

# Fitchburg State University Today

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## In This Issue

- Roche named Distinguished Alumnus
- Faculty awards announced at Convocation
- Minton among 29 Who Shine on May 8
- ALFA Food for Thought lecture
- TEECA information session on April 29
- White Ribbon Day April 30
- Campus welcomes new citizens May 1
- Genocide expert speaks May 1
- Growing older in a surgical age
- Thursday film series finishes season
- TEDx Talk live online
- Makoski recognized by ACUI
- Piano recital to be held May 11
- CenterStage and cultural events
- Faculty Notes

## Quick Links

- [www.fitchburgstate.edu](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu)
- [Public Relations](#)
- [Campus News](#)
- [Campus Calendar](#)
- [Graduate and Continuing Education](#)
- [Fitchburg State in the News](#)

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## Fitchburg High principal to be recognized as Distinguished Alumnus at Commencement, May 17



Jeremy Roche '94

Fitchburg State will present its Distinguished Alumnus Award to Fitchburg High School Principal Jeremy Roche, a 1994 graduate of the university. The award will be presented at Fitchburg State's 118th Commencement Exercises Undergraduate Spring Ceremony on **Saturday, May 17** at 10 a.m. on the main quadrangle.

Roche has been the principal of Fitchburg High School since 2011,

where he has transformed the school culture by embracing high standards and broad expectations for all students. The result has been improved academic performance and a reduced dropout rate in a school serving a diverse urban population.

"Jeremy Roche is a fine example of Fitchburg State's rich history of preparing educators," Fitchburg State President Robert V. Antonucci said. "He has already impacted the lives of thousands of students, and the bridges he is building between the high school and this university will create additional educational opportunities. We are honored to acknowledge him with this award."

Roche led the effort to research and design a four-year Honors Academy teaching team at the high school, created to support gifted learners in their pursuit of academic and civic excellence. The project included a groundbreaking Honors Compact with Fitchburg State University, giving high school students access to university programming and research facilities as well as expanded dual enrollment opportunities. In the Honors Academy's first year, more than two dozen high school freshmen have already taken courses on the university campus. The effort has strengthened recruitment efforts at Fitchburg High School and given educators increased opportunities for collaborative teaching.



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Fostering intensive teacher collaboration is also at the center of another of Roche's initiatives at Fitchburg High, a freshman "School within a School" supporting the most at-risk learners matriculating from middle school. The program has helped guide students once at high risk of dropping out of high school continue their educational journeys into college-preparatory coursework.

Roche has also investigated and written grants to help dramatically increase the number of Advanced Placement offerings available to Fitchburg High students. The diversity of students enrolling in these courses has also grown under Roche's stewardship.

Roche's educational career began as a high school English teacher in Marshfield. After three years teaching English at Nashoba Regional High School Roche was appointed assistant principal of the school. He served in that role for seven and a half years after which he was named principal. He served as Nashoba's principal for four years before assuming his duties at Fitchburg High.

He graduated with honors from Fitchburg State University with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in Spanish in 1994. He completed his master of education in leadership and educational administration at Worcester State University in 2001.

Roche lives in Ashburnham with his wife, Kara, also a Fitchburg State alumnus, and their children Emma, 11, and Luke, 5.

Earlier the university announced that Christopher Maloney, a 1989 Fitchburg State graduate, will present the commencement address. Maloney is the Chief U.S. Probation Officer for the District of Massachusetts.

The university will also hold a graduate commencement ceremony on **Thursday, May 15** at 6:30 p.m. at the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St. Additional honorees will be announced soon.

### Faculty awards announced at Convocation

The university held the 37th Honors Convocation on Thursday, April 24, which again featured the announcement of two of Fitchburg State's major faculty awards.

The Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship was presented to [Benjamin Railton](#) of the English Studies faculty.

The Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to [Sean Goodlett](#), chair of the Economics, History and Political Science Department.

More details about the awards will be in the next edition of *Fitchburg State University Today*.

### Minton to be recognized as one of 29 Who Shine on May 8

The state Department of Higher Education will spotlight top

students from across Massachusetts at the fourth annual "[29 Who Shine](#)" student recognition ceremony on Thursday, May 8, at noon at the Grand Staircase of the Massachusetts Statehouse.

Fitchburg State student Sarah Minton of Quincy, who graduates in May with a bachelor of science in nursing, will represent the university at the event.

Minton has been an engaged and passionate student leader since the earliest days of her career at Fitchburg State University. Since the spring of her first year, Minton has been president of the class of 2014, and has used her leadership position and authority to make a difference on campus and in the wider community. She started the Fitchburg Anti-Violence Education Club, building on the university's own efforts to combat issues of dating violence and sexual assault, and organized an ongoing campaign to make Fitchburg State a smoke-free campus. Minton's advocacy has gone beyond the classroom, as a leader on several Alternative Spring Break journeys to build houses for Habitat for Humanity and advocating for support of public higher education at the Statehouse. A future nurse, Minton has been the student representative to the university's Nursing Curriculum Committee since the fall of 2013. Also last fall, Minton expanded upon her clinical rotations as a diabetic educator and school nurse to create a day-long health fair for underserved populations in the city of Gardner. This work, which incorporated the talents of her fellow student nurses, demonstrates Minton's embodiment of Fitchburg State's values of community engagement and public service.



Sarah Minton

The ceremony will also include the acknowledgement of Professor Allison Shields of the university's nursing faculty.

"When I first met Professor Shields, I knew that she was going to be someone that I looked up to, as a nurse, leader and role model," Minton said. "Her positivity, enthusiasm and passion for nursing encouraged me to make a difference, advocate for my ideas and become a leader in the field of nursing."

In May 2011, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education launched "29 Who Shine," a program to recognize outstanding students representing each of our 29 public campuses. The honorees, chosen because of their academic achievements and record of student leadership and community service, stand poised to contribute greatly to the civic life and economic well-being of the state. Whether furthering their education or entering careers here in Massachusetts in fields as diverse as education, public policy, medicine, creative arts, and engineering, they truly embody the vibrant future that we all envision for the Commonwealth.

#### ALFA Food for Thought lecture features Marion Stoddart on Tuesday, April 29

(ALFA) will present the latest entry in its "[Food for Thought](#)" lecture series on **Tuesday, April 29** at 2:30 p.m., when famed local environmentalist Marion Stoddart will speak at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.



Come be inspired as Stoddart describes how she spearheaded the clean-up of the Nashua River which flows through north central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. Never discouraged by the size of her dream nor the difficulty of her task, she succeeded and made a huge positive impact on our region and beyond.

In recognition of her lifelong work, Stoddart has received many awards including the United Nations Global 500 Award, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Award, and a Presidential commendation.

Stoddart co-founded the [Nashua River Watershed Association](#) (NRWA) in 1969 and now serves the organization as Founding Director Emeritus. She is active in NRWA's Greenway Initiative to protect open space along the Nashua River and its tributaries.

### TEECA info session Tuesday, April 29

What is TEECA? Learn about the Technology & Engineering Education Collegiate Association of Fitchburg State University at an info session on **Tuesday, April 29** at 3:30 p.m. in Conlon Hall Room 103.

This information session will present interested students the opportunity to meet with local club officers and learn about upcoming TEECA trips and competitions. TEECA is for college students who are preparing for their future careers as public school technology and engineering education teachers. The purpose of TEECA is to promote leadership, fellowship, scholarship, and a philosophical foundation for future technology and engineering teachers, through coordinated activities at the chapter, state, regional, and international level.

### Campus to observe White Ribbon Day on Wednesday, April 30



The [Fitchburg Anti-Violence Education](#) (FAVE) Program will recognize White Ribbon Day on **Wednesday, April 30**, by handing out ribbons and encouraging members of the campus community to wear them in a symbolic pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

White Ribbon Day is traditionally a men's event; however, all are welcome to wear a white ribbon.

Be an ally! Wear a white ribbon on Wednesday!

Ribbons will be available in Holmes, Hammond, and the Recreation Center. Ribbons will also be delivered to campus offices prior to Wednesday.

For more information about FAVE, please visit [www.fitchburgstate.edu/fave](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/fave). For additional information about the Massachusetts White Ribbon Day initiative, please visit

[www.whiteribbonday.janedoe.org](http://www.whiteribbonday.janedoe.org).

### New citizens to be naturalized on Thursday, May 1

This **Thursday, May 1**, at 12:30 p.m. the university will be hosting a naturalization ceremony at Weston Auditorium, where more than 200 people will become citizens of the United States. Federal Magistrate Judge David H. Hennessy will be presiding at this ceremony, where the oath of allegiance to new citizens from dozens of countries will be administered.

The Ross Street parking lot will be closed for the naturalization ceremonies, so drivers are encouraged to take advantage of the shuttle service to and from the Civic Center parking lots.

### Campus hosts genocide expert on Thursday, May 1

A recognized expert on the Armenian Genocide will discuss that dark chapter in history in a lecture at Fitchburg State University on **Thursday, May 1** at 3:30 p.m. in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public.



Taner Ackam

Taner Akcam, the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephan and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, will make his presentation on the eve of the centennial of World War I.

"As we mark the one hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War, Dr. Akcam's work is indispensable for understanding the Armenian Genocide," said Fitchburg State University Professor Ben Lieberman, who has organized the presentation.

Akcam is an internationally recognized human rights activist and was one of the first Turkish intellectuals to recognize and openly discuss the Armenian Genocide. He is the author of several books, most recently, "The Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire" (2012), which earned the Middle East Studies Association Albert Hourani Book Award (2013) and was named one of the year's (2012) best books on the Middle East by Foreign Affairs.

### Visiting lecturer discusses "Growing Older in a Surgical Age"

A packed crowd turned out in Presidents' Hall to hear about "Growing Older in a Surgical Age: Women and Identity in Cosmetic Culture." The talk was given by Abigail Brooks, assistant professor and director of the women's studies program at Providence College.

The talk was introduced by faculty members Sean Goodlett and Patricia Arend, who arranged the lecture.

At Providence College, Brooks' areas of expertise include sociology of gender, sociology of the body, age studies, science and technology studies, medical sociology, media studies, popular culture, qualitative research methods and feminist theory.

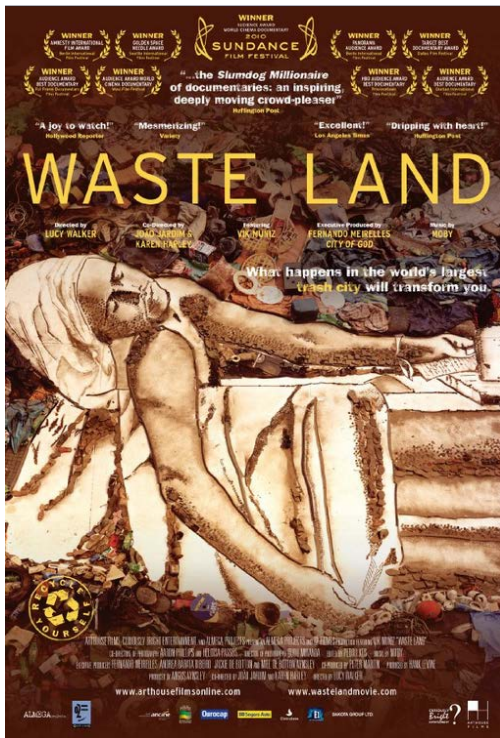


Dr. Abigail Brooks spoke on April 14.

### Downtown film series concludes for season with "Waste Land" on May 8

The Third Thursday film series, bridging the Fitchburg State campus and the city of Fitchburg, concludes for the academic year with a screening of the film "Waste Land" on **Thursday, May 8** at 4 p.m. at the [Fitchburg Public Library](#), 610 Main St. Admission is free. The screening will be hosted by faculty member Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science).





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.

Each film in the series 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.

"Waste Land" (2010) is an uplifting feature documentary that 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 Thursday film series will resume this fall.

### TEDx Talk live online

Earlier this spring, the campus hosted its first TEDx Talk, bringing a variety of speakers to Fitchburg State to discuss variations on the theme of *perseverantia* (perseverance).



An appreciate crowd got to hear to the talks live at Kent Recital Hall, but now they're available for the viewing public on YouTube. Check out the presentations here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsRN0Ux8w3rPUemHv4yt19nOS4ZnX6oTR>.

### Makoski recognized by Association of College Unions International

The [Association of College Unions International](#) (ACUI) recently recognized Associate Director of Student Development and Operations Michael Makoski with the Edward S. "Beanie" Drake Founders' Award at the organization's annual conference in Orlando, Fla.

Makoski was the inaugural winner of the award, given in recognition of a professional who has been in the field a minimum of five years but no more than 15.

"Makoski is described as a professional



Associate Director of Student Development and Operations Mike Makoski was recognized this month. He is shown here with Javaune M. Adams-Gaston, vice president for student life at Ohio State University.

who truly understands the purpose of a college union - making improvements to student employment, customer service and the overall student-focused community atmosphere of the Hammond Campus Center," the ACUI noted in announcing the award.

Also recognized at the annual meeting was Fitchburg State alumna Kim Pho, now working at Notre Dame University. Pho received the Richard D. Blackburn New Professional Award, given to an individual who demonstrates the potential for excellence in the field of college union and student activities. Pho was recognized for making an immediate and profound impact on students at her institution, enhancing the services provided by her department to help build

community on campus. Pho graduated from Fitchburg State in 2010, earned a degree from the University of Connecticut in 2012 and has worked at Notre Dame since then.

Founded in 1914, ACUI is a nonprofit educational organization that brings together college union and student activities professionals from hundreds of schools in seven countries. Its members work on urban and rural campuses, in two-year and four-year institutions, and at large and small schools. They are students and administrators whose mission is to build campus community. ACUI enriches them all through education, advocacy, and the delivery of services. Headquartered in Bloomington, Ind., ACUI has 526 member institutions and 3,251 professional members.

### Bay State Piano Contest winners to perform Sunday, May 11

Fitchburg State will host a piano recital featuring some of the state's top students on **Sunday, May 11** at 3 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. The performance is open to the public with suggested donations of \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and \$3 for children.

The Massachusetts Music Teachers' Association (MMTA)'s Bay State Piano Contest has been held at Fitchburg State for over 10 years. Each year, more than 200 piano students, ranging in age from 6 to 18 from across Massachusetts compete for trophies and the chance to be named the best in the state, and to participate in the winners' recital. The competition, now in its 46th year, will be held Saturday, May 10, with the winners performing in this recital on May 11.

The event is coordinated by Fitchburg State faculty member and MMTA President-Elect Dr. Jane Fiske and MMTA Contest Chair John Stapp.

The performances will be recorded by Futura Productions and posted later on the MMTA website, while Darrell's Music Hall in Nashua, N.H., is providing additional pianos for the competition.

All proceeds from the event go to the MMTA, a non-profit organization.

For more information, contact Fiske at [jfiske@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:jfiske@fitchburgstate.edu).

## CenterStage and cultural events

### 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.

### Community Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert Tuesday, April 29

Fitchburg State Professor Hildy Schilling will lead members of the Community Chamber Orchestra in a mixed program ranging from classical to pop on **Tuesday, April 29** at 7:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Admission is free.

### Foundation Music Lesson Student Recital on Sunday, May 4

Adult and youth students who have participated in the [Foundation Music Lesson Program](#) will perform their spring recital on **Sunday, May 4** at 3 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Admission is free.

### Spring choral concert, Monday, May 5

Fitchburg State University will hold its spring choral concert, featuring music from the Renaissance up to contemporary pieces, on Monday, May 5 at 7:30





p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free.

The concert will feature two ensembles of talented students. The Fitchburg State University Choir features 35 students singing in

concert, while the Chamber Singers is a six-voice a cappella group. The concert will be conducted by Marjorie Ness, accompanied by William Ness.



Soprano Maria Ferrante will also be performing Italian art songs at the concert.

### **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.

### **Faculty Notes**

**Michael Greenwood** (Business Administration) has been invited by the U.S. Small Business Administration to present his work on the sources of entrepreneurial burnout and how to restart the start-up at the National Small Business Week event on May 15 to be held at the Microsoft NERD Center in Cambridge. Every year since 1963, the president of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, with events that recognize the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners and highlights the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, from all 50 states and U.S. territories. The week will culminate with meetings and closing ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

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