

Fitchburg State University Today

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Lisciotti issues \$100,000 challenge grant



Lisciotti

The Fitchburg State University Foundation's five-year capital campaign-one of the largest such efforts ever mounted in the region-has received a major boost as it enters its final months: a \$100,000 challenge grant from Gregg P. Lisciotti, president and founder of [Lisciotti Development Corp.](#) of Leominster.

Lisciotti last year completed a 10-year term on the university's Board of Trustees, during which time he established himself as a steadfast advocate for the institution and a trusted advisor to President Antonucci. Lisciotti's \$100,000 challenge grant will match any new gifts and pledges received by the foundation between now and June 30.

A website devoted to the grant can be found at www.fitchburgstate.edu/challenge.

"Gregg has been an invaluable asset to this institution, from his service as trustee and chairman of the board to the work he did with our students," Antonucci said. "This extraordinary gift marks a milestone in our capital campaign and further demonstrates Gregg's ongoing commitment to Fitchburg State. I applaud his generosity and look forward to seeing others step forward to meet his challenge."

"The gift serves two purposes," explained Lisciotti. "The first is to encourage faculty, friends and alumni of Fitchburg State to give back to an institution that has provided opportunity to generations of students. The second is to raise awareness about the need for private support of public higher education. We now receive only about a third of our operating budget from the state. Without these private donations we could not maintain the access to a quality education that has so long been our hallmark."

The university is celebrating the close of its largest-ever fundraising effort - Honoring Our Past: Celebrating Our Future - with a celebration on Saturday, May 5, at the Recreation Center. The campaign goal was \$10 million, and the closing event will include the unveiling of the final total.

Tsongas Scholars honored at Statehouse



Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray, center, with Tsongas Scholars.

Some of the state's top students were recognized last week at the Statehouse during the Sen. Paul E. Tsongas Scholarship Luncheon. The Tsongas Scholar program provides full tuition and fees for high-achieving students who enroll in the state university system.

Fitchburg State sophomore Susan Perreault of Leominster was selected to address the gathered state officials, as well as Tsongas scholars, their families, and state university representatives.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray welcomed the crowd in the Great Hall of Flags in the Statehouse. He recalled the legacy of the late

Sen. Tsongas, whose lifelong commitment to public service included dedication to public education.

"Public higher education in Massachusetts is a gem, and it's one that is all about access," said Murray, adding that a strong system is integral to Massachusetts' future.

Perreault, one of two students selected to speak on behalf of the Tsongas Scholars at the event, is studying industrial technology with a concentration in architecture. She described the challenges of balancing work and a demanding educational schedule; Perreault is taking six courses a semester and is on track to graduate in 2013, after just three years at the university.

"I am like any other college student in that I try hard in my classes, I care about my family and friends, and I worry about money," Perreault said.



Susan Perreault addressed the group.

"With a strong academic record in high school, I was fortunate to have several options when I applied to college," she continued; her weighted GPA at Leominster High School was 4.09. "I was accepted into many different New England colleges, most reputable, private colleges, each with their offer of a scholarship. But after looking around and shadowing at each school, I landed on Fitchburg State. The school has a strong program, amazing faculty and staff, and a lot to offer a college student."

President Antonucci dined with the Tsongas scholars and their family members.

"This event is a wonderful tribute to the talent and work ethic of our students," President Antonucci said. "The Tsongas Scholarship program provides an attractive incentive for high-achieving students to consider the state universities, but we can only compete for these students by offering the best programs and top-tier faculty. That's a challenge we have met, as shown by the caliber of students we celebrate at this event each year."

In addition to Perreault, the Fitchburg State Tsongas Scholars recognized at the event included Samantha McManus of Lowell; Michael Perron of Gardner; Jane Peters of Ashburnham; and Markie Apple of Pittsfield.

State Treasurer Steven Grossman, State Auditor Suzanne Bump, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Chairman Charles Desmond and Department of Higher Education Commission Richard Freeland also addressed the group.

About the Tsongas Scholarship Program

The Tsongas Scholarship Program offers the state's top students scholarships covering in-state tuition and mandatory fees for up to four years, approximately \$7,870 (state university average) each year. Scholarship awards are merit-based; financial need is not required for eligibility. All nine state universities participate in the program. To renew Tsongas Scholarship funding, students must maintain a minimum 3.3 grade point average and fulfill requirements set by individual universities in the program.

The Tsongas Scholarship Program was launched in 1998 in tribute to Paul E. Tsongas, United States Senator from Massachusetts, who died in 1997. The program was designed to further his belief in the value of education and the importance of public colleges and universities in providing opportunities for all citizens to enjoy access to academic excellence.

Tsongas Scholarships may be offered to residents of Massachusetts who meet the following criteria. High school students who have earned a 3.75 grade point average (recalculated) or better or who rank in the top 10 percent of their classes may be considered for the award. Candidates are expected to achieve SAT I totals of 1200, but students with lower SAT I scores may also qualify if they have earned minimum grades of B+ (3.5) in at least two advanced placement/honors courses. Students must have completed the 16 academic units required by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Transfer students may be considered for Tsongas Scholarships. Eligibility is based on high school and college records. Individuals who graduated from high school five or more years ago may be eligible for a scholarship under the Exceptional Life Experience category.

Speaker series continues today in Center for Teaching and Learning

The Fitchburg State Speaker Series continues today at 12:30 p.m. in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the library with a talk by David Svolba (Philosophy) entitled, "Two Accounts of the Wrongness of Killing."

Refreshments will be served.

White Ribbon Day to be observed April 4

Fitchburg State will recognize White Ribbon Day on Wednesday, April 4, by handing out ribbons and encouraging men on campus to wear them in a symbolic pledge they will never commit, condone or remain silent about men's violence against women.

The White Ribbon Day program at Fitchburg State is being coordinated by the [Fitchburg Anti-Violence Education](#) (FAVE) program, launched in 2011 with the support of a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women. The FAVE program features mandatory training for incoming students that discusses relationship violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Ribbons will be sent to campus offices in advance of April 4.

Trials of "the Sandwich Generation" explored in talk Wednesday, April 4

The struggles of the so-called "sandwich generation," who must balance raising children, caring for their aging parents and their own work lives will be explored at free seminars this spring sponsored by the [Coalition for Communication and Intercultural Leadership](#), [Fitchburg State University](#) and Mount Wachusett Community College.

According to the Pew Research Center, over one in every eight Americans aged 40 to 60 is both raising a child and caring for a parent. In addition, between 7 to 10 million adults are caring for their aging parents from a long distance. This discussion about how to manage the demands of caring for children and aging parents will include a panel of experts who will share insights, ideas and practical advice on meeting this growing challenge.

"The Sandwich Generation" will be discussed Wednesday, April 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Fitchburg State University. The Fitchburg State program will be held in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

Featured speakers include Mary Ellen Bartlett, RN, parish nurse at St. Michael's Parish in Hudson; Dr. John Chetro-Szivos, professor of communications media at Fitchburg State University; Robin Frkal, FLMI, ALHC, MSPC, assistant vice president at UNUM Corporation; Margaret Jaillet, assistant dean at the School of Health Sciences and Community Service at Mount Wachusett Community College; and Dr. Maryann Kane, professor of early childhood education at Mount Wachusett Community College.

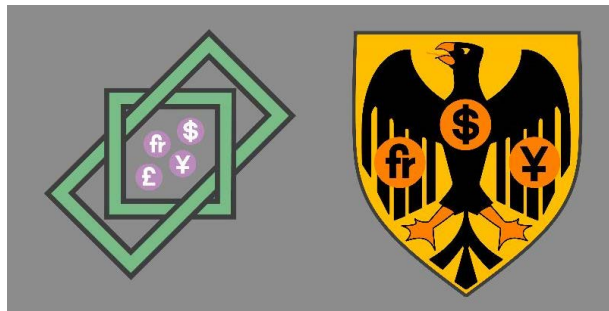
Attendees are asked to RSVP to gluo@student.fitchburgstate.edu or to call Taryn Holley at 978-665-3675. Certificates and professional development points are available.

The program is supported by the Douglas and Isabelle Crocker Center for Civic Engagement at Fitchburg State University and the Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement at Mount Wachusett Community College.

Graphic Design Lecture Series continues Thursday, April 5

A free lecture series featuring award-winning designers who have helped shape and articulate how graphic design defines our culture continues next month when the Communications Media Department at Fitchburg State University welcomes its next speaker.

The Graphic Design Lecture Series will present [Richard Doubleday](#), assistant professor at the School of Visual Arts at Boston University, who will discuss "Cultural Identity in Graphic Design" at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5 at in the Condikey Science Lecture Hall.



An example of Richard Doubleday's work.

Doubleday is the author of *Jan Tschichold, Designer: The Penguin Years* and co-author of *Jan Tschichold - Master Typographer*. His presentation will include a discussion of how he has exchanged European and Asian icons to make new icon and identity designs, bridging language barriers and investigating the influences that different cultures can have upon symbol systems.

Doubleday taught workshops in London, England and Nanjing, China, where students used icons from Boston



A work by Doubleday's students.

and their own cities to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind artist books that explored cultural identities.

The series concludes in May with Alston Purvis, chairman of the Graphic Design Department at the School of Visual Arts at Boston University. Purvis, an author of many highly respected books on design history and the editor of *Meggs' History of Graphic Design*, will present "Dutch Poster Design: A Century of Innovation" on Thursday, May 3, at 3:30 p.m. in the Condikey

Science Lecture Hall. The talk will address the unique influence of Dutch poster design over the last 100 years.

The lecture series is supported by the Ruth Butler Grant at Fitchburg State University.

The series opened in March with a talk by Clifford Stoltze, the principal and creative director of Stoltze Design in Boston. His presentation included a survey of over 40 years of high notes in design for music featuring favorites from Stoltze's own LP, CD and poster collections as well as some of Stoltze Design's own projects for the music industry.

REDI forum April 9 to explore cultural outreach and economic development



The role of music, art and health for cultural outreach and economic development will be the topic of a public research forum at Fitchburg State University on Monday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

The research was performed through the university's [Regional Economic Development Institute](#) (REDI), which is directed by Professor Joshua Spero.

"Cultural and creative ways to develop our economy regionally across North Central Massachusetts give us much to consider as we try to move beyond some of the economic challenges this region's faced for a long time," Spero said.

The research forum will feature Professor Jane Fiske and her REDI research team, recent Fitchburg State graduates Eric Gregoire, Amanda Rossi and Heather Roberts.

The REDI's Mission
To serve independently as Fitchburg State University's research institute for students, staff, faculty, and administration to help the 26 cities and towns across North Central Massachusetts develop economically with research based on trend analysis.

The Montachusett Region Cultural and Creative Economy Plan: Using Music, Art, and Health for Cultural Outreach & Regional Economic Development

REDI Research Team
Dr. Jane Fiske, Professor of Journalism (2011-2012) / Researcher
REDI Research Interns
Mr. Eric Gregoire, Journalism Academy Student (Project: "REDI Analysis in Art & Public Life 2011")
Ms. Amanda Rossi, Journalism Academy Student (Project: "REDI Analysis in Creative Industries")
Ms. Heather Roberts, Journalism Academy Student (Project: "REDI Analysis in Art and Industry")

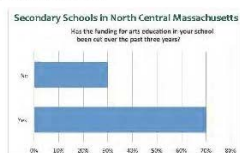
REDI Public Research Analysis #4 REDI Research Project—2011-2012

REDI Research Project's Executive Summary

Using data provided by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, and Ashburnham Cultural Council, the REDI Research Teams, directed by Dr. Jane Fiske, centered on two particular research projects to provide economic impact analysis: the first researched by Mr. Eric Gregoire and Ms. Amanda Rossi, as part of an expanded Leadership Academy's Senior Seminar, and the second by Ms. Heather Roberts, as part of an interdisciplinary Capstone project. The results focused on the following three recommendations:

Support the value of the arts in education, economic revival, and health care:

- Research affirmed the value of art education to improve lives educationally, economically, and aesthetically;
- Survey results indicated that educators, business professionals, and healthcare professionals understand the value of the arts;
- A 3-5 year plan for developing a Creative Economy in the Montachusett Region remains crucial.



Using data provided by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, and Ashburnham Cultural Council, the REDI research teams are publishing the results of two projects conducted

under Fiske's guidance last spring. The results focused on recommendations to support the value of the arts in education, economic revival and health care. Research affirmed the value of art education to improve lives educationally, economically and aesthetically, and survey results that indicated educators, business professionals and health care professionals understand the value of the arts. Researchers also found that a 3-5 year plan for developing a creative economy in the Montachusett region remains crucial.

More information on the REDI research project can be found on the institute's [website](#).

Include "How-to" articles or hints and tips on related subjects. Try a reader's poll. People love to give their opinion, and you can publish the results in your next newsletter. Drive traffic to your website by entering teaser text for the article with a link to your website for readers to view the full text.

Support the Troops and their families with coupons



The Volunteer Center is collecting coupons to support our troops and their families with the Troopons program.

The Troopons program enhances the well-being of overseas and domestic military families by sending them food, baby, and non-food manufacturer coupons (current through 30 days past expiration) to make their hard-earned dollars go farther.

Coupons must be:

- From manufacturers for individual products (such as soup, pasta, toothpaste, hygiene products, laundry items).
- Coupons cannot be for individual stores
- Clipped out individually and separated into food, baby products, and non-food categories.
- Please no assistance vouchers, food stamps or the like; and no restaurant coupons
- Can be expired up to 30 days.

The first round of donations is complete and the second round runs through **April 13**.

Contact the Volunteer Center at volunteer@fitchburgstate.edu with any questions.

Fitchburg State welcomes back Special Olympics Friday, April 27

Fitchburg State will once again host the Special Olympics on Friday, April 27, at the Elliot Field athletic complex.

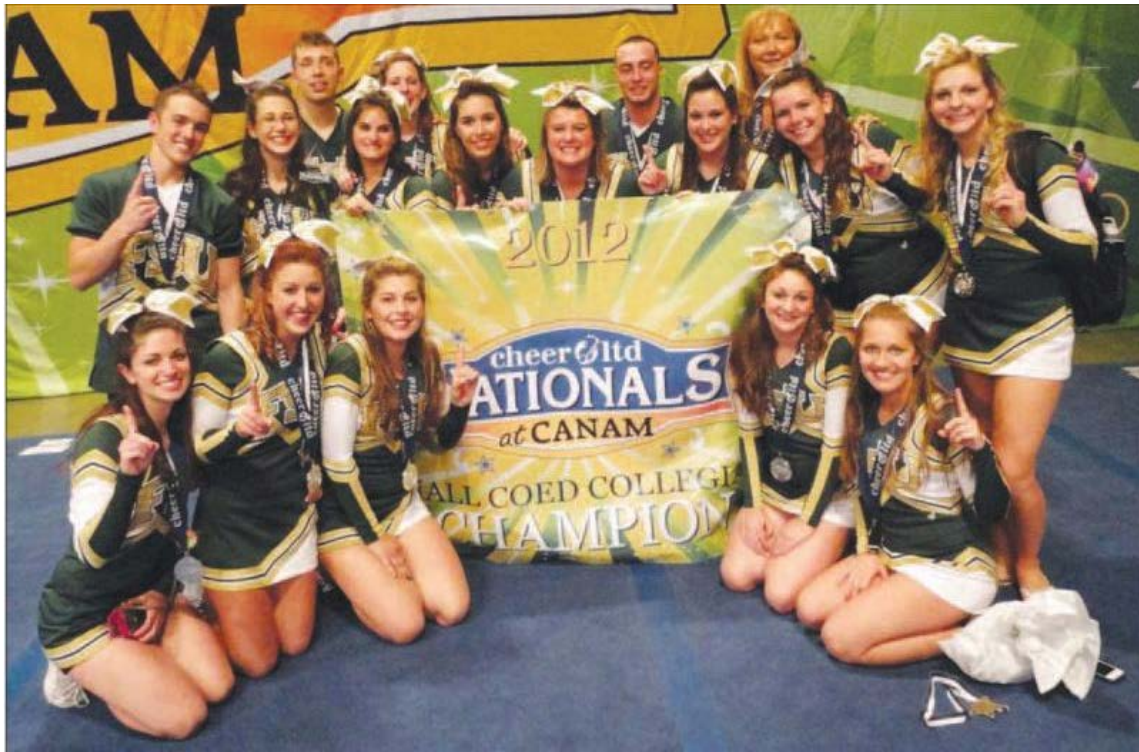
The 5th annual Special Olympics North Central School Day Games will be a celebration of the accomplishments of more than 450 talented athletes.

The program brings together athletes, local schools, community members, Fitchburg State students and faculty members. More than 450 athletes and 150 volunteers are expected to attend the events.

The local games are organized by the university's education department and its honor society, Kappa Delta Pi, along with Fitchburg State faculty members.

The opening ceremony on April 27 will begin at 9 a.m. and the games are scheduled to conclude at 1 p.m. For additional information, contact specialolympics@fitchburgstate.edu, or visit the [Facebook page](#) dedicated to the games.

Cheerleaders win national competition



The Fitchburg State cheerleading team includes, from left to right, front row: Kaila Camilleri, Alyssa Prentiss, Rachel Bartlett, Megan Fisher and Rebecca Jackson; standing, Corey Robideau, Hope Bagdasarian, Dustin DelleChiaie, Ashley Bugden, Erin Killam, Christina Kosmidis, Stephanie White, David Hill, Felicia Baiardi, Coach Jacki D'Innocenzo, Allison DeMoranville, and Lea Lafond.

The Fitchburg State cheerleading team competed in the CanAm National Championship in Myrtle Beach, S.C. in March, winning first place in the small coed college division.

In addition to beating the 16 teams in their division, the team also captured the collegiate high score, beating out 28 total teams in all collegiate divisions, including All Girl Small, Medium, Large and Large Coed.

This was the squad's second year as a competitive team and its first-ever national competition. The cheerleaders are coached by Jacki D'Innocenzo, who is in her third season with the Falcons and formerly coached the St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School squad and coaches at Cheer Central Stormz All Star Gym in Leominster.

The team's competitive schedule continues until mid-April.

Math major scores in national competition

Fitchburg State math major Jared Weed received an impressive score in the nationally recognized William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition (known as "the Putnam" in mathematical circles). The contest is in its 72nd year, but this was the first time Fitchburg State was represented, reported proud Professor Jennifer Berg.

According to Berg, the Putnam - administered by the Mathematical Association of America - is designed to test both originality and technical competence and stimulate a healthy rivalry in mathematical studies.

The test was administered over two three-hour sessions consisting of six problems in each session. It is open to students in the U.S. and Canada. Weed, a Fitchburg resident, scored above

the median, an impressive feat in such a difficult exam.

"I'm incredibly proud of Jared," Berg said. "This is a challenging test, not just in that it covers mathematical content that is very advanced - although it often does - but even more, answering these questions requires a sort of mathematical playfulness. Jared clearly enjoys the challenge presented here, and has the creativity to approach these sorts of problems."

A sample problem from the association's website indicates the level of difficulty:

Players 1, 2, 3, ..., n are seated around a table and each has a single penny. Player 1 passes a penny to Player 2, who then passes two pennies to Player 3. Player 3 then passes one penny to Player 4, who passes two pennies to Player 5, and so on, players alternately passing one penny or two to the next player who still has some pennies. A player who runs out of pennies drops out of the game and leaves the table. Find an infinite set of numbers n for which some player ends up with all n pennies.

For a solution, ask Professor Berg the next time you see her on campus.

CenterStage and cultural events

The [Center for Italian Culture](#) at Fitchburg State University film series "L'Italia Liberata," exploring the new Italy that emerged after the end of World War II and its alliance with the United States, concludes Thursday, April 12, with *Mediterraneo* at 3:30 and 7 p.m. in the Ellis White Lecture Hall in the Hammond Campus Center.

Mediterraneo is the tale of melodramatic and romantic adventures of a small band of Italian soldiers stranded on a island at the end of World War II. Cut off from all communication with Italy they first join the Greek natives and enjoy life, but then must choose between repatriation and the struggle of rebuilding their lives in war-ravaged Italy or remaining on their island paradise. The film raises intriguing questions about national identity and the challenges of life in post-Mussolini Italy. Directed by Gabriele Salvatores and starring Claudio Bigagli, the film was nominated for Best Foreign Language Oscar in 1991.

All of the films in the series reflect the effort of Italians to first defeat and escape Fascism domination (*Roma, Città Aperta*, which screened on Feb. 9); then the immediate post-war choice-whether to escape or to face the heavy task of rebuilding after the crushing defeats of the Mussolini era (*Mediterraneo*, screening Thursday, April 12); and finally the struggle to rebuild their lives despite the losses, to loosen the strictures of the church on society, as they created a new liberated Italy where the freedom to think freely and creatively was possible (*Cinema Paradiso*, which screened on March 8).

The series is facilitated by Professor Teresa Thomas.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and will be available at the door.

In the Gallery at Sanders: "The Lenticular Image: Politics, Pop Culture & Popcorn"

An examination of American media culture following 9/11 will be undertaken with "The



Lenticular Image: Politics, Pop Culture & Popcorn," an exhibition running until April 10 at the art gallery in the Sanders Administration Building.

Stereoscopic and 3D images have been the subject of wonder and intrigue for centuries, from political campaign buttons to Cracker Jack prizes. The lenticular image has been a fixture in American visual culture for generations.

Today, modern technology has made these techniques more accessible to the independent fine artist than ever before. Using a combination of digital illustration and photomontage, artist Richard Cutrona creates digitally interlaced prints that are aligned and laminated to lenticular material. The resulting images are an exploration of post-9/11 American media culture that address issues ranging from the war in Afghanistan to the environmental crisis in the Gulf of Mexico.



"It's Morning in Afghanistan" by Richard Cutrona.

This exhibition also includes an extraordinary piece of lenticular sculpture that Cutrona created in collaboration with Kate Farrington. "Confronting the Towers (Not a Memorial)," composed of lenticular panels and stainless steel sculpture, is located in the courtyard garden of the Conlon Industrial Arts Building.

The art gallery is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cutrona will be on campus April 10 to speak to Eric Budd's class, Dilemmas of War and Peace, and will discuss his artwork. The presentation is sponsored by the Center for Conflict Studies and the office of Cultural Affairs.

Learn how to maximize your social media presence

Attention campus departments: Are you interested in advertising your services on social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter, but don't know a "tweet" from a "poke?" The Information Desk is ready to help.



Social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter are powerful tools to get your message out, or to share news and events. But getting started can be difficult, and what to do with the page once it's up and running can also be hard to navigate. That's where the Information Desk comes in.



Information Desk Manager Mary Panico and her staff have already worked with several campus departments on building and expanding their social media presence.

"My main goal is for my staff and me to be extra helping hands to those departments around campus who feel they would like their services available on the social media outlets used by our student body daily," Panico said.

Panico, a student herself, noted the Information Desk's own Facebook page has become a resource for students, posting items about faculty absences, upcoming events and other important deadlines. Contact her at infodesk@fitchburgstate.edu and learn how to get your social media presence started, or how to maximize its effectiveness.

Faculty Notes

Robin Dinda (Humanities) had the first performance in the Czech Republic of his composition "Kiara Pig Jig" for four hands and four feet at one organ, performed in Litomyšl. The live performance may be seen on [YouTube](#). Part of that performance was also included in a broadcast by CMS-TV in Litomyšl .

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