
Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Oct. 29, 2018 - Volume 9, Issue 5

Save the date: Think Tank at ideaLab set for Nov. 15

Do you have suggestions on how the university can use the new ideaLab at the Main Street Theater Block to create opportunities for students, faculty and the wider community? Would you like to be part of a wider conversation on ways to encourage innovation to bring new energy to downtown Fitchburg?

There will be a "think tank" to explore the ideaLab's possibilities from **5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15** in the space at 717 Main St.



Keep an eye out for communications from the university with information on how to sign up for this event, for which registration will be limited. [Click here](#) to indicate interest in attending (and additional information on how to register will be sent when it becomes available).

Panel Discussions set for Wednesday, Nov. 7

President Lapidus and members of the senior staff will hold a pair of panel discussions for faculty and staff on **Wednesday, Nov. 7** 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.

German scholars visit campus

Last week the campus welcomed faculty members from the [Hochschule Rhein-Waal University](#) in Kleve, Germany.

During the visit, our guests conducted seminars for students on topics like improving quality in technology projects, alternative fuels, German perspective of climate change and its impact on transportation and energy generation, and combining chemistry and biology in pursuit

of negative net carbon emissions.

They also held a roundtable discussion with university faculty and a panel discussion for students about the German education system and possibilities for student exchange.



Dr. Matthias Kleinke, far left, told students about study abroad opportunities in Germany while fellow Hochschule Rhein-Waal University faculty members Dr. Rudolf Schumachers, Dr. Joachim Fensterle and Dr. Frank Platte look on.

University role in city's arts and culture plans highlighted

City officials were joined by representatives from the university and other agencies last week for a walking tour of the newly designated Fitchburg Arts and Cultural District, which for the next three years will benefit from a program aimed at spurring development in Gateway Cities.

The tour was highlighted in the [Sentinel & Enterprise](#) on Wednesday.

The program, called the Transformative Development Initiative, is run by MassDevelopment, the state's quasi-public agency that works to stimulate economic growth in the state.



Tom Skwieraski, Fitchburg's executive director of planning and development, during a tour of the city's new Arts and Cultural District that includes the Main Street Theater Block (Sentinel & Enterprise photo)

The university-owned Theater Block on Main Street is part of the district and is seen as a key component in the revitalization efforts.

[News coverage of tour](#)

University bucking MBA enrollment trends

A [report](#) published in the Washington Post indicates that MBA enrollment is shrinking nationally, but Fitchburg State is among the institutions seeing growth through more flexible offerings. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alberto Cardelle is quoted in the piece, describing how students seek Fitchburg State's [program](#) to acquire skills they can apply immediately to their professions.

[Read more](#)



Speakers Series continues Nov. 5

The university Speakers Series continues from **12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5** with a presentation by Professor **Heather Urbanski** (English Studies) entitled "The Ethics of Controlling Reality: Complicating the Mad Scientist in *The Lathe of Heaven*."

The Speakers Series presentations are held in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. Refreshments will be served.

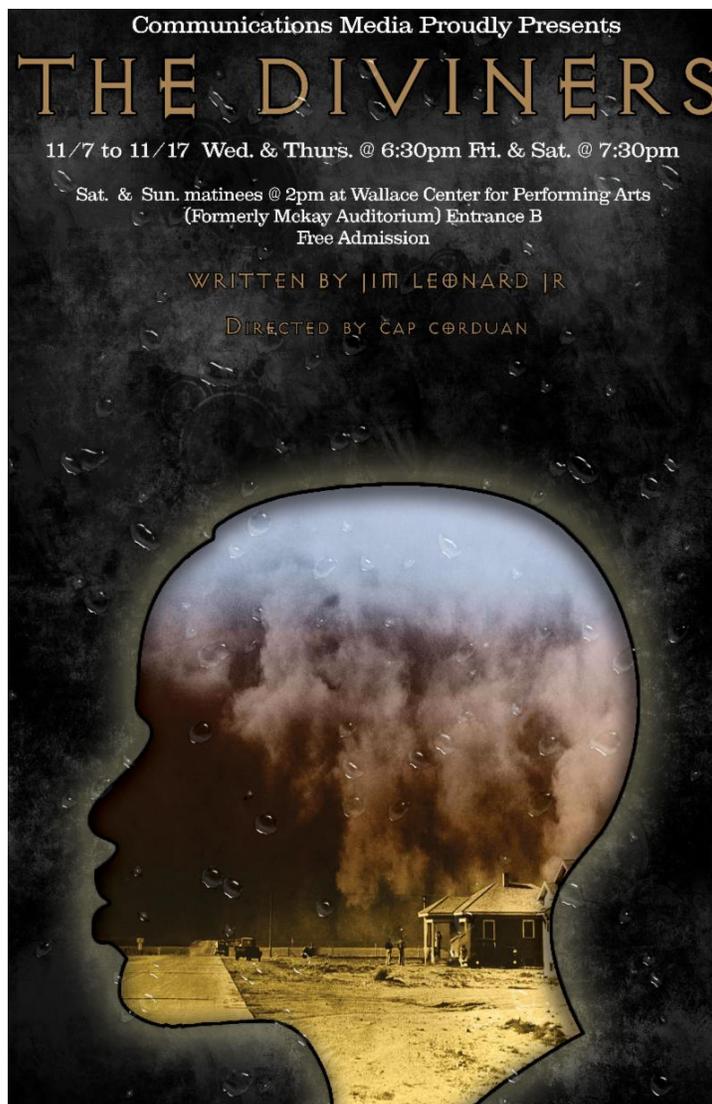
Main stage theater production "The Diviners" debuts Nov. 7

The story of how a small, Depression-era town in Southern Indiana is shaken when tragedy strikes is told in "The Diviners," the Communications Media Department's fall main stage production.

The play, written by Jim Leonard Jr. and directed by Professor Cap Corduan, will have 10 performances between **Wednesday, Nov. 7** and **Saturday, Nov. 17** at the Wallace Theatre for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Admission is free and open to the public.

"The Diviners" is about a disturbed young man and his friendship with a disenchanted preacher in the fictional town of Zion, Ind., in the early 1930s. Variety hailed the play as "a splendid drama by a playwright ... with poetic as well as human feeling," as well as "both touching and entertaining." New York Magazine said the drama "renders the humor and horror of the hinterlands with staggering accuracy."

Performances will be at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7** and **Thursday, Nov. 8; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9; and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10;**



6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14 and Thursday, Nov. 15; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16; and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17.

[Learn more](#)

Reminder: flu clinics this week

Health Services will be holding flu clinics from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall and from **3 to 6 p.m. Thursday** 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).

Reminder: free FAFSA help on Nov. 4

Fitchburg State University will join more than 30 other institutions offering 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](#)

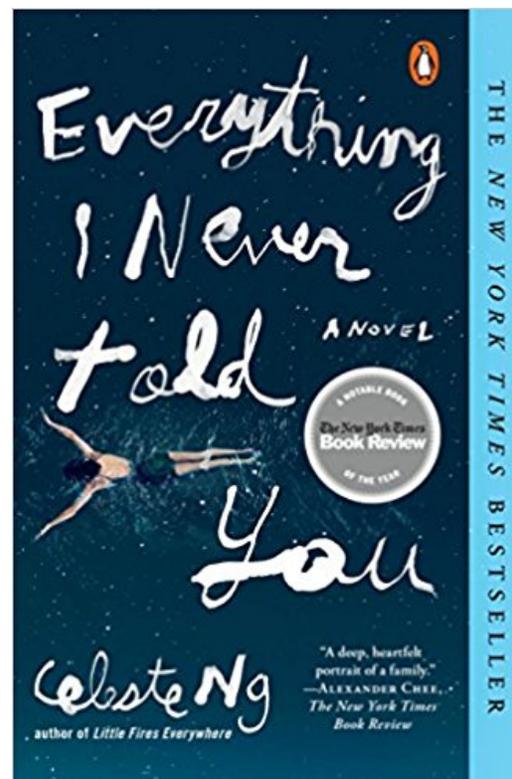
Community Read continues with poetry slam and potluck

The university's yearlong [Community Read](#) continues in November with the sixth annual International Poetry Slam and Potluck from **5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall.

The event, co-sponsored by the Department of Humanities and the Department of Economics, History and Political Science, celebrates the love of poetry and food with an international flair.

To participate in the poetry slam:

1. Select an original or favorite poem in any world language (if you prefer not to read the poem in the world language, bring an English translation). You will sign up for a timeslot when you arrive.
2. Introduce and recite the poem. Please keep readings to five minutes or less.
3. Please bring an extra copy of the poem with facing translation and your name listed as presenter so it can be compiled into an audience handout. If possible, email the poem in advance to Rala Diakite at rdiakite@fitchburgstate.edu
4. If you are able, please bring an international dish (and the recipe) to share with others.



There will also be a discussion of the novel by the X-Teen Novel Society at the Leominster Public Library from **7 to 8 p.m. tomorrow** at the Gazbar at 1045 Central St., Leominster. The program tomorrow is for ages 21 and over. Space is limited, and registration is required by contacting Cassandra Hall at chall@cwmar.org.

[Community Read Events](#)

Students helping to clean up the city

Students in the [Environmental](#)

[League of Fitchburg](#) club recently volunteered their time cleaning litter and other material from the banks of Falulah Brook.

Couches, televisions and other items were among the materials removed from the area at the two cleanups this month.



Go Falcons Challenge raises funds for athletic teams

The 2nd annual Go Falcons Challenge earlier this month raised \$13,523 for the university's athletic teams, with 344 donors stepping forward to offer support for their favorite teams.

The top-earning teams were softball, baseball and field hockey.



CenterStage and cultural events

The comic culinary stylings of two larger-than-life Italian women will come to life when the Fitchburg State University CenterStage arts and culture series presents "[Cooking with the Calamari Sisters](#)" at 8 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 3** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

Hilarity, failed dishes, and food fights ensue during this live "broadcast" of a public access cable cooking show hosted by Delphine and Carmela Calamari. The sisters sing and dance to such beloved Italian favorites as "Volare," "Come On A My House," "Botcha Me," "Que Sera Sera," "That's Amore," and of course, "Mambo Italiano!" as they try to make it through their final broadcast together in one piece.



"The Calamari Sisters" bring their comical cooking show to the Falcon Hub on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Tickets for this live comedy cooking show are \$28 for adults; \$25 for Fitchburg State alumni, seniors and staff; and \$5 for students. Tickets can be ordered [online](#) or by visiting the box office in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St., from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. The box office can be reached at 978-665-3347.

This production is sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State University.

Save the Date: A Rockapella Holiday Saturday, Dec. 8

The magic of the holidays begins at Fitchburg State when the

celebrated five-man a cappella group Rockapella returns to campus for a seasonal show at **8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.



Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$25 for Fitchburg State alumni, seniors and staff; and \$5 for students.

Tickets can be ordered [online](https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage) at [fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage](https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage) or at the Weston Box Office.

Staff notes

Kristin Murphy (Human Resources and Payroll Services) was honored with The Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers (NEACUHO) Distinguished Service Award. The organization is a regional arm of the Association of College and University Housing Officers - International, a professional association geared to residence life professionals.



Murphy is currently director of Title IX compliance for the university but joined the Fitchburg State community as director of residential services.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes a NEACUHO member who has contributed significantly to the direction, administration and governance of the association. Murphy, a member since 2001, has served on two annual conference host committees, chaired five conferences/institutes and presented over 20 programs. She has participated in numerous NEACUHO committees and initiatives and been honored by the association many times over her career.

"I'm so proud and appreciative of her contribution to the larger field of Housing and Residence Life and Student Affairs in general, and I'm so pleased that NEACUHO chose this year to honor Kristin with this award," said Vice President for Student Affairs Laura Bayless.

Faculty notes

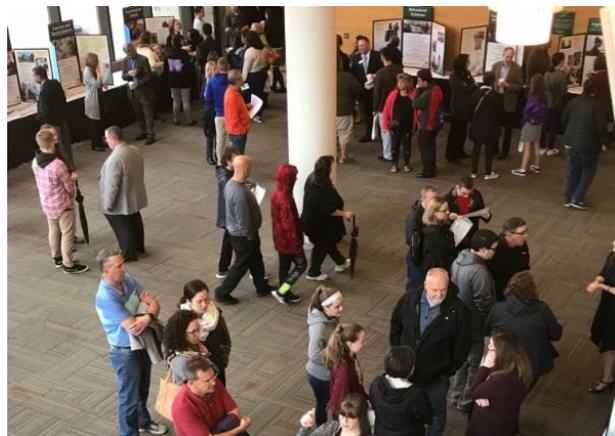
Katherine Rye Jewell (Economics, History and Political Science) was published in the Washington Post last week. Her piece, "Why one of punk rock's icons is sporting a MAGA shirt," explores the intersection of Trump and punk rock.



The article explores the reaction to John Lydon - a.k.a. Johnny Rotten, frontman of the seminal 1970s punk band the Sex Pistols and a poster child for rebellion and sarcasm - recently being photographed wearing a MAGA shirt. Jewell writes that shock tactics and spectacle have continued to make punk music relevant. Read the article [here](#).

Save the dates!

- The campus will host one more open house this fall for prospective students on **Saturday, Nov. 10**.
- The campus holiday tree lighting will be held at **4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29**.



Visitors enjoyed our first open house of the season earlier this month.

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