

Fitchburg State University Today

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Maloney named commencement speaker



Christopher Maloney

Christopher Maloney, a 1989 graduate of Fitchburg State University and the Chief U.S. Probation Officer for the District of Massachusetts, will deliver the commencement address at the [118th Commencement Exercises](#) Undergraduate Spring Ceremony on Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m. on the main quadrangle.

Maloney will also receive an honorary doctorate at

the ceremony.

"Christopher Maloney has enjoyed a distinguished career in community corrections, working to create a safer country by strengthening probation and pretrial services in the federal court system in Massachusetts and elsewhere," President Antonucci said. "His work has changed how offenders on probation or parole and defendants awaiting trial are treated, motivated by the desire for better outcomes and enhanced security."

Maloney's selection continues a recent tradition of welcoming back an accomplished Fitchburg State alumnus as commencement speaker. Recent speakers included Michael J. Deitemeyer '86, president of Omni Hotels & Resorts; R.A. Salvatore '81, '91, best-selling author; and Dr. Patrice Nicholas '77, director of global health and academic partnerships at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston.

Maloney was born and raised in Dedham and completed a bachelor's degree in sociology at Fitchburg State in 1989. He worked as an inpatient substance abuse counselor for two years before beginning his career in community corrections as a probation officer with the Florida Department of Corrections. He returned to Massachusetts in 1992 to work in the federal system as a probation officer for the District of Massachusetts.



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After five years in Massachusetts, Maloney became a regional administrator for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, DC from 1997 to 2002. That December he was named Chief of the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services' program services branch.

In 2004, Maloney was named Chief U.S. Probation Officer for the District of New Jersey, where he served until his appointment in Massachusetts in 2011.

Maloney has helped develop financial literacy and workforce development programs for probationers, established a program for offenders with a history of domestic violence and oversaw the development of programs to help female offenders, among many other accomplishments.

Maloney and his wife Heather live in Duxbury with their two children, Quinn and Rowan.

Additional honorees for the undergraduate commencement ceremony, as well as the graduate commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 15, will be announced soon.

Undergraduate Research Conference and Honors Convocation to be held April 24

Fitchburg State University will cancel day classes on **Thursday, April 24** for a daylong celebration of academic accomplishment.

The morning will feature the university's fourth annual [Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice](#), featuring presentations by Fitchburg State students from all departments promoting creativity and scholarship. The conference is sponsored by the university's Center for Teaching and Learning and the Student Government Association.



Student works will be presented in poster sessions, oral presentations, media showings and performances. The conference, running from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will be held in Hammond Hall.

The spotlight on academic excellence will continue with the 37th annual [Honors Convocation](#) at 2 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. More than 130 scholarships and awards will be presented to students during the formal academic ceremony, and the event will include the announcement of major faculty awards: the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship.

University recognized for commuter efforts



MassDOT Outreach Coordinator Melissa Santley, left, with Fitchburg State University Coordinator of Commuter Affairs and Leadership Rebecca Lindley.

of Transportation recently recognized Fitchburg State University for its commitment to creating green options for commuting students.

Coordinator of Commuter Affairs and Leadership Rebecca Lindley accepted the 2014 Pacesetter Award for Excellence in Commuter Options (ECO), which was presented in recognition of exemplary contributions toward creating a more sustainable Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation presents the ECO Awards to celebrate employers and their efforts to reduce congestion and

greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging employees to utilize green transportation options. Such employers make a difference by encouraging employees to travel to work by public transit, bicycling, walking or through the promotion of carpools and vanpools. This year's ceremony was held March 26 at Fenway Park.

Nearly half of Fitchburg State's student population commutes to campus each day and its [Commuter Affairs](#) program helps students identify carpooling opportunities, provides peer mentoring and sponsors daytime programming that contributes to commuting students' sense of connection with the campus community.

The office presents a "Commuter Appreciation Week" each spring with additional programming. This year's program, held in late March, kicked off with a commuter-targeted breakfast with President Robert V. Antonucci, who was a commuter student during his undergraduate days at Fitchburg State. The week also featured free massages in the campus center, games and activities.

For more on the commuter affairs program, visit <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/campus-life/things-you-should-know/commuter-affairs>.

Take Back the Night on April 15

Fitchburg State University's 7th annual Take Back the Night event will be held on **Tuesday, April 15** at 7:30 p.m. on the quad.

Take Back the Night events are organized on campuses nationwide to raise awareness about sexual violence, promote dialogue, and increase support for survivors. This annual event is sponsored by [Counseling Services](#) with support from [FAVE](#), and draws hundreds of students, faculty, and staff each year. The campus community is invited to participate.

GameCon coming April 16

[GameCon](#), the university's growing annual gaming event, is coming to the Athletics and Recreation Center this week. GameCon 2014 will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight Wednesday, April 16.

The event is open to serious gamers as well as



those who play for fun or those who are nostalgic for the simpler videogame days of Pac-Man, as well as board games.

Sponsors for the event include Pepsi, RedBull and Nintendo, and there will be free refreshments including pizza, wings and even fried Oreos. Prizes will be awarded all night, with the grand prize being a Kindle Fire HD.

Attendees in costume can compete, too, with an applause meter determining the winner of best costume.

The full gaming tournament schedule is available [here](#).

Third Thursday film series continues with "Scenes from a Parish" on April 17



The Third Thursday film series, bridging the Fitchburg State campus and the city of Fitchburg, resumes this month with a screening and discussion of "Scenes from a Parish" on **Thursday, April 17** at 4 p.m. at the [Fitchburg Public Library](#), 610 Main St. Admission is free.

Each film is presented in the library auditorium, introduced by a member of the Fitchburg State faculty, staff or a community partner. The films touch on issues or events that will resonate with today's audiences. An informal discussion follows each screening.

Faculty member Kevin McCarthy (Communications Media) will introduce "Scenes from a Parish" and lead a discussion after the screening. In 2001, an irreverent, young, Harvard-educated Catholic priest arrived at Saint Patrick Parish in the hard-pressed former mill town of Lawrence, Mass. Father Paul O'Brien soon discovered that trying to foster an inclusive community amidst the ethnic tensions of this working-class, multicultural parish would be no mean feat. Filmed over four years, "Scenes from a

Parish" explores the personal stories a Catholic parish struggling to reconcile the ideals of faith with the cultural realities of a globalized United States.

The series concludes for the spring on **Thursday, May 8** at 4 p.m., when faculty member Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) presents "Waste Land" (2010). This uplifting feature documentary highlights the transformative power of art, and the beauty of the human spirit. Top-selling contemporary artist Vik Muniz takes us on an emotional journey from Jardim Gramacho, the world's largest landfill on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, to the heights of international art stardom. The May screening is being held on the second Thursday of the month to avoid a conflict with the university's Graduate Commencement ceremony on May 15.

Graduate and Continuing Education info session to be held April 17

Learn about the educational opportunities available at Fitchburg State University when the Office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) (GCE) hosts an information session on **Thursday, April 17** at 5 p.m.

The free session, where attendees will

have the opportunity to speak with advisors, financial aid representatives and register for classes, will take place in Thompson Hall.



GCE at Fitchburg State offers more than 45 graduate and undergraduate degree and certificate programs. Take the first steps toward achieving your educational goals and register for the information session today.

There will be special information sessions beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the LPN to BS in nursing bridge program, online RN to BSN, online MBA, Master of Science in Nursing (forensic), graduate special education (moderate, severe, guided studies, reading specialist and BCBA), education (early childhood, elementary and middle school) and counseling programs. Information on the university's revised educational leadership and management program will also be available.

Beginning in September, all of the university's special education graduate programs will be offered online. Come speak to the chairs of our special education programs and learn more about this convenient new option. Visitors may drop in anytime between 5 and 6:30 p.m. to meet our director of distance education to learn more about online programs.

Visit <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infosession/> to register for the information session.

Hynes discusses problem gambling at state panel

Director of Counseling Services and Assistant Dean for Student Support Services Robert Hynes was an invited panelist at a community forum organized by the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on Friday, April 11.

Hynes discussed the risk factors specific to college students as the Commonwealth moves towards expanded gambling, and advised Commissioners on possible prevention and treatment efforts aimed at mitigating risks associated with problem gambling.

Join the community egg hunt on Saturday, April 19

A tradition continues on **Saturday, April 19**, when Fitchburg State University hosts its annual community egg hunt on the campus' main quadrangle. Admission to the event, which will run from 9 a.m. to noon, is free and open to the public.

In addition to the egg hunt, Fitchburg State students will be on hand helping children dye eggs, make crafts, place games, enjoy face-painting, balloon animals and a visit from a giant bunny - so bring your camera. Children should also bring their own baskets to collect goodies during the morning.



Children 5 and under will be invited to look for eggs on the main quadrangle while those ages 6 and up will search on the Highland Plaza.

Fitchburg High Honors Academy students visit campus



The university welcomed more than 50 Fitchburg High School freshmen to campus last week as part of the Honors Compact between the institutions.

The visiting students received OneCards to let them access the campus library and then attended sessions about the university's Honors Program. Students also heard a presentation from Professor Kisha Tracy's English students about their spring break trip to England where they examined medieval sites.

For more information on the Honors Compact and its origins, visit

<http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/news/fitchburg-state-fitchburg-high-sign-honors-compact/>.

University helps raise scholarship funds for North-South Foundation

The university recently hosted the Worcester regional education contests of the [North South Foundation](#) for the ninth time, bringing more than 200 children (from kindergarten through grade 12) from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island to test their skills in spelling, vocabulary, geography, math, essay writing and public speaking.

The North South Foundation is a volunteer non-profit organization based on Chicago that holds the contests throughout the U.S. and Canada with a goal of providing educational opportunities for children in the U.S. and India. Monies raised from registrations help provide scholarships for economically disadvantaged but meritorious children.

Faculty member Mel Govindan, who volunteers with the foundation, helped organize the event with the help of many other faculty and staff members. The event raised more than \$11,000 for the foundation.

The participating students received "Future Falcons" T-shirts from the university.

Campus hosts U.S. Air Force Band on Sunday, April 27



The Fitchburg Civic Days Committee and the United States Air Force are pleased to announce a free concert to be given by the United States Air Force Heritage of America Concert Band at Weston Auditorium on **Sunday, April 27**, at 4 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Concert Band features the diverse talents of 38 professional musicians whose commitment to excellence has earned worldwide acclaim and military distinction. Featuring a full rhythm section in addition to a wind ensemble, the Concert Band's versatility entertains audiences with a variety of musical selections from Broadway to symphonic classical favorites from jazz to patriotic marches.

For additional information about this free concert, please contact the Fitchburg Civic Days

Committee at cividdays@fitchburgma.gov or call 978-829-1804. Free tickets are available at the Fitchburg Municipal Offices, the Fitchburg Public Library, the Fitchburg Senior Center, and in the Veterans Services Office. Unused seats will be open to those without tickets 15 minutes prior to the show. For more information about the United State Air Force Heritage of America Band please visit their website at www.heritageofamericaband.af.mil or contact MSgt Shelley Steepe, Director of Operations at 757-225-3295 or shelley.steepe@us.af.mil.

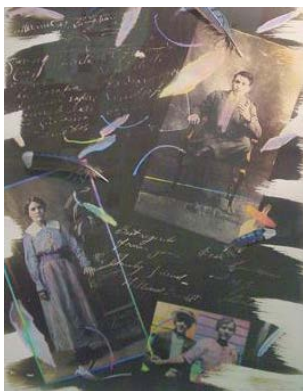
The concert is part of the city of Fitchburg's 250th anniversary celebration.

Activated in 1941, The United States Air Force Heritage of America Band has a rich history of inspiring public patriotism and enhancing esprit de corps among all the US military service branches. These world class musicians are stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia. They travel throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and the North East presenting over 300 events annually for the general public and in support of the Airman Morale and protocol events. The USAF Heritage of America Band remains at the forefront of communicating Air Force core values and preserving and enriching America's military and musical heritage into the 21st century.

CenterStage and cultural events

In the Gallery at Sanders: ARTeries, now through May 30

ARTeries, the Humanities Department's juried exhibition, showcasing the strongest original student work in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed-media art, is now on display in the Gallery at Sanders inside the Sanders Administration Building, 300 Highland Ave. The annual exhibition celebrates and showcases the artistic talents of Fitchburg State students.



"Vito and Rose" by Helen Obermeyer Simmons

Celebrate an "An Italian-American Family" on Wednesday, April 23

"An Italian-American Family," a film and exhibit of mixed media art work inspired and informed by the Benedettos of Noroton Heights, Darien, Conn., will be presented on **Wednesday, April 23** at 5 p.m. in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

Admission is free.

The exhibition was created using Professor Helen Obermeyer-Simmons' husband's family history, photos and documents as source material.



"Monster Owl" by Jade Bryant

Piano recital Sunday, April 27

The Fitchburg State University Foundation Music Lesson Program will present a piano recital featuring instructor Sarah Masterson on **Sunday, April 27** at 3 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts building, 367 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.

The recital will feature solo pieces by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and Florence Price.

Masterson received a bachelor's degree in physics and a performer's certificate from DePauw University, and a master of music and a doctorate of musical arts in performance from the University of Connecticut. As the winner of the 2001 Young Artist competition, she performed with the Evansville Philharmonic



Masterson

Orchestra. She has also performed as soloist with the DePauw Symphony Orchestra and the UConn orchestra. In 2010, her piano trio performed as part of the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts Classics Series. Masterson currently teaches at the UConn Community School of the Arts and is an adjunct faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State University and Fitchburg State University. She also serves as the organist and choir director at the First United Methodist Church of Mansfield, Conn.

For more information on the university's Foundation Music Lesson Program, visit www.fitchburgstate.edu/music.

Coming Wednesday, April 30: VISIONS 2014

VISIONS is the juried honors showcase of the year's best original student work in the Communications Media department. The entire campus and local community look forward to this annual event, which consists of presentation forums, an exhibition featuring photography, graphic design and interactive media, and concludes with film/video screening.

The event will open with an alumni panel talk on **Wednesday, April 30** at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, followed by the Visions Forum at 4:30 p.m. Work in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery will be featured when the gallery opens at 5:30 p.m., to be followed by a theater showcase at 7 p.m. in Weston Auditorium and a film/video screening at 8 p.m., also in Weston.



CALL FOR ENTRIES 2014

VISIONS

A Juried Honors Exhibition of Communications Media Student Work

ENTRY SUBMISSION DEADLINE // FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2014

All Communications Media students are invited to submit entries for exhibition in **VISIONS**, the 33rd annual juried honors exhibition of Communications Media student work, opening Wednesday, April 30, 2014

All submissions must have been created after April 1, 2013

Eligibility // Categories of eligible work include Graphic Design, Photography, Film & Video, Motion Graphics, Illustration, Interactive Media, Game Design, Theater Showcase, and Visions Forum presentations.

Notification Date // Work selected for exhibition in **VISIONS** will be announced on Friday, April 4, on the CommMedia website & posted outside the Photo Lab (Conlon 346) and Equipment Central (Conlon 306).

Submission Deadline // Graphic Design, Photography, Motion Graphics, Illustration, Interactive Media, Game Design, Theater Showcase, and Visions Forum presentations must be submitted by Friday, March 28, no later than 4pm to the Photo Lab Office (Conlon 346).

How to Submit // All entry forms, with complete submission instructions, are available on the CommMedia website.

Selected Work // All submissions must be picked up immediately. Accepted work must be matted and delivered to the gallery space between 9:00 and 10:00am on Friday April 25, 2014.

Submission Deadline // Film & Video work must be submitted by Friday, March 28, no later than 4:00pm to Equipment Central (Conlon 306).

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

www.fitchburgstate.edu/visions

Faculty Notes

Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) presented a talk on his book on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the Tatnuck Park Assisted Living Residence in Worcester, and then later that same day led a discussion of Chinese foreign policy at Westminster Library as part of the Great Decisions Discussion Series.

Charles Sides (Communications Media) recently celebrated two awards for the Journal of Technical Writing and Communication (JTWC) which he edits. The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) presented the Best Article Reporting Qualitative or Quantitative Research in Technical or Scientific Communication to "Plain Language in Environmental Policy Documents: An Assessment of Reader Comprehension and Perceptions," by Natasha Jones, Justin McDavid, Katie Derthick, Randy Dowell, and Jan Spyridakis; NCTE also presented the Best Article on Pedagogy or Curriculum in Technical or Scientific Communication to "Preparing Technical Communication Students to Function as User Advocates in a Self-Service Society," by Yvonne Cleary and Madelyn Flammia.

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