

Fitchburg State University Today

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Students heading to Kennedy Center festival



"LYLH" by Tommy Karner is among the productions being performed at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival's regional competition this week.

More than 60 Fitchburg State University students are headed to Cape Cod this week to compete in the [Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival](#)'s regional competition. Among the entries invited to compete in the festival is the university's first submitted production written, designed, directed and performed by students.

"LYLH," written by and starring Fitchburg State student Thomas Karner and directed by fellow student Matthew Rindini, was among a handful of student productions accepted into competition. The crew is also comprised of Fitchburg State students.

The university has a strong record of success at the festival, according to Fitchburg State faculty member Kelly Morgan, but the inclusion of a student-created piece is a significant milestone. Morgan coordinates the university's theater program within the Communications Media Department.

"Fewer than 9 percent of the invited productions over the past 46 years are student-written plays, and less than 2 percent are student-written, directed, produced and designed," said Morgan, a former regional director of the festival. "It's letting us know that our students are able to do it on their own and be recognized."

"LYLH" is a playful show with a serious message about finding genuine happiness through our lowest moments. This one-man show, inspired by Karner's own life experiences, features the actor playing seven characters, six of which are presented on screens built into the set. "LYLH" will be performed at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31 at the Tilden Studio Theatre at Cape Cod

Community College. "LYLH" was performed on the Fitchburg State campus last fall.

Fitchburg State students will be attending the festival on Cape Cod, competing for the prestigious Irene Ryan acting scholarship as well as in categories including directing, stage management, lighting design, scenic design, costume design, sound design, technical direction, makeup/hair design, dramaturgy and poster design. A full schedule of events for the regional festival can be found online at

<http://kcactf1program.org/home.html>.

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival is a year-round program in eight geographic regions in the United States. Regional activities are coordinated through eight KCACTF regional chairs and eight KCACTF playwriting awards chairs. With funding and administrative support from the Kennedy Center, the regional chair coordinates with the Co-Managers of KCACTF all aspects of the adjudication of productions on the local and regional level and supervises regional-level KCACTF award competitions. The playwriting chair works with schools that have entered new and student-written plays by providing expertise in the development of new scripts-assessment specifically designed for a developing play-and by providing information on the numerous playwriting awards offered. In January and February of each year, regional festivals showcase the finest of each region's entered productions and offer a variety of activities, including workshops, symposia, and regional-level award programs. Since its inception, KCACTF has given more than 400,000 college theater students the opportunity to have their work critiqued, improve their dramatic skills and receive national recognition for excellence. More than 16 million theatergoers have attended approximately 10,000 festival productions nationwide.

The goals of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival are to encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs; to provide opportunities for participants to develop their theater skills and insight; and achieve professionalism; to improve the quality of college and university theater in America; to encourage colleges and universities to give distinguished productions of new plays, especially those written by students; the classics, revitalized or newly conceived; and experimental works.

Hockey game to benefit Wounded Warrior Project

Fitchburg State University and the Fitchburg Police Relief Association are joining forces to support the Wounded Warrior Project, organizing a benefit hockey game at the Wallace Civic Center on **Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from members of the Relief



Association, at the Civic Center
or online at

<https://support.fitchburgstate.edu/warrior>.

The Fitchburg State Falcons will face off against the UMass Dartmouth Corsairs in the regular season game. The teams already enjoy a strong rivalry and organizers are hopeful the chance to contribute to the Wounded Warrior Project will make a strong event even greater.

"The benefit on February 1 marks a great opportunity for the community to show support for the men and women who have already given so much to protect our country," said President Antonucci. "We're honored to be part of such a meaningful collaboration."

"The Fitchburg Police Relief Association has supported the Wounded Warrior Project since 2011, donating all proceeds from our annual Community 5K to this worthy organization," said Association President and Fitchburg Police Officer Jude Chabot. "We're excited to build on that foundation with another event."

Fitchburg State hockey coach Dean Fuller approached the Wounded Warrior Project with the idea of a benefit hockey game several months ago and said he was happy to receive a warm response.

"I'm excited about this partnership," Coach Fuller said.

Robin Connors, founder of the charitable organization Robin Connors Angels, has been a volunteer fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior project for the past seven years and has worked with the Fitchburg Police Relief Association on numerous other projects. Service to returning veterans is a personal cause that Connors holds dear.

The Wounded Warrior Project's mission is to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history. The WWP seeks to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members; to help injured service members aid and assist each other; and to provide unique, direct programs, and services to meet the needs of injured service members.

For more information, contact Robin Connors at robinconnorsangels@gmail.com or 978-846-8665.

Faculty book launches this week from Center for Teaching and Learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning and the Communications Media Department will celebrate the publication of faculty member Sam Tobin's book "Portable Play in Everyday Life." The celebration will be held at 12:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Jan. 28** at the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. Refreshments will be served.

Communications Media Lecture Series resumes Thursday, Jan. 30

Fitchburg State University's
Communications Media Lecture Series
continues in January with a presentation
by Liz Resnick, chair of the Graphic

Design Department at the Massachusetts College of Art, on "Propaganda and Protest Posters: A Select History of Civic Engagement by Artists." Resnick's lecture will be given **Thursday, Jan. 30** at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free.

As a medium for social change, posters record our struggles for peace, social justice, environmental defense, and liberation from oppression. From the confrontational and political, to the promotional, persuasive and educational, the poster in all its forms has persisted as a vehicle for the public dissemination of ideas, information and opinion. Posters are dissent made visible—they communicate, advocate, instruct, celebrate, and warn, while jarring us to action with their bold messages and striking iconography. Posters also serve as a potent visual manifestation of a designer's commitment to society when non-commissioned posters are created as vehicles to raise money to support political and humanitarian causes.



"Help" is among the propaganda and protest posters that will be discussed on Jan. 30.



Ready access to broadband and mobile communications and to digital production technologies has expanded the poster's role well beyond the limitations of the printed surface, and in its wake has created a modern tool for support and protest. These new technologies promote truly global conversations coupled with unprecedented opportunities for changing attitudes or showing defiance or solidarity. With its mix of both low-tech and high-tech, of old and new, the poster, in all its forms, is still a core component of 21st century advocacy. "Propaganda and Protest Posters" showcases 122 empathetic and visually compelling images for our time.

In February, acclaimed New England filmmaker Jay Craven (whose credits include *Where the Rivers Flow North*, *A Stranger in the Kingdom* and the 2004 Emmy-winning public television comedy series *Windy Acres*) who will discuss "Turning Celluloid Dreams into (Digital) Reality." Craven's presentation will be given **Wednesday, Feb. 26** at 3:30 p.m. in Percival Auditorium in Percival Hall, 254

"Cancer, Hidden Disease" is part of the Communications Media lecture series on propaganda and protest posters on Thursday, Jan. 30.

Highland Ave.

The series concludes in April, when photographer Lou Jones presents "Designing Your Creative Life." The

profession of photography can be embraced for commercial or aesthetic reasons. A person can take pictures for art or money. But what if you could use photography as a vehicle on which to build your creative life? This talk will tackle the task of giving your life political, social, economic, and personal directions, i.e. how to overcome your fears & initiate diverse and provocative creative projects with photography as the core. Jones' presentation will be given at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, April 9** at Ellis White Lecture Hall.

The series, now in its third year, launched in November with a presentation by cyber artist George Fifield, who discussed "The Past and Future of Interactive New Media."

The lecture series, organized by Professor Stephen Goldstein, is presented with support from Fitchburg State's Ruth Butler Grant.

Health Services offering flu clinic Thursday, Jan. 30

Winter has arrived along with the flu and the number of flu cases are on the rise in Massachusetts. It is not too late to get vaccinated! You can avoid losing precious time being sick in bed with the flu.

Maxim Health Systems will be offering a clinic on **Thursday, January 30** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in room G01 in Hammond Hall, down the hall from the game room. The following insurance providers will be accepted: Harvard Pilgrim, Tufts Health Plan, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Massachusetts, MassHealth, Fallon Community Health Plan, UniCare Indemnity Plan, Aetna, Medicare Part B. The cost for those without insurance is \$25. For more information, contact Health Services at 978-665-3344.

Registration open for Foundation Music Lesson Program

The Fitchburg State University Foundation Music Lessons program is now accepting registration for private and group lessons for the spring semester.

The program offers talented artist-teachers available to teach private lessons on the Fitchburg State campus for the following: voice, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, strings, piano and drum set. Requests for other instruments may also be accommodated. Also available are hour-long group lessons including percussion and Celtic music.

All offerings are open to the community and all ages and skill levels are welcome. The deadline for spring registrations is **Friday, Jan. 31**.

For more information, an events calendar and registration forms, please visit <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/music>.

Distinguished Speaker Series continues in March with "Transforming School Culture"

Celebrated educator Anthony S. Muhammad, Ph.D., an award-winning teacher and principal who led his school to double student proficiency on state assessments will share his insights on "Transforming School Culture" when he is featured in Fitchburg State University's [Distinguished Speaker Series](#) on **Tuesday, March 12** at the Holmes Dining Commons on the university campus.



Anthony S. Muhammad

The Distinguished Speaker Series is now in its eighth year, and hundreds of area educators attend each year for an inspiring and informative professional development opportunity. The program 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. The event, including the keynote address and workshop sessions, will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 12.

Dr. Muhammad is one of the most sought-after educational consultants in North America. As a practitioner of nearly 20 years, Dr. Muhammad has served as a middle school teacher, assistant principal, middle school principal, and high school principal. Dr. Muhammad's tenure as a practitioner has earned him several awards as both a teacher and a principal. His most notable accomplishment came as principal at Levey Middle School in Southfield, Mich., a National School of Excellence, where student proficiency on state assessments was more than doubled in five years and Dr. Muhammad was named the Michigan Middle School Principal of the Year in 2005. Dr. Muhammad and the staff at Levey used the Professional Learning Communities at Work (PLC) model of school improvement, and they have been recognized in several videos and articles as a model, high-performing PLC.

As a researcher, Dr. Muhammad has published articles in several publications in both the United States and Canada. Dr. Muhammad is the author of the book *Transforming School Culture: How to Overcome Staff Division* (2009) and a contributing author to the book *The Collaborative Administrator: Working Together as a Professional Learning Community* (2008).

Dr. Muhammad's books will be available for purchase after the lecture, and checks, credit cards and cash will be accepted.

Registration for the workshop, luncheon and continuing education units is \$150; the program offers four professional development points for educators. Payment will be accepted by check, credit card or purchase order. Teams of three or more educators within the same school district pay \$125 per person and must register by purchase order.

The deadline to register is March 3. Registrations received by Jan. 31 will be entered into a raffle to receive free admission.

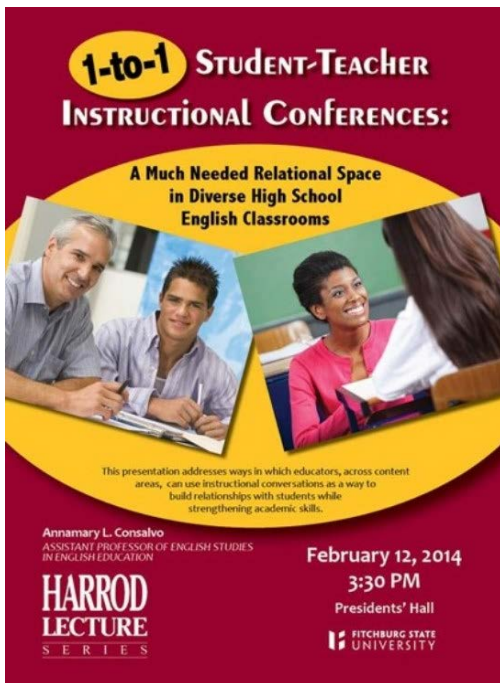
For more information, visit www.fitchburgstate.edu/gce/speaker or call the Center for Professional Studies at Fitchburg State University at 978-665-3636.

"Teaching Essential Skills" to be focus of CTL talk on Monday, Feb. 10

The Office of Academic Affairs and the Center for Teaching and Learning will present a talk by faculty member Jessica Robey (Humanities) on "Teaching Essential Skills: Reading, Writing, Critical Analysis, Logical Thinking" at 3:30 p.m. **Monday, Feb. 10** at the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Galluccio-Cirio Library. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend.

Harrod Lecture presented Wednesday, Feb. 12

Assistant Professor Annamary L. Consalvo



(English Studies) will present the Harrod Lecture "1 to 1 Student-Teacher Instructional Conferences: A Much-Needed Relational Space in Diverse High School English Classrooms" at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

This presentation addresses ways in which educators, across content areas, can use instructional conversations as a way to build relationships with students while strengthening academic skills.

Third Thursday film series continues in February



The Third Thursday film series, bridging the Fitchburg State campus and the city of Fitchburg, resumes next month at 4 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 20** with a screening of "Entre Nos" (2009) 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.

In February, faculty member Luis Rosero (Economics, History and Political Science) will introduce "Entre Nos" (2009). This fact-based story offers a fresh take on the issue of new immigrants in the United States. Mariana totes her two children from Colombia to reunite with her husband in Queens, N.Y. Her life is devastatingly turned around when her husband abandons the family. The woman and her kids have to fend for themselves in a foreign country.

On **March 20** at 4 p.m., faculty member Aruna Krishnamurthy (English Studies) presents "Monsoon Wedding" (2001). A stressed father, a bride-to-be with a secret, a smitten event planner, and relatives from around the world create much ado about the preparations for an arranged marriage in India. The screening will be part of the university's observance of Women's History Month.

On **April 17** at 4 p.m., faculty member Kevin McCarthy (Communications Media) presents "Scenes from a Parish." 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.

On **May 8** at 4 p.m., 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.

CenterStage and cultural events

Coming in February: Tierney Sutton Band presents The Joni Mitchell Project



CenterStage at Fitchburg State University invites you to experience the music of Joni Mitchell as interpreted by celebrated jazz vocalist Tierney Sutton on **Friday, Feb. 7** at 8 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$7 for children and Fitchburg State students. The Weston Box Office is open Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to

3:30 p.m. and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).

Joni Mitchell's lyrics and music were unique, evocative and definitive from their first note. As timely poetry, the songs entwine a universal voice through personal narrative. And as music, there is rich melodic and harmonic movement, plateaus for narrative and unresolved chords that reflect the emotional place of the story.

After spending years immersed in the many hues of Mitchell's music, American Songbook vocalist Tierney Sutton's Joni Mitchell Project aspires to "paint a little 'Blue' portrait." With the band's virtuosi - Christian Jacob on piano, Trey Henry on drums, and Kevin Axt on bass - the evening will be as intimate as a 1960s coffeehouse.

This performance is co-presented by CenterStage at Fitchburg State and WICN-90.7 jazz radio and co-sponsored by Rollstone Bank & Trust and the Sentinel & Enterprise.

In the Gallery at Sanders: Faculty Show, Jan. 29-March 26

The Art and Communications Media faculty at Fitchburg State will present their annual exhibition of photography, sculpture, design, painting, drawing, film, video and mixed media. The biennial exhibition highlighting some of their best and recent work will be held in the Gallery at Sanders in the Sanders Administration Building, 300 Highland Ave.

There will be an opening reception at 5:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Jan. 29** in Sanders. A video

screening will follow at 6:30 p.m. in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center, 291 Highland Ave. Admission is free.

The screening will include "Demolition Derby" by faculty member Kevin McCarthy. The piece is an experimental short combining silent Kodachrome 40 Super 8mm reversal film with a mix of sounds recorded separately. This disjointed melding of sound and space emerges in a familiar but disorienting explosion of mud, car crashes, exhaust fumes and carnival sounds.



McCarthy's film "The Bowlers," a portrait of culture and space, unfolds onscreen through the meditative sights, sounds and rhythms of Boston's North End bocce players.

A frame from Robert Harris' "Ika Rushes," one of the pieces that will be screened after the Faculty Show opens on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Also screening will be the film "Ika Rushes" by faculty member Robert Harris. This silent film with live narration consists of selected, uncut reels from an extended stay with the Ika of northern Colombia.

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: "Seeing Pink" Feb. 5-March 28



The Hammond Hall Art Gallery will reopen following a three-year hiatus on **Wednesday, Feb. 5**, with "Seeing Pink," an exhibition of photographer Lisa Kessler's work exploring the color pink and its assorted connotations in American life. The program is part of the CenterStage at Fitchburg State University arts and culture series.


Kessler's documentary photographs play with the myriad associations we make with the color pink. As the artist says, "Pink is the color of love and sweetness and vulnerability, but also of power, eccentricity, and pornography. It is a gender marker; both vulnerable and transgressive. These pink pictures stir up notions of what is real and what is fake; what is biologically determined and what is socially created. Pink is simply a color: but it is also an idea, one that confines and liberates, and ultimately holds a mirror to our culture."

"Seeing Pink" opens with a gallery talk by the artist at 5 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 5**, with a reception to follow. Admission is free. The exhibition will run until March 28.

Trained as a historian and a photojournalist, Kessler holds degrees from Brown University and Boston University. She teaches documentary and photography courses at Endicott College and Boston College, a master class on vision and voice and is available for private mentoring and workshops. Her photographs are in the permanent collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Teaching Collection of the Lehigh University Art Galleries. She is a 2011 recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship and was a runner-up for the Honickman Foundation First Book Prize in Photography, Center for Documentary Studies, for her work on the clergy sex abuse crisis.

The Hammond Hall Art Gallery was closed for three years during the comprehensive renovation of the campus center. This spring marks the completion of the most recent phase of work to the building, including the new, centrally-located art gallery space. Kessler's exhibition is the inaugural show in this new space.

For more information on "Seeing Pink" and other events scheduled in Fitchburg State's cultural series, visit www.fitchburgstate.edu/cultural.



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