

Fitchburg State University Today

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Winter Commencement a time for reflection, celebration



The university held its [117th commencement exercises, winter ceremony](#) Friday, Jan. 25 at the campus Athletics and Recreation Center. Hundreds of undergraduate and graduate degrees were awarded during the evening, which also included presentation of the President's Medal to restaurateur and philanthropist David Celuzza.

In his commencement address, President Antonucci congratulated the graduates and their families while reflecting on the 10-year milestone of his administration.

"The center of what we do on each and every day is the student that we serve," President Antonucci said.

He also described his feelings watching President Obama's inauguration last week, and the opportunity it provided for the world to see a diverse nation united in a solemn and peaceful observance of the transfer of power.

"We saw America at its best last Monday, and tonight we see Fitchburg State at its best."

Celuzza, a 1972 alumnus, is the owner of Slattery's Restaurant in Fitchburg. He was recognized with the President's Medal for his engagement and philanthropy, including the annual Slattery's Turkey Trot which has generated more than \$180,000 for local scholarships.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be honored by this university that I love," Celuzza told the crowd. "I'm so happy for you and I know you've made incredible friendships here. I know they'll last a lifetime."

He also encouraged the graduates to give back to the university and create opportunities for future students to realize their dreams.

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.

Moot Court teams earn recognition



Members of the Fitchburg State delegation at President Obama's inauguration, Jan. 21.

Fitchburg State University continued its tradition of exceptionalism at the American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Championship Tournament last week at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.

Fitchburg State students Angela Szymcik and Robert Sivazlian finished second overall in the nation in the brief-writing portion of the competition, while Matthew Costello and Haley Schilling finished fifth.

"This is the second consecutive year that Matt has earned a brief writing award and wraps up a remarkable career which saw him earn national distinction in all four years in which he competed," said Fitchburg State Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Weizer, who coaches the moot court team.

The Fitchburg State delegation and Dr. Weizer also attended President Obama's inauguration during their journey.

The competition was bittersweet for Fitchburg State's heralded moot court teams, which did not advance to the second day of the tournament for the first time in its 13-year history. Fitchburg State had been the only institution in the nation to make that mark each year.

Team members Shylah Maloney and Szymcik are expected to return to moot court competition in the fall.

Energy contest kicks off Feb. 1

The university's Sustainability Advisory Committee, Student Government Association and the Office of Housing and Residential Services will be holding another Energy Race this February.

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!

University dedicates George J. Bourque Gymnasium at McKay

In tribute to a longtime public servant and champion of public education, the university dedicated the gymnasium at the McKay Arts Academy to the memory of George J. Bourque on Thursday, Jan. 24.

Bourque, who died in 2011 at age 98, left a remarkable legacy of public service that included four terms as mayor of Fitchburg and 11 terms as

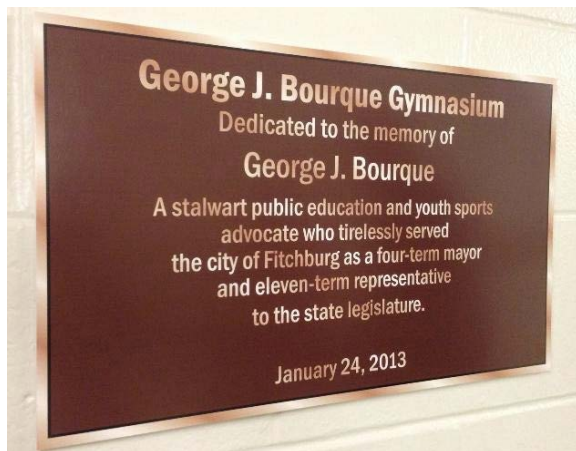


a representative.

"From City Hall to the Statehouse, George Bourque was a champion of Fitchburg," President Antonucci said. "It is therefore fitting that we celebrate his accomplishments and commitment by dedicating this space in McKay Arts Academy to his memory."

President Antonucci addressed the audience at the dedication ceremony.

Many members of Bourque's family, including his wife, Emelia, attended the ceremony on Thursday.



The McKay Arts Academy is located on the Fitchburg State campus, with one-third of the building used for university classrooms and offices. The remainder of the building, including the newly christened George J. Bourque Gymnasium, is a Fitchburg public school with pupils from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

Bourque, one of 13 children, was born in Nova Scotia and moved with his family to Fitchburg as an infant. He began working to support his family at 16, delivering newspapers and running a catering business in the city before entering local politics. His service included stints on the

Fitchburg's Park Commission and City Council before winning four terms as mayor. Bourque founded the city's annual Civic Days in 1960, an enduring tradition that brings crowds to the heart of the downtown each July 4. Bourque was elected president of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association during his tenure at City Hall.

He expanded his political reach with a run for state representative, and won 11 terms before retiring in 1992.

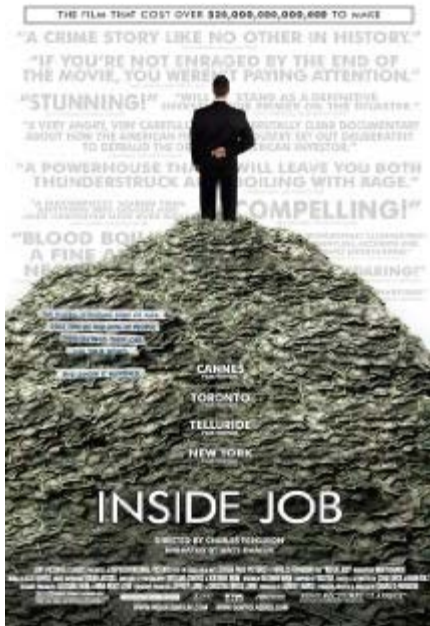
Bourque was also committed to athletics, and volunteered for many years as a coach, umpire and referee. He felt sports were beneficial for boys and girls and worked to create opportunities for athletics for both genders.

Speakers Series continues with "Indians and White Justice in 17th Century New England"

The Fitchburg State Speakers Series resumes for the spring with a talk on Monday, Feb. 4 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. by Edith Murphy (History), who will discuss "Indians and White Justice in 17th Century new England."

The talk will be held in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library in Hammond Hall.

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.

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](#).

Grants support Humanities performances

Three music teachers from the Humanities Department/Foundation Music Lesson Program received grants for artist-teacher outreach (GATO) to support performances, workshops and master classes at local schools. Violinist **Hildur Schilling** performed and conducted the ensemble that accompanied the Leominster All-City Chorus (including elementary, middle and high school students) at Samoset Middle School in their holiday concert on Dec. 13, 2012.

Soprano **Maria Ferrante** gave a vocal master class for voice majors at Burncoat High School in Worcester, on Nov. 20, 2012. Over 60 students, faculty and parents were in attendance. The students were chosen from a pool of vocal students by Deb Cole, the band and music teacher at Burncoat High. Pianist **Roy Imperio** accompanied Ferrante and the students and then played a brilliant Chopin etude which thrilled all in attendance. He also worked on piano technique with individual students. More GATO initiatives are planned for the spring semester.

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](#) 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.

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