

Fitchburg State University Today

Dec. 17, 2012 - Vol 3, Issue 8

In This Issue

- Game Design major approved
- University Project
- Oral history coffeehouse Dec. 19
- Registration open for GCE winter/spring
- GCE Information Session Jan. 8
- Teaching opportunities in GCE
- Third Thursday Film Series resumes
- Distinguished Speaker Series continues in March
- CenterStage and cultural events

Quick Links

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

Find us on Facebook 



New Game Design major launches in fall 2013



Next fall Fitchburg State will become the first public institution in New England to offer a bachelor's degree in [game design](#), preparing students with immediately marketable skills in a fast-growing industry.

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approved the new major at their meeting last week in Wellesley. Applications are now being accepted for fall 2013.

The university's first new major in more than a decade, the bachelor of science in game design will be part of the university's heralded Communications Media Department.

Members of that faculty designed the curriculum with input from colleagues in the university's computer science, English studies and art programs.

"The video game industry is well established in Massachusetts, with dozens of game studios operating in the commonwealth," President Antonucci said. "Even in the midst of economic difficulties, the video game industry, in New England and nationwide, continues to grow and to search for talented and well-prepared applicants. With this new major, Fitchburg State reinforces its spirit of innovation and an emphasis on preparing students for rewarding careers."

According to the Entertainment Software Association, computer and video game companies directly and indirectly employ more than 120,000 people in 34 states.

Fitchburg State professors Jeffrey Warmouth and Samuel Tobin, both from the communications media department, have played a major role designing the university's game design curriculum.

"It was clear to me that for students that really wanted to do game design, we needed to build a major," said Warmouth, adding the support from administration was key to success.

"It addresses a desire that's been there," added Tobin.
"Students are already trying to do this, and this will allow them to do it."

Several courses already offered on campus will count toward the major. The on-campus appetite for game design has been fueled by the highly successful GameCon event, which for six years has brought hundreds of students together for a daylong game competition and discussion of the latest technology.

"People of all genders, ages and backgrounds are playing games more and more often, and the games they are playing are also increasingly diverse," Tobin said.

The major is designed as a multidisciplinary program that will prepare students for employment in the state's thriving game design sector. Students will explore game design and development, art and visual design, computer programming, 3D modeling and animation, level design, creative writing, and game studies. Other course topics include serious games, mobile platforms, history of games, and aesthetics. Like so many of Fitchburg State's programs of study, the game design major will prepare students for careers in the industry.

In Massachusetts, from 2005 to 2009, the industry experienced 8.86 percent real annual growth and directly employed 1,295 people. In October 2010, referencing MassTLC's 2009 Digital Games Cluster report, the Worcester Business Journal reported 76 firms and approximately 1,200 jobs in the industry. As of April 2011, approximately 110 companies across the state self-identify as participants in the sector, with a presence in nearly every corner of the state—from Boston to Williamstown and from Newburyport to Brockton. The top industry-oriented local site had 242 jobs listed as of June 2012.

There is also a growing student interest in the game design industry. Each year, students taking the SAT indicate their intended major. In the last year alone, there has been a 57 percent increase in the number of students nationally planning to major in game design (from 6,802 last year to 10,712 this upcoming year). In New England, the number increased from 391 to 551 students, a 41 percent increase during the same time period.

Fitchburg State will offer the first game design bachelor degree program in a public institution of higher learning in New England. Existing degrees in game design and development are located solely in private schools, where annual tuition and fees range from \$30,000 to \$43,800 compared to Fitchburg State's \$8,710.

Game design students will attain competency in the following concepts, practices and skills:

- Analytical understanding of games, gameplay, and game design
- Foundations in visual art and creative writing
- Principles of game logic and programming
- Industry-standard game engines and software
- Team-based iterative design process
- Games as media of communication and aesthetic

expression

A unique feature of Fitchburg State's game design program is a required one-semester 12-credit-hour internship. The internship has been a hallmark of the university's communications media program for years, providing practical experience often cited by students - and employers - as one of the key distinguishing elements of a Fitchburg State education.

More information on the game design program can be found on the university [website](#).

The University Project links campus to community



Fitchburg State has embarked on a two-year partnership with the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center, putting the university's resources - in skills, enthusiasm and community spirit - into action to help an organization devoted to one of the city of Fitchburg's most diverse neighborhoods.

The University Project, run through Fitchburg State's Crocker Center for Civic Engagement, will be an ongoing effort to dedicate resources to strengthen not-for-profit organizations

in the Fitchburg-Leominster area, starting with the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center. The effort will help the university meet its mission of serving the community and providing opportunities for engaged scholarship for faculty and service learning for students. The project also provides an opportunity for staff to contribute to the mission of the university to enhance the quality of life for people in the region.

"We are very excited to partner with Fitchburg State through the University Project," said Joana Dos Santos, executive director of the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center. "This project is an incredible opportunity to give real life experience to students, engage faculty and staff in the broader community, and promote civic engagement and partnerships between Fitchburg State and other organizations in the city of Fitchburg. Through the University Project, the center is gaining valuable resources and continuing to build a strong foundation to work in our communities."

Several student organizations and campus offices have already gotten involved with the center, volunteering as tutors and mentors, and assisting in seasonal events run at the center's headquarters on Daniels Street. The effort is designed to span all sectors of the Fitchburg State community, with opportunities for Fitchburg State students, faculty or staff to contribute in areas such as:

- After school and youth programming
- Adult education classes, such as ESL, citizenship preparation, wellness and computer literacy classes
- Assistance with holiday celebrations, Get out the Vote programs, Black History Celebration, International Women's Day, May 1 march and Latino Heritage Celebration
- Public relations and social marketing assistance such as: production of a newsletter, development of a press release package, a social media plan, and the development of PSAs

For more information, or to discuss service opportunities, contact Crocker Center Director [John Chetro-Szivos](#).

History students to share tales of Fitchburg past at oral history coffeehouse Wednesday

The students in Professor Laura Baker's class HIST 3710 Urban America are working to tell the story of Fitchburg. This semester they have collected the oral histories of several Fitchburg public servants past and present.

The campus community is invited to join them for a gathering to celebrate these individuals' work and lives, and the fascinating history of Fitchburg. The event will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19 in Hammond 314.

Register now for GCE winter/spring sessions

Online registration has begun for [Graduate and Continuing Education's](#) [winter](#) and [spring](#) sessions, and registration by mail/phone/walk-in has begun.

The winter session, which will be run entirely online, runs from Dec. 27 to Jan. 13, 2013.

The spring session runs from Jan. 15 to May 15, 2013.

GCE Information Session Jan. 8

Learn about the educational opportunities available at Fitchburg State when the [Office of Graduate and Continuing Education](#) (GCE) hosts an information session on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 5 p.m. The snow date for the event is Wednesday, Jan. 9.

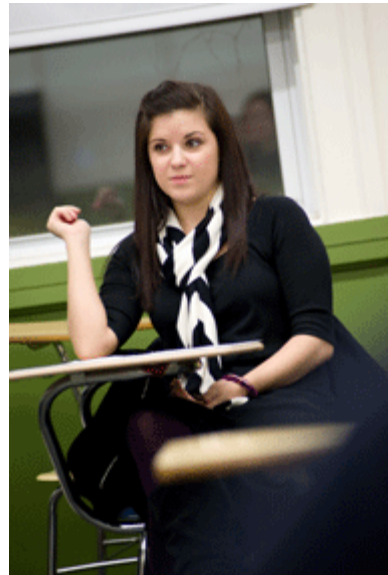
The free session, where attendees will have the opportunity to speak with advisors, financial aid representatives and register for classes, will take place in Hammond Hall.

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 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.



Teaching opportunities in GCE for summer 2013

The Office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) is currently accepting requests from faculty to teach for the upcoming summer 2013 semesters. Faculty members interested in teaching should contact the appropriate department chair for approval, and the chairs will submit the schedules to the GCE office. The deadline for department chairs to submit course schedules to GCE is Friday, Jan. 18. Please feel free to contact Associate Dean [Brian Bercier](#) with any questions.

Third Thursday film series resumes in January with *Baby Face* on Jan. 17



The Third Thursday film series - bridging the campus and the city - continues in January when Prof. Laura Baker (Economics, History and Political Science) presents *Baby Face* (1933). The community is invited to join Fitchburg State faculty and staff members for free monthly film screenings and discussions at the Fitchburg Public Library.

Each film is presented at 7 p.m. in the library auditorium, introduced by a member of the university's faculty or staff. The films touch on issues or events that will resonate with today's audiences. A discussion follows each screening.

Baby Face is a 1933 Pre-Code film that tells the story of a young woman (Barbara Stanwyck) who uses sex to advance her social and financial status. Marketed with the salacious tag line, "She had it and made it pay," the film's frank depiction of a sexually-active, independent woman made it one of the most notorious films of the Pre-Code era and an enduring example of the sexual

politics of classic Hollywood films. *Baby Face* features a powerhouse performance from Barbara Stanwyck, already a Hollywood icon at the age of 26.

Distinguished Speaker Series continues March 13 with Dr. Steven Layne

The self-described "reading arsonist" Dr. Steven L. Layne will address educators on the topic of igniting a passion for reading when he takes the microphone at Fitchburg State University's [Distinguished Speaker Series](#) on Wednesday, March 13, 2013.

With his trademark combination of humor and heart, Layne tackles one of the most significant issues in reading instruction today: how to engage reluctant readers. Teaching the skill of reading is viewed by many educators as a major objective; teaching the will of reading is too often an afterthought. Layne's charismatic blend of anecdotes and practical suggestions for the classroom are sure to fan the flame of literacy into a raging inferno inspiring teachers as well as their students to keep the bedside lamp on just a little bit later into the night.

Educators will leave the workshop with

- Increased knowledge of literacy
- Practical strategies to engage reluctant readers
- Efficient real-world suggestions to dramatically impact school culture



Dr. Steven L. Layne

Layne serves as full-time professor of literacy education at Judson University in Elgin, Ill. His vast array of experience working at multiple grade levels in the public schools allows him a unique camaraderie with teachers and librarians and his award-winning books for children and young adults add another appealing element to his dynamic presentations. Layne is a frequent keynote speaker at large conferences and gatherings of educators and librarians throughout the world. In addition, Layne continues to do school appearances each year as a guest author and provides in-service for schools throughout the nation.

"Steven Layne is one of the most dynamic keynote speakers I have had the pleasure to listen

to," said Fitchburg State University Dean of Education Dr. Pamela Hill. "His warmth, humor, and love of teaching resonate. He made us laugh and made us cry-but most of all, he inspired us."

The Distinguished Speaker Series is designed for superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, special education directors, teachers, graduate students, higher education faculty, and other interested school administrators and educators. Books by Layne will be available for purchase, and checks, credit cards and cash will be accepted.

The registration fee of \$150 includes the workshop, luncheon and continuing education units. This program offers four PDPs for educators. Payment is by check, credit card or purchase order. Teams of three or more within the same school district pay \$125 per person and must register by purchase order. Print the invoice or registration form online to complete and mail or fax in per instructions. Payment is by check, credit card or purchase order. Registration has begun and is open until March 1, 2013. Registrations received by Jan. 31, 2013 will be entered into a raffle for free admission.

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices/academic-offices/gce/distinguished-speaker>.

CenterStage and cultural events at Fitchburg State



Coming in February: Lúnasa

The [CenterStage at Fitchburg State University](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices/academic-offices/gce/distinguished-speaker) arts and culture series welcomes [Lúnasa](http://www.lunasaband.com) on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

Lúnasa's melodic lines soar as flutes, fiddles, whistles, and Uilleann pipe capture the ancient soul of traditional instrumental Irish music-and then surge into the 21st century with the rhythmic drive of the double bass. Experience what the Irish Voice calls "the hottest Irish acoustic group on the planet." No wonder Irish Echo named Lúnasa's CD one of Top Ten Traditional Albums of 2010.

Fancy footwork and high kicks in step-dance performances by the Fitchburg State dance club and Flying Irish Dance Studio will amaze you.

The performance will be preceded by a spotlight talk at 7:15 p.m. While many Celtic bands feature a singer to carry its melodies, Lúnasa has taken a different path. Members of this band discuss how their instrumentation evokes the singer's part.

Tickets for the concert are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$7 for students. The Weston Box Office, located inside Weston Auditorium, is open Thursdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and can be reached at 978-665-3347.

Lúnasa's performance is co-sponsored by Sentinel & Enterprise, with support from media partner WPKZ and support from Slattery's Restaurant.

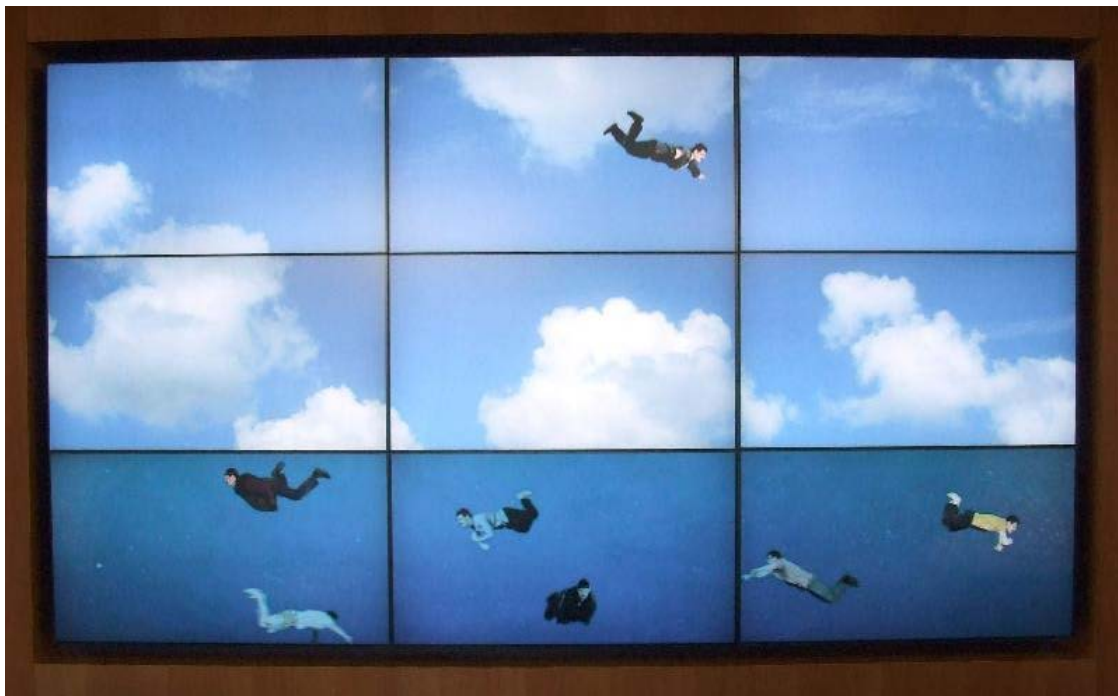
In the Gallery at Sanders: ARTeries

ARTeries is Fitchburg State University Art Department's juried exhibition that showcases the strongest original student work in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed-media art.

The show is held every two years and provides an opportunity for the university community to celebrate the artistic talents of Fitchburg State students. The show opened Dec. 12 and will run in the gallery at Sanders through Feb. 19, 2013.



On the Conlon Media Wall: "Nine Gestures" by Jeffu Warmouth



Professor Jeff Warmouth (Communications Media) created a new video artwork specifically for the Conlon Media Wall. The display has been extended through Jan. 13.



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 and click on [Request for Publicity](#).

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to parentnews@fsc.edu by mbruun@fitchburgstate.edu | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Fitchburg State University | 160 Pearl Street | Fitchburg | MA | 01420