University observes Women’s History Month

Fitchburg State University will celebrate Women’s History Month with a series of film screenings, talks and a solo performance that promise to highlight the contributions of women to history and contemporary society.

The commemoration starts with a performance by celebrated actress and writer Chandra Thomas, who will present her one-woman play a rhyme for the UNDERground at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Thomas has appeared on film, television and stage across the U.S. In a rhyme for the UNDERground, she looks at the history and legacy of slavery. Admission is free.

A series of films focused on women’s issues will also be featured during the month’s events. On Monday, March 2 at 3:30 p.m., the Oscar-nominated film *What’s Love Got to do With It?* (1993) at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free. The film tells the story of music legend Tina Turner and her turbulent marriage to Ike Turner.

The campus will welcome Donna M. Cole, PhD, MPH, MEd, for the Nancy Kelly Memorial Lecture on Wednesday, March 18 at 3:30 p.m. in Presidents’ Hall in the Mazzaf erro Center, 291 Highland Ave. Cole will present “My God Has Not Spoken:” The Experiences of African-American Women Living with HIV.” Cole is visiting research fellow at Yale University's Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS. Admission is free.

On Thursday, March 19, at 4 p.m. at the Fitchburg Public
Library, 610 Main St., Fitchburg State faculty member Patricia Arend (Behavioral Sciences) will introduce the Oscar-nominated *Far From Heaven* (2002) and lead a discussion after the screening. Far From Heaven is also being presented as part of the university and library's Third Thursday Film Series, as well as the Community Read. Admission is free.

Back on campus, the Women's History Month film series concludes with *Love Jones* (1997) on Monday, March 30 at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. The film, about the relationship between two young African-Americans in Chicago, has enjoyed a cult following since its debut nearly 20 years ago.

The university's observance of Women's History Month is sponsored by the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness, Amelia Gallucci-Cirio Memorial Library, Academic Affairs, Black Student Union, and Departments of Behavioral Sciences, Economics, History, and Political Science, English Studies, and Humanities.

**Scholarship Week is here**

Attention students: Scholarship Week has arrived. Come to the Hammond Hall info desk each day this week between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to sign up for scholarships and take advantage of the chance to win cash and prizes, including a scholarship being given away every day of the week.

Scholarship applications are also online now at [https://fitchburgstate.academicworks.com](https://fitchburgstate.academicworks.com).

**Comedian W. Kamau Bell to "end racism" on Feb. 26**

Comedian W. Kamau Bell promises to end racism "in about an hour" when he performs as part of the Fitchburg State University CenterStage arts and culture series on Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. The talk is part of the university's Community Read of *The New Jim Crow*.

Just like skinny jeans, superhero movies and celebrity weight loss, racism continues to make a comeback. Bell is here to make (non)sense of all of it all. *The W. Kamau Bell Curve: Ending Racism in About an Hour* is a hilarious exploration of the current state of America's racism, combined with a little (unknown) history, a little Powerpoint and a whole bunch of Kamau. The Curve is a seamless mix of stand-up comedy, video and audio clips, personal stories and solo theatrical performance. One part manifesto, one part diatribe and several parts funny, this evening is sure to provide laughs and provoke thought. Be advised, the performance features mature comment.

Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for seniors, Fitchburg State alumni and free for Fitchburg State students and can be purchased at the Weston Box Office, 333 North St., which 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.

Legal scholar Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. Alexander argues instead that racial caste in America has not been ended, just redesigned. The book explores the concept that the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, relegating millions
to a permanent second-class status.

Throughout the Community Read, Fitchburg State faculty and staff will join with experts and artists from this region and beyond to explore the issues raised in the book. The public is invited to add their voices to the conversation as the university seeks to create community through communication. The series is sponsored by the Carl T. Witherell '32 fund.

Also in February, the university will screen the film 42 (2013) at 4 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 19** at the Fitchburg Public Library, part of the Third Thursday Film Series. 42 tells the story of Jackie Robinson, from his signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 to his historic 1947 rookie season in which he broke the color barrier in major league baseball. Fitchburg State faculty member Chola Chisunka will introduce the film and lead a discussion afterward. Admission is free.

Back on campus, the acclaimed film **Night Catches Us** (2010) will be screened at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 25** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Set in 1970s Philadelphia, the film tells the story of an ex-Black Panther who returns to his old neighborhood only to find himself drawn back into the rivalries and love affair he had left behind. Pizza will be served and admission is free.

Issues of crime, punishment and social justice are also being explored through the arts. The exhibit **Cell Block Visions** and the **Inside/Outside Envelope Project** is continuing in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., through **Wednesday, Feb. 18**. Presented by art educator Phyllis Kornfeld, **Cell Block Visions** is a lively collection of inmate artwork created behind bars from county jail to death row. This is a look at the alternative art world flourishing in today's American prisons. Inmates, having no previous training, turn to art for a sense of self-respect and a way to find peace. The **Inside/Outside Envelope Project** is a collection of works created by prison inmates and sent to loved ones. Inmates from around the country have donated their envelope art to benefit the Read Alliance, which serves at-risk kindergarten and first-graders by recruiting and training teens to provide one-to-one tutoring in reading. Kornfeld will discuss the projects and her career in prison art education on **Tuesday, Feb. 10** at 3:30 p.m. in the art gallery. Refreshments will be served.

A full listing of events, including film screenings and art installations running into the spring, can be found online at [fitchburgstate.edu/communityread](http://fitchburgstate.edu/communityread).

**Help Pick the Next Community Read Title**

The university is now looking at titles for the 2015-16 Community Read. Share your suggestions at this [online survey](http://fitchburgstate.edu/communityread).

**Communications Media Lecture Series launches fourth year on Feb. 25**

Photographer Bruce Myren will discuss his work in the Communications Media Lecture Series on Feb. 25, including works such as *N 40° 01' 11.38" W 124° 02' 48.59" Shelter Cove, California* (2012).

Fitchburg State continues its Communications Media Lecture Series this spring with presentations from noted professionals in the fields of photography, design and documentary filmmaking.
Designers Nancy Skolos and Tom Wedell will discuss their work, including this Lyceum Fellowship Student Competition call for entries for annual student architecture competition. 2006.

Myren is an adjunct professor at Lesley University College of Art and Design and a lecturer at Northeastern University. He was recently a visiting lecturer of art at Amherst College and critic at the Rhode Island School of Design. He is the chair of the Northeast Region for the Society for Photographic Education.

In his work, Myren investigates issues of place and space, often via the exploration and employment of locative systems, either literal or metaphoric. His recent series include an investigation of the Fortieth Parallel of latitude; a piece that documents the view from every place he has lived to where he lives now; and a study of the poet Robert Francis's one-person house in the woods of Amherst.

The series continues in March with a presentation by designers Nancy Skolos and Tom Wedell on Wednesday, March 25 at 3:30 p.m. The husband and wife pair work to diminish the boundaries between graphic design and photography-creating collaged three-dimensional images influenced by cubism, technology and architecture. With a home/studio halfway between Boston and Providence, they balance their commitments to professional practice and teaching at the Rhode Island School of Design, where Skolos is interim dean of Architecture + Design and Wedell is a senior critic in Graphic Design. The studio's work has received numerous awards and has been widely published and exhibited. Skolos/Wedell's posters are included in the graphic design collections of the Museum of Modern Art, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem and the Museum für Gestaltung, Zurich, Switzerland. Skolos is an elected member of the Allliance Graphique Internationale.

The series concludes Thursday, April 16 at 3:30 p.m. with a talk by filmmaker, teacher and film programmer Jeff Silva. Based in Boston, Silva's recently completed projects include Ivan & Ivana (2011) and Balkan Rhapsodies: 78 Measures of War (2008), which have been exhibited at festivals, and museums internationally, including: MoMA's Documentary Fortnight, The Viennale, Visions du Reel, Valdivia, Flahertiana, and DocAviv. Silva
has also been programming cinema for the past 14 years at BALAGAN, the offbeat and alternative screening series which he co-founded in 2000. From 2006-09, Silva was a teaching fellow at Harvard University where he helped develop the Sensory Ethnography Lab curriculum with Lucien Taylor. The SEL is a practice-based program of visual anthropology exploring the interstices of art, anthropology and documentary film. Currently, he is a professor of film at the Massachusetts College of Art.

The lecture series, now in its fourth year, is organized by Professor Stephen Goldstein and presented with support from Fitchburg State’s Ruth Butler Grant.

**Lecture on Feb. 25 to explore architectural wonders**

Fitchburg State's Humanities Department will present a free lecture by visiting architect/photographer Garry D. Hartley on "The Lasting Wonder of Works by Antoni Gaudi" on **Wednesday, Feb. 25** at 3:30 p.m. in Percival Auditorium.

In this special presentation, Harley will show two projects by the famed Spanish-Catalan architect, Antoni Gaudi (1852-1926). These are the Park Güell, built between 1900 and 1914, and the Church of the Sagrada Familia, which began construction in 1882 and is expected to be completed by Gaudi's centenary in 2026. Both projects are UNESCO World Heritage Sites today. Harley will illustrate his talk with photographs from his visit to Barcelona, Spain, last year.

Harley is a licensed architect with more than 30 years of construction and real estate experience. His studio is in Lowell.

**Students earn raves at Kennedy Center theater festival**

Fitchburg State students earned raves at the Kennedy Center American College Regional Theater Festival earlier this month in Hyannis, drawing recognition for acting, writing and technical categories.

Faculty member Kelly Morgan, who coordinates the university's theater program, was presented The Prize for Innovative Teaching from the National Association for Theatre in Higher Education-Performance Theory & Practice and Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, Region I. The honor was created the award to celebrate innovative methods of teaching in regard to student success in theater arts.

The festival included more than 2,000 students from 67 colleges and universities from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. Fitchburg State sent more than 50 students to the event. Among the honors bestowed:

- Eric Nikander and Brittany Bernardini were co-winners of the Institute for Journalism and Theater Advocacy/National Critics Award.
Samantha Wheatley placed fourth out of 265 nominees in the National Irene Ryan Acting Competition.
- Lisa Nguyen, Ben Waldman and Jennifer Shubitowski were cast in the National Playwriting Program One-act and 10-Minute Play Festival. Nguyen was also accepted for a summer apprenticeship with the Broadway Theater Project and received the Kennedy Center Arts Management Internship.
- Coty Markee was cast in the National Stage Directors Finals.
- Carl Tempesta presented a workshop on "How to Join the Screen Actors Guild as a Student."
- Matthew Lewis, Sarah Morin, Danielle Blondin, Tim Murphy and Seth Martin-Wick presented a workshop on "Envisioning Your Theater's Future."

Fitchburg State students also left their mark in the technical theater categories:
- Jason Cook received the Kennedy Center Technical Internship.
- Aurelia Lyman and Stephen Hogue won the Sound Competition for the Tech Olympics.
- Nicholas Robinette received the award for Outstanding Scene Painting.
- Jen Goldstein was recognized for Outstanding Crafts.
- Linda Choinski received the award for Outstanding Tailoring.

**Distinguished Speaker series welcomes Rick Lavoie in March**

Celebrated educator, consultant and Fitchburg State University alumnus Richard Lavoie will present "Strategies that don't work with kids who struggle, and some that do" when he is featured at the university's Distinguished Speaker Series on Wednesday, March 11.

The Distinguished Speaker Series, now in its ninth year, draws hundreds of area educators annually for an inspiring and informative professional development opportunity. The program is designed for superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, special education directors, teachers, parents, graduate students, higher education faculty, and other interested school administrators and educators. The event will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 11 on the Fitchburg State campus.

Lavoie, a 1972 graduate of Fitchburg State, serves as a consultant on learning disabilities to several agencies and organizations including Public Broadcasting Service, The New York Times, the National Center for Learning Disabilities, Girl Scouts of America, Child Magazine and WETA. He is a member of the Professional Advisor Board of the Learning Disabilities Association.

Lavoie has delivered his message to over 500,000 parents and professionals throughout North America. He has the distinction of having delivered keynote addresses for all three of the major special needs advocacy organizations in the United States: the Learning Disabilities Association, Council for Exceptional Children, and Children with Attention Deficit Disorder.

He has held administrative positions at residential programs for 30 years. These experiences at residential schools have provided Lavoie with a "living laboratory" in which he developed and refined his methods and philosophies related to the education of adolescents with special needs.

Lavoie’s address will look at numerous techniques that are frequently and extensively used despite the fact that these strategies are ineffective (such as follow-along reading, time out, classroom competition and punishment). This presentation will demonstrate these strategies and explore the reasons why they simply do not work.

The second half of the presentation will outline 12 unique and field-tested techniques that can be
used by parents and professionals to modify and improve children's behavior and performance.

"As caregivers, we must consistently evaluate the strategies that we use with our students," Lavoie said. "As FDR cautioned us, 'Do something. If it works, do more of it. If it doesn't work, do something else.'"

Educators who attend the Distinguished Speaker Series will:

- understand the ineffectiveness of common "time out" strategies and learn effective alternatives to this technique;
- learn effective alternative strategies to replace common but faulty language arts techniques;
- master 12 behavior management techniques that can monitor and modify children's behavior at home and in the classroom.

The deadline to register is Tuesday, March 3, but registrations received by Friday, Jan. 30 will be entered into a drawing for free admission.

The registration fee is $150, which includes the presentation, luncheon and professional development points (PDPs). The program offers four PDPs for educators. Payment can be received by check, credit card or purchase order, and teams of three or more within the same school district will be charged $125 per person and must register by purchase order.

For more information and to register, visit fitchburgstate.edu/gce/speaker.

Falcon on ice earn recognition for university

Fitchburg State was well-represented at the MIT Intercollegiate Team Figure Skating Competition held earlier this month in Cambridge, with skaters bringing home gold, silver and bronze medals.

Justin Curran of Leominster won the gold medal in the Junior Men Free Skate and the bronze medal in the Junior Men Short program; Nathan Dennler of Lunenburg won the gold in the Novice Men Free Skate; and Hailey Miller of Westminster won the silver medal in the Junior Free Skate.

All three skaters have been competing individually for years, but this was the first time they participated as representatives of Fitchburg State University. The students are looking to create a formal club on the Fitchburg State campus.

Other participating institutions at the competition included: Boston University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, East Carolina University, Florida Atlantic University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Liberty University, MIT, New York University, Northeastern University, Rutgers University, Sacred Heart University, Stonehill College, Towson University, UMass Lowell, University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, University of Vermont, University of Virginia, West Virginia University and Yale University.

Plays of Neil LaBute presented by theater students

Three stinging, incisive plays about how we look at
ourselves and others will be performed this spring on the Fitchburg State campus. Acclaimed playwright Neil LaBute's *Fat Pig, The Shape of Things and Reasons to be Pretty* will be performed by students at the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road, from **Wednesday, Feb. 18** through **Sunday, March 1**. Admission is free.

Fitchburg State faculty member Kelly Morgan (Communications Media), who coordinates Fitchburg State's professional theater track, calls LaBute's trilogy among the most important social issue plays he has produced at the university.

"I say this because these plays focus on self-image, self-confidence and how we alter how we look to please others by changing ourselves, and how we demean others based on how they look," Morgan said.

Morgan directs *Fat Pig*, which opens the repertory series on **Wednesday, Feb. 18**. "Cow." "Slob." "Pig." How many insults can you hear before you have to stand up and defend the woman you love? LaBute's award-winning, stingingly witty romance about love in the modern age of body image and peer pressure and a study in weakness that boldly questions our own ability to change what we dislike about ourselves. *Fat Pig* will be performed Friday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.; and **Sunday, March 1** at 2 p.m.

Fitchburg State student Kelly Quinn directs *The Shape of Things*. LaBute's play looks at the nature of intimacy and psychopathy related to people's willingness to do anything to their bodies and the bodies of others. Set in a small university town in the American Midwest, the play looks at the lives of four young students who become emotionally involved with each other based on physical aesthetics. *The Shape of Things* will be performed **Friday, Feb. 20** at 7 p.m.; **Sunday, Feb. 22** at 7 p.m.; **Wednesday, Feb. 25** at 6 p.m.; and **Saturday, Feb. 28** at 2 p.m.

Fitchburg State student Noah Dawson directs *Reasons to be Pretty*. This play centers on four young, working-class friends and lovers who become increasingly dissatisfied with their dead-end lives, and each other. Following *Fat Pig* and *The Shape of Things*, it is the final installment of the playwright's trilogy focusing on the modern-day obsession with physical appearance. *Reasons to be Pretty* will be performed **Thursday, Feb. 19** at 6 p.m.; **Saturday, Feb. 21** at 2 p.m.; **Friday, Feb. 27** at 7 p.m.; and **Saturday, Feb. 28** at 7 p.m.

### Student artwork on display at Aurora Gallery in Worcester

Fitchburg State student Kate Murphy of Gardner has two works featured in ArtsWorcester's 11th annual College Show, on display now through Feb. 27 at the Aurora Gallery, 660 Main St., Worcester.

Murphy is studying sociology with a minor in art. Her vibrant mixed-media paintings reveal complex yet ambiguous narratives of a cubist reality.

"Using abstract symbols, figures, and ideas, I want to offer a"
Cultural Relativity by Kate Murphy is on display in Worcester.

Sociological perspective on social issues,” Murphy said. “I feel my artwork represents those who are most often unheard in our society; giving voice to those who are misjudged or labeled.”

ArtsWorcester's College Show exhibits the best student art from Worcester-area colleges and universities. This year’s juror, independent curator and writer Lexi Lee Sullivan, selected forty-two student artists representing seven institutions. Their work includes paintings, photography, sculpture, drawings, prints, and digital art. During exhibitions, the Aurora is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 12 to 4 p.m. Exhibits are free and open to the public.

This is Murphy's second consecutive year being featured at the Aurora Gallery, and her works have also won awards at the Fitchburg Art Museum and Mount Wachusett Community College.

**Speaker Series continues in Center for Teaching and Learning**

The Fitchburg State University Speakers Series has resumed for the academic year. All the talks will be held from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Center for Teaching and Learning and refreshments will be served.

On **Monday, Feb. 23**, Kisha Tracy (English Studies) will discuss "Maternal Lament and Misremembering."

On **March 2**, Luis Rosero (Economics, History and Political Science) will discuss "Sustainability of the Decline in Inequality in Latin America: The Effects of Changing Trade Patterns."

On **April 6**, Rob Carr, Jon Krasner and Randy Howe (Communications Media) will discuss "Human-Technology Interactivity and Agency in Media Environments."

And on **May 4**, Susan Wadsworth (Humanities) will discuss "Rocks and Ruins: An Artist's Sabbatical in the Southwest."

**Retired general and diplomat to deliver Conflict Studies Keynote on April 15**

The challenges and opportunities in modern...
Russia will be the focus of Fitchburg State University's 2015 International and Conflict Studies Keynote Address in April. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Peter Zwack (retired), formerly the U.S. defense attaché in the U.S. embassy in Moscow from 2012 to 2014, will deliver the address at 7:30 p.m. 

**Wednesday, April 15** at the John Randall Lecture Hall in the university's science center, 333 Highland Ave. Admission is free with public parking in the Weston lots on North Street.

Gen. Zwack served in the U.S. Army for 34 years in command and staff tours across several continents, including warzones, in Russia, Afghanistan, South Korea, Serbia and Germany. He served as the senior U.S. defense official in Moscow from 2012 to 2014, and completed tours of duty in intelligence command positions in Afghanistan and Kosovo, Serbia. He has served and advised military commanders at the 4-star level, ambassadors, and cabinet-level government leaders.

The talk will be introduced by Fitchburg State faculty member Joshua Spero, associate professor of international politics and coordinator of the International Studies Minor.

"We have a very important opportunity to host a very prominent member of our country's military and diplomatic corps, Gen. Zwack, who served recently as the senior U.S. defense official and Defense Attaché in Moscow during an especially challenging time historically between the U.S. and Russia, and Russia and Europe," Spero said. "Our International and Conflict Studies Keynote Address by Gen. Zwack is a great open and free lecture for our community to experience."

The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Economics, History and Political Science, the Office of Academic Affairs, the International Studies Minor Program, the Center for Conflict Studies, the Career Services Office, the Office of International Education and the Political Science Club.

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**CenterStage at Fitchburg State University**

The Fitchburg State University CenterStage cultural series is presenting a series of art exhibitions this spring at galleries across the campus.

In the Gallery at Sanders in the Sanders Administration Building, 300 Highland Ave., an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Maine artist Robert Sullivan is now on display through 

**Tuesday, March 31.** Admission is free.

"Representation and Allusion: Paintings and Drawings by Robert Sullivan" features works by the artist using representational imagery as an exploratory tool. Through his work, he looks to open up vectors of meaning beyond the expected conventions of mere semblance.

At the Conlon Hall Media Wall in Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave., Communications Media Department faculty member and filmmaker Kevin McCarthy presents "Spin Cycle." The multi-panel installation
captures the nighthawks of the spin cycle in this portrait of urban laundromats. 

"Limitalus" by Robert Sullivan

Also, the art exhibit *Cell Block Visions* and the *Inside/Outside Envelope Project* will be held in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., through Wednesday, Feb. 18. Kornfeld’s project is part of the university’s year-long [Community Read](#) of *The New Jim Crow*.

At the Conlon Hall Media Wall, photographer and Fitchburg State alumna Cate Brown’s work will be displayed from **Thursday, Feb. 19** through **Wednesday, April 1**. Through her photography, Brown draws viewers into a world defined and surrounded by sandy beaches and salty ocean waters. Brown will present a wall talk at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 11** and refreshments will be served.

Also opening in February, artist Frank Armstrong’s exhibit “Often in a Different Landscape” will be featured from **Wednesday, Feb. 25** through **Wednesday, April 8**. In most cases, people think of landscapes as a sweeping view of mountains, lakes, rivers and meadows, but with a cultural overlay of human presence, they become social landscapes. Armstrong proves landscape is not necessarily defined by its scope and size; it can be defined by its relevance to its usage. Armstrong will discuss his work in a gallery talk at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, March 19**. Refreshments will be served.

Archived editions of Fitchburg State University Today can be found online at [http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices/administration/public-relations/fitchburg-state-university-today-archive](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices/administration/public-relations/fitchburg-state-university-today-archive). For questions about Fitchburg State University Today, contact the Public Relations Office at (978) 665-4694. To submit to Fitchburg State University Today, visit the Public Relations site at [www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations) and click on [Request for Publicity](#).