
Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Oct. 30, 2017 - Volume 8, Issue 5

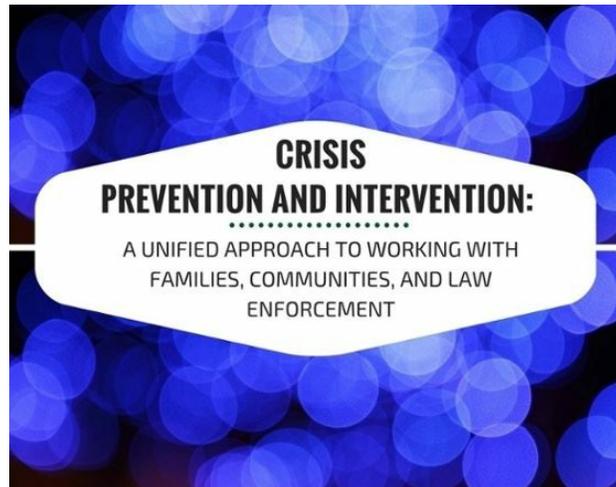
Taking the Lead

The Center for Professional Studies, Crocker Center for Civic Engagement and University Police are co-sponsoring a conference **Monday, Oct. 30** about crisis prevention and intervention, with topics to include the opioid epidemic.

The campus will welcome 70 attendees from over 20 police and non-profit agencies for the conference.

Communities in North Central Massachusetts have continued to struggle with opioid addiction and the devastating consequences that come from it. Addiction knows no boundaries, impacting families and individuals from every age group, race, gender, employment, and socioeconomic status. It also has no geographic boundaries. The impact is felt throughout police agencies, courts, and corrections, as well as within non-profit agencies, medical facilities, and first responders.

This half-day event will look at the work being done throughout our region, the approaches we are currently using, as well as what future strategies may look like.



Probation conference brought state, federal officers to campus

The campus recently hosted more than 200 state and federal probation officers for a conference that put Fitchburg State alumni front and center. Christopher Maloney '89, the chief federal probation officer in Massachusetts, is pictured at right with Sean McNally '17, who is interning with the probation department, and Dean of Arts and Sciences Franca Barricelli.



Behavioral Sciences faculty discuss mass shootings

Weeks after a gunman opened fire on a crowd of concertgoers in Las Vegas, questions abound about what drove the carnage. Misconceptions about mass shootings will be the subject of an interdisciplinary panel talk by Fitchburg State faculty at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Nov. 2** in

Hammond Hall.

"Deconstructing Las Vegas: Mythbusting Mass Shootings," sponsored by the university's Behavioral Sciences Department, will be held in Hammond's room S08. Panelists will include Assistant Professor Zachary Miner (sociology), Assistant Professor Kori Ryan (human services) and Assistant Professor Philip D. McCormack (criminal justice).



The talk is free and open to the public.

University Police offers [free training](#) to the campus community on how to respond to [active shooter](#) events. The next training will be offered at 4 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 7** in Kent Recital Hall.

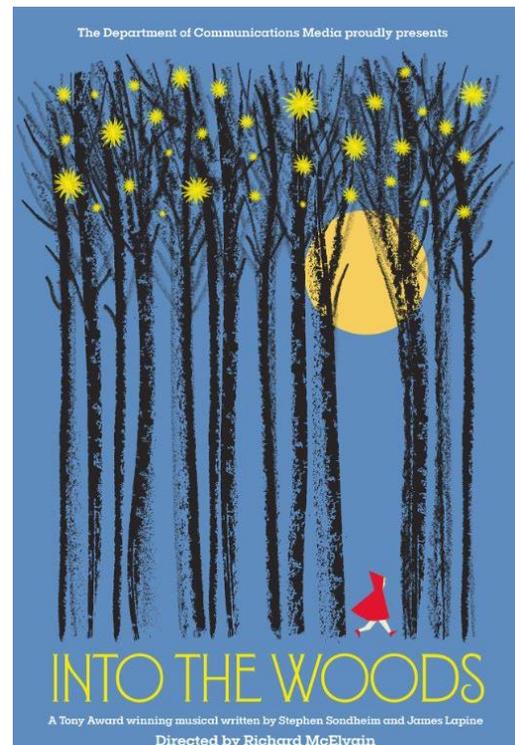
Musical will take audience "Into the Woods" Nov. 9-18

Fitchburg State's production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* will take you into a musical journey into the world of fairy tales and beyond this **November 9-18**.

Among the classic characters populating the show are Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Cinderella, a very Wicked Witch and two charming Princes. The show won the 1988 Tony for Best Book and Best Score and was adapted into a major motion picture in 2014.

The performances represent the university's first musical production in more than 10 years, according to Professor Richard McElvain.

The show will be fully designed with set costumes and lights that take you into an enchanted forest where anything can happen. The students will be accompanied by a six-piece live orchestra directed by Fitchburg State student Steven Bergman.



Into the Woods will be performed at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10; and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11.

Performances will resume at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17; and 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18.

All performances will be held at the Wallace Theatre for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Admission is \$3. Additional donations will be accepted at the door to support Fitchburg State students' planned trip to mount a production at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland next summer, marking the university's seventh trip to the biggest theatre festival in the world.

Theater fans will also want to mark their calendars for 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the McKay Complex, when McElvain will perform his original one-man show *The Chess Player*. Adapted by McElvain from a story by Stefan Zweig, *The Chess Player* chronicles the struggle inside a prisoner's mind as he battles insanity while held in solitary confinement in a Nazi jail.

McElvain debuted the play this summer at the Edinburgh Festival



McElvain in *The Chess Player* audiences and critics. It was one of the 50 best reviewed productions at the Fringe, where literally thousands of productions are presented.

Admission to *The Chess Player* is \$20 for adults and \$10 for Fitchburg State students. All proceeds will support sending students on the upcoming Edinburgh Festival Fringe trip. Additional donations to the trip can be made the night of the performance.

Panel talk explored freedom of expression

A wide-ranging discussion on freedom of speech and the value of free expression took place at last week's panel talk entitled "Inclusive Dialogues."

Professor Ben Railton (English Studies) moderated the talk. "Ideals are always in conflict with our reality," he said, noting the challenges that free expression can create.

"We're losing our sense of commonality," said Professor John Crawley (Business Administration). "When we listen to bad speech, we should be courageous enough to challenge it. But we want to walk away."

Student Government Association President Thomas Satham-Fisette said the angry rhetoric in our current political discourse is the result of decades of pent-up frustration. "In today's world we're saying we don't want to listen," he said.

Professor DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld (English Studies) said hate speech shouldn't be protected under the umbrella of free expression. "I'm tired of, 'I don't agree with what you're saying, but I defend your right to say it,'" she said. "You can't yell 'Fire!' in a crowded theater, nor should you be allowed to yell an epithet on a college campus."

Professor David Svolba (Humanities) countered that negative speech should be responded to rather than suppressed, as societies that value free expression tend to be better off in the long run than those that constrict it. "Our best response (to hate speech) is to use our own right of free speech to express our disagreement with those people," he said.

"The right to free speech and the right to assemble is protected, especially on college campuses," said University Police Chief Michael Cloutier. "Everyone has the right to gather and speak their beliefs without fear of government interference or censorship. This is true as long as other's protected rights are not infringed. Infringement starts the moment that the speech or assembly turns violent or when violence is imminent."

The talk was organized by the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness.

Spotlight on Giving: Athletics Day of Giving a triumph

Our first ever Go Falcons Challenge was a huge success! While Softball won the day, it was a victory for all Falcon sports teams. Nearly 600 donors, many of them for the first time, gave over \$15,000 to support our student athletes. Ninety-one players, representing every team, along with the cheerleaders and other students took part in the day engaging



with alumni and having fun with the campus community. Freddy the Falcon also got involved, helping spread the word that the Challenge was on. THANK YOU to everyone who participated and made gifts to your favorite teams. Even though the Go Falcons Challenge is officially over, you can still make a gift to your favorite sport today or any day by visiting fitchburgstate.edu/falconsgive.



Puerto Rico recovery event raises thousands

The university community raised more than \$2,000 and collected 12 boxes of necessities for the ongoing relief effort in Puerto Rico at the downtown fundraiser on Oct. 18. About 300 people turned out for the program, organized by campus clubs and organizations including FAB, LASO, Phi Sigma Sigma, Alpha Phi Delta, Alpha Sigma Tau, the Volunteer Center, Office of Student Development, MassPIRG and Sigma Tau Gamma.

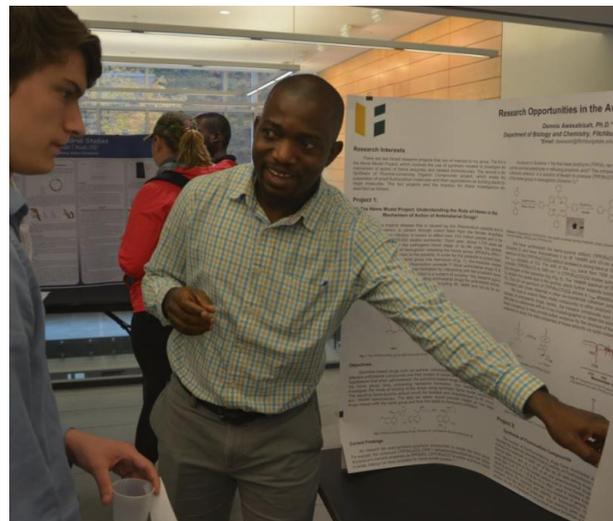
Community members can still lend their support by buying a United for Puerto Rico T-shirt, available in any size for \$10 from the Office of Student Development. Proceeds from the shirts will go to the relief fund.



Science faculty share research at symposium

Faculty members from the university's science departments shared their research with students and colleagues at a symposium last Thursday in the Antonucci Science Complex. The poster presentations spanned disciplines from the departments of biology and chemistry; psychological sciences; earth and geographic sciences; mathematics; and exercise and sports science. Presenters from Mount Wachusett Community College also took part in the program.

[Photo Gallery](#)



Save the date: Campus forums Wednesday, Nov. 29

President Lapidus and members of the senior staff will hold a pair of open forums and information sessions for faculty and staff on **Wednesday, Nov. 29** in Kent Recital Hall. These recurring campus-wide gatherings 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.

Reminders

Transgender activist Nicole Maines speaks Wednesday, Nov. 1

Nicole Maines, whose battle for transgender rights led to landmark legislation, will speak at 3 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 1** in Hammond Hall.

Nicole Maines was a teenager in Maine when she went to court for the right to use the girls' bathroom in accordance with her gender identity. The court battle went on for years, culminating with a ruling in 2014 that the school had violated anti-discrimination law.

The Maines family presentation is part of the university's months-long series of [events](#) exploring gender and equality.

Community Read

Fitchburg State's year-long [Community Read](#) of *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan continues in November with events on- and off-campus. The best-selling book tells the story of the young women of Oak Ridge, Tenn., who unwittingly played a crucial role in one of the most significant moments in U.S. history: the development of the atomic bomb.

Professor Joseph Moser (English Studies) will present a pair of film screenings at 11 a.m. **Saturday, Nov. 4** at the Leominster Public Library, 30 West St., Leominster. *Millions Like Us* (1943) explores women's contributions to the British war effort, while *Raggedy Man* (1981) tells the story of a woman who goes to work as a telephone operator in Texas at the height of the war.

Returning to the main campus, librarian and archivist Asher Jackson will introduce an exhibit entitled "World War II-Era Women of Fitchburg and Leominster" in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 8.**

Harrod Lecture

Professor Yasser Djazaerly (Humanities) will deliver the Harrod Lecture "Shakespeare of Arabia and the Road to ISIS" at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 15** at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

CenterStage

In the Christmas Mood with Glenn Miller

Fitchburg State invites the community to get into the holiday spirit with the Glenn Miller Orchestra on **Saturday, Dec. 9** at 7 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

Featuring an ensemble of 18 musicians, this holiday concert spectacular brings the season to life with timeless sound and iconic melodies of Miller's unmistakable music. The Glenn Miller Orchestra delighted a packed house when they last visited Fitchburg State, and you won't want to miss this chance to see them again.

Tickets for "In the Christmas Mood" are \$30 for adults; \$28 for seniors and Fitchburg State staff and alumni; and \$5 for students and guests 18 and under. The Weston Box Office, located inside Weston Auditorium, is open Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets may also be purchased [online](#). There will be a \$5 discount per ticket for all orders placed before Friday, Nov. 10.

[Learn More](#)

Semantic Satiation in the Gallery at Sanders

JOIN US! **Saturday, Dec. 9**
at 7 p.m.
WESTON AUDITORIUM

IN THE
CHRISTMAS
MOOD
WITH THE
GLENN MILLER
ORCHESTRA

\$30 adults
\$28 alumni, seniors, and staff
\$5 students and 18/under

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTERSTAGE

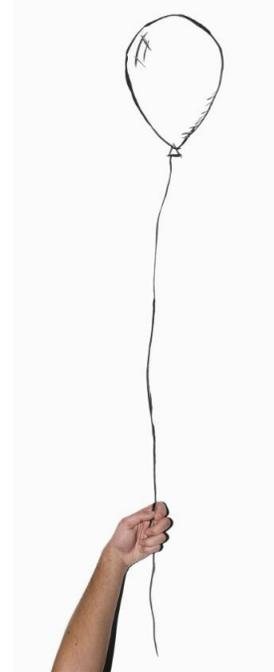
ORDER TICKETS BY NOV. 10TH receive \$5 off each ticket!

Weston Box Office | Thurs. & Fri. 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. | 978.665.3347
fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage
*Discount applies to new sales (or orders) in person or over the phone.

Experience a new exhibit that inspires the viewer to look at the familiar from a new perspective. The work of artist Michael Darcy will be on display in the Gallery at Sanders in the Sanders Administration Building through the coming year.

Darcy's exhibit is inspired by the psychological phenomenon of "semantic satiation," in which repeating a word causes it to lose meaning and transforms it into a foreign sound; the same effect is reproduced visually through Darcy's photography and mixed media pieces that are featured in the gallery.

Darcy is a 2014 Fitchburg State graduate, and was identified by faculty as a talented artist whose work was worthy of exhibition in a public gallery. For artists looking to show their work in professional galleries, framing their work is a considerable expense. The Alumni Association sponsored the framing for this exhibit, inviting Darcy to build a body of work to feature in the gallery that Darcy will be able to bring anywhere after this year's show.



"Balloon" by Michael Darcy

Faculty Notes

Walter Jeffko (Humanities) will have the fourth edition of his book *Contemporary Ethical Issues: A Personalist Perspective* published by Humanity Books (an imprint of Prometheus Press) in June 2018. New to this edition is a chapter entitled "Economic Inequality, Distributive Justice and Democracy," which is an extension of his same-titled Harrod Lecture from October 2015. Besides numerous updates and revisions throughout the volume, other notable features of the new edition are an extended critique of the Iraq War in the chapter on the moral treatment of civilians in war, and many criticisms of the Trump administration.

Kisha G. Tracy (English Studies) will deliver "Cultural Heritage, Image and the Student of the Pre-Modern" at 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6 in the Miller Oval in Miller Hall. The program is part of the English Graduate Program Colloquium Series for 2017-2018.

Students and teachers of the pre-modern are often asked to engage with the question of the relevance of these subjects, particularly with skeptics who might doubt such relevance exists. Relevance, however, has certain connotations, so Tracy seeks to turn the conversation from relevance to the more productive conversation of significance. In this talk, there will be specific focus on Tracy's [project](#) "Transforming Perceptions of Cultural Heritage Through Image."

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