert at 7 p.m. **Thursday, Nov. 5** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. The concert will include rarely performed music by modernists such as Alfredo Casella, Goffredo Petrassi, and Giacinto Scelsi, and the premiere of a short new piece by Professor Michele Caniato for baritone, piano, violin, and horn on a text by Giacomo Leopardi.

The second half of the concert will celebrate the 100th birthday of Frank Sinatra, joining celebrations and exhibits around the country in paying homage to Ol'Blue Eyes and his musical legacy. Sinatra would have loved the stellar singer Dominique Eade, and her equally extraordinary pianist Tim Ray.

Canti e Cantici
Cent' Anni di Musica e Cultura Italiana
—A Hundred Years of Italian Music and Culture—

Dominique Eade Tim Ray Neil Gowen Dominick Marzio Kasidie Saechta Fei-yan Tsai

Twentieth Century Italian Music and a Celebration of Frank Sinatra at 100

Thursday Nov. 5 at 7 pm
KENT RECITAL HALL
FREE ADMISSION

15th Anniversary of the Center for Italian Culture

All events on Wednesdays in Kent Recital Hall
FREE ADMISSION

October 14, 2:30 p.m.
Screening of the film "The Man with the Golden Arm". Dr. Wayne Munson will lead the screening and presentation of director Otto Preminger's movie starring Frank Sinatra and Kim Novak.

October 21, 2:00 p.m.
Faculty Talk: "The Reluctant Migrants—Italians in America" Dr. Teresa Fevo Thomas will discuss migration from northern Italy to central Massachusetts as well as their WWI experiences in Italy and America.

October 28, 3:30 p.m.
Faculty Talk on Italian Poetry by Dr. Rala Diakite. Discover some of the most beautiful Italian poems of the modern era.

Artist—Giacomo Balla—Girl Running on a Balcony, 1912

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR ITALIAN CULTURE
With the participation of the Consulate General of Italy in Boston

For more information
978-665-3276

The free concert is a designated Music for Food event, in which donations will be collected at the door to benefit local food pantries.

Other upcoming CIC events

At 2 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 21**, in Kent Recital Hall, the community is invited to the faculty talk "The Reluctant Migrants: Italians in America." Professor Teresa Fava Thomas will discuss migration from northern Italy to central Massachusetts, the experiences of Italians in Massachusetts before the First World War, as well as their wartime experiences in Italy and America.

There will also be a faculty talk on Italian poetry at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 28** at Kent Recital Hall, featuring Professor Rala Diakite. Discover some of the most beautiful Italian poems of the modern era, and learn how words and musicality have charted a rapidly changing world. The talk will include readings in Italian and English, as well as audience participation in a poetic activity.

On **Friday, Oct. 30** at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall there will be musical workshops featuring Pei-yeh Tsai on piano and composer Michele Caniato. The workshops will overview and demonstrate playing techniques, compositional process, and the interaction of performer and composer.

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) 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 MA residents, have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 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.

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 begins Monday, 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

Olio D'Oliva Cena: Gather, Discover, Enjoy

Imagine a small hilltop village in Montaperto, Sicily. The land covered with trees of ripening olives and overlooking the glistening Mediterranean Sea. That's where the Taibi family's long history of making cold-pressed, single-state olive oils started.



Fourth-generation olive oil producer Giuseppe Taibi will share his ancestral story and describe the history of olive oils from Italy's various regions to start *Olio D'Olive Cena* at 6 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 7** at the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall.

From there we enjoy a lovely five-course olive oil-infused meal, developed and prepared by renowned Fitchburg State University Chef Mark Clark, while live entertainment and community fellowship sets the stage for this memorable night out.

Tickets are \$35, inclusive of tax and tap, and advance purchase is required. Tickets may be purchased at the Weston Box Office inside Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. The 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](#).

Sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture

In the Galleries

The Conlon Hall Media Wall inside 316 Highland Ave. will feature Listening by George Peet. The exhibition runs through November 12. George Peet is a Houston, Texas-based photographer with extensive experience in documentary photography. On a road trip with friends in the early 70s, Peet wandered for hours without taking a single photograph. Quite concerned, he discussed the situation over dinner. The solution presented was to simply push his concerns aside and just listen to the rocks and the trees until they began speaking to him.

Starting Friday, Nov. 13, the media wall 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



The photography of George Peet will be on the

have been creating new works in Conlon Hall Media Wall through Nov. 12. photography, sculpture, design, painting, drawing, film, video and mixed media. The biennial exhibition highlighting some of their best and recent works will run from **Wednesday, Nov. 4** through Wednesday, Dec. 16 at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery. There will be an opening reception at 5:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 18** at the gallery.

Faculty Notes

Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) served as the external reviewer for the program review of the Political Science Major at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H.

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