

# Fitchburg State University Today

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## Trustee Irving joins Board of Higher Education

Fitchburg State University Trustee Donald R. Irving has been appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Irving will represent the trustees of all nine state universities in the five-year appointment.



Donald R. Irving

Irving, president and founder of Data Guide Cable Corp. of Gardner, was selected by presidents of the state universities' boards of trustees on Jan. 9 to succeed Bridgewater State University Trustee Louis Ricciardi on the statewide board.

"My job is to listen to the chairs of the boards of all the state universities, and all the presidents of the universities," said Irving, who noted he looks forward to working with his peers and Gov. Charles Baker's administration on issues affecting public higher education in Massachusetts. "As a trustee, business owner and graduate of the system, I look forward to advocating for our institutions, which play such a key role in the Commonwealth."

Irving is a two-time alumnus of Fitchburg State, earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from the institution. He has served on the university's Board of Trustees since 2012. He has been trustee emeritus of Cushing Academy since 2013 after serving on that board from 1996 to 2013. He also served 10 years as a trustee at the Applewild School in Fitchburg and chaired the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Committee from 1985 to 1988.

"Don is one our institution's success stories, and as a trustee he has devoted a great deal of time and energy to his alma mater," said Fitchburg State President Robert Antonucci. "I am certain that he'll be a significant asset to the BHE."

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor," said

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Carol T. Vittorioso, chairman of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees.

The Board of Higher Education is responsible for coordinating the commonwealth's system of public higher education and its 29 campuses. Its core responsibilities are in the following areas: academic policy and program approval, financial aid, fiscal and capital planning, research and performance measurement, and workforce development.

At Fitchburg State, Irving recently chaired the presidential search committee tasked with finding finalists to succeed President Antonucci. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously in December to appoint Dr. Richard S. Lapidus to the post. Lapidus will assume his duties in July.

Irving is joined on the statewide board by Fitchburg State student Nathan Gregoire, who last fall was selected to represent all state university students.

## 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.



Rick Lavoie '72 will speak on  
March 11

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](http://fitchburgstate.edu/gce/speaker).

### Community Read continues in January

Fitchburg State University continues its year-long [Community Read](#) of legal scholar Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* this month with art exhibits produced inside prison walls.

*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.



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., from **Wednesday, Jan. 21** 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.

The series continues on a lighter note with a performance by comedian W. Kamau Bell on **Thursday, Feb. 26** at 8 p.m. in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall. 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. The show is only for adults over 21. 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. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).



Comedian W. Kamau Bell performs Thursday, Feb. 26.

The spring session started Thursday, Jan. 15 with a film screening and discussion of "In the Heat of the Night" led by Professor David Weiss at the Fitchburg Public Library.

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).

#### University hosts Global Game Jam Jan. 23-25

Fitchburg State University will be among hundreds of locations across the world hosting the [Global Game Jam](#) from **Friday, Jan. 23** through **Sunday, Jan. 25**, in which participants will be tasked with creating a game from scratch over the course of a weekend based on a single theme.

The public is invited to view the final showcase on Sunday, Jan. 25 between 2:30 and 5 p.m. in Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave.

The event is not a competition but is instead designed to promote collaboration. Organizers see the game jam as an opportunity to stir a global creative buzz in games, while exploring the process of development in programming, iterative design, narrative exploration or artistic expression.

Fitchburg State is the only public university in Massachusetts with a major in game design. The campus' Global Game Jam site is being coordinated by Assistant Professor Jon Amakawa, a member of the game design faculty.

"The Game Jam encapsulates, in an intense and compressed yet fun format, the creative process, the importance of multidisciplinary approaches, team work and rapid prototyping," Amakawa said.

The Global Game Jam will bring together participants across nearly 500 sites on the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 23, when a secret theme for the weekend's game will be announced. In 2014, the event produced more than 4,000 games at 488 locations in 72 countries. More than 10,000 "jammers" have already registered to take part in the international event, including more than two dozen on the Fitchburg State campus.

For more information on the local event, contact Amawaka at [jamakawa@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:jamakawa@fitchburgstate.edu). To



learn more about the Global Game Jam visit [globalgamejam.org](http://globalgamejam.org).

Fitchburg State will also be making its presence known at PAX East in Boston from March 6-8. PAX East is one of the largest gaming events in North America, featuring game developers and exhibitors from across the industry. Fitchburg State game design students and faculty will be among the exhibitors taking part.

### University hosts financial aid workshop on Jan. 25

Every high school senior, college student, and adult student who will be attending college during the 2015-2016 academic year needs to complete the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) in order to apply for federal, state, and institutional financial aid. FAFSA Day Massachusetts, part of the national College Goal Sunday program, provides free help statewide to students and families looking to complete the FAFSA.

Fitchburg State will be among the 11th annual FAFSA Day sites on **Sunday, Jan. 25** at 1 p.m. at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Free assistance will be offered at over 30 locations statewide on that day as well as Sunday, Feb. 22. Families are encouraged to visit [FAFSADay.org](http://FAFSADay.org) to view locations, dates, and times, to register, and to see a list of what to bring.

The services are free and available to anyone attending college for the 2015-2016 academic year; low-income, first-generation students are especially encouraged to attend. Many locations will have services available in various languages; for a list of available languages, please visit [FAFSADay.org](http://FAFSADay.org).

Register [online](#) for the Fitchburg State FAFSA Day program.

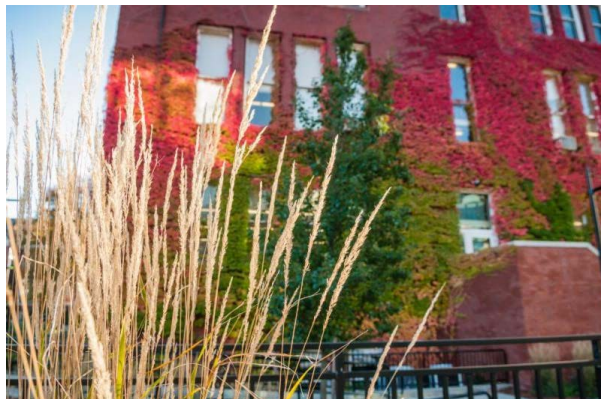
FAFSA Day is staffed by volunteer financial aid and higher education experts available to provide families one-on-one assistance. FAFSA Day is a non-profit program sponsored by Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, MEFA, American Student Assistance, and USA Funds. Over 13,000 students have been served during FAFSA Day events.

To register or find more information on FAFSA Day, please visit [FAFSADay.org](http://FAFSADay.org). For questions or additional information, please call 877-424-7627 or e-mail [massinfo@fafsaday.org](mailto:massinfo@fafsaday.org).

### Teaching opportunities in Graduate and Continuing Education, summer 2015

The Office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) has begun building the upcoming summer sessions for 2015. Faculty members interested in teaching should contact the appropriate department chair for approval.

The deadline for the department chairs to submit course schedules to GCE is **Monday, Jan. 26**. Please feel free to contact Associate Dean [Brian Bercier](#) with any questions.



### Foundation Music Lesson Program open for spring registration

Registration is now open for the spring session of the Fitchburg State [Foundation Music Lesson Program](#).

The Foundation Music Lesson Program is directed by Fitchburg State faculty member Michele Caniato. The program offers a range of musical lessons and classes at affordable rates. The

program's artist-teachers are available to teach private lessons on campus on voice, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, strings, piano, and percussion and drum set. Requests for other instruments may also be accommodated. The program also offers assorted group lessons, including percussion and Celtic music.

Students have their choice of 30-, 45-, or 60-minute private lessons for either a 10 week or a 14-week plan for fall and spring as well as five-week plans during the summer.

Spring music lessons start the week of **Monday, Feb. 2**. For more information, contact lesson coordinator Monica Duncan at [mduncan3@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:mduncan3@fitchburgstate.edu) or visit [fitchburgstate.edu/music](http://fitchburgstate.edu/music).

The music lesson faculty will present a free recital at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, March 4** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St.

### Speaker Series resumes in spring 2014-15

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. and refreshments will be served.

On **Feb. 2, 2015**, Kisha Tracy (English Studies) will discuss "Maternal Lament and Misremembering" in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

On **March 2, 2015**, Luis Rosero (Economics, History and Political Science) will discuss "Sustainability of the Decline in Inequality in Latin America: The Effects of Changing Trade Patterns" in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

On **April 6, 2015**, Rob Carr, Jon Krasner and Randy Howe (Communications Media) will discuss "Human-Technology Interactivity and Agency in Media Environments" in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

And on **May 4, 2015**, Susan Wadsworth (Humanities) will discuss "Rocks and Ruins: An Artist's Sabbatical in the Southwest" in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

### Registration open for ALFA spring programs

Fitchburg State University's [Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area](#) (ALFA) program, now in its 11th year providing local residents the opportunity to broaden their minds and social circles through non-credit daytime courses and special activities, is now taking registrations for its spring courses. The upcoming session features a full roster of diverse course offerings ranging from topics in writing, history and science to nature, fitness and technology.



ALFA, originated in 2003, is a lifelong learning institute that offers courses and activities designed and implemented in coordination with the professional staff at Fitchburg State University. ALFA provides an opportunity for lifelong learners with similar interests to meet in an informal setting and pursue learning for enrichment and personal growth.

The spring schedule includes courses on bird watching, quilting and the works of Oscar Wilde. Join new friends for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing, learn about modern women artists and how to use the latest social media platforms. Study the origins and impact of colonialism and find out the underpinnings of human behavior.

ALFA's first spring session runs from January to March and another session of courses will run in March and April. Courses are \$25 (with a limit of six per semester).

ALFA also sponsors group trips, including a journey to see an open rehearsal of the Boston Symphony Orchestra on April 2. Registration is \$77 per person, lunch included.

ALFA's free Food for Thought Lecture and Shirley Pick Spring Series also continues this spring in Hammond Hall on the Fitchburg State campus.

- On Tuesday, March 31 at 2:30 p.m., Fitchburg State Professor Ben Railton will present "The Chinese Exclusion Act and the History of U.S. Immigration Policies" at Ellis White Lecture Hall.
- On Tuesday, April 28, ALFA wraps up its year with a trio of events at Ellis White Lecture Hall. "Meet Eleanor Roosevelt: Advocate for Human Rights," performed by Elena Dodd, will be held at 11 a.m. At 12:15 p.m., a luncheon featuring music by Chet Williamson will be offered for \$10. And at 1:30 p.m., the Food for Thought Lecture "This Land is our Land" by Janet Morrison of the North County Land Trust will conclude the season.

To learn more or to register for classes, visit [fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](http://fitchburgstate.edu/alfa).

ALFA is sponsored by the Center for Professional Studies and the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State, in collaboration with volunteer representatives of the community. Most classes are held in the C-wing of the university's McKay Complex at 67 Rindge Road.

### MWPHE to host annual conference Friday, April 3

Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education, Inc. ([MWPHE](#)) will host its annual conference on Friday, April 3 at the Chocksett Inn in Sterling. The organization's mission is to strengthen the status of women as professionals and to enhance the quality of public higher education.

The guest speaker for the event is Kathy Torpey Garganta, who will present "The Intentional Leader: Be a Better You."

Information on how to register for the event can be found [online](#).

### Staff Notes

**Kristina Polk** (Housing and Residential Services) was selected by the Massachusetts College Personnel Association as its new professional of the year. Polk works as a resident director in Mara Village where she supervises nine resident assistants. She was instrumental in the success of the department's inaugural dining and entertainment guide.

### Faculty Notes

**Michael Greenwood** (Business Administration) was a featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Workforce Professional Association in Boston, where he delivered his talk, "Adapting to Organizational Change." Greenwood has also begun writing a [regular column](#) in the Sentinel & Enterprise.



Greenwood

**Susan Wadsworth** (Humanities) was one of the few Japan Studies Institute fellows from this past summer's work to have been awarded a trip to Japan with the JSI group next summer. In addition, she returns to Fitchburg State this semester after a sabbatical trip to the southwestern U.S., visiting 15 national and state parks during two months of travel over 11,000 miles.

Already, one of the works created from that trip, *Chiricahua Rocks, Massai Point*, was accepted into the juried biennial show at the Thorne-Sagendorph Gallery in Keene N.H., shownig Jan. 24 to March 26. More works from this trip will also be on view at the Fitchburg Art Museum's exhibition of Central Massachusetts Women's Caucus for Art from April 15 to May 10.

**Daniel Welsh** (Biology/Chemistry) saw the publication of his paper "Influence of sex and habitat on the size and shape of anal and dorsal fins of the blackstripe topminnow *Fundulus notatus*" in

the Journal of Fish Biology. R.C. Fuller is the co-author of the paper.

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