

Fitchburg State University Today

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In This Issue

Black History Month observations

Kennedy Center Theater Festival results

Free tax help available

Energy Race in February

Third Thursday Film Series resumes

March is Women's History Month

University Project

Distinguished Speaker Series continues in March

CenterStage and cultural events

Faculty Notes

Quick Links

www.fitchburgstate.edu

[Public Relations](#)

[Campus News](#)

[Campus Calendar](#)

[Graduate and Continuing Education](#)

[Fitchburg State in the News](#)

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Black History Month observations



The Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness and Black Student Union at Fitchburg State University are each sponsoring events to commemorate Black History Month in February.

The Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness has already begun a month-long trivia contest dubbed "One Person Can Make a Difference." Each Monday this month, a set of five "Who Am I?" questions built around African-American achievers will be sent to every member of the campus community by email. Answers will be entered into a weekly drawing for prizes. The questions will get more difficult as the month goes on.

Other events in February include:

- Wednesday, Feb. 13, 3:30 to 5 p.m. - "Teach Me How to Braid," Hammond Hall, G-Lobby. Free.
- Tuesday, Feb. 19, 4 to 7 p.m. - The Holmes Dining Commons will feature soul food, served by BSU members. \$8.95 for the public.
- Tuesday, Feb. 26, 4 to 5:30 p.m. - The Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness presents speaker Martha Pinello who will discuss "African-American Archaeology in Post-Revolutionary new Hampshire and Maine." The presentation will be in the main lounge of Hammond Hall. Free.
- Thursday, Feb. 28, 10 p.m. to 1 .m. - Black History Month Dance, main lounge, Hammond Hall. Free.

Last week, the Holmes Dining Commons featured an African dinner with specially prepared foods served by Black Student Union members, and last Thursday there was a screening of the film "Life Support" at Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Students shine at Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

Fitchburg State students shone again in the 45th annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival held earlier this month in Hyannis. This conference provides an opportunity for students to engage professionals from across the country and network with students from across the seven-state region. More than 2,000 people attended this year's festival.



Fitchburg State was represented by 48 students, who took part in intensive acting, design, technical theater, directing, movement, musical theater, auditioning, voice, combat, dance, text analysis, dramaturgy and playwriting workshops, and others competed in a competitive Tech Olympics.

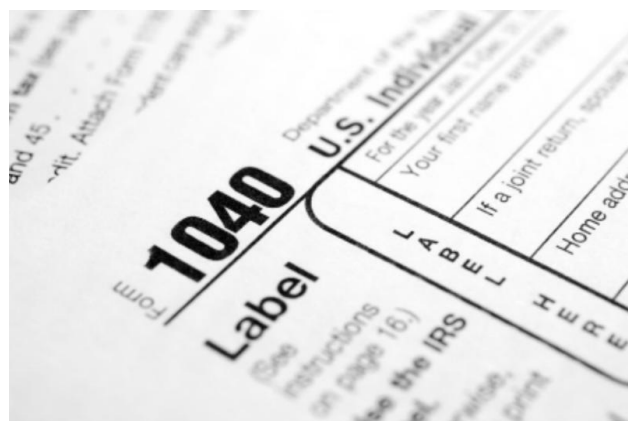
Among those students recognized during the festival:

- Brett Rochford was selected as 1st Alternate in the National Scenic Design Competition
- Industrial Technology/Theaterstudents Pat Story and Doug Maffatone swept all events in the Tech Olympics, which has never occurred.
- Three IT/Theater students were selected as festival TECH interns. They were Jacob Smith, Pat Story and Doug Maffatone.
- Two former IT/Theater students, Jesse Hoyer and Jo Nazro have been hired as Festival Technical Directors.
- Kimberlee Connor and Eric Oliveira were selected to perform in the staged reading of the new playHibakusha, by MFA Candidate in Dramatic Writing New York University, Jonathan Fitts - Tisch School of the Arts and directed by Tony Howarth, respected writer/director
- Four Students were nominated for the prestigious National Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Award and competed among 244 other nominees with their scene partners: Rachel Ide & McKegg Collins, Erika Haynes & Evan Dunlevy, Thomas Karner & Marc Lawrence, Kimberlee Connor & Eric Oliveira
- Thomas Karner & Marc Lawrence and Kimberlee Connor & Eric Oliveira advanced to the semi-final round of 36 nominees
- Kimberlee Connor and Eric Oliveira advanced it to the Final Round of 16
- Ian Vincent, Derek Bousquet and Dan Tomasik were cast in the National Playwriting Program 10-Minute Play Festival from 109 student who auditioned.
- Dan Tomasik received the Institute for Theater Journalism and Advocacy Award of Merit.

Accounting students offering free tax preparation

Student volunteers and interns from Fitchburg State University will offer free volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) to qualified taxpayers from Feb. 1 through April 22.

Assistant Professor Richard DesRoches, CPA, a member of the Fitchburg State business administration faculty and advisor to the university's Accounting Society, said more than 15 students have completed IRS tax training to offer their services preparing and reviewing returns.



The Fitchburg State VITA site will be open by appointment only from 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Fridays in room B142 of the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Fitchburg State students will also be assisting at the VITA site at the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center, 18 Fairmount St.,

Fitchburg.

The VITA program generally offers free tax help to people who make \$51,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in local communities. They can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations.

"The student volunteers have worked very hard over the past three months preparing for their involvement in the VITA program," DesRoches said. "It's a great opportunity for the university to offer a valuable service to the community and for the students to apply what they have learned. We look forward to a successful first year and beyond."

Appointments for the Fitchburg State site may be requested by phone or email. By phone, call (978) 665-3329 to leave your name and phone number and a volunteer will contact you within 48 hours. By email, send your name and phone number to taxwise@fitchburgstate.edu, and a volunteer will contact you within 48 hours.

Once scheduled, a volunteer will be in touch about what information to bring to the appointment. This includes:

- Picture ID
- Social Security cards for yourself and all other individuals on your return (spouse and all dependents)
- Your 2011 tax returns (federal and state) if available
- All income documents including W-2s, 1099s, and other tax documents including Massachusetts Form 1099-HC
- Documentation of higher education expenses including tuition paid and student loan interest paid
- Daycare expenses and the daycare provider's name, address and tax ID number
- Documentation to support itemized deductions if applicable. These items may include:
 - Mortgage loan interest paid
 - Charitable contributions
 - Property (excise) taxes paid (home and auto)
 - Medical expenses

In addition, you must complete the first three pages of [Form 13614-C](#) which can be retrieved at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f13614c.pdf>.

Visitors with appointments will also be provided with temporary parking passes.

Energy Race is on

Townhouse 7 and Mara 6 are currently leading the way in our Energy Race, with a reduction in electricity use of more than 10 percent from this time last February.

The university's Sustainability Advisory Committee, Student Government Association and the Office of Housing and Residential Services is sponsoring the month-long challenge.

The goal of the contest is for the occupants of each campus building to reduce their electricity consumption



during the month. Each building will be monitored and compared to the amount of electricity used in February of 2012. The people from the residence hall and academic/administrative building with the greatest percent reduction will win themselves an ice cream party!

Solar panels cover the roofs of the Sanders Administration Building and Anthony Student Service Center.

Over the last few years Fitchburg State has installed precise systems to monitor daily use of electricity and fossil fuels in almost every building. This monitoring effort was part of the university's ongoing effort to increase energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions as part of the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act and Executive Order 484. The contest will focus on electricity data because each of us can easily raise or lower energy use (we don't have as much individual control over the fossil fuels used in our buildings, so we won't make that part of the contest).

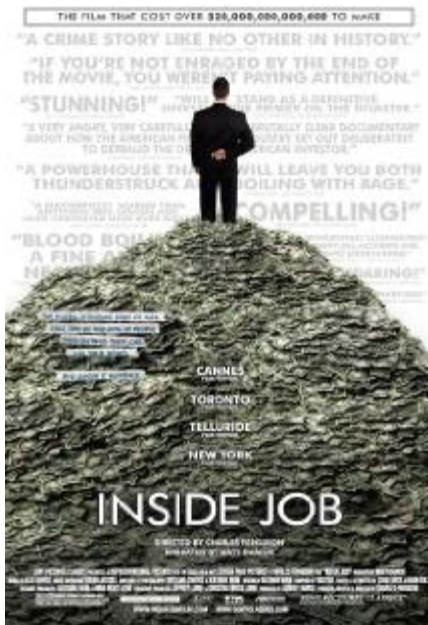
Follow the progress of the contest on Facebook and Twitter, where we will use the hashtag #fitchburggreen to post status updates.

When the Energy Race was run a few years ago, occupants of residence halls saved Fitchburg State over \$4,000 in electricity costs in just one month. We hope this year more faculty and staff will help the entire campus show some progress.

Here are some strategies to win:

- SHUT OFF unneeded lights (esp. lobbies, classrooms, offices, bathrooms, closets, etc.)
- SHUT OFF projectors when not needed for lecture.
- UNPLUG battery packs to laptops, cell phones, etc. when not charging. (Those chargers draw current even when disconnected from a device.)
- UNPLUG anything that uses a remote control (TV, DVD, DVR, etc.). They consume a significant amount even in the "off" mode.
- TURN OFF your computer, printer, etc. at night
- TALK to coworkers and students to spread the word
- LOOK AROUND and use your head. For example, many lobby lights are a waste during the day, but are really handy after dark!

Third Thursday film series resumes in February with *Inside Job* on Feb. 21



The Third Thursday film series - bridging the campus and the city - continues in February when Prof. Michael Turk (Economics, History and Political Science) presents *Inside Job* (2010). 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.

Inside Job takes a close look at what brought about the financial meltdown.

Women's History Month celebrated in March

Fitchburg State University will observe Women's History Month in March with a celebration of the special contributions that Italian and Italian-American women have made to American cultural life.

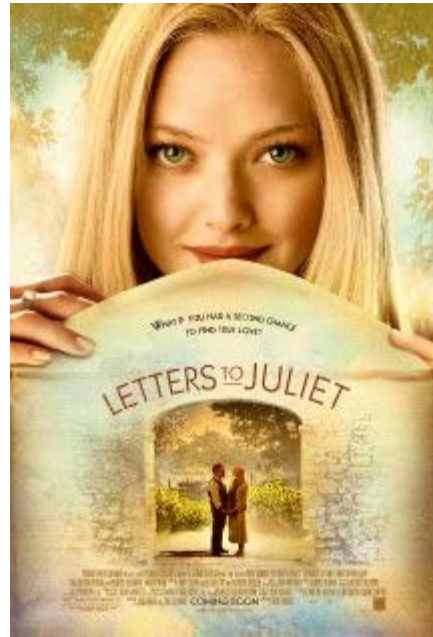
The program begins Monday, March 4, with "Cooking with *Nonna*" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall. Come enjoy fabulous Italian cooking with some very special Italian *nonne* (grandmothers). We will be celebrating Women's History by sharing some Italian cooking secrets and having many different dishes to try. Everyone who attends must bring a favorite homemade Italian dish! Prizes will be awarded for the best offerings. Buon appetito! Sponsored by a grant from the Gallucci-Cirio Foundation.

On Wednesday, March 6, and Thursday, March 7, the Communications Media Department's theater program presents "Talking with ..." by Jane Martin and directed by Kelly Morgan from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Percival Auditorium. These extraordinary monologues include idiosyncratic characters that amuse, move and frighten, and always speaking from the depths of their souls. They include a baton twirler, a fundamentalist snake handler, an ex-rodeo rider and an actress willing to go to any length to get a job.

On Monday, March 18, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. there will be a panel discussion on "The Women of Italy" at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. This interdisciplinary discussion about the diverse contributions of Italian women to modern culture will feature professors Rala Diakite, Joe Moser, Teresa Thomas, and Susan Williams.

On Wednesday, March 30, from 3:30 to p.m. there will be a Women's History Month Tea at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center. Celebrate Women's History Month with tea and dainties. Professor Susan Wadsworth will speak about "Italian Women Futurist Artists: Pioneering Modernism." Known for bucking tradition, these women were often aviators of merit, and abstracted aerial landscapes were some of their favorite subjects. Blending the flat planes of Cubism with color, movement, and sensuality, these artists may have foreseen some of the ideas that later led toward animation, as well as forms that reflected their own courageous pioneering of modernism. Come hear stories of their exploits - in the air, in the bedroom, and on canvas. The tea is sponsored by WITS and the university's Economics, History and Political Science Department.

The celebration concludes Tuesday, March 26, with a screening of the film "Letters to Juliet" at 7 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. This romantic movie is set in Verona, Italy, the place where Romeo and Juliet first met. Sophie is part of a group that responds to letters written to Juliet for love advice. By helping one special correspondent find the love of her life, Sophie will find herself in a sequence of love events as well. The screening is sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Office of International Education.



"Letters to Juliet" will screen March 26 as part of Women's History Month.

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](#).

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



Dr. Steven L. Layne

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

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

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

The [CenterStage at Fitchburg State University](#) arts and culture series welcomes [Lunasa](#) 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.

Lunasa's performance is co-sponsored by Sentinel & Enterprise, with support from media partner WPKZ and support from 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 will run in the gallery at Sanders through Feb. 19.



On the Conlon Media Wall: "Out There!" by Adam Mikaelian

Current student Adam Mikaelian captures the world of



extreme skiing in his images. "Out There!" will be featured on the media wall through Feb. 27.

Faculty Notes

Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) presented a talk at the Lyceum of Bedford, on his book *Conflicted are the Peacemakers: Israeli and Palestinian Moderates and the Death of Oslo*.

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