

# Fitchburg State University Today

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## Citizenship should not be taken for granted, panelists say



U.S. District Court Judge Timothy S. Hillman was among the Constitution Day panelists.

The university observed the 225th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution last week with a panel discussion on immigration and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Constitution Day is observed Sept. 17, in recognition of the document's signing on that date in 1787.

U.S. District Judge Timothy S. Hillman, a Fitchburg resident who earlier this month presided over a hearing at Weston Auditorium where 299 applicants took the oath of citizenship, described the vitality and genius of the

government-defining document.

"We have the oldest and shortest constitution in the world," Judge Hillman said, describing how its interpretations have value even in a landscape ever changed by technology. Electronic surveillance, for example, was nothing the founders could have imagined, yet the constitution's protections against unlawful search and seizure apply and are being grappled with by the Supreme Court. "It just shows you how well the 225-year-old document has aged."

Ammad Sheikh, director of the university's Expanding Horizons program, described his own journey to citizenship. A native of Pakistan, Sheikh emigrated to the U.S. in 1995 as a teenager. He was recruited into the Navy - despite not knowing how to swim - and applied for citizenship in 1999.

Sheikh said he was struck by the value his adopted country placed on free speech, recalling a Ku Klux Klan protest he saw on television where members of the organization were being protected by African American police officers.

He also took the opportunity to remind those in the audience that many members of the armed forces aren't U.S. citizens, though their service does open a path to citizenship.

"There are thousands of Americans who can say, 'Only my story is possible in the U.S.,'" Sheikh said. "We should take pride in who we are as Americans, and what that means."

More context on the difficulties facing immigrants was offered by Professor Teresa Fava Thomas, who described the trials that faced Italian immigrants in the early 20th century. Factions of "immigration restrictionists" fought "assimilationists" as the influx unfolded. Massachusetts in general, and the city of Fitchburg in particular, had a high percentage of foreign-born residents even a century ago.

The Constitution Day observances ended with Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Weizer, assisted by Reference and Special Collections Librarian Kate Wells, administering a pop quiz of the audience, who fielded questions from the citizenship test (questions and answers for the test can be viewed [here](#)).

### SMART classroom dedicated in honor of Jack Alling

The university dedicated the new Jack Alling SMART classroom (McKay C-164) during a ceremony earlier this month.

The classroom features the latest interactive learning software and equipment designed to facilitate instruction and communication with students.

The room was created in honor of Jack Alling, the late husband of Professor Shari Stokes, who was joined at the dedication ceremony by her daughter, Emma (her son, Jesse, was unable to attend).



"This is a room that will get a lot of use by our students," President Antonucci said at the ceremony, attended by many of Stokes past and present colleagues and friends.

Dedicating the new room, from left: Vice President for Academic Affairs Robin Bowen, President Antonucci, Professor Shari Stokes, and Emma Stokes Alling.

Stokes said her late husband was honored there would be a classroom in his name that would further the cause of teaching and learning.

"No road is quite so hard when you have so many people supporting you," Stokes said.

A plaque commemorating the philanthropy that led to the room's development hangs on the wall. Its inscription is as follows:

*Conceived by Harold Ellis, Jack's nephew, and made possible by the gifts of family, friends and colleagues of Jack, Emma and Jesse Alling, and Shari Stokes, as well as the Fitchburg State University Foundation.*

*This room was created to recognize Jack's magnanimous spirit, his talents in technology and his never failing support of Shari's passion for teaching.*

*Dedicated September 4, 2012.*

#### LCU Conference Room dedicated in remodeled campus center



The university dedicated the Leominster Credit Union conference in the renovated campus center earlier this month. The conference room is in the glass tower facing North and Pearl streets. President Antonucci, far right, was joined by LCU representatives, from left, retiring President and CEO Gordon R. Edmonds, Nancy L. Graves, Giulio G. Greco, Amedeo (Butch) Bilotta and Richard A. Sheppard.

#### ALFA Food for Thought Lecture series starts Sept. 25

Fitchburg State University's [ALFA](#) (Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area) program will feature photography from the U.S. national parks to the far reaches of Asia at a free talk by photographer Eric Vickery of Lunenburg on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Vickery will share some of his techniques and talk about his experiences and adventures while capturing these spirited images. Admission is free and open to the public.

The lecture series continues Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 2 p.m., also at Ellis White Lecture Hall, with "Horror Within Us." Fitchburg State Professor Kelly Morgan from the communications media department will take listeners on an adventure for the Halloween season. Hear of the occult, ghost story-telling, and the nature of fear, and experience the joy of being scared!

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

### Foundation Music Recital Wednesday, Sept. 26



Maria Ferrante

Fitchburg State's [Foundation Music Lesson](#) faculty members will present a free recital on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

Pieces to be performed include Schubert's "Shepherd on the Rock" by Maria Ferrante (voice), Roy Imperio (piano) and Monica Duncan (clarinet), as well as Villa Lobos' "Suite Floral" with Michelle Kelly (piano).

For more information on the recital, or the Foundation Music Lesson Program, call 978-665-3276 or visit [www.fitchburgstate.edu/music](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/music).

### University collaborates on Blacksmith Art & Music Festival Saturday, Sept. 29

Fitchburg State University and the [Fitchburg Art Museum](#) are teaming up to present the Blacksmith, Art & Music Festival at Riverfront Park of Boulder Drive on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The festival, formerly known as the Fitchburg Forge-In, is celebrating its ninth anniversary this year. The 2012 event will be wildly creative and a much bigger festival, partnering with co-organizers Fitchburg Art Museum and Fitchburg State University, who are bringing a new dynamic to the day's events. In fact, the expanded festival has so much to offer for 2012 that the event has a new name: The Blacksmith, Art & Music Festival.

Fitchburg's Riverfront Park, situated along the beautiful Nashua River, will host the festival, turning the park into a village of color, excitement, music, and drama. The art of blacksmithing spans over three thousand years, from simple tools to armor made for medieval knights to dramatic Victorian gates. The Blacksmithing Forge-In component of the festival will feature some of the region's top blacksmiths flexing their artistic and metalworking skills as they compete for prize money.

"For those who think blacksmithing is little more than horse shoes and branding irons, the Blacksmith, Art & Music Festival will really open their eyes to the skill and creativity of these



The Fitchburg Art Museum, ACHLA Designs, Fitchburg State University, and the City of Fitchburg have joined forces to expand the Forge-In festival by integrating the drama of blacksmithing, public art, music, and food. Situated at Riverfront Park along the beautiful Nashua River, this extraordinary free festival will feature live musical performances, broad arrays of art, activities for children, tents filled with arts and crafts vendors, and much more!



amazing craftspeople," said Achla Madan, founder of the festival.

"The city of Fitchburg is proud to play a role in this festival. We know that the arts can inspire and bring people together," said Fitchburg Mayor Lisa A. Wong. "This festival has historical, social and cultural meanings and can be a great economic engine."

Fitchburg Art Museum and Fitchburg State University are joining in the festivities, adding such attractions as a youth and family arts area, live performances from New England's favorite jazz, rock, and ethnic bands, a broad array of art displays, and rows of tents filled with arts & crafts vendors.

The festival is being held the same day as Leominster's Johnny Appleseed Festival, and there will be free shuttle service between the events from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **Music and Art Complement the Blacksmithing Experience**

For years, Fitchburg State University has been producing its own local music festival. A team of Fitchburg State University students, faculty and staff will select several regional bands and singer-songwriters to perform live in Riverfront Park from 5 pm - 9 pm. Bands and performers include: Big OL Dirty Bucket, Everett Mckee, One Step Further, Cara Brindisi, Zachary Zapierre, Bynars, and Bonda Criolla.

Similarly, the Fitchburg Art Museum is proud to add its artistic resources to the festival. It will bring in a talented group of public artists who will provide free hands-on-art activities, encouraging children and families to create their own art and contribute to public artworks. In addition, festival visitors will be able to enjoy appearances by some favorite pieces in the Fitchburg Art Museum's collection, given new life and character by local actors. The museum is also inviting a selection of regional vendors to display and sell their handmade arts and crafts during the day.

"The Fitchburg Art Museum inspires the public through our wonderful and diverse collections, educational programs, and new community engagement initiatives. This festival highlights our commitment to bringing the power of art, creativity, and community celebration to the public," said Museum Director Peter Timms.

### **Get Involved**

Blacksmiths can register free of charge until September 21st; visit [www.fitchburgforgein.com](http://www.fitchburgforgein.com) for details. Arts & crafts vendors, plus general event sponsors, are also being accepted; Interested parties should contact Jerry Beck at the Fitchburg Art Museum 978-345-4207 ext. 312 or by [email](mailto:) for more information.

### **Exercise and Sports Science Club launches cancer research walk on Sept. 30**

Fitchburg State's Exercise and Sports Science Club presents the Walk for Patient Care and Cancer Research on Sunday, Sept. 30, at Elliot Field. All proceeds raised from the event will go to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund. Registration is \$5 for the three-mile walk and opens at 8:45 a.m.

### **Humanities Visiting Speakers Series lecture on Oct. 9 to explore presidential election**

Fitchburg State University's Humanities Visiting Speakers Series kicks off the year with a look at the upcoming presidential election with Minnesota State University Professor Joshua Broady Preiss. The lecture will be held Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall.



The professor, from Minnesota's philosophy, politics and economics program, will lecture on the philosophical issues underlying the upcoming presidential election. A discussion will follow the lecture.

Admission is free and open to the public.

### Teaching opportunities in Graduate and Continuing Education

The office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) is currently accepting requests from faculty to teach for the upcoming 2013 winter session and spring semester. Faculty members interested in teaching should contact the appropriate department chair for approval. All courses offered in the 2013 winter session will again be offered totally online in order to eliminate the challenges of winter weather in an accelerated session, save commuting expenses, reduce energy costs on campus, and provide access to winter session courses for students unable to travel to campus during the winter break.

The deadline for submitting course schedules to GCE is Friday, Sept. 28. Please feel free to contact [Brian Bercier](#), Associate Dean, with any questions.

### CenterStage and cultural events at Fitchburg State

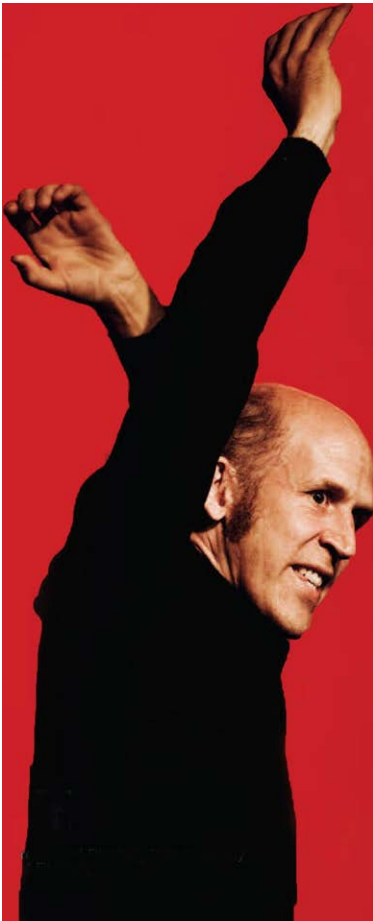
The [CenterStage at Fitchburg State University](#) arts and culture series welcomes the return of Ireland's Gare St. Lazare Players to campus for a solo theatrical adaptation of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in Percival Auditorium, 254 Highland Ave.

Conor Lovett's masterful performance revels in the power of its simplicity: its script is "stripped to the essentials but retaining the best of Melville," while the Boston Globe declared this production of "*Moby Dick* plunges into the soul."

Lovett first graced the stage at Fitchburg State last year with a mesmerizing solo adaptation of Samuel Beckett's *The End*. The audience response was so strong that the company was among the first artists recruited for the 2012-13 season. A singular experience awaits those who attend this performance.

The performance will be preceded by a spotlight talk at 6:15 p.m. Maritime literature scholar Robert Richter will explore our fascination with *Moby Dick*, long considered one of the great American novels, and how its power is communicated onstage.

Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$7 for students. The Weston Box Office, inside Weston Auditorium at 353 North St., is open Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets will



Conor Lovett

also be available at the door the night of the performance.

This performance is co-sponsored by Worcester Magazine with media partner WPKZ and additional funding from the New England Foundation for the Arts.

### **Art exhibit: "The Paradigm of Power"**

CenterStage at Fitchburg State University invites you to explore "The Paradigm of Power" with celebrated illustrator Peter O. Zierlein when his work is presented in the art gallery in the Sanders Administration Building, 300 Highland Ave., through Oct. 9.

Zierlein investigates and explores power through his work in social activist posters, op-ed illustrations and other formats. As the French philosopher Michel Foucault once said, "Power is everywhere; not because it embraces everything, but because it comes from everywhere."

Powers are constantly shifting. Power is ephemeral-like the newspaper article on the Op-Ed page and like the paper Zierlein uses to graphically explore the paradigm of power - the struggles for, or loss of it, the use and abuse of it, the shifts in the distribution of power. This exhibition encompasses illustrative images, posters and paper cuts focused on the same theme.

Zierlein is an illustrator, with a Master of Fine Arts from the Art Institute of Boston and a bachelor's in fine arts in communication design from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y. Born and raised in Germany, Zierlein got his start creating posters for local clubs and illustrations in small hometown publications, and painting designs on German carnival parade floats. Upon his arrival in the U.S. Zierlein began designing T-shirts, and during his studies at the Pratt Institute was commissioned to produce illustrations for major publications including the Village Voice and New York Magazine. Today his clients include The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Boston Globe, The Chicago Tribune, The Los Angeles Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Nation, Print, Die Zeit, Berliner Zeitung, Stern, Spiegel, FSB Magazine, Harvard Business Magazine, New York Magazine, Premiere Magazine, and others.

### **Theatre Artisan**

Also in September, the Conlon Media Wall in the lobby of the Conlon Industrial Technology Building at 316 Highland Ave. will feature "Theatre Artisan," chronicling the many contributions of faculty member Cap Corduan. Corduan has worked behind the scenes on university theater productions for more than a decade. This exhibit, running through Oct. 3, will feature images of the productions she has helped bring to life on campus stages

## Faculty Notes

**Lucy Dechene** (Mathematics) gave a carillon recital in Mead Chapel as part of the Summer Recital Series at Middlebury College in Vermont.

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