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## Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Jan. 30, 2017 - Volume 7, Issue 10

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### Campus forums for vice president of student affairs continue

The search committee for the vice president of student affairs has identified three finalists for the position, and open sessions with campus constituencies began last week. The finalists are:

- Brad Patterson, vice provost for student and affairs and dean of students at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- Pedro Santana, dean of students at Stockton University
- Laura Bayless, assistant vice chancellor for students affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville



Dr. Patterson was on campus last week.

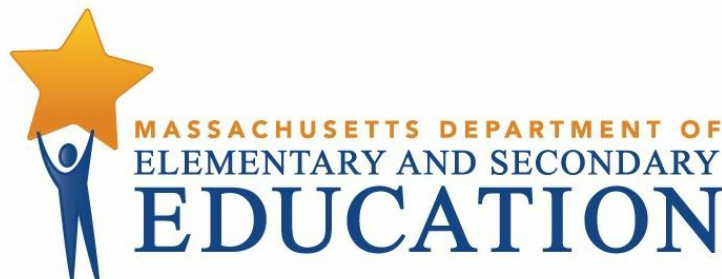
Dr. Santana will visit campus on February 1 and 2. There will be an open session for staff and faculty on **Wednesday, Feb. 1** from 2 to 3 p.m. in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center, and an open session for students from 4 to 5 p.m. in Percival Auditorium.

Dr. Bayless will visit campus on February 9 and 10. There will be an open session for staff and faculty on **Thursday, Feb. 9** from 2 to 3 p.m. in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center, and an open session for students from 4 to 5 p.m. in the main lounge at Hammond Hall.

Recordings of the open forums and a method to provide feedback on the candidates will be provided in an upcoming email from Human Resources.

### Campus hosting DESE forum on K-12 education Tuesday

Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Mitchell Chester will preside over a regional [town hall meeting](#) to discuss the successes and challenges of the state's K-12 public education system at 6 p.m. **Tuesday, Jan. 31** in Hammond Hall. The forum will also look at how the education department and school districts work together to support teaching and learning at the local level. The commissioner's opening presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.



The program is co-sponsored by the Fitchburg Public Schools and Fitchburg State University.

Participating school districts include Fitchburg, Ashburnham-Westminster, Groton-Dunstable, Leominster, Montachusett Regional Vocational-Technical and North Middlesex.

Registration and refreshments begin at 6 p.m., with welcome and opening presentation at 6:30. There will be an audience Q&A from 7:15 to 7:55 p.m., with closing remarks before the 8 p.m. conclusion.

To learn more or to register, visit [doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=9477](http://doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=9477).

## Forums scheduled for dean of arts and sciences finalists

The search committee for the dean of arts and sciences has identified three finalists who will be coming to campus for meetings with constituencies from across the university. The schedule also provides the divisional faculty a meeting time to meet the dean candidates, schedule times are noted also below. An evaluation form will be provided for each candidate upon their visits, this will allow the community opportunity to provide their feedback.

The finalists are:

- Frances Zauhar, dean of the Munley College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Business and Global Innovation
- Franca Barricelli, associate dean, College of Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- Wesley Chapin, associate provost/associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Dr. Zauhar was on campus last week.

Dr. Barricelli will be on campus February 1 and 2. A divisional faculty session is scheduled for 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 1** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. An open session for all faculty and staff is scheduled 9 to 9:45 a.m. **Thursday, Feb. 2** at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

Dr. Chapin will be on campus February 2 and 3. A divisional faculty session is scheduled for 4 to 5 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 2** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. An open session for all faculty and staff is scheduled 2 to 3 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 2** at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

The open sessions will be recorded for review by members of the campus community unable to attend in person.

## Speaker Series resumes Monday, Feb. 6

The university's Speaker Series returns **Monday, Feb. 6** with a talk by Professor Marcel Beausoleil entitled "Integrity of Criminal Justice Students: Through the Lens of Academic Dishonesty." The talk will be from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Center for Teaching and Learning at the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. Refreshments will be served.

## Community Read events include keynote by author Putnam

Author Robert Putnam will present a keynote lecture about his book *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* to cap off Fitchburg State University's [Community Read](#) this spring. The address will be preceded in February and March by other talks and film screenings that explore themes in Putnam's work.

*Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* is a New York Times bestseller and "a passionate, urgent" (The New Yorker) examination of growing social inequality in the United States.

Putnam's volume offers a personal and authoritative look at a new American crisis where a growing "opportunity gap" has emerged over the past 25 years. The crisis challenges the traditional assumption that Americans who have talent and try hard will succeed.

Throughout the Community Read, which began last fall, the campus and wider audience is invited to explore Putnam's book and the topics it raises. All of the Community Read events are free and open to the public.

The university recently received a grant for \$3,000 from Mass Humanities to support its Community Read programming. Mass Humanities grants inspire considered thought, conversation and action through the humanities. See more about the work Mass Humanities does to improve civic life in Massachusetts at [masshumanities.org](http://masshumanities.org).

The spring's Community Read events begin with an intergenerational community panel discussion at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 16** at the Leominster Public Library, 30

West St., Leominster. The panel will feature area high school students and community members discussing the American dream and whether it is still achievable for all. Local high school students are creating entries for an essay contest on the topic, and the winners will be invited to participate in the event.

A look back at the Market Basket boycott of 2014 will be held at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 22** at Ellis White Lecture Hall at Hammond Hall on the Fitchburg State campus, 160 Pearl St., including a short documentary by Fitchburg State Professor Kevin McCarthy. The event will also include in-person testimonies from Market Basket employees and veterans of the boycott.

The programming continues with a movie marathon starting at 11 a.m. **Saturday, March 4** at the Leominster Public Library, 30 West St., Leominster. The Mount Wachusett Community College Humanities Project will present the films *Modern Times* (1936) and *The Devil and Miss Jones* (1941). The films will be introduced by Fitchburg State Professor Joseph Moser, who will also lead a post-screening discussion. Lunch will be provided and registration is required. Visitors may register by visiting the library website or by calling 978-534-7522. This event is co-sponsored by the Community Read and the Leominster Public Library.

There will be a community discussion of the book at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 8** at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St. Another discussion will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 22** at the Lunenburg Public Library, 1023 Massachusetts Ave., Lunenburg, co-sponsored by the library and the Lunenburg Council on Aging, led by Fitchburg State Professor David Weiss.

Putnam's keynote address will follow at 7 p.m. **Tuesday, April 4** at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public.

## Alumni Association hosting Brand Yourself conference Feb. 16

The Fitchburg State University Alumni Association is hosting its



# OUR KIDS

The American Dream  
in Crisis

ROBERT D. PUTNAM

author of *Bowling Alone*

third skill-building, career preparation conference for students who are at the threshold of the often-dreaded job search.

The [Brand Yourself](#) conference is set for **Thursday, Feb. 16** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Hammond Main Lounge. Students will have the opportunity to network with alumni professionals from various backgrounds and disciplines and join them afterwards for dinner with a presentation by etiquette consultant, Janet L. Parnes. The goal is to put action-oriented immediately applicable information into students' hands to help them confidently prepare for a successful life after graduation.

# BRAND YOURSELF

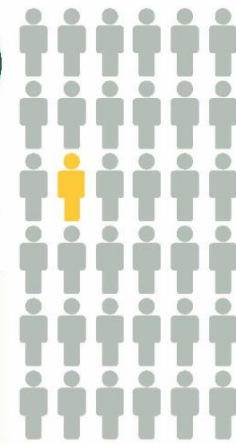
STUDENT & ALUMNI NETWORKING  
+ ETIQUETTE DINNER

**THURS., FEB. 16, 2017**

**5:30 – 8:30 PM**

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY  
MAIN LOUNGE, HAMMOND HALL

\$10 TO ATTEND, LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE



Brand Yourself is being presented in partnership with the Student Government Association, Business Society, Housing & Residential Services, Student Development, International Education, and Expanding Horizons.

The conference costs \$10 to attend and seating is limited. All participants will be entered into a raffle for the chance to win prizes. Students must register online in advance at [support.fitchburgstate.edu/brandyourself](http://support.fitchburgstate.edu/brandyourself).

## Harrod Lecture series continues in February


The Harrod Lecture series continues **Tuesday, Feb. 28** when Professor Joshua Spero presents "Bridging South America's Divide: Bolivia" in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

**BRIDGING  
SOUTH AMERICA'S DIVIDE:**

**Indigenous Ruling  
Bolivia 2006-2009**

**Tuesday, Feb. 28  
at 3:30 pm  
PRESIDENTS' HALL**

Presented by:  
**Dr. Joshua Spero**  
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

**HARROD  
LECTURE  
SERIES** 

**CTL sponsors Celebration of Teaching Week in March**

The Center for Teaching and Learning will hold its first Celebration of Teaching Week from March 20-24. A number of events are planned, including:

- Advising Advice Session at 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 20
- CTL Teaching and Learning Hour at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21
- Poster session and celebration reception at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23
- 2nd annual Medieval Studies Conference for middle and secondary educators on Friday, March 24
- Open classroom visits (on a volunteer basis)
- Ongoing poster session highlighting our faculty's teaching
- Thank a Teacher opportunities

Faculty interested in opening their classrooms for visits by other faculty, staff, alumni or students are asked to contact [Kisha G. Tracy](#) by Tuesday, Jan. 31, and include the course names and numbers they are opening, the date and times they are offered and their location. Volunteers for the poster sessions are also due by **Tuesday, Jan. 31**, with the posters themselves delivered to the Center for Teaching and Learning by March 10.

## CenterStage and cultural events



"Black Ice" by Madeleine Altmann.

The sculptural video installations of artist Madeleine Altmann are on display in gallery spaces at Fitchburg State through Wednesday, Feb. 22 as part of the [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series.

Altmann will discuss her work at a gallery talk at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 1** at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery, 160 Pearl St. A reception will follow. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Fitchburg State exhibition, entitled "Refuge - Nothing is Everything," will include a display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery as well as the media wall at Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave.

"Video can be a weapon for change and a tool for repair," Altmann said. "This current body of video art provides the necessary pause, a simulacrum of calm amidst a frantic digital world. These videos invite the viewer to slow down and be absorbed by luxuriant color, captivating textures and elements of rhythm and repetition."

Altmann has been active in visual arts for most of her life. Starting in photography she moved on to television, interactive telecommunications and video art. Along the way she has exhibited her work around the world and accumulated a variety of accolades including awards from the American Film Institute and Sony Pictures.

Born and raised in Brazil and England, she moved to the U.S. to attend Hampshire College for undergraduate studies in film and video. She went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute and a master's in professional studies from New York University, where she received the Interactive Media Pioneer Award.

Along with her single channel installations, Altmann works with her husband, engineer Andreas Uthoff, to create the sculptural elements of the monitors on display. She resides with her family in the Greater Boston area.

Altmann delves into the intersection of nature, technological change, and visual representation. Building on a diverse set of influences, from Henry David Thoreau to Rebecca Solnit and Bill Viola, this work strives to present a landscape of both our internal and external worlds. We see a simple walk through the woods with a dog as the cosmic experience, echoing the belief that local is universal. Reiterated in the six-panel piece called "Black Ice," the microscopic is the macroscopic.

Many of the works take sculptural forms. Various technologies like pro-grade media players, embedded raspberry pi computers, 4K or HD displays, obsolete CRT monitors and discarded computer screens from the e-waste pile are all imbued with timeless landscapes and ritualistic experiences.

## Faculty notes

**Adem Elveren** (Economics, History and Political Science) saw the publication of a chapter on the Turkish welfare regime, authored with Tuba Agartan, in the Routledge International Handbook series.

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