



Fitchburg State University Today

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Presidential and provost search updates



The [Presidential Search Committee](#) continues its work reviewing applicants and nominations. The committee has been scouring dozens of applications and is in the process of winnowing the list down to a slate of finalists who will be brought to campus for interviews. That slate, whose names will be public in advance, is expected to be named by the end of November.

The next meeting of the [Provost Search Committee](#), meanwhile, will be held **Tuesday, Dec. 2** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Academic Affairs Conference Room in the Sanders Administration Building. A full [position profile](#) has been posted on the university's website.

All search committee meetings are open to the public, though the group will enter into executive session to discuss specific candidates until a field of finalists is named.

[Witt/Kieffer](#), the search firm hired by the Board of Trustees to assist in the presidential search, will also be amassing candidates for the provost position.

Feedback on the provost search is welcome throughout the process at provostsearch@fitchburgstate.edu.

Vision Project report describes need for more college graduates

At a time of rising demand for skilled college graduates in the Commonwealth, the Department of Higher Education's third annual [Vision Project](#) report shows progress being made to raise graduation rates and close achievement gaps among public college and university students in Massachusetts, but also projects a shortage of skilled graduates needed to meet the needs of employers in key industry sectors that fuel economic growth, based on an expected drop in the state's high school population in the coming years.

"The Vision Project report provides state leaders with a road map that allows us to think and respond proactively to the issues in higher education we will face in the next decade," said Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. "At the same time it allows us to celebrate achievements by our campuses and by the Patrick Administration. There are many points of progress contained in this report, and I am proud that our public colleges and universities share a vision for the future."



"Degrees of Urgency: Why Massachusetts Needs More College Graduates Now," was released last week before a group of 275 business and civic leaders gathered at the Boston Foundation. The report outlines system and campus-level achievements aligned with the Vision Project goal of leading nationally among state systems of public higher education.

Among the recent gains:

- One-third of Massachusetts campuses are now meeting or exceeding the Vision Project goal for improvement in six-year graduation/success rates, increases that are well above the national and leading states' averages.
- At the University of Massachusetts and state university campuses, the six-year graduation rate gap between White and Latino/a students has narrowed.
- At community colleges, the rate of enrollment in remedial coursework among Latino/a students has declined, a sign that collaborative work with high schools to align curriculum and close gaps is working.
- The focus on workforce planning in high-growth industry sectors is yielding results; as an example, the report cites a 34% increase in nurses with bachelor's degrees (2010-2013), important because research shows that higher education levels result in improved patient outcomes.
- Fitchburg State University has shortened the time to degree completion for students interested in law careers. The university is offering a three-year baccalaureate degree as part of a new partnership with the University of Massachusetts Law School. The program will allow qualifying students to earn their bachelor's and law degrees in just six years, saving a year's worth of undergraduate tuition and fees while shortening the time to complete two degrees.

Along with citing progress, the report draws attention to a major challenge facing the Commonwealth: declining enrollments at public colleges and universities at a time when the state's need for more college-educated workers has never been greater.

The report forecasts that by 2020, the system that now educates 70% of high school students who remain in state to attend college will be under-producing needed graduates by a minimum of 55,000 to 65,000, the result of enrollment declines that stem from a drop in the state's high school population.

Within six years, Massachusetts' high school population will shrink by 9%, a shift from the previous decade which saw a 31% increase in the number of high school graduates. The prior growth helped fuel record enrollments at Massachusetts' community colleges, state universities and UMass campuses, a boom which has now ended. This fall the public higher education system posted its first decline in enrollment in a decade.

"Today we put forth a major plan to address the state's need for more college graduates," said Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner of Higher Education. "This is vital work on behalf of the Commonwealth and we understand that we can only deliver the graduates Massachusetts needs if we are improving our overall academic performance, which campuses are striving to do, and if such efforts receive strong state support."

As outlined by Commissioner Freeland at the Boston Foundation report release event, the "Big Three Completion Plan" to address the state's need for more graduates focuses on 1) helping more students succeed in and complete college; 2) redoubling efforts to close persistent achievement gaps that keep too many African American and Latino/a students from graduating; and 3) attracting and retaining students who are not being served by the system, including those who currently can't afford to attend college, those who are choosing to attend college out of state, and adult students who need to finish their degrees.

Despite recent investments by the Patrick Administration, decades of insufficient funding to Massachusetts public higher education have resulted in the Commonwealth ranking no better than average (currently, 26th in the nation) in state support for its public colleges and universities. A report released last Tuesday by the Commonwealth's Higher Education Finance Commission recommended that the public campuses receive significant additional funding tied to performance improvement, and that such support also be linked to campus efforts to achieve greater operating efficiencies.

"The particular needs of this state, more than many other states, demand a first class system of public higher education," said Charles F. Desmond, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. "If we hope to reap the economic dividends that come from being an educational leader, Massachusetts must make academic excellence at its public colleges and universities an even higher priority than it is right now."

"There is clear consensus, Massachusetts must have a national top tier public higher education system to compete in our 21st century economy," said the Co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, Representative Tom Sannicandro (D-Ashland.) "This means greater efficiency and collaboration on the part of our higher education institutions, and strategic investment on par with the states that lead the way in public higher education nationally. This effort will require support from every resident of our Commonwealth. We understand what must be done, and today we affirm the need to act."

Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness presents photo exhibit Nov. 3-7

The Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness (CDI) invites the campus to look at how we discuss race and gender issues with a week-long photo campaign called "I Too Am Fitchburg" that will be featured in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery. The exhibit will be installed **Monday, Nov. 3** through **Friday, Nov. 7**, with a reception on **Tuesday, Nov. 4** at 3:30 p.m. outside the gallery.

The exhibit features CDI students carrying "micro-aggressive" messages they have heard during their time on campus, said Program Coordinator Jamie Cochran.

"Now it's our turn," she said, describing 30 photo portraits that will hang in the gallery for the week. Cochran said she hopes the exhibit inspires members of the campus to



community to think about what they say and do.

The CDI lays the foundation for Fitchburg State to be a place that creates and nourishes a culturally diverse community by educating students, faculty and staff so that attitudes of racism, bigotry, hate, prejudice, and intolerance, on any level, are overcome.

Fitchburg State observes International Month in November

Fitchburg State University observes International Month in November with a series of presentations, contests and programs celebrating the global community.

Tuesday, Nov. 4:

- Affordable Study Abroad Options, Info Session, Holmes Dining Hall, lunchtime

Wednesday, Nov. 5:

- Henna Body Painting, 10 a.m. to noon, Hammond G Lobby
- World Trivia Contest, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Hammond Main Lounge

Thursday, Nov. 6

- Brown Bag Lunch Discussion of Climate Change and Global Action, 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., Hammond Tower 214

Monday, Nov. 10

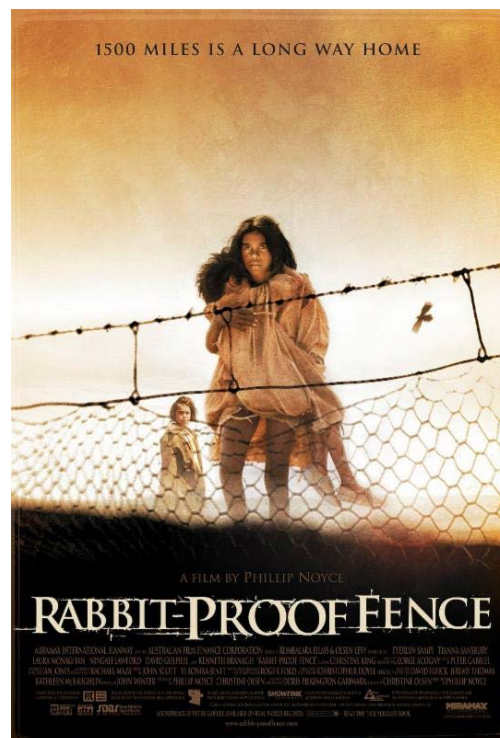
- Student Panel on Experiencing Prejudice, Center for Conflict Studies, 3:30 to 5 p.m., Ellis White Lecture Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 12

- A Taste of the World in Coffee, 3:30 to 5 p.m., Hammond Hall ground floor
- An Evening of Italian Music, 7 p.m. Kent Recital Hall

Monday, Nov. 17

- Verona Reunion, 3:30 to 5 p.m., Hammond S08



"Rabbit Proof Fence" will be screened on Nov. 20, during International Month.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

- "Spoken Word" 8 to 10:30 p.m., Falcon Hub

Wednesday, Nov. 19

- Center for Conflict Studies and International Studies Speaker Series, film screening and talk with director Samuel Centore, who will present and introduce two short documentaries, "Passing Ellenville" and "All About Amy," 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Ellis White Lecture Hall

Thursday, Nov. 20

- Exploring the EPals Community, 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., McKay C159
- Film screening, *Rabbit Proof Fence*, Fitchburg Public Library Film Series, Fitchburg Public Library, 4 to 6 p.m. (also part of the university's [Community Read](#))

Monday, Nov. 24

- Film screening and talk with film director, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Science Lecture Hall
- Second Annual International Potluck Dinner & Poetry Slam, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Falcon Hub

Center for Italian Culture continues season with talks and performances

The [Center for Italian Culture](#) at Fitchburg State University is launching its 2014-15 programming with the third year of *Canti e Cantici*, including workshops, presentations and a concert focusing on Italian music and literature.

A pair of workshops will be held on **Wednesday, Nov. 5** at 2 and 3:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall, with Italian-American soprano Maria Ferrante and Italian-born composer (and Fitchburg State faculty member) Michele Caniato.

In the workshops, the pair will provide an overview and demonstrate singing techniques, the composition process, the learning process for performers, collaboration among musicians and recital preparation. The main focus will be Caniato's work based on poetry by Saint Francis of Assisi. Admission is free.

The fall programming concludes with a concert entitled *Una Serata di Musica Italiana* (An Evening of Italian Music) on **Wednesday, Nov. 12** at 7 p.m. at Kent Recital Hall. Italian music from baroque to opera and film soundtracks will be performed by celebrated soprano Maria Ferrante, accompanied by Pei-yeh Tsai, piano, and guest singers and instrumentalists. Admission is free and the program is affiliated with the [Music for Food](#) organization. Any donations collected will benefit two charitable organizations that provide food to students in the Fitchburg and Leominster public schools. More about the local charities can be found at www.karing4kidz.blogspot.com and www.kyleeskarekitsforkidz.org.



Community Read continues with talks, films and photography exhibit

The university continues its year-long [Community Read](#) of legal scholar Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* with film screenings on campus and in the city.

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.



On **Wednesday, Nov. 12** at 3:30 p.m., the university will screen the acclaimed film *Fruitvale Station* (2013) in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. This Sundance award-winner follows the true events of a 22-year-old loving father and beloved son on the last day of his life before being fatally shot by police on New Year's Day 2009. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

The Third Thursday Film Series, bridging the campus and the city, continues on **Thursday, Nov. 20** at 4 p.m. with a screening of the film *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (2002) at the [Fitchburg Public Library](#), 610 Main St. This extraordinary story of courage and faith is based on the actual experiences of three girls who fled from the repressive life of Moore River Native Settlement in Australia, following along the rabbit-proof fence back to their homelands. Admission is free.

The work of award-winning photographer Lou Jones is now on display at the media wall in Conlon Hall. "Final Exposure: Portraits from Death Row" will be featured through Wednesday, Nov. 12. Jones combines powerful images of death row inmates with revealing interviews and commentary in this extraordinary volume. These portraits and voices humanize the condemned men and women without minimizing the magnitude of their crimes or the pain of the victims and their families. Together, they open one's eyes to the chilling reality of death row and challenge readers to question the morality of capital punishment.



The series continues in the spring on a lighter note with a performance by comedian W. Kamau Bell on **Thursday, Feb. 26** at 8 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Just like skinny jeans, superhero movies and celebrity weight loss, racism continues to make a comeback. Comedian W. Kamau 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. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).

The Community Read is sponsored by the university's Carl T. Witherell '32 Fund. A full listing of events, including film screenings and art installations running into the spring, can be found online

at fitchburgstate.edu/communityread.

Speaker Series resumes for 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 **Monday, Nov. 3**, Samuel Tobin (Communications Media) will discuss "Homemade Titans and Chinese Space Marines" in Hammond Hall room 314.

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FedEx	Fedex	4-7	✓	
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Sam Tobin discusses "Homemade Titans and Space Marines" on Monday, Nov. 3.

On **Monday, Dec. 1**, Heather Urbanski (English Studies) will discuss "Social and Cultural Memory in *The Hunger Games*" in Hammond Hall room 314.

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.

Meeting needs of veterans focus of talk on Nov. 4

Helping veterans make the transition back home - and to campus - will be the subject of a training program co-sponsored by Counseling Services and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on **Tuesday, Nov. 4** at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall.

"Battlemind: Continuing the Transition Home" is a program designed to help college communities understand and meet the needs of returning veterans following their service.

The program will feature Gabriel Nutter, regional team leader for the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services. Nutter served in the U.S. Army from 2004 to 2008, where he participated in more than 250 combat missions and operations throughout the Southern Baghdad, Iraq region. He has worked with veterans since 2011.

**BattleMind...
Continuing the Transition Home**

**November 4th
3:30 PM**
Ellis White Lecture Hall

A program to help us understand and meet the needs of veterans returning home (and to campus) following their service.

Mr. Gabriel Nutter
Mass. Department of Veterans' Services Regional Team Leader
"SAVE" Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment

- ★ U.S. Army Service 2004 - 2008
- ★ Participated in 250+ combat missions and operations throughout the Southern Baghdad, Iraq region
- ★ Working with Veterans since 2011

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

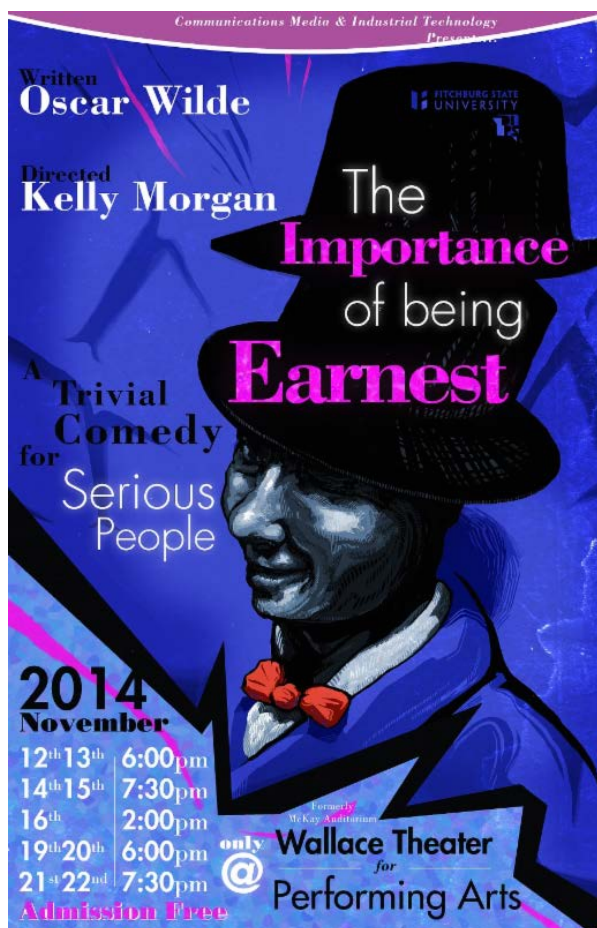
Co-sponsored by Counseling Services, and MA Dept. of Public Health SAMHSA Grant #1795M060404-01

The Importance of Being Earnest takes the stage in November

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a classic comedy of manufactured mistaken identity, will be performed in November by Fitchburg State University's Communications Media and Industrial Technology Departments.

The play will be performed at the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road, at 6 p.m. Nov. 12, 13, 19 and 20; at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14, 15, 21 and 22; and 2 p.m. Nov. 16. Admission is free and open to the public.

A sparkling wit and social satire make this one of the most beloved comedies in the English language. It revolves around the most ingenious case of manufactured mistaken identity ever put into a play. Jack Worthing and his best friend Algernon Moncrieff are both wooing ladies who think their names are Ernest. Each has invented an alternate person in order to get out of social obligations. Their deceptions weave tangled webs, as they each try to protect their secrets while navigating the shark-infested waters of love.



The production is being directed by Fitchburg State faculty member Kelly Morgan.

The play, whose full title is *The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*, was first performed in 1895 in London. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make it Wilde's most enduring play.

CenterStage at Fitchburg State

CenterStage Hub Series welcomes Nicholas David on Saturday, Nov. 15

Alternative soul music from the heart, for the heart. Nicholas David Mrozinski is a vibrant, dynamic and multi-talented singer, songwriter and pianist. His powerful voice, enriching lyrics, and liquid piano playing truly set him apart and are the reason Skope Magazine calls him "an authentic artist of this millennium." His one-of-a-kind sound is passionate, captivating, intelligent, diverse, genuine, fresh, and he truly feels it. David was most recently a finalist and a fan favorite on "The Voice."

This November, Nicholas David will perform as part of Fitchburg State University [CenterStage's](#) Hub



Series, bringing visitors the unique opportunity to experience national musicians in a local, intimate setting. With just under 200 seats, the Hammond Hall Falcon Hub offers a relaxed, coffeehouse-style listening room with comfortable seating, beverage service and a very cool atmosphere. The Falcon Hub is located in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

Nicholas David, who gained a following on TV's "The Voice," performs at the Falcon Hub on Nov. 15.

The CenterStage Hub Series is 21-plus and general admission. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets reserve you a space at a table, but not specific seats. Please note that most Hub tables seat four people. Because of room size, advanced ticket purchase is encouraged.

Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$25 for seniors and Fitchburg State alumni; and \$5 for students. The Weston Box Office, located inside Weston Auditorium at 353 North St., Fitchburg, is open 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).

More about the upcoming CenterStage at Fitchburg State University arts and culture offerings can be found online at fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage.

Coming in December: "In the Christmas Mood" with the Glenn Miller Orchestra

Fitchburg State invites the community to get into the holiday spirit with the Glenn Miller Orchestra on **Saturday, Dec. 13** at 7 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

Tickets for "In the Christmas Mood" are \$28 for adults; \$25 for seniors and Fitchburg State alumni; and \$5 for students. The Weston Box Office, located inside Weston Auditorium, is open Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets may also be purchased [online](#).



The Glenn Miller Orchestra performs Saturday, Dec. 13.

With its celebration of swing and jazz, the Glenn Miller Orchestra is considered to be one of the greatest bands of all time. Combined with traditional holiday classics like "Winter Wonderland," "Jingle Bells" and "Let it Snow," they will surely get you in the Christmas mood. Featuring an ensemble of 18 musicians, this holiday concert spectacular brings the season to life with timeless sound and iconic melodies of Miller's unmistakable music.

About the Glenn Miller Orchestra

The legendary Glenn Miller was one of the most successful of all dance bandleaders back in the Swing Era of the 1930s and '40s. A matchless string of hit records, the constant impact of radio broadcasts and the drawing power at theatres, hotels and dance pavilion, built and sustained the momentum of popularity.

Miller disbanded his musical organization in 1942 at the height of its popularity to volunteer for the Army, leading the Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band to entertain servicemen at live and radio shows. On Dec. 15, 1944, he took off in a single engine plane from Europe to precede his band to France, disappearing over the English Channel, never to be seen again.

The band reformed in 1956 and has been on the road ever since, led since January 2012 by vocalist Nick Hilscher. Today, the 18 member ensemble continues to play many of the original Miller arrangements both from the civilian band and the AAFB libraries. Additionally, it also plays some more modern selections arranged and performed in the Miller style and sound.

Art Exhibits

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery, acclaimed quilt maker [Clara Wainwright](#) will be displaying works from **Wednesday, Nov. 12** through **Wednesday, Dec. 17**. Wainwright stitches together personal and moving stories using vibrant fabrics and community. Through a craft that has roots deeply sewn into the heart of America, Wainwright's cloth narratives explore war, climate change, delight and fantasy. This exhibition will consist of a group of quilts made over the past 10 years that deal with life, politics and joy.

Wainwright will discuss her work in a gallery talk **Tuesday, Nov. 18** at 3:30 p.m. in Hammond Hall.

In the Gallery at Sanders, inside the Sanders Administration Building, design and music aficionado [Clifford Stoltze](#) will share his "POSTGIG," his traveling exhibition of original music posters. Stoltze, author of 1000 Music Graphics, will present original works by Modern dog, Aesthetic Apparatus, Patent Pending, The Small Stakes, Seripop, Hammerpress, The Decoder Ring, Hatch Show Print and many more.

Stoltze will talk about the collecting during a gallery talk **Thursday, Nov. 13** at 3:30 p.m. in the Sanders building.

At the media wall in Conlon Hall, images from photographer and cinematographer [Nathan McGarigal](#) will be on display from Wednesday, Nov. 13 through Friday, Dec. 19. Through McGarigal's work, viewers will take a trip across the bottom of three continents in this visual diary of wanderings across Argentina, South Africa, India, and Myanmar.



***Egyptian Comics* by Clara Wainwright**



"Burmese Standoff" by Nathan McGarical

The Conlon Hall Media Wall is a digital HD video display measuring six feet by 10 feet that showcases creative work from students, faculty, alumni and regional artists.

McGarical will discuss the work at a wall talk
Thursday, Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m. inside Conlon Hall.

Faculty Notes

Charles Sides (Communications Media) reported the publication of the latest entry in Baywood's Technical Communications Series, for which he is series editor. *The Flowering of a Tradition: Technical Writing in England, 1641-1700* by Elizabeth Tebeau, describes the development of technical, or practical, writing in England during the 17th century.

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