

Fitchburg State University Today

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Presidential Search update



The next [meeting](#) of the [Presidential Search Committee](#) will be **Monday, Oct. 27** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center. 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.

The vice president for academic affairs/provost search, meanwhile, is also moving forward. An open forum was held last week where students, faculty and staff were invited to share their thoughts on the qualities and goals the university should seek for the position. [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.

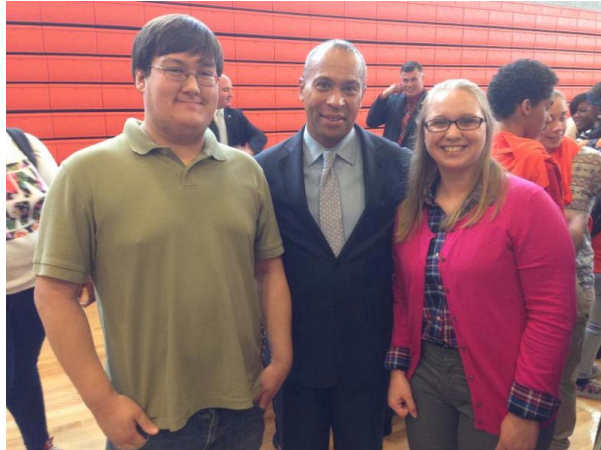
Feedback on the provost search is welcome throughout the process at provostsearch@fitchburgstate.edu. A position profile will be posted soon on the university website.

Students join Gov. Patrick to encourage high schoolers to "Go Public"

Fitchburg State students Lauryn Larson (biology) and Sam Parr (game design) met Gov. Deval Patrick in Worcester last week when all took part in a Department of Higher Education [Go Public](#) program encouraging Worcester high school students to consider one of the state's 29 campuses of public higher education.

Larson discussed her experiences studying biology at Fitchburg State while Parr demonstrated a videogame he designed during his own studies.

Hundreds of students attended the event, which featured the speaking program as well as an admissions and STEM fair where representatives from the state's community colleges, state universities and UMass discussed their offerings.



Students Sam Parr, left, and Lauryn Larson, right, greeted Gov. Patrick at the Go Public event.

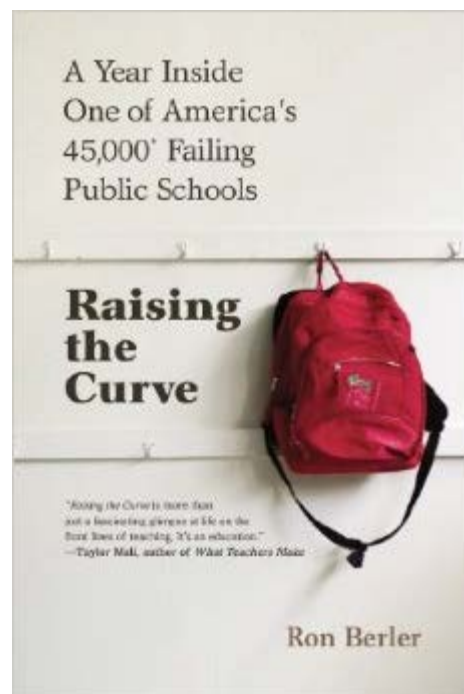
Education symposium looks at *Raising the Curve* on Oct. 22

Author Ron Berler spent a full year studying the culture at Brookside Elementary School in Norwalk, Conn., as students, teachers and administrators struggled to turn around its failing test scores. He chronicled his findings in his acclaimed book *Raising the Curve*, and he will be on the Fitchburg State University campus to tell his story on **Wednesday, Oct. 22** at 12:30 p.m. in Hammond Hall.

The symposium, sponsored by the Fitchburg State Education Department, will also feature Brookside Principal David Hay, a 1969 Fitchburg State graduate who also worked for many years in the Leominster public schools.

Admission is free and open to the public.

For his book, Berler spent a full year at Brookside, sitting in on classes, strategy sessions, and faculty meetings. The book introduces readers to the students, teachers, and staff who make up the Brookside community. Though their school is classified as failing-like so many others across the country-they never give up on themselves or on one another.



"We look forward to welcoming Mr. Berler, a journalist that shares both his classroom observations in one community and his perspective," said Ronald Colbert, chairman of Fitchburg

State's Education Department. "It is my hope that the book will motivate our teacher candidates and educators to pursue proven, research based methodologies and interventions that may be implemented so that all learners will become academically competent and become prepared for careers and work. Unlike some areas of education, reading instruction can be predicated on a scientific foundation."

Praise for *Raising the Curve*

"In a compulsively readable and fast-paced chronicle of the lives of administrators, teachers, and students, Berler captures the deep love the teachers have for their students and the teachers' struggles to teach to the test while hoping to instill a love of learning."-*Publishers Weekly*

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 a book discussion on **Tuesday, Oct. 28** at 5:30 p.m. in the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St. Fitchburg State faculty member Marcel Beausoleil will lead the talk.

Beausoleil is a member of the university's Behavioral Sciences Department where he teaches courses in criminal justice, including principles and practices of law enforcement, community policing and ethics.

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 Community Read continues in November with film screenings. 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.



Photographer Lou Jones will share discuss his work on Oct. 15 at the media wall in Conlon Hall.

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. TheW. 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 by visiting fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage.

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.

University co-sponsoring events leading up to Food Day, Oct. 24

The community is invited to take part in a national celebration of "real food" and smart policies about what we eat during a week of programs leading up to [Food Day](#) on **Friday, Oct. 24**.

The events include healthy food demonstrations, discussions of urban agriculture and the benefits of eating local, and sharing stories to promote healthy eating habits in children and families. The events culminate with a citywide "apple crunch" on **Friday, Oct. 24** at 1:30 p.m., when all elementary students in the city will bite apples at the same time (alternate crunchy fruits or vegetables will be available for anyone with apple allergies).



The local observances have been organized by a committee including representatives from Fitchburg State University, the Fitchburg Public Schools, the Community Health Center, Growing Places and the Montachusett Opportunity Council.

The festivities start **Tuesday, Oct. 21** at 3:30 p.m. when the Community Health Center at the

HealthAlliance Burbank Campus hosts a healthy food demonstration. Admission is free.

Also **Tuesday, Oct. 21**, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Fitchburg Public Library at 610 Main St., Growing Places presents "Growing Food Security in Urban America." Growing Places is sponsoring a screening of the documentary "Growing Cities" with a panel discussion to follow about growing food in urban settings. Admission is free.

On **Wednesday, Oct. 22** at 4:30 p.m., Growing Places presents "Let's Rot and Roll" at the Sundial Community Garden on Elm Street. The composting demonstration at the organization's new teaching garden will be led by Fitchburg State Professor Chris Picone. Admission is free.

The Fitchburg Farmers' Market at Riverfront Park off Boulder Drive will be held **Thursday, Oct. 23** from 3 to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Also on **Thursday, Oct. 23**, from 6 to 7 p.m., the Fitchburg Public Schools' Title I program will host "Reading, Writing and Tasting!" at South Street Elementary School. Visitors will listen to stories, sample fruits and vegetables, collect recipes and leave with a book to enjoy at home. Admission is free.

The events conclude on **Friday, Oct. 24**, with the "Apple Crunch!" at Fitchburg's four public elementary schools, where students will share a simultaneous bite to promote healthy, local foods. Apples used for the crunch were grown by Lanni Orchards in Lunenburg.

Also **Friday, Oct. 24**, from 5 to 8 p.m. the Boulder Bar & Café at 880 Main St. will host the "Help Feed Fitchburg Monster Mash Bash." Visitors are asked to bring a non-perishable, healthy item for local food pantries to gain admission. Guests are also encouraged to wear costumes and dance the night away to live music.

About Food Day

Food Day was created by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), but it is powered by a diverse coalition of food movement leaders and organizations, including student leaders, public offices, school districts, and local organizers.

October 24 is a day to resolve to make changes in our own diets and to take action to solve food-related problems in our communities at the local, state, and national level. In 2014, Food Day will have a special focus on food access and justice for food and farm workers.

This annual event involves some of the country's most prominent food activists, united by a vision of food that is healthy, affordable, and produced with care for the environment, farm animals, and the people who grow, harvest, and serve it.

With Food Day, we can celebrate our food system when it works and fix it when it's broken. Across the country, more than 4,700 events took place in 2013 and 3,200 in 2012, from community festivals in Denver, Savannah, and New York City, to a national conference in Washington, DC, to thousands of school activities in Portland, Minneapolis, and elsewhere.

Include "How-to" articles or hints and tips on related subjects. Try a reader's poll. People love to give their opinion, and you can publish the results in your next newsletter. Drive traffic to your website by entering teaser text for the article with a link to your website for readers to view the full text.

ALFA's Food for Thought lecture series continues this month

Celebrate Fitchburg's 250th anniversary through food at the [Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area](#) (ALFA)'s [Food for Thought](#) lecture on **Tuesday, Oct. 21** at 2:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond



Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free.

Presenter Bruce Goyette, an ALFA volunteer who has coordinated cooking classes for the past seven years, will guide the audience through the myriad facets of food as it relates to Fitchburg's 250th Anniversary. From early farms to the mill workers' diners and from truly gourmet restaurants during the city's phenomenal growth during the early 1900s to today's fast food establishments will be topics discussed with accompanying PowerPoint visual aids.

The railroad's significant place in the city's expanded role as an industrial power led to the creation of first-class restaurants, as well as live theater. Huge buildings were erected to accommodate boarders and provide restaurants; the American House, Hotel Raymond, and the Johnsonia are examples. A cooking school that attracted more than 5,000 students will be featured as will famous chefs and statesmen who visited this grand city and the emergence of several diners located near mills.

Goyette earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Fitchburg State and taught English for many years. As a journalist, he worked for the *Townsend Times* and *Fitchburg Sentinel* and published a Townsend story in *Yankee Magazine*. In his retirement, Goyette pursues his passions for journalism, reading, music, gardening, and cooking.

Haunted Lighthouses of New England

On **Tuesday, Oct. 28** at 2:30 p.m., Jeremy D'Entremont will present "Haunted Lighthouses of New England" at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.

Lighthouses are picturesque icons that remind us of our rich maritime history, but they also have a dark side. Lighthouses and ghost stories often seem to go hand in hand, as confirmed by the many horror stories and movies that have utilized lighthouses as their settings. This presentation will focus on some of the macabre tales of New England's coastal beacons, including the lovelorn spirit known as Ernie at Connecticut's New London Ledge Light and the piano playing ghost of Maine's Seguin Island Light. Also included will be accounts of strange happenings at two New Hampshire lighthouses, Portsmouth Harbor and White Island.

D'Entremont has taken part in many lighthouse investigations by paranormal research groups. He calls himself an "open-minded skeptic," and he'll share some of his personal experiences. He has appeared on the Syfy Channel's popular Ghost Hunters program, as well as Haunted Lighthouses of America on the Travel Channel. He has also appeared on the History Channel, Public Television, and National Public Radio speaking about lighthouse history.

D'Entremont has been called the leading expert on New England's historic lighthouses. He is the author of more than ten books, including *The Lighthouses of Massachusetts*, *Great Shipwrecks of the Maine Coast*, *The Lighthouse Handbook: New England*, and *Ocean-Born Mary: The Truth Behind a New Hampshire Legend*. He's a past president and historian for the American Lighthouse Foundation and founder and operations manager of Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses. His comprehensive website on New England lighthouses, www.newenglandlighthouses.net, was launched in 1997.

Business Society presents Rising Dreamers on Oct. 22

The Fitchburg State Business Society welcomes Rising Dreamers, an organization focused on insuring the success of the millenials who are entering the work force, on **Wednesday, Oct. 22** from 6 to 8 p.m. in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center. The group's current speaking tour of New England explores the topic: "What I wish I knew in college prior to entering the business world."

Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn some worthwhile information that will help students feel more prepared for life in the "real world." Learn more about Rising Dreamers [online](#).

Children's Halloween party to be held Sunday, Oct. 26

Fitchburg State University's Greek organizations will host their annual Halloween party for area children on **Sunday, Oct. 26** from 1 to 3 p.m. at Thompson Hall on the Fitchburg State campus. Admission is free.

The university's chapters of Sigma Sigma Sigma, Phi Sigma Sigma, Alpha Sigma Tau, Sigma Tau Gamma and Sigma Pi put on the annual event, which features tricks and treats, crafts and games, and a spooky haunted house. All ages are welcome and costumes are encouraged.

"This is a great opportunity for students with younger siblings and faculty with young children to have some Halloween fun," said Breanna Hadley, a member of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and one of the organizers of the event. "It's also a great opportunity for residents of Fitchburg to get to know the university."



Center for Italian Culture launches 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.

The series starts with a faculty talk on St. Francis of Assisi by Professor Rala Diakite on **Thursday, Oct. 30** at 12:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Admission is free. Diakite, chair

of the Humanities Department, will give this interdisciplinary talk on St. Francis and the continuing relevance of his thought and action. She will highlight St. Francis' revolutionary contributions regarding the problem of poverty, animals and the environment; conflict resolution; the equality of women; language innovation and popular culture.

A pair of workshops will follow 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.



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.

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
*SAVITSM 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 SA0115A Grant #J 73 50860 404 01

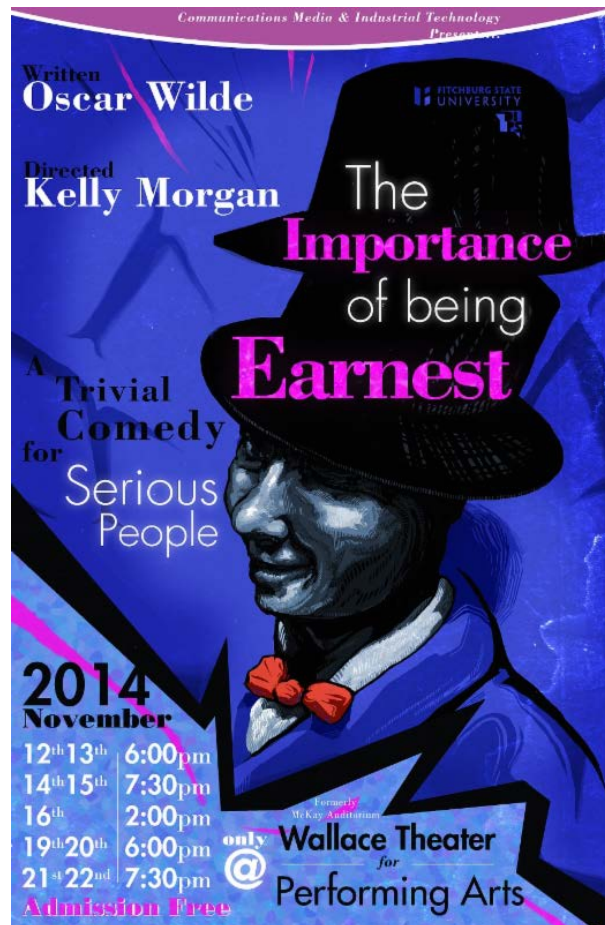
The Importance of Being Earnest takes the stage in November

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.

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