



## Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Oct. 5, 2015 - Volume 6, Issue 3

### Irving Wing to be dedicated Oct. 15

The community is invited to celebrate the dedication of the Irving Wing of the Antonucci Science Complex during a ceremony at 4 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 15** inside the Lisciotti Pavilion.

The Irving Wing is being named in honor of Donald R. '72, '79 and Karen A. Irving '90 in recognition of their exemplary commitment to enhancing public higher education and Fitchburg State.

Refreshments will follow.



The Irving Wing of the Antonucci Science Complex, containing the biology and chemistry labs, will be dedicated on Oct. 15.

### University opens Veterans Center

As part of its expanding commitment to serving U.S. military veterans, Fitchburg State University formally opened its Veterans Center in Thompson Hall. Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services Secretary Francisco A. Ureña was among the guest speakers at the ceremony.

"We gather today to demonstrate this institution's commitment to the men and women who have served this nation with honor, and look now to broaden their own horizons through higher education," President Lapidus said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 22. "The Veterans Center is symbolic of a larger and ongoing effort at Fitchburg State University. I am proud of this institution's efforts to welcome returning veterans, and I'm honored we have created a space on this campus for these men and women to gather, collaborate, reflect and learn."



At the dedication of the Veterans Center in Thompson Hall, from left: Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services Francisco Urena, President Lapidus, State Rep. Stephen DiNatale, student veteran Russell Jones, and State Sen. Jennifer L. Flanagan.

Secretary Ureña was sworn in as secretary of the Department of Veterans' Services by Governor Charlie Baker on Feb. 6, 2015. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps the day after graduating from high school, and his eight years of service included diplomatic security with the Department of State at the American embassies in Damascus, Syria and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He received a Purple Heart in recognition of injuries sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom campaign.

Ureña followed his enlistment with a degree in History and Legal Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

"It was a turning point," he said, describing higher education's transition to serving a population of returning veterans. "How do we make sure that veterans are being taken care of?"

He said dedicated space like Fitchburg State's Veterans Center was a critical step.

"I really congratulate Fitchburg State and the leadership here for initiating this great space to allow vets to gather," Ureña said.

Fitchburg State faculty and administrators have spent the past year collaborating on efforts centered on meeting the needs of returning veterans, including presentations from outside experts.

Russell Jones of Fitchburg helped start the Student Veterans Organization on Fitchburg State's campus. A 2000 graduate of Fitchburg High School, Jones enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served for four years. He was among the first wave of Marines to cross the border in the Iraq war in 2003.

"A lot of my family members served," he said. "I just felt like it was the right thing to do. It made me who I am. I learned so much and made so many friends."

Jones entered the workforce after completing his tour of duty and later decided to pursue a college education. He received an associate's degree from Mount Wachusett Community College and enrolled at Fitchburg State in 2013. He plans to graduate in December with a degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing.

After meeting several other former service members during his studies, Jones said the Veterans Center will be a welcome addition to the campus.

The Student Veterans Organization will not only help student veterans to meet and socialize, but will serve as vital assistance for many veterans as they make the difficult transition from military life into college.

"It will become a safe haven for returning war vets with PTSD that without it would not be able to attend college in person," Jones said during the dedication ceremony. "This Veterans Center will provide critical support for that mission. The Fitchburg State University Student Veterans Organization will become an example to other colleges that do not yet have veterans programs of their own. It will become a training ground for success, and in turn its members will make Fitchburg State University proud. On behalf of all the student veterans here, and many to come, I thank you."

The Student Veterans Organization is awaiting formal recognition by the university's Student Government Association. It has a slate of officers and faculty advisors James Noonan (Business Administration) and George Bohrer (Communications Media), both of whom served in the Armed Forces.

Jones plans to transfer leadership of the club to underclassmen to help give it longevity. "I just want to make sure it's here for future generations," he said.

The center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. More detail on Fitchburg State's veterans services and the state and federal benefits available can be found [online](#).

## Cormier symposium inspires dialogue

Scholars and community members from campus and beyond gathered last week at the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library for a symposium inspired by the works and experiences of celebrated local author Robert Cormier. The discussion was part of the university's observance of Banned Books Week.

Throughout the fall, items from Fitchburg State's Robert Cormier collection will be on display in the library and there will be a "blind date with a censored book" shelf inviting readers to explore dozens of banned titles.

Fitchburg State faculty member Elise Takehana and Annamary Consalvo from the University of Texas at Tyler assembled novel typescripts, essay drafts, letters, speeches, photographs, student artifacts, and historical news coverage of Cormier's work as it pertains to censorship and the importance of reading in young adults. Particular attention has been paid to his three most often taught novels: *The Chocolate War*, *I Am the Cheese*, and *Fade*. The digital archival collection can be viewed [online](#).

The symposium featured a keynote address by Katherine Wisser, assistant professor of Library and Information Science at Simmons College followed by panel discussions addressing the pervasive problems surrounding censorship from regional, historical, and literary perspectives, as well as highlighting Cormier's work, the university's acquisition of his collection, and present use of the archive.

Faculty members Daniel Sarefield and Laura Baker shared historical perspectives on censorship, from attempts in ancient Rome to quash thought through destruction of texts to efforts to control the discourse on the Fitchburg State campus in the 1960s. Librarians Asher Jackson and Coco Zephir also presented during the symposium, along with retired director Robert Foley.

The event closed with a reading and discussion with young adult author Emily Danforth, whose book, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, was banned by Delaware's Cape Henlop Board of Education.

Later this fall, Robert Cormier's daughter Chris Cormier Hayes will host a discussion of *The Chocolate War* and *Beyond the Chocolate War* at the Leominster Public Library on **Saturday, Oct. 31** at 2 p.m.

The events were chronicled by local media outlets including the [Sentinel & Enterprise](#) and the [Worcester Telegram & Gazette](#).

The symposium and digital exhibit are made possible through the support and collaboration of the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, the English Studies Department of Fitchburg State University, the University of Texas at Tyler, and the Cormier estate. Acknowledgment is also given to retired Fitchburg State faculty member Marilyn McCaffrey, who was a founder of the archive and a champion of working with the collection.



At the Censorship and Intolerance forum last week, from left, faculty members Elise Takehana, Laura Baker, Daniel Sarefield and guest speaker Angela Pitrone discuss themes related to Cormier's work and experiences.

## Speaker Series resumes for 2015-16 on Oct. 5

The university's Speaker Series will open for the academic year on Monday, Oct. 5 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Center for Teaching and Learning. All the talks will be held the first Monday of the month, and refreshments will be served. The following speakers have been scheduled:

**Kate Jewell** (History) will present "Live from the Underground: The Rise and Fall of College Radio and the Politics of Selling Out" on Monday, Oct. 5.

**Elisabet Takehana** (English Studies) will present "Baroque Aesthetics in Contemporary Literature" on Monday, Nov. 2.

**Helen Obermeyer Simmons** (Communications Media) will present "Home on the Range: The Story of the Nokota Horse" on Monday, Feb. 1

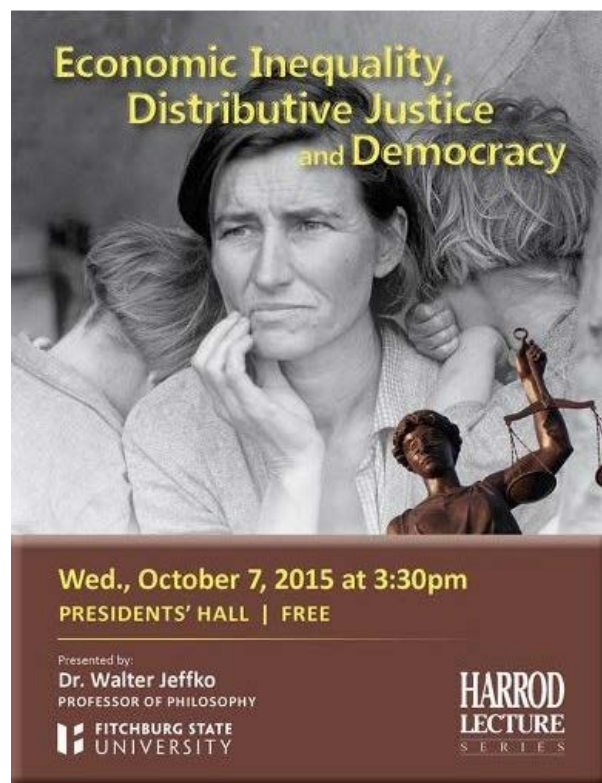
**Eric Boehme** (Political Science) will present "Race and Mass Incarceration: The New Jim Crow or the Same Old Capitalism?" on Monday, March 7.

**James Colbert** (Emeritus, Humanities) will present "Intranquilitas Ordinis, St. Augustine on War and Peace" on Monday, April 4.

**Bruce Duncan** (Geo-Physical Sciences) will present "Cosmology Since 1901" on Monday, May 2.

## Harrod Lecture Wed., Oct. 7 explores economic inequality

Professor Walter Jeffko (Humanities) will deliver the Harrod Lecture "Economic Inequality, Distributive Justice and Democracy" at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 7** at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center. Admission is free.



## Gun violence focus of author's talk on Tuesday, Oct. 20

Fitchburg State University welcomes author Gregory Gibson for a discussion on **Tuesday, Oct. 20** at 3:30 p.m. in the Randall Lecture Hall of the Antonucci Science Complex, 333 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.

When Gibson's 18-year-old son was killed in a shooting rampage on a college campus in Western Massachusetts in 1992, he found himself undertaking an unusual, highly personal investigation to discover the truth about his son's murder. The result was his acclaimed book *Gone Boy: A Walkabout*. Gibson will discuss his book, an exploration of gun violence in America that shows a man talking his way out of grief with toughness, honesty and a sense of humor.

Galen Gibson and a professor were killed on Dec. 14, 1992 during a shooting rampage at Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington, Mass., by an honors student who had bought an assault rifle over the counter that morning. Three other students and a college security guard were injured. The shooter, Wayne Lo, is serving two life sentences without possibility of parole. In a column for The New York Times published days after the mass shooting at Shady Brook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Gibson lamented the continuation of gun violence in America.

"In the wake of Galen's murder, I wrote a book about the shooting. In it I suggested that we view gun crime as a public health issue, much the same as smoking or pesticides," Gibson wrote in the Times. I spent a number of years attending rallies, signing petitions, writing letters and making speeches, but eventually I gave up. Gun control, such a live issue in the 'early' days of school shootings, inexplicably became a third-rail issue for politicians."

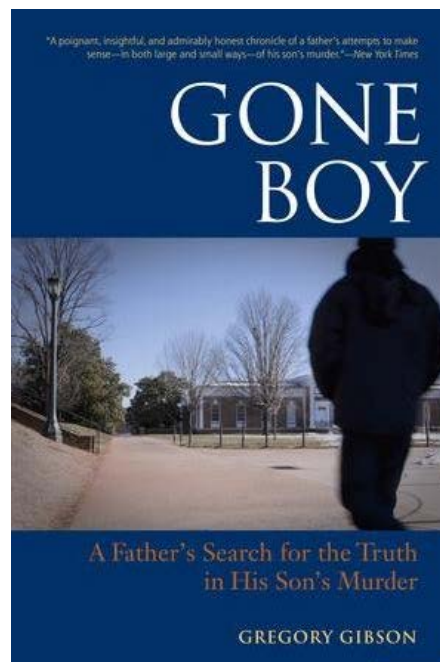
Gibson continued by reflecting on "the inevitable lament, 'How could we have let this happen?'" It is a horrible question because the answer is so simple. Make it easy for people to get guns and things like this will happen. Children will continue to pay for a freedom their elders enjoy."

Gibson's presentation is sponsored by the Behavioral Sciences Department and the Office of Academic Affairs.

## Center for Italian Culture presents film, faculty talk in October

The Center for Italian Culture will present a screening of the acclaimed film *The Man with the Golden Arm* at 2:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 14** in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Professor Wayne Munson will lead the screening and presentation of director Otto Preminger's movie starring Frank Sinatra and Kim Novak. The film is the story of a strung-out junkie who deals with daily demoralizing drug addiction while his disabled wife and card sharks continue to pull him down. Admission is free.



Gregory Gibson will discuss his experiences on Oct. 20

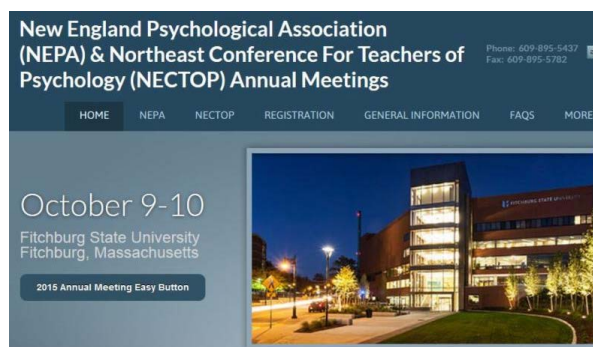
The CIC will sponsor a faculty talk on "The Reluctant Migrants: Italians in America" at 2 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 21** in Kent Recital Hall. Professor Teresa Fava Thomas will discuss migration from northern Italy to central Massachusetts, the experiences of Italians in Massachusetts before the First World War, as well as their wartime experiences in Italy and America. Admission is free.



## University hosts psychology conference Oct. 9-10

The Fitchburg State campus will host the combined [annual meeting](#) of the New England Psychological Association and the Northeast Conference for Teachers of Psychology on **Friday, Oct. 9** and **Saturday, Oct. 10**.

The event will include symposia, poster sessions and paper presentations on a variety of topics in the field. The conference brings together hundreds of professionals each year and provides a meaningful scholarly experience for Fitchburg State's students.



Conference organizers include Professor Peter Hogan of Fitchburg State's Psychological Science Department. Registration for the conference is free for Fitchburg State faculty, staff and students. Attendees are asked to contact [Brenda Coleman](#) to reserve a space.

Special presentations include a talk by Loreto R. Prieto of Iowa State University at 6:45 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. "Right Next Door but Worlds Apart: Demographic Diversity and the University Campus" explores how the culture of academia and culturally diverse students can meet halfway in terms of understanding each other's needs so that both groups can achieve success. Prieto is a leading researcher into Latino/a issues and the interface of psychology pedagogy and cultural diversity.

Michael Amico of Housatonic Community College will present the NEPA Presidential Address, "Social Creatures: The Connection between Personal Relationships and their Impact on Functioning on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 11:20 a.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall. What is the meaning of life? Why are we here? How does the individual impact those around them? Over the years research has examined the ways our relationships with others influences everything

from risk-taking behaviors to mate selection. As decades have passed, the media and society have often emphasized certain variables as being more important to long-term survival and thus more relevant to human interconnections than others. The factors that have fluctuated by generation in terms of the influence others have on our relationships have included weight, religion, politics, as well as fatherlessness. This talk will examine some of the research Amico has done on these topics and their overall implication in our relationship with others.

Bernard C. Beins of Ithaca College will present "I Think, Therefore I Am a Psychology Major: Psychology and Critical Thinking" on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 12:40 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. In this presentation, Beins will show how psychology is useful to students for understanding the world as we use data to create facts, then recognize what facts really are (and aren't), how we assemble facts into theories, and why we should be cautious at every step along the way.

Marissa Harrison of Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg will present the Psi Chi Keynote Address on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 3 p.m. in Ellis White, with "The Means, Motives and Makings of Female Serial Killers." Research on serial homicide focuses heavily on male serial killers. Harrison's research team examined the means, motives, and mental health of female serial killers who committed their crimes in the U.S. since 1821. Using mass media reports, the team compiled data on 64 female serial killers, and in her talk she will share the team's results, provide interpretation of the "typical" female serial killer, offer evolutionary psychological and clinical interpretations of their crimes, and discuss future directions for research.

For more information, visit [NewEnglandPsychological.org](http://NewEnglandPsychological.org).

## University to hold flu clinic in October

The university has contracted with Maxim Health Systems to offer the annual flu clinic on campus. The campus community is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated to help decrease the risk of spreading influenza, commonly referred to as the flu.

Maxim accepts a number of health insurances, listed below, which will cover the cost of the vaccine. Visitors are asked to bring your insurance card to the flu clinic.

For those without an insurance plan that covers the cost, the vaccine is \$25 dollars and can be paid by cash or check.

The clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Tuesday, Oct. 20** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall and 5 to 7 p.m. in the Holmes Dining Commons; and from 9 to 2 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 21** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall.

The following insurance plans will be accepted:

Aetna, Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Rhode Island or Texas; Harvard Pilgrim; Tufts Health Plan; Unicare; Fallon; Connecticare; Humana; Florida Blue; Health Spring; Sierra Health and Life; and SummaCare.

## Author and alum R.A. Salvatore to speak at Fitchburg Public Library

Best-selling author R.A. Salvatore '81, '91 will be the guest speaker at 6:30 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 22** when the [Fitchburg Public Library](#) at 610 Main St. hosts its author's night.

As one of the fantasy genre's most successful authors, Salvatore - a Leominster native - enjoys an ever-expanding and tremendously loyal following.



R.A. Salvatore will speak at the Fitchburg Public Library on Oct. 22

The public is invited to engage in a lively discussion, followed by refreshments. Admission is free.

## Internship scholarships available

The university has once again received funding designed to increase internship opportunities for our students. [Scholarships](#) are now available for the upcoming academic year. The deadline to apply for the spring is **Friday, Nov. 27** and for the summer is **Friday, April 8, 2016**.

The State University Internship Incentive Program (SUIIP) is funded by the Fitchburg State University Foundation and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The scholarship is available to current full-time day undergraduate students who are MA residents, have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 and have a valid 2015-2016 FAFSA on file with the Financial Aid Office.

All majors will be considered but priority will be given to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and business/finance majors. Scholarships are available for 3-12 credit internships and amounts will range from \$500-\$5,000.

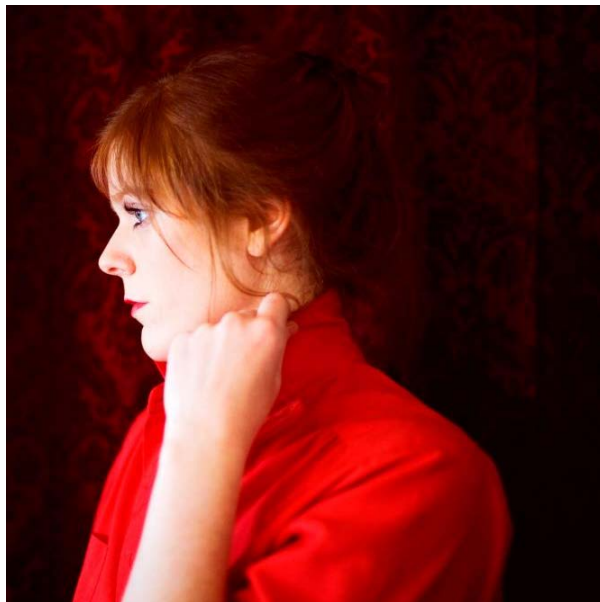
For more information and a link to the application, visit [www.fitchburgstate.edu/scholarintern](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/scholarintern).

## CenterStage at Fitchburg State

The Fitchburg State University [CenterStage](#) Hub Series opens for the season with a performance by Annie and the Beekeepers at 8 p.m. **Saturday, Oct. 17** in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

Annie Lynch is a singer, songwriter and guitarist whose unique instrumentation, evocative lyrics and enchanting live performance will both warm and haunt you. The Boston Globe describes Lynch as "A graceful songwriter who moves easily in and out of bucolic folk, dusky country and breezy pop." Joined by The Beekeepers, Lynch's work is strong, passionate and, most importantly,





honest music with poetic lyrical content. Performer Magazine describes their sound as "American roots music, sweetly intimate with vast boot-stomping songwriting."

Annie Lynch performs with The Beekeepers on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Falcon Hub.

Providing the unique opportunity to experience national acts and lecturers in a local, intimate setting is what the CenterStage Hub Series is all about. With just over 150 seats, the Hammond Hall Falcon Hub offers a relaxed, coffeehouse-style room with comfortable seating, cash bar and a very cool atmosphere. The CenterStage Hub Series is 18-plus.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors and Fitchburg State alumni and staff, and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the Weston Box Office inside Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. The box office 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](#).

### In the Galleries

Starting **Thursday, Oct. 8**, the Conlon Hall Media Wall inside 316 Highland Ave. will feature Listening by George Peet. The exhibition runs through November 12. George Peet is a Houston, Texas-based photographer with extensive experience in documentary photography. On a road trip with friends in the early 70s, Peet wandered for hours without taking a single photograph. Quite concerned, he discussed the situation over dinner. The solution presented was to simply push his concerns aside and just listen to the rocks and the trees until they began speaking to him.

Through **Wednesday, Oct. 7**, the media wall will feature Wenhua Shi's "Point of No Return." Wenhua Shi is assistant professor in art and art history at Colgate University. "Point of No Return" is an abstract audiovisual piece that celebrates the line, their quality and its movements. This piece is Shi's tribute to early abstract animation master Len Lye and Hans Richter.



In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through **Sunday, Oct. 19**, Alexandra Rozenman's "In Motion" is on display.

Moscow-born, both classically and conceptually trained Alexandra Rozenman brings a canny and charming mysticism to both her life and art. Rozenman's work expresses a longing for understanding and being understood, for non-belonging and finding a place to be. Playfulness points to instability of life - visually, culturally and literally.

The photography of George Peet will be on the Conlon Hall Media Wall through Nov. 12.

## Faculty Notes

**Eric Budd** (Economics, History and Political Science) served as the external reviewer for the program review of the Political Science Major at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H.

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