



# Fitchburg State University Today

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## President Lapidus' tenure begins



Lapidus

The first academic year of President Richard S. Lapidus' tenure has begun. The 11th president of Fitchburg State marked the start of the academic year with greetings to faculty, staff and one of the largest groups of incoming students the university has seen. The incoming class of approximately 800 first-year students hails from 294 high schools in 24 states and five countries; its youngest member is 17, its eldest is 63.

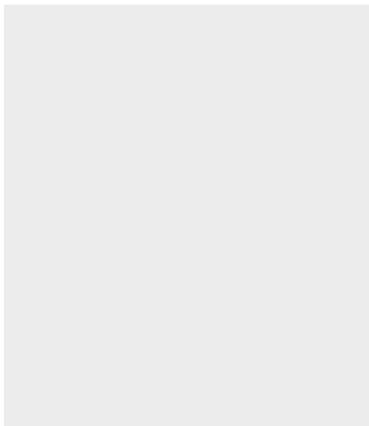
His remarks to students included encouragement to seek help when needed, to step out of their comfort zone to grow as people, and to take their studies seriously as they forge their paths ahead. Talking with staff and administrators, Lapidus saluted a culture of positive customer service he has already seen and reminded listeners that all have a role to play in the success of the institution and its students.

In addressing faculty, Lapidus said he connected with Fitchburg State because of its mission of access and affordability, and the important population it serves. He shared a personal story about one of his students at his prior position in California, a young man from a tough neighborhood whose own family felt he didn't belong on a college campus.

"His college experience changed his life," he said. "We as educators must never forget we are in the life-changing business."

Lapidus said the university's strategic plan lays out a path forward, and in the coming months that plan will be operationalized and prioritized. Describing the importance of an atmosphere of shared enthusiasm, he said the university must commit itself to thorough evaluation of academic programs and the importance of student success.

Creating and fostering unique programs will help the university distinguish itself in a competitive marketplace, at the same time it makes the case to prospective students that Fitchburg State is "a destination campus," he said.



As he welcomed 27 new full-time faculty members, Lapidus said the university will continue to look nationally and internationally to recruit top talent. As the university seeks to increase diversity on campus, it must also do more to reach out to veterans, he said.

He also described more robust relationships with educational partners like community colleges and the K-12 system, as well as the business community and political leaders. Fitchburg State must make the case that its work yields broad economic and social benefits that are a sound return on investment, he said. "We must be vocal and be a part of this ongoing conversation."

### Susan Williams recognized as *professor emerita*



*Professor Emerita*  
Susan Williams

The university's welcome back festivities also included recognition of years of service for faculty and staff, culminating in the announcement of professor emerita for retired Professor Susan Williams in recognition of more than 20 years of distinguished service to Fitchburg State.

Williams was a member of the university's Economics, History and Political Science Department since 1993. By the time of her retirement last year, Williams had served the university in numerous leadership positions. She was graduate program chair in history, the co-coordinator of the women's studies minor, and the driving force behind the Women's History Month activities that have become a mainstay on the campus.

Williams was an outstanding and popular teacher who offered a broad range of courses for our students in the field of American history with an emphasis on material culture, known as a caring advisor who always had time for students and was a mentor for many who went on to careers in the discipline.

As a researcher, Williams published three books, dozens of journal articles and more than 25 conference presentations. Her first book, "Savory Suppers and Fashionable Feasts: Dining in Victorian America" was so popular that it warranted a second edition in 1996. In 2006, she published "Food in the United States 1820s-1890." Her most recent book, "Alice Morse Earle and the Domestic History of Early America" was published in 2012. In recognition of these accomplishments, Williams was selected as the winner of the university's Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship in 2012.

### Family Weekend to be held Sept. 25-27

The university will celebrate [Family Weekend](#) on **Friday, Sept. 25** through **Sunday, Sept. 27**. Among the entertainment planned for the weekend is a free performance by the Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Team on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St.

The [Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Team](#) is a



professional gymnastics troupe consisting of talented young men and boys from the Chicagoland area who perform amazing acrobatic stunts and tricks inside twirling jump ropes, catapulting off mini-trampolines and thundering tumbling routines with impeccable timing.

Other public events include the annual fun fair at Elliot Field from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. Fundraising

booths with giveaways and snacks like cotton candy, fried dough, popcorn and balloon animals will be on hand, along with a petting zoo and traveling musician. A silent auction to benefit the university's Alternative Spring Break program will also be held at Elliot Field.

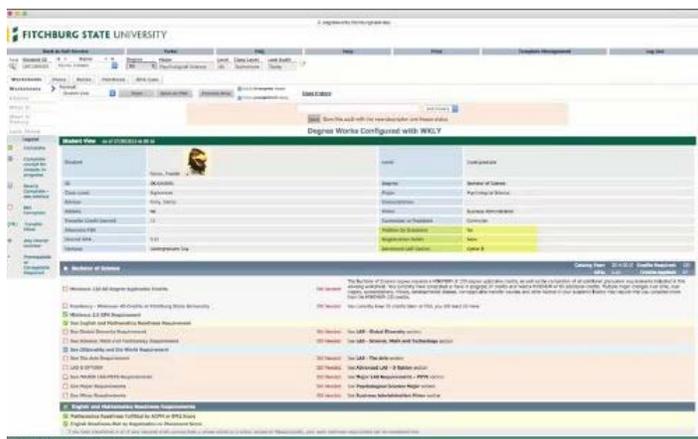
At noon Saturday, the Fitchburg State Falcons will face Bridgewater State on the football field. Tickets are \$5 for the public and free for Fitchburg State students, family members and alumni. Also Saturday, the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall will be showing the live action Cinderella (2014) at 3 p.m. Visitors can enjoy popcorn, snacks and other activities, as well as guest appearances by Cinderella and Prince Charming.

Back at Elliot Field, the Falcons will take on Westfield State for a women's soccer game at 5 p.m.

The Family Weekend events also include events for alumni, such as the 50th reunion reception for the Class of 1965 and the Gold Key Ceremony and Breakfast honoring alumni from 50 years and prior.

For more information, visit <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/campus-life/get-involved/osd/office-of-student-development-family-weekend/>.

## Degree Works transforms student advising



Degree Works is designed to help students keep their studies on track.

Student advising at Fitchburg State University is now easier and more effective with the launch of the new software, [Degree Works](#). Click [here](#) for a video introduction to the program.

Degree Works is an online degree auditing tool which enables students and their advisors to review and monitor academic progress leading to graduation. It organizes academic coursework into blocks to help easily identify courses and requirements that students have completed and what requirements

are still remaining to complete

their degree.

The intuitive, easily-navigated tool is part of the university's effort to help students keep their momentum toward graduation. Degree Works is an advising tool meant to supplement the advice given to students by their academic advisors.

The Degree Works interface allows students to see which courses they have taken that will satisfy their requirements toward their major, minor, or LAS requirements. It also includes a "what if?" tool that enables students to see how far along they would be, if they were to change their major, minor or concentration.

Additional information, along with video tutorials about how to use Degree Works, can be found on the Registrar's [website](#).

In addition, the Registrar's office offers one-on-one training for anyone who would like to come in to go over their degree evaluation. Each appointment should take no more than 10-15 minutes. Please call 978-665-4196 to make an appointment.

### Campus, community invited to audition for upcoming theater/film projects

Fitchburg State University will be holding open auditions for students and community members for upcoming theater productions, including the farcical "Noises OFF" this fall and a variety of student film projects.

Auditions for "Noises OFF!" will be held starting at 4:45 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 10** at the Wallace theatre for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Those auditioning are asked to prepare comic monologues and be ready to read from the script. They may also be asked to read in an English dialect. Community members are also asked to bring headshots of themselves. "Noises OFF!" will be directed by Fitchburg State faculty member Richard McElvain.

Film auditions for the university's roughly 60 film projects will be held **Tuesday, Sept. 22** from 6 to 8 p.m.; **Thursday, Sept. 24** from 6 to 8 p.m.; and **Saturday, Sept. 26** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those auditioning are asked to prepare two contrasting (serious and comic) contemporary monologues (no classical pieces). The monologues should not be longer than one minute each, and minimal props will be available.

For more information, contact [Kelly Morgan](#) by email or phone at 978-665-3555.

### Fitchburg State, Sentinel & Enterprise co-sponsor mayoral debate Thursday, Sept. 17

Fitchburg State University and the Sentinel & Enterprise will co-sponsor a debate on **Thursday, Sept. 17** for the four candidates vying to become the next mayor of Fitchburg. The debate will be held at 7 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building.

President Lapidus will serve as moderator for the forum, where panelists including representatives from the university and the newspaper will pose questions to candidates Andrew Couture, Stephen DiNatale, Miguel Fleitas and Stephen Sandrelli.

The city will hold a preliminary election on Tuesday, Sept. 22 that will eliminate the bottom two vote-getters. The top two candidates will proceed to the general election in November.

### Registration open for Foundation Music Lesson program

Registration is now open for the fall session of the Fitchburg State [Foundation Music Lesson Program](#).

The Foundation Music Lesson Program offers a range of musical lessons and classes at affordable rates.



The program's artist-teachers are available to teach private lessons on campus on voice, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, strings, piano, and percussion and drum set. Requests for other instruments may also be accommodated. The program also offers assorted group lessons, including percussion and Celtic music.

Students have their choice of 30-, 45-, or 60-minute private lessons for either a 10-week or a 14-week plan for fall and spring as well as five-week plans during the summer.

Fall music lessons start the week of **Monday, Sept. 21**. The deadline to register is **Friday, Sept. 18**. For more information, contact Professor [Rala Diakite](#), chair of the university's Humanities Department, or visit [fitchburgstate.edu/music](http://fitchburgstate.edu/music).

### Upcoming course offerings sought for Graduate and Continuing Education

The [Office of Graduate and Continuing Education](#) has begun building the upcoming 2016 winter session and spring semester course schedules. Faculty members interested in teaching should contact the appropriate department chair for approval. All courses in the 2016 winter session will be offered totally online. The deadline for submission of course schedules by the departments is **Friday, Sept., 18**. Contact Interim Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education [Brian Bercier](#) with any questions.

### Making Fitchburg State a greener campus



The university's Sustainability Advisory Committee reminds the campus of some good habits to promote a greener Fitchburg State.

Separating trash from recyclables saves the university money (as well as saving energy by making products from recycled materials compared to newly extracted materials). Recyclable waste costs only \$25 per ton to dispose, but when non-recyclable material contaminates the recycling dumpsters then the cost increases to \$80 per ton. Worse yet, regular trash removal costs us more than \$100 per ton.

Throughout campus look for blue bins with the recycling symbol (shown at top left).

If a classroom or office lacks a recycling bin, please contact [Steven Nolin](#) in the the office of [Capital Planning & Maintenance](#).

Everyone can help remind their peers what really belongs in the recycling bins.

RECYCLE THESE:



PAPER /  
CARDBOARD/  
MILK CARTONS



METALS



NUMBERED  
PLASTIC



GLASS

TRASH THESE:



STYROFOAM



WAXED  
CUPS



FOOD  
WASTE



PAPER  
TOWELS/  
TISSUES/  
NAPKINS



PLASTIC BAGS/  
WRAPPERS

Click [here](#) for a more complete list of items that belong in either trash or recycling, or search "recycling" on the university website.

### Scholarships available for internships

The university has once again received funding designed to increase internship opportunities for our students. [Scholarships](#) are now available for the upcoming academic year. Interested students should submit an application no later than **Friday, Oct. 2** for the current fall semester.

The deadline 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](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/scholarintern).

## CenterStage



"Moving In With Edward Hopper" by Alexandra Rozenman

celebrates the line, their quality and its movements. This piece is a tribute to early abstract animation master Len Lye and Hans Richter.

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Sunday, Oct. 19, Alexandra Rozenman's "In Motion" is on view. There will be a gallery talk and reception on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 3:30 p.m. in the gallery.

Moscow-born, both classically and conceptually trained Alexandra Rozenman brings a canny and charming mysticism to both her life and art. Rozenman's work expresses a longing for understanding and being understood, for non-belonging and finding a place to be. Playfulness points to instability of life - visually, culturally and literally.

[CenterStage](#) at Fitchburg State University has opened its season with visual arts exhibitions in Conlon Hall and Hammond Hall.

On the Conlon Hall Media Wall inside 316 Highland Ave., Wenhua Shi's "Point of No Return" is on display through Wednesday, Oct. 7. There will be a wall talk featuring the artist on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Wenhua Shi is assistant professor in art and art history at Colgate University. "Point of No Return" is an abstract audiovisual piece that

## Faculty Notes

**Michael Greenwood** (Business Administration) was invited to sit on the board of directors for the [Fitchburg Cultural Alliance](#) and asked to lead the group's strategic planning process.

Greenwood was also invited by the U.S. Small Business Administration to present a business visioning workshop and a 10-week business-planning workshop this fall within the North Central Massachusetts Region. He was also asked to facilitate a strategic planning workshop for the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce CEO Roundtable in June.

Archived editions of Fitchburg State University Today can be found online at <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices/administration/public-relations/fitchburg-state-university-today-archive>. For questions about Fitchburg State University Today, contact the Public Relations Office at (978) 665-4694. To submit to Fitchburg State University Today, visit the Public Relations site at [www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations) and click on [Request for Publicity](#).

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