

Fitchburg State University Today

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Undergraduate Research Conference and Honors Convocation to be held April 23



Fitchburg State University will cancel day classes on **Tuesday, April 23** for a daylong celebration of academic accomplishment.

The morning will feature the university's third [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 entire schedule is posted [online](#).

The spotlight on academic excellence will continue with the 36th annual Honors Convocation at 2 p.m. in Weston Auditorium. This year's convocation 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.

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Commissioner Freeland checks out LPN to BSN program



Commissioner Freeland, left, speaks with President Antonucci and a student during his visit.

Commissioner of Higher Education Richard M. Freeland visited the Fitchburg State campus earlier this month to check out a new program to help the state's licensed practical nurses (LPNs) continue their academic training with a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

Graduates of [this program](#) are prepared to meet societal healthcare needs in a variety of settings. Respect for diversity, social responsibility, and a commitment to excellence in nursing

care are emphasized.

Commissioner Freeland, joined by President Antonucci and other administrators, heard directly from students about how the program is having an impact on their lives.

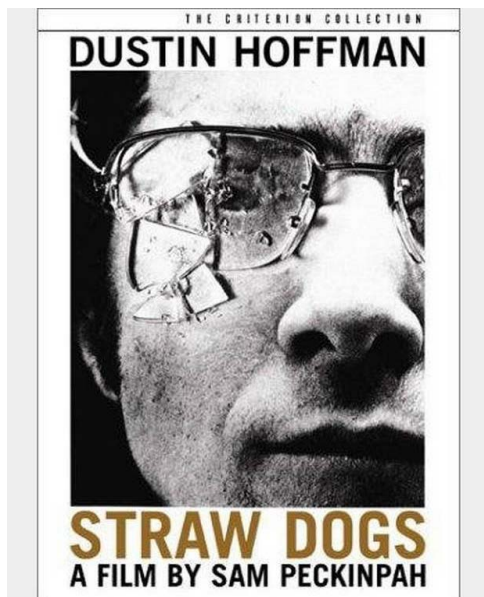
Fitchburg State faculty and administration collaborated with Worcester State University on developing the bridge program, now seen as a national model for nurse training. The nursing program at Fitchburg State is one of the university's greatest traditions, and the department celebrated its 50th anniversary last fall.

According to the National League for Nursing, there are more than 2.6 million registered nurses practicing in hospitals and other settings across the U.S.

Despite their large numbers, many more qualified nurses must be prepared in programs offered by community colleges and four-year institutions to meet the nation's growing demand for health care and to replace a large wave of nurses nearing retirement, according to the league.

By 2020, the national Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than 1.2 million additional RNs will be needed to work in acute care hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, nursing schools, and other areas. Academic career growth and development are considered critical to meeting these needs.

Center for Conflict Studies explores violence with "Straw Dogs" screening



The Center for Conflict Studies' semester-long exploration of violence continues with a screening of the controversial film "Straw Dogs" on **Wednesday, April 17**, at 3:30 p.m. in the Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Professor Robert Harris (Communications Media) will lead a discussion after the screening. Admission is free.

On **Wednesday, May 1**, David Hemenway from the Harvard School of Public Health will present a talk entitled "Reducing Gun Violence: The Public Health Approach" from 7 to 9 p.m. at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.

Third Thursday film series presents "Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth" on April 18

The Third Thursday film series, bridging the campus and the city, continues **Thursday, April 18**, with "Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth" (2009). The screening will be held at 7 p.m. at the Fitchburg Public Library on Main Street. Admission is free.

Joana Dos Santos, a graduate student and director of the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center, will present the film and lead a discussion after the screening. The film tells the story of undocumented youth and the challenges they face as they turn 18 without legal status.

Ethan Becker '93 shares job interview tips

Ethan Becker '93, president of [The Speech Improvement Company](#), offered great advice for students during a workshop earlier this month entitled "Interviewing with Confidence." The free presentation drew an engaged crowd.

Becker, a speech coach and trainer, is co-author of the best-selling book "Mastering Communication at Work."



He encouraged the

Ethan Becker '93 shared job interviewing tips.

students to get as much practice as possible interviewing.

"Like anything with communication, you can't learn to swim by reading a book," he said.

A 1993 graduate of Fitchburg State, Becker delivered the commencement address at the undergraduate ceremony last May and was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Fitchburg State hosts Falcon 5K, Fun-Run and Walk on April 21



The Fitchburg State University Exercise and Sports Science Club will hold the third annual Falcon 5K Fun Run and Walk on **Sunday, April 21**, starting at 9 a.m. at the university's Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St.

Proceeds from the Falcon 5K will benefit the city of Fitchburg's Parks and Recreation Department.

Advance registration is \$15 for the 5K or \$10 for the one-mile fun run and walk. The first 100 entrants will get commemorative T-shirts. Registration the day of the race is \$20 for the 5K and \$15 for the fun run and walk.

While prizes will be awarded for age division and overall winners, this event is designed as a fun, family activity, with an emphasis on completing, not competing.

On the Fitchburg State campus, the race has been preceded by an eight-week "couch to 5K" training program that was available to all students, faculty and staff. More than 60 members of the campus community have taken part in the training program, which has grown to encompass eight weekly training sessions and six coaches.

The Falcon 5K celebrates the American College of Sports Medicine's global initiative to promote regular physical activity for improved health and well-being.

Visit <https://g2racereg/webconnexcom/falcon5k2013> to register.

International Studies speaker discusses post-Communist European states

Ambassador Adrian A. Basora - national security strategic and scenario planner, scholar and business leader - came to campus on April 11 to deliver the International Studies and Conflict Studies keynote address.

Basora discussed the challenges for post-communist



Ambassador Basora speaks at Ellis White Lecture Hall.

democracies surviving a continued Euro-crisis. He discussed how different nations within the European Union have adapted to fiscal and political upheavals

since the fall of communism.

Among his diplomatic posts, Basora served as the U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic from 1992 to 1995, where he received the Presidential Performance Award for his overall achievements in Prague and he was director of European Affairs for the National Security Council from 1989 to 1991.

His presentation was supported by the Office of Academic Affairs and sponsored and hosted by the university's International Studies Minor. It is co-sponsored by the Department of Economics, History and Political Science, the Center for Conflict Studies, the Office of International Education, the Office of Career Services, and the Office of Student Development.

Graduate and Continuing Education info session April 18

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 18 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 in traditional and online formats. Take the first steps toward achieving your educational goals and register for the information session today.



Special information sessions will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. for the new LPN to BS in nursing bridge program, the online RN to BS in nursing, forensic nursing, the online MBA, and graduate special education, education (early childhood, elementary, middle school) and counseling programs.

Drop in anytime between 5 and 6:30 p.m. to meet with Fitchburg State's distance/online learning coordinator to learn more about the university's online programs.

Visit <http://web.fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infosession/> to register.

Visions opens Wednesday, April 24

[Visions](#), the annual juried honors showcase of the year's best original student work from Fitchburg State University's Communications Media department, opens **Wednesday, April 24**.

The entire campus and local community look forward to this event, which consists of presentation forums, an exhibition featuring photography, graphic design and interactive media, and concludes with film/video screening.

Visions 2013 opens with a panel discussion featuring communications media alumni at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24 at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. The panelists will discuss the state of their respective fields and offer insights into the value of the internship experience. This year's alumni panel will feature Brittany Durgin, editor of Worcester Magazine; Jean Levasseur, project manager and developer at Spartan Systems; David Shilale, general manager and executive producer at Viewpoint Creative; and Erik Weiker, graphic and web designer for Pilot and EGW.

The alumni panel will be followed by a theater forum, also at Ellis White Lecture Hall, at 4:30 p.m. This is the first year of the theater program operating as part of the communications media department.

There will be a gallery opening and reception, featuring student photography and graphic design works, at 5:30 p.m. in the gallery at the Sanders Administration Building, 300 Highland Ave. The night will conclude with a film and video screening at 7 p.m. at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

Admission to all the Visions events is free and open to the public.

The gallery exhibition will remain in the Sanders Administration Building through July.



Fitchburg State hosts Special Olympics on April 26



Fitchburg State University will once again host the Special Olympics on **Friday, April 26**, at the Elliot Field athletic complex.

The 6th annual Special Olympics North Central School Day Games will be a celebration of the accomplishments of more than 450 talented special athletes.

The event brings together special athletes, local schools, community members, Fitchburg State students, faculty, staff, and alumni. More than 450 athletes and 160 volunteers are expected to attend the event.

The local games are organized by the university's international honor society, Kappa Delta Pi, along with members from the Education and Exercise and Sports Science departments.

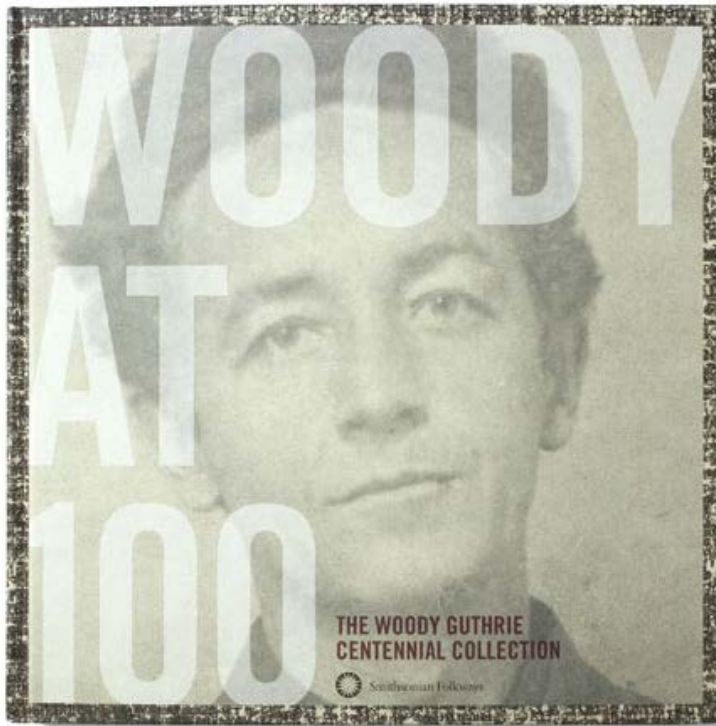
The opening ceremony on April 26 will begin at 9 a.m. and the games are scheduled to conclude at 2 p.m. For additional information, contact specialolympics@fitchburgstate.edu.

Graphic Design Lecture Series continues with Grammy winner Fritz Klaetke, April 30

The Communications Media Department Graphic Design Lecture Series concludes **Tuesday, April 30**, with a talk by Grammy-winning artist Fritz Klaetke.

Klaetke, creative director and designer of Visual Dialogue in Boston, will present "10 Rules to Design and/or Live By" at 3:30 p.m. April 30 at the Condiak Science Lecture Hall, 333 North St.

Klaetke won a Grammy Award in February for best boxed or limited edition package design for Woody at 100, a celebration of the music of Woody Guthrie produced for the Smithsonian Institution. His work bested designs for Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones, among others.



Designer Fritz Klaetke's Grammy-winning packaging for the "Woody at 100" collection of Woody Guthrie's music.

He will show work that involves conceptual solutions for graphic design and interactive design, with photography, illustration and collage art. The lecture will be of great interest to designers, of course, and photographers, illustrators, artists and design history students and the entire campus community.

The lecture series is coordinated by Professor Stephen Goldstein with generous support from the university's Ruth Butler Grant.

ALFA presents "Food for Thought" lecture on April 30

Changes in American food culture during the 19th century will be the topic of Fitchburg State University's Adult Learners in the Fitchburg Area (ALFA) lecture on **Tuesday, April 30** at 3:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Admission is free.

Professor Susan Williams will present the Food for Thought lecture entitled "Eating History: The Transformation of American Foodways." Dramatic changes in the country developed into the use of new tools and ingredients for cookery. New ideas about health, diet, ethnicity and social reform changed the American scene. Food for Thought ALFA events are free and open to the public.

More information about ALFA and this lecture series is available [online](#).

Earth Week, April 22-26

The campus Sustainability Advisory Committee is planning events for Earth Week, April 22-26.

More detail will be sent to the campus community as the start of Earth Week nears, but among the plans is the Growing Places Gardening Project on Wednesday, April 24 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at the Hosmer Street Head Start program in Fitchburg. Volunteers from the campus will be building raised beds for the students to use this spring and summer to learn about growing their own food.

On Saturday, April 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. there will be a park and riverside cleanup at the

Coolidge Park. This project will be undertaken with the Nashua River Watershed Association.

Center for Teaching and Learning Summer Institute

The Center for Teaching and Learning is looking for proposals for its summer institute. Proposals are being accepted for approximately one-hour sessions (workshops, panels, discussions) for the institute that will run from Aug. 12-15, at the close of the second summer session.

All topics are being considered, though the institute will have a different general theme each day. Proposals - which need be only a short description - are due by **Tuesday, April 23**.

Contact [Kisha Tracy](#) for additional information or to submit a proposal.

Call for Proposals: Center for Teaching and Learning Fall 2013

The Center for Teaching and Learning is seeking [proposals](#) for fall 2013 sessions. In recent years, volunteers from the campus have presented on topics ranging from pedagogy, curriculum, and assessment to publishing and academia in general. The center looks to continue this tradition in the fall and is now accepting proposals for fall 2013 sessions from any faculty, librarian, or staff member.

Any and all proposals will be considered, formal or informal: presentation, workshop, discussion, panel, etc. While their primary interest is on topics related to the center's mission of promoting teaching and learning, any other topics of interest to our faculty, librarians, and staff will be considered.

Ideas might include (but are by no means limited to): scholarship of teaching and learning (particularly any work faculty or staff are doing that is leading to or could lead to a publication), classroom practices, issues of curriculum, addressing student needs and populations (through advising, teaching, etc.)

In addition, the center would appreciate suggestions for sessions that faculty or staff would be interested in attending, even if not leading them.

Please submit proposals - which need only be short descriptions - to [Kisha Tracy](#) by Aug. 15.

CenterStage and cultural events

American Idol Stars celebrate Broadway!

Hear Broadway's greatest hits interpreted by stars from the TV smash "American Idol" when CenterStage at Fitchburg State University presents an unforgettable concert at 8 p.m. **Saturday, April 27** at Weston Auditorium.

The concert will feature Gina Glocksen from season 6; Jacob Lusk from season 10; Karen Rodriguez from season 10; and Von Smith from season 8.

The evening will begin with homegrown talent tryouts, featuring local high school and university singers who will compete for spots in the night's main event.

The "American Idol" stars will be accompanied by a live band, belting out solos, duets and ensemble numbers from Broadway hits like



Mamma Mia!, Wicked, Jersey Boys and more.

Tickets for American Stars in Concert are \$30 for adults and seniors, and \$15 for students.

The Weston Box Office, 353 North St., is open

Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and can be reached at 978-665-3347. The concert is presented with the Fitchburg Activities Board and Workers Credit Union. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).

On the Conlon Media Wall: *The Red Series* by Ellen Wetmore



Ellen Wetmore's artworks inspire a blend of humor and horror. Her work focuses on lived experience blended with well-honed paranoia, using her body as the primary vehicle. Wetmore's video projects have been featured in screenings at the Sandwell Arts Trust in the West Midlands, UK, Ciné Lumière in London, the Dorsky Gallery in Long Island, N.Y., Currents, Santa Fe, New Mexico, CologneOff, Cologne, Germany. Her most recent show is on the 80-foot tall marquee at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. She is a 2012 School of the Museum of Fine Arts Traveling Fellow. Her work can be found online at www.ellenwetmore.iwarp.com, and on Vimeo. She lives and works in Groton.

Michael Bresler performs Thursday, April 18, at Kent Recital Hall



Michael Bresler performs April 18.

The festive and heartwarming music of Michael Bresler - also known as Fishel Bresler - will be available for audiences ages 5 to 100 when the performer, best known for his beautiful Jewish music of the klezmer and hassidic music ensemble, performs at Fitchburg State University on **Thursday, April 18** at 3:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

The performance is free and open to the public.

Bresler, who will be joined at Fitchburg State by Moshe Feldman on piano, makes music that laughs and cries, dances, soars and dives to reach the hearts and souls of his audiences. He plays klezmer, sephardic, hassidic and modern Jewish music that ranges from the heartbreaking to the hilarious, on clarinet, flute, mandolin, guitar and harmonica. He also sings in Hebrew and Yiddish. His informal, informative performances naturally and organically careen between extremes of humor and seriousness, often ending in a madcap, enthusiastic dance through the hall - all while playing a fast-moving

klezmer piece on the clarinet.

Jewish music encompasses many styles and many moods, affected by both the wide range of cultures where Jews have resided over the centuries, and by the spiritual strivings and life experiences of the Jewish people. The celebratory music can be joyous and raucous, the folksongs beautiful and touching, while the introspective hassidic pieces can express a yearning for God that is raw and almost painful. All are marked by a decidedly non-western use of scales or modes. Some of these scales at first sound mournful to the western European ear, but in fact express the full range of emotions.

Spring Choral Concert Monday, May 6

Fitchburg State's choral ensembles will present their spring concert on **Monday, May 6** at 7:30 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.

The concert will feature the 37-voice university choir, 11-voice chamber singers and various soloists from Maria Ferante's campus vocal studio. The student ensemble Harmonic Velocity, led by Jillian Bailey and Theo Demosthenes, will also perform. Faculty member Robin Dinda's original composition "Perseverantia," written in honor of President Antonucci's inauguration, will also be presented. Choral director Marjorie Ness will lead the ensembles.

"These students possess the ability to grasp a variety of styles of music and convey both text and the musical setting with conviction," said Ness. "I love working with this age group whose pop tastes are pretty sophisticated. To watch them meet music from many generations before and embrace it is wonderful. This concert is balanced with our student-led group Harmonic Velocity who perform in an exciting new way."

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