
Fitchburg State University Today

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Welcome Back

The new academic year begins this week, with new and returning students finding upgraded facilities, new housing options and the foundations for new academic programs.

"The start of the semester brings an infusion of new life to the campus, with 1,000 incoming first-year and transfer students, along with new members of our faculty and staff," President Lapidus said. "The transformative work that takes place in our classrooms and laboratories will be complemented by the university's continued collaboration with our shared community."



New students gathered on the quad for a class photo Monday.

The incoming students represent 230 high schools from Massachusetts and 60 high schools from out-of-state. Counting graduate students, this year's Falcons hail from more than 20 countries across the globe.

New resident students moved in Monday, with returning students scheduled to return to campus tomorrow. Fall semester classes begin Thursday.

Commissioner Santiago's address launches development day focus on diversity, inclusion and student success

Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos E. Santiago offered remarks at today's faculty development day, where programs have focused on "Diversity, Inclusion, and Student Success: Expanding Opportunities for Our Students."

Commissioner Santiago described the demographic changes that are going to affect all colleges and universities, and the steps that need to be taken to serve a more diverse student body.

"We're seeing a demographic shift in who is coming to our campuses," he said. "If we admit students, we have to give them the skills to succeed."

In his own welcoming remarks, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alberto Cardelle said research shows a more diverse student body produces better outcomes for all members of the academic community. And while the public system is recruiting more diverse students, the campus must work hard to retain those students.

The day's programs included presentations on themes including understanding and supporting the social and academic needs for first generation students, microaggressions in the college classroom, overcoming conflict in the classroom, supporting students with invisible disabilities in the classroom, and strategies for supporting students on the autism spectrum, among others.

[Read more](#)



Commissioner Santiago

Police Program holds first graduation Thursday, Sept. 13

Next week, the inaugural graduates of Fitchburg State's first-of-its-kind, university-run Police Academy will complete their journeys.

The Criminal Justice 4 + 1 [Police Program](#) graduates officers with a bachelor's and a master's degree and certification to work full-time for municipal police departments in the Commonwealth. The comprehensive program - developed in close collaboration with the state's Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) - is distinct because it combines classroom and hands-on training to improve critical thinking and community engagement strategies, competencies that society needs now more than ever.

The first recruit officer class (ROC) are completing the skills portion of their training this summer. Daily physical workouts and classroom sessions have been combined with skills-based training including emergency vehicle operations, qualification at the firing range and more. Cities and towns will be able to hire qualified recruits who are "street ready" from day one, rather than having to pay for them to attend months of academy training before patrolling their communities.



The cohort will graduate at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 13** at Weston Auditorium.

National delivery of online programs approved

Fitchburg State has been approved to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), allowing students from across the country to enroll in the university's online programs. The recognition makes Fitchburg State the first public, four-year institution in Massachusetts to get the [designation](#).



"Participation in SARA presents a great opportunity for students from across the U.S. to take advantage of Fitchburg State's robust online offerings," President Lapidus said.

[Learn more](#)

New deans report for duty

Two deans joined the Fitchburg State ranks this summer.

Keith M. Williamson, Ph.D., reported for duty as the university's new dean of business and technology. The new post reflects an academic reorganization at Fitchburg State, with Dr. Williamson leading a division that includes the departments of Business Administration, Industrial Technology and Computer Science.



Williamson

Williamson is an experienced administrator and researcher with significant appointments in industry and academia. He is the former Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at Virginia State University where he served for over a decade strengthening engineering, computer science, and technology programs and obtaining numerous accreditations.

Jacalyn Kremer is the new dean of the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. She comes to Fitchburg State from Fairfield University in Connecticut, where her work focused on advancing student learning and supporting faculty teaching and scholarship.



Kremer

Kremer is a leader in promoting academic integrity initiatives and working collaboratively with faculty to explore the complex issues of academic honesty. She led a team of librarians in developing open source online academic integrity tutorials that were recognized with Fairfield's President's Innovation Award.

[Read more](#)

Falcons welcome new AD

Matthew J. Burke is ready to take [Falcon Athletics](#) to the next level as Fitchburg State's new athletic director.

Arriving at Fitchburg State following a lengthy tenure at Mount Ida College, Burke sees a lot of potential at his new institution. Like Mount Ida, Fitchburg State competes in the NCAA's Division III. "My philosophy is grounded in what Division III is all about," he said. "The number one priority is to be a student, and earn their degree. I also believe that athletics provides a lot of valuable life lessons. I want every student-athlete to represent the department with pride, wherever they are."

Keep up up with the Falcons [here](#).

[Learn more](#)



Burke

University targets food insecurity

Food insecurity is an issue for college students across the country, and Fitchburg State is stepping up with a community response.

Several initiatives are launching this fall to address the issue, led by the new Food and Necessities Insecurity Committee.

The Falcon Bazaar Necessities and Food Pantry will be open in Hammond G-15, in space shared with the campus Volunteer Center. The Bazaar will be a place for community members to pick up food items including canned goods, milk, eggs, cheese and bread, along with personal care items such as deodorant and feminine hygiene products.



The Green Bag Program will distribute 250 canvas bags to offices across campus. Members of the campus community will be encouraged to purchase an extra item or two to place in their office green bag when they're out shopping. Once the bag is full, it can be brought to the Falcon Bazaar to help stock the shelves. The goal is for the bazaar to be self-sustaining.

Swipe It Forward will let students donate from their meal plans into a bank for students in need. A bank of 300 meals per semester will be created for distribution after review by the university's CARE team.

[Learn more](#)

Community Read launches Sept. 19

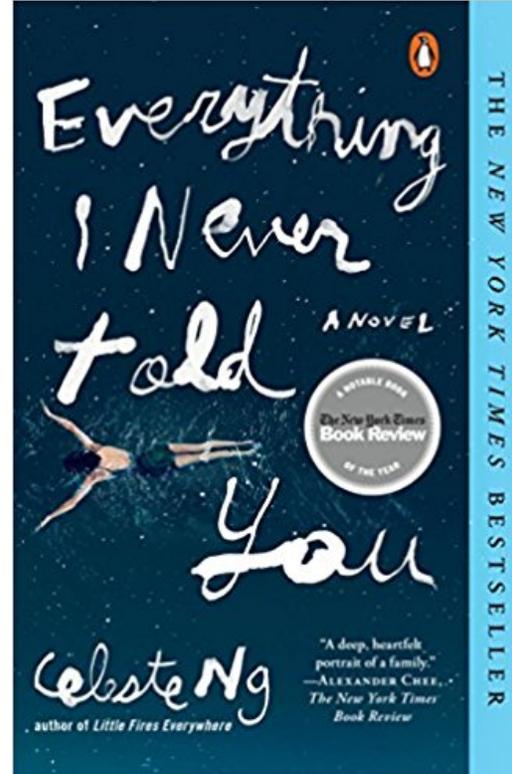
Fitchburg State University's [Community Read](#) of 2018-19 - Celeste Ng's acclaimed novel *Everything I Never Told You* - will begin with a talk by Professor Ben Railton (English Studies) at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 19** in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

Railton will deliver a talk entitled "Everything They Never Told You about Immigration Histories and Stories."

In Ng's novel, *Everything I Never Told You*, a family's secrets are closely tied to themes of immigration and ethnic identity. As it turns out,

much of American immigration history is also far too secret, and in this talk, Railton will share some of the histories and stories that we are never (or hardly ever) told.

[Learn more](#)



University Police offer personal safety programs this fall

The University Police Department is once again offering a comprehensive series of personal safety courses for Fitchburg State students, faculty and staff this fall, all available at no charge.

From first aid and CPR to self-defense offerings, the diverse array of courses are designed to reduce the incidence of crime and partner with members of the campus community to enhance public safety, Police Chief Michael J. Cloutier said.

[Learn more](#)



CenterStage and cultural events

The Fitchburg State University CenterStage arts and cultures series opens with a sculpture exhibit in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery. Figure-Figuration, featuring the work of Claudia Olds Goldie, will run from **Monday, Sept. 10** through Friday, Oct. 26. There will be an artist talk and reception at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 26** at the gallery.

Claudia Olds Goldie holds a BFA from Boston University College of Visual Arts. She teaches at Harvard University in the Ceramics Program and at Dexter Southfield School in Brookline. A member of Boston Sculptors Gallery since 2015, she is also represented by several other galleries in the U.S.

Her awards include recognition from the Massachusetts Cultural Council as a 2017 grant finalist, an Artist Award from the Society of Arts and Crafts, a Kiln God Residency from Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, a residency fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center, a nomination for a Boston Foundation Brother Thomas fellowship, and numerous awards from Bay State Clay Biennial exhibitions. Her work was featured in the National Council on

Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Biennial in Houston and the Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design (SOFA) Fair in Chicago.

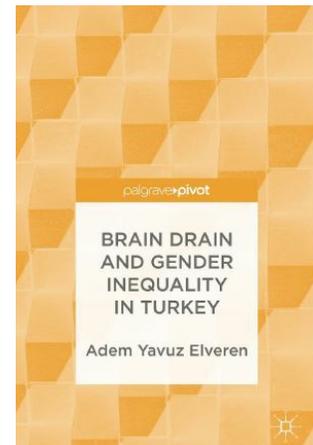


Bustle and Calm by
Claudia Olds Goldie

Faculty Notes

Adem Y. Elveren (Economics, History and Political Science) authored a new book, *Brain Drain and Gender Inequality in Turkey* (published by Palgrave Pivot) that provides a comprehensive analysis of the brain drain from Turkey, with particular focus on its gender dimension. Presenting an account of state changes in Turkey, and using a range of empirical methods, the book argues that women have a higher tendency not to return to the country due to increasing gender inequality, borne out of a shift towards a more authoritarian regime over the last decade.

Kisha Tracy (English Studies) is the co-editor of *The Ballad of the Lone Medievalist* (published by Punctum Books). The book is intended as an antidote to the problem of professional isolation. It is offered in the spirit of common weal that marks the ideals (if not always the realities) of so many of the communities faculty study. The volume isn't only about scholarship, or teaching, or institutional life, or the pursuit of new learning - it's about all of them. The essays in this volume address all aspects of the professional and intellectual life.



Paul Weizer (Economics, History and Political Science) authored an op-ed in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette about the modern history of Supreme Court confirmation battles, comparing the current vacancy to past showdowns. Read the piece [here](#).

Staff notes

Assistant Dean Rob Hynes (Counseling Services) was featured in a piece on Boston 25 News about mental health needs among college students across Massachusetts. View the piece online [here](#).

Save the dates!

- Rock The Block will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Sept. 11** on Highland Avenue and the main quad (rain date Thursday, Sept. 13).
- Homecoming Weekend will be celebrated **Friday, Sept. 28** through **Sunday, Sept. 30**.
- The campus will host three Open Houses for prospective students. This fall's events will be **Saturday, Oct. 13**, **Oct. 27** and **Nov. 10**.
- The holiday tree lighting will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Nov. 29**.

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