

Fitchburg State University Today

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Filmmaker Antonelli to receive honorary degree



John Antonelli

Acclaimed documentary filmmaker John Antonelli learned to challenge authority during his undergraduate studies at Fitchburg State.

As a student journalist, he made national headlines in a precedent-setting free speech lawsuit that pitted students against administration. And he has used the same sense of exploration and inquiry in his filmmaking career, tackling provocative subjects and asking tough questions. The

university will present him an honorary degree at its [117th Commencement Exercises](#), undergraduate spring ceremony on Saturday, May 18 at 10 a.m. on the main quadrangle.

The commencement address on May 18 will be given by [Michael J. Deitemeyer](#), a member of the university's class of 1986 and president of Omni Hotels & Resorts. Deitemeyer will also receive an honorary degree.

Antonelli, a producer-director-writer, has overseen celebrated projects including his 2010 documentary "Sam Cooke: Crossing Over," which was broadcast on PBS' "American Masters" series and nominated for a primetime Emmy Award for outstanding non-fiction series.



Michael Deitemeyer

His recently completed documentary "Unfair Game: The Politics of Poaching," will soon make the film festival circuit. In

the past year his documentary work has taken him to Egypt, Serbia, South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, West Timor, Iraq and Hawaii.

Antonelli has also written, produced and directed an ongoing series of 30-minute films about "The New Environmentalists," narrated by Robert Redford. The environmental series has screened at film festivals around the world and netted regional Emmy Awards for outstanding public service programming.

His groundbreaking 1986 docudrama "Jack Kerouac: King of the Beats" premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in the documentary competition. It was broadcast on PBS, A&E and The Learning Channel as well as numerous major international markets and was just re-released by Kultur Films International.

Antonelli did not finish his degree at Fitchburg State but has recently renewed ties with the university. He reunited with several of his fellow plaintiffs from the 1969 free speech case for a panel talk in 2011 and was on campus last year for a screening and discussion of his film about Kerouac.

For his willingness to share his talents and experience with the campus community, he is being awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

Antonelli—who has a grown daughter, Mia, and is in a relationship with local food systems advocate Andrea Dean—lives in Sausalito, Calif.

In 1969, Antonelli was editor of the student newspaper *The Cycle*. When the young journalists sought to publish an explicit excerpt from Black Panthers' founder Eldridge Cleaver's novella *The Black Mochie*, the administration balked. Then-President James J. Hammond Jr. refused to pay for the printing and installed a faculty advisory board whose members would review all *Cycle* content in advance of publication. The student journalists pushed back and the case landed in U.S. District Court. In a landmark ruling still cited among student free speech cases, the judge found the students' rights had been violated.

Despite the success in court, Antonelli soon withdrew from Fitchburg State. He renewed his ties with the institution two years ago, however, when he joined several classmates from those turbulent times to reflect on the case and its echoes. He returned to campus again in 2012 to screen "Jack Kerouac: King of the Beats" and meet with film students.

"John Antonelli is an accomplished artist whose passion for justice was demonstrated at Fitchburg State and continues to this day," Fitchburg State President Robert V. Antonucci said. "We are honored to welcome him back to campus and present him with this distinction."

Faculty awards to be presented at commencement

At the Undergraduate Commencement ceremony Saturday, the Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching will be presented to Dr. Joshua B. Spero, associate professor of

international politics in the department of Economics, History and Political Science.

The Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship will be presented to Dr. Michael B. Hoberman, associate professor of English in the department of English Studies.



Joshua Spero

Spero has taught at Fitchburg State University since 2003.

In nominating Spero for this accolade, a former student described the professor's appreciation and understanding that students are individuals. Students in his classroom are pushed to acquire learning habits and skills that will help throughout their academic and professional careers. As an advisor and mentor, Spero helps students build a series of successes, promoting confidence in their accomplishments and abilities. His teaching reminds students of their roles as citizens locally, nationally and globally. He consistently encourages his students to gain experiences that will complement their academic strengths on campus and beyond.

Spero's teaching and research focus on international security, international relations, government decision-making, and simulation crisis management decision-making. He challenges his students to think, research, analyze, write, and role-play by immersing themselves in experiential learning. These classroom experiences are transformed into paying internships, scholarship-funded graduate school education, and exciting careers in both public service and the private sector - nationally and internationally.

Before his tenure in academia, Spero served as a strategic and scenario planning policy advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Office of the Secretary of Defense. Spero received his Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in 2000. He received a master's degree from the University of Michigan and his bachelor's degree from Brandeis University.

Spero currently serves as director of the university's Regional Economic Development Institute and coordinates the international studies minor and Washington Center internship programs.



Michael Hoberman

Hoberman has taught at Fitchburg State University since 2001.

A colleague, writing in support of Hoberman's nomination for this award, describes deep and wide contributions to the field of American Studies. His three published books include *How Strange it Seems: The Cultural Life of Jews in Small-Town New England* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2008), which traces patterns of settlement, community involvement and religious life since the late 1800s. He is also the author of *New Israel/New England: Jews and Puritans in Early America*, which drew from his 2008-2009 National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Major scholars who reviewed it for the publisher mark it as an important contribution to the fields of Jewish studies and early American history.

His current book, *Jews in the Americas, 1621-1826*, is a co-edited collection of print and manuscript sources from Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and the United Kingdom. This work is slated for publication in 2014 and provides rich resources to scholars of Jewish and American studies.

Hoberman maintains a strong record of scholarly activity with yearly journal publications and a number of invited presentations at national and local venues. A colleague notes that Hoberman displays an easy mastery of early American cultures and an ability to make the material accessible to various readers and audiences.

In all of his writing, he seeks to reach specialized and general audiences who share his enthusiasm for early American history, Jewish studies and ethnography. His research also contributes to and shapes his teaching. He was a Fulbright Senior Professor of American Studies at Utrecht University in the Netherlands during the first half of 2010.

Hoberman received his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he also received a master's degree. He received his bachelor's degree from Reed College. His research interests include Jewish-American literature and culture; folklore and oral history; and New England literature and culture.

Additional commencement honorees announced



Richard J. Spencer

At the [Graduate Commencement](#) ceremony this Thursday, the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award will be presented to Richard J. Spencer, Ph.D., professor emeritus.

Spencer began a long and illustrious career with Fitchburg State University in 1972, when he was appointed assistant professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department. He was promoted to the rank of associate professor and to the graduate faculty in 1976. Spencer was promoted to the rank of full professor in 1987.

Spencer's awards and honors between 1977 and 2008 included three merit awards, two distinguished service awards, two academic performance awards, an outstanding post-tenure review, and appointment to emeritus professor status.

From 1992 to 2000, Spencer was chair of the Master of Science in Counseling program, and after a semester-long sabbatical he resumed that role until 2003. He served as a graduate counseling program representative to the Teacher Education Council and the Education Unit Committee. Spencer played a critical role in preparing reports for the accreditation of the graduate counseling program, served twice on the university's National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education steering committee, and put his experience to further use as chairman of the education unit's assessment committee in 2005. Through his leadership the unit developed a comprehensive, detailed, organized and statistically strong system that remains in use. He chaired that committee until his retirement in 2008.

Spencer remains an adjunct faculty member, teaching in the graduate counseling program. He was instrumental in the creation of the counseling/psychology concentration of the certificate for advanced graduate study in interdisciplinary studies and served as its program chair from 2007 to 2012. He served on the university's Graduate Council for many years, including a stint as chairman. He was the administrator of graduate testing from 1972 to 2009.

He is the longest serving member of the Behavioral Science Department's committee on graduate programs, where he helped to bring clarity of detail to discussions and worked collaboratively with other members of the department to advocate for the program's students. He is respected by students and colleagues alike for excellence and dedication to the institution and its graduate programs.

Spencer received a Ph.D. in educational psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He completed an associate's degree from Auburn Community College and a bachelor

of arts in psychology from Alfred University. The following year he earned a Master of Arts in Psychology, also from Alfred University. He also earned a specialized degree as Minister of Christian Education from the Berean School of the Bible and was licensed as a psychologist.

Student awards to be presented at commencement



Lauren E. Viola

This week's commencement exercises will feature awards for graduate and undergraduate students.

The Graduate Student Leadership Award will be presented during the graduate commencement ceremony Thursday to Lauren E. Viola.

Viola has taken the lessons from her graduate studies at Fitchburg State University back into her classroom at Leominster High School.

For a research course at the university, Viola worked with her peers to design a professional development program for the school. "A Professional Development Day for and by Teachers" is now an annual event and continues to be successful in bridging the gap between best practices and classroom applications. Ongoing research demonstrates its effectiveness in improving teaching and learning at Leominster High School, where one teacher called it "the most beneficial (professional development) in 25 years of teaching."

A teacher since 2005, Viola re-launched the Leominster High School Math Team and continues to mentor it. In addition to her efforts with the Math Team, she was a class advisor for four years. Currently, she serves as an advisor to SkillsUSA, a group of trade students, which she has been a part of for five years. She has been her school's best practice professional development coordinator for two years and was voted academic teacher of the year by her colleagues at the high school's Center for Technical Education Innovation. She was also recently elected as a Lead Academic Cluster Teacher for the Center for Technical Education Innovation. Viola was elected to a two-year position that will continue until the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

Viola created a teacher's section at her high school library for educators to share professional literature, and helped research and create a study skills course for incoming high school freshmen which she hopes to teach in the fall.

One of her professors at Fitchburg State described her as representing what the graduate program most desires in its degree candidates: enthusiastic, engaged educators whose university experience enhances their own classrooms.

At the undergraduate commencement on Saturday, graduating senior Matthew W. Costello will be presented with the Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Student Leadership Award.

Costello has been an engaged student leader since his earliest days on the Fitchburg State campus. His academic accomplishments have brought national recognition to the institution and his spirit of civic engagement has helped strengthen the bonds between the university and the city in which it resides.

A five-time Dean's List honoree, Costello transferred his written and rhetorical skills to the nationwide stage



Matthew W. Costello

through four years in the American Collegiate Moot Court Association national tournament. Costello competed with distinction against much larger institutions, winning brief-writing awards in his final two years of competition.

On campus, Costello has woven himself into the fabric of the institution and the city. He was elected president of his class as freshman and the next year chaired a major university committee on student affairs that included faculty and administrators. In his sophomore year he was elected by his peers to serve as the student representative to the university's board of trustees, where he held full voting powers. He was re-elected to the post in his junior year.

As a senior, Costello was elected president of the Student Government Association, where he represented his peers as a liaison to the university's senior administration and played an active role in advocating on their behalf in the formulation of policies and procedures. From this post he also worked to raise the university's profile in the city, initiating meetings with municipal leaders and neighborhood groups, including planned monthly sessions with the mayor. These efforts have created productive dialogue and generated positive publicity for the institution and its mission.

Costello was selected to represent the university as one of public higher education's "29 Who Shine" earlier this month, and was recognized by Gov. Deval Patrick during a ceremony at the Statehouse. He is graduating with a bachelor of science in political science and interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in pre-law. This fall he plans to enroll at Suffolk University School of Law and hopes to continue to give back to the community through a career in law and public service, putting his passions and knowledge gained through law school in service as an advocate for those in need. He also envisions someday serving his peers through elective office.



Costello, left, with Gov. Patrick.

ALFA presents Shirley Pick Lecture Series

Fitchburg State University's Adult Learners in the Fitchburg Area (ALFA) continues its Shirley Pick Spring lecture series this week.

The series continues **Wednesday, May 15**, with "A Century of Change," a talk by Fitchburg State philosophy professor David Svolba, who will examine the pivotal issues of civil rights, women's rights and species rights in an exploration of the philosophical and moral dilemmas of

the past 100 years. The talk will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

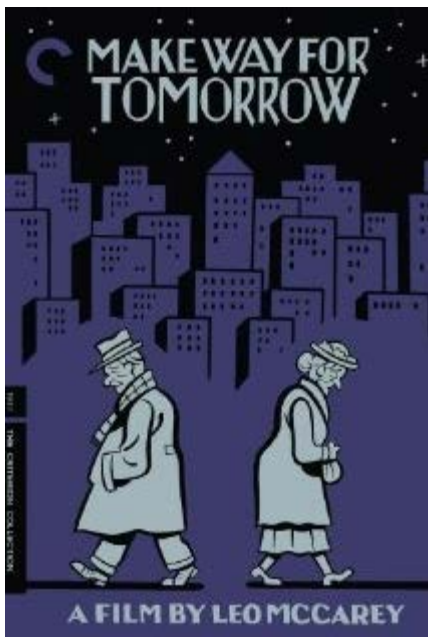
The spring series concludes on **Wednesday, May 22**, with a presentation by acclaimed storyteller Judith Black, who will bring history alive through her presentation of "The Home Front," a tale that celebrates the women who contributed to the war effort in preparation for D-Day and features songs of the era. The talk will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

Originally begun as a program for local seniors, ALFA has since expanded to include participants from over 15 surrounding communities. It is a lifelong learning that offers non-credit daytime courses and special activities - designed and implemented by the members of ALFA in coordination with the professional staff at Fitchburg State University.

The ALFA program provides an opportunity for lifelong learners with similar interests to meet in an informal setting and pursue learning for enrichment and personal growth. ALFA is sponsored by the Center for Professional Studies and the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State University, in collaboration with volunteer representatives of the community.

For more information, visit <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices/community-outreach/alfa/> or email alfa@fitchburgstate.edu.

Third Thursday film series concludes season with "Make Way for Tomorrow"



The Third Thursday film series, connecting the campus with the city, wraps up its 2012-13 season **Thursday, May 16** at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St.

Professors Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) and Joe Moser (English) present *Make Way for Tomorrow* (1937), about an elderly couple forced to separate when they lose their house and none of their five children will take in both parents.

Films in the Third Thursday series are screened at 7 p.m. in the library auditorium. Admission is free and the faculty members will lead a discussion after the film.

University to host 3rd Next Generation Leadership Summit for police June 2-7

Effective communication, building relationships and managing workplace conflict will be among the topics explored at the third annual Next Generation Leadership Summit for Police Professionals being held June 2 through 7 at Fitchburg State University. Boston Police Commissioner Edward F. Davis will deliver the keynote address on Thursday, June 6.

The summit, presented by Fitchburg State in collaboration with the Fitchburg and Harvard police departments, will introduce police professionals to new skills and tools that will lead to new perspectives on leadership in their profession.

Seminars will be presented by university faculty and professionals on the following topics: effective communication in the work setting; managing workplace conflict; collaboration and

relationship building; how leaders inspire, influence and achieve results; risk management and preparedness; and bridging the cultural gap. Commissioner Davis will give his talk at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6.

Attendees will spend a day in Boston, where they will meet with U.S. Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz and U.S. Marshal John Gibbons. Registration also includes a trip to Fenway Park to see the Red Sox.

The Next Generation Leadership Summit was launched in 2011, and this year's edition builds on that strong foundation. Its planning committee includes the Fitchburg and Harvard police chiefs, Fitchburg State faculty members and staff, as well as students.

"The public safety summit has been a huge success, stemming from a great partnership between Fitchburg State and public safety professionals from beyond our campus," said President Antonucci. "This summit fills an important need for the communities we serve."

Participants, who will live on campus during the week-long summit, will take part in six breakout sessions, covering topics selected by public safety professionals and designed to help build leadership competencies.

Registration is \$695 for attendees who wish to stay on campus during the program or \$495 for commuters. The final deadline for registration is May 15.

For more information, contact the Center for Professional Studies at 978-665-3636, or by email at cps@fitchburgstate.edu. Visit www.fitchburgstate.edu/leadershipsummit for additional details.

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.

Music teachers receive grants for artist-teacher outreach

Seven music teachers in the Humanities Department/Foundation Music Lesson Program received Grants for Artist-Teacher Outreach (GATO) awards to give performances, workshops and masterclasses at local schools in spring 2013.

Cellist **Ning Tien** gave a workshop and presentation, part of the ongoing Cello Fest, at Bentley Commons in Keene, New Hampshire, on February 24 to twenty students ages 11-76. Soprano **Maria Ferrante** and pianist **Michelle Kelley** gave a master class & performance at Doherty Memorial High School in Worcester on February 25 to a full class of music students, chorus

members, and invited parents and friends. They played music by Gershwin and coached students in singing and performing.

Guitar, banjo, and harmonica player **Paul Luria** taught a guitar class covering the blues, song form, and guitar technique to fifteen Lunenburg High School students, meeting on various Tuesdays throughout the spring semester. Clarinetist **Monica Duncan** traveled to Georgetown High School on May 1 to give a masterclass for clarinet/saxophone students, a performance, and to lead woodwind sectionals for the concert band directed by Anthony M. Messina.

Flutists **April Showers** and pianist **Roy Imperio** gave a performance and workshop with flute and piano students at Nashoba Regional High School on May 6. The director of music at Nashoba is Tom O'Toole, a graduate of the Fine Arts Director Program at Fitchburg State. Activities at the middle school are also being planned.

Faculty Notes

Jane Fiske (Humanities) coordinated a visit from the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association when the group presented its 45th annual Bay State Competition at the university for the ninth consecutive year. More than 200 piano, string, and voice students, ranging in age from 5 to 18 from all around the state, competed for trophies and the chance to be named the best in the state. Award results are posted on the MMTA's website at www.mmta.net.

Charles Sides (Communications Media), series editor for Baywood's Technical Communications series, announced three new books for publication this year.

- *Online Education 2.0*, Kelli Cargile Cook, Texas Tech University, and Keith Grant-Davie, Utah State University, Co-editors
- *A Unified Theory of Information Design: Visuals, Text, and Ethics*, Nicole Amare, University of South Alabama, and Alan Manning, Brigham Young University, Co-authors
- *Designing Texts: Teaching Visual Communication*, Eva R. Brumberger, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and Kathryn M. Northcut, Missouri Institute of Technology, Co-editors

Online Education 2.0 extends the seminal work of *Online Education* (Baywood, 2005), which received the "Best Collection of Essays in Scientific and Technical Communication" award by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

A Unified Theory of Information Design: Visuals, Text, and Ethics explores the application of Peircean speculative rhetoric to the scientific, technical, and professional communication disciplines. It has been nominated for NCTE's "Best Book in Scientific and Technical Communication" award.

Designing Texts: Teaching Visual Communication explores the application of visual rhetoric in professional communication environments. It has been nominated for NCTE's "Best Collection of Essays in Scientific and Technical Communication" award.

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