



Fitchburg State University Today

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Constitution Day panel talks *New Jim Crow*



From left, Assistant Professor Eric Boehme, Public Defender Michael Hussey, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Weizer, Worcester District Attorney Joseph Early and Deputy Commissioner from the Massachusetts Department of Correction Michael Grant discussed race and justice on Constitution Day.

The university's year-long [Community Read](#) of *The New Jim Crow* launched last week with an engrossing panel discussion on race, crime and punishment.

The talk also marked the campus observance of Constitution Day, recognizing the anniversary of the document's ratification in 1787.

Written by legal scholar Michelle Alexander, *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.

For Constitution Day, the university welcomed Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., Deputy Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Correction Michael Grant, and Committee for Public Counsel Services Attorney in Charge Michael S. Hussey. They were joined on the panel by Fitchburg State faculty member Eric Boehme for a discussion moderated by Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Weizer.

Panelists discussed factors such as class and race and their effect on the ability to secure fair trials, and the importance of education in securing opportunity. The *Sentinel & Enterprise* account of the discussion can be read [online](#).

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 Alexander's controversial book. The public is invited to add their voices to the conversation as the university seeks to create community through communication. The Community Read is sponsored by the university's Carl T. Witherell '32 Fund. The full year's calendar can be found [online](#).

The series continues **Wednesday, Oct. 1** at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, when the celebrated documentary *The House I Live In* (2012) will be shown. From the dealer to the narcotics officer, the inmate to the federal judge, this penetrating look inside America's criminal justice system reveals the profound human rights implications of U.S. drug policy. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

On **Wednesday, Oct. 8** at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, Massachusetts Parole Board Deputy Chief Parole Supervisor Lisa Redmond, a Fitchburg State alumna, will present a lecture on changes to mandatory drug sentences and criminal offender records laws. Admission is free and a reception will follow.

The work of award-winning photographer Lou Jones will be presented at the media wall in Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave., when Final Exposure: Portraits from Death Row is presented from **Thursday, Oct. 9** 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. Admission is free.

The Third Thursday film series continues **Thursday, Oct. 16** at 4 p.m. at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St., with a screening of *Nothing But a Man* (1964). The story focuses on a black couple - a railroad worker and a teacher - starting a new life together in a racist Southern town. The film will be introduced by former Fitchburg State librarian Mark Melchior, who will also lead a post-screening discussion. Admission is free.

On **Tuesday, Oct. 28** at 5:30 p.m., the Fitchburg Public Library at 610 Main St. will feature a community book discussion of *The New Jim Crow*. The discussion will be led by Fitchburg State criminal justice faculty member Marcel Beausoleil. Admission is free.

Back on campus, the acclaimed film *Fruitvale Station* (2013) will screen on **Wednesday, Nov. 12** at 3:30 p.m. 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 series wraps up for the fall semester on **Thursday, Nov. 20** at 4 p.m. at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St., with a showing of *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (2002). This extraordinary story of courage and faith is based on the actual experiences of three girls who fled from the repressive life of Australia's Moore River Native Settlement, following along the rabbit-proof fence back to their homelands. Professor Eric Budd (Political Science) will introduce the film and lead a post-screening discussion.

Starting **Wednesday, Jan. 21**, the art gallery in the Sanders Administration Building will feature The Inside/Outside Envelope Project by artist Phyllis Kornfeld. Envelope art is a long-standing tradition in prison art. Beautiful envelopes sent to loved ones communicate a deep connection. The Inside/Outside Envelope Project is expanding that connection out into the human family. Hundreds of thousands of men and women sit uselessly behind steel doors, a vast resource of untapped human potential. 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 structured one-to-one tutoring in reading.

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 by visiting fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage.

A full listing of events, including film screenings and art installations running into the spring, can be found online at fitchburgstate.edu/communityread.

Teaching opportunities in Graduate and Continuing Education

The office of Graduate and Continuing Education has begun building the upcoming 2015 winter

session and spring semester course schedules. Faculty members interested in teaching should contact the appropriate department chair for approval.

All courses offered in the 2015 Winter Session will again be offered totally online in order to eliminate the challenges of winter weather in an accelerated session, save commuting expenses, reduce energy costs on campus, and provide access to winter session courses for students unable to travel to campus during the winter break.

The deadline for submission of course schedules is **Friday, Sept. 26**. Please feel free to contact Associate Dean [Brian Bercier](#) with any questions.

Actors wanted for student films

Actors of all ages and types are invited to audition for approximately 40 film projects being produced by Fitchburg State students during the fall semester. Slots are limited so aspiring actors are invited to sign up now.



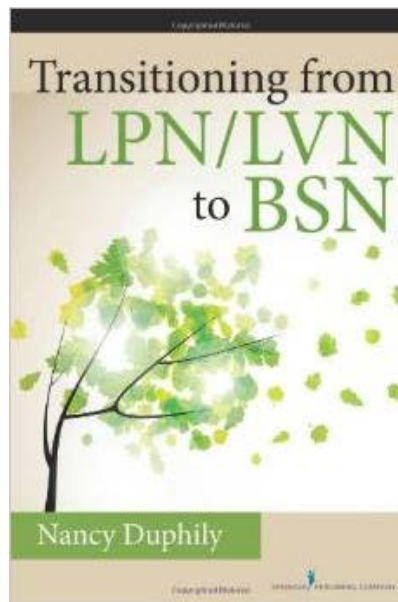
Auditions will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Sept. 30**; 5 to 8:30 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 2**; and 3:30 to 6 p.m. **Friday, Oct. 3**. All auditions will be held in the film studio on the third floor of Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave.

Actors are asked to prepare two contrasting contemporary monologues—one serious and one comic—that are no longer than one minute apiece, and to bring headshots and resumes (either digitally or in hard copies).

To make an appointment to audition, please contact Professor Kelly Morgan at 978-665-3555 or by email at kmorgan@fitchburgstate.edu.

Nursing Department, Center for Teaching and Learning celebrate faculty book on Oct. 1

The Fitchburg State University Department of Nursing and the Center for Teaching and Learning will host an open house on **Wednesday, Oct. 1** at noon to recognize the publication of Dr. Nancy Duphily's book, *Transitioning from LPN/LVN to BSN*. The event will be held in the Center for Teaching and Learning, temporarily located in Thompson 207 during the library renovation.



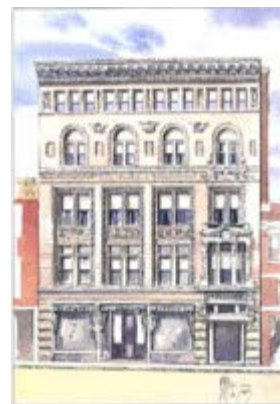
The LPN to BS in Nursing Bridge program offered at Fitchburg State is designed to transition the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to the role of a baccalaureate prepared registered nurse. Graduates of this program will assist in filling the gap of nurses prepared to meet the complex healthcare needs of patients in a variety of settings. It is one of three such bridge programs in the state of Massachusetts.

Explore Fitchburg's fashion history on Oct. 2

The Fitchburg 250 Committee will present Fitchburg in Fashion, a fashion show and fundraiser on **Thursday, Oct. 2**, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The show will celebrate over 100 years of fashion, with models

garbed in outfits that date from 1900 to the present. Fitchburg in Fashion will be hosted by Fitchburg State University in the Athletics and Recreation Center at 130 North St., Fitchburg. Guests will enjoy hot appetizers by Chartwells Catering and there will also be a cash bar.

The fashions have been provided by sponsor Ernie Maguy of Windmill Florist, who has invested many months in researching the show and gathering the collection. All of the fashions were collected in Fitchburg and Central Massachusetts; they demonstrate the many elegant looks that Fitchburg's men and women wore during those decades. The parade of styles will be accompanied by music, with an historical comments presented by attorney Deborah Phillips.



The Phoenix Building downtown houses the Fitchburg Historical Society.

Tickets are \$40 per person, and may be purchased in advance at the Fitchburg Historical Society, Slattery's, DeBonis and Davin Florist, Mill #3, Shack's, Homestead Primitives, Elliott's Jewelers, Fitchburg Mayor's Office and Windmill Florist. The monies raised will be contributed to a Fitchburg charity serving the victims of domestic violence, and a portion will support the Fitchburg 250 masquerade gala on Saturday, Oct. 25. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

For more information, call the Fitchburg Historical Society at 978-345-1157 or write fitchburghistoricalsociety@fitchburghistoricalsociety.com or visit [the event's Facebook page](#). Parking at the event is free.

Sponsors of Fitchburg in Fashion include Ernie Maguy and Windmill Florist, Fitchburg State University, Christian Party Supply, Leo and Joy Gould, Chartwells Food Services, DJ Mega Jam and Scott Pryor.

Flu clinics coming in October

[Health Services](#) will hold a flu clinic **Wednesday, Oct. 15** and **Thursday, Oct. 16**, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Hammond Hall, room G01. Participants are asked to bring their insurance cards, and the following plans are accepted: Harvard Pilgrim; Tufts Health Plan; Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Massachusetts (includes the school insurance plan); MassHealth; Fallon Community Health Plan; UniCare Indemnity Plan; Aetna; and Medicare Part B.

The price is \$25 for those without any of the covered plans, and cash or check will be accepted. For more information, please call Health Services at 978-665-3216.

CenterStage and cultural events

The Sweet Remains launch CenterStage Hub Series

A new venue in the Fitchburg State University [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series will open with a performance by the acclaimed singer-songwriters The Sweet Remains on **Saturday, Oct. 4** at 8 p.m. in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

The Sweet Remains will launch the new CenterStage Hub Series, allowing 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 Sweet Remains perform on Oct. 4.

The Sweet Remains are a trio of gifted and charismatic singer/songwriters-Rich Price, Greg Naughton, and Brian Chartrand. Each contribute to the writing and three-part harmonies that define The Sweet Remains' sound and simply make your ears smile. Driven by strong lyrical and melodic writing, their songs easily appeal to fans of modern folk-rockers like Jason Mraz, Ray Lamontagne and John Mayer. However, it is their lush harmonies that distinguish TSR and harken back to super-groups like Crosby, Stills and Nash, the Eagles, and Simon & Garfunkel.

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](#).

Art Exhibitions

The art exhibitions that opened the CenterStage season continue in venues across campus.

The work of artist Nancy Marks is on display in The Gallery at Sanders in the Sanders Administration Building, 300 Highland Ave., through Wednesday, Oct. 22. Marks will give a gallery talk on **Thursday, Sept. 25** at 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.



"Chalice" by Nancy Marks

Marks has been a visual artist for over 25 years: first as a papermaker and now as printmaker and painter. This collection showcases both her paintings and mixed media work.

The kinetic sculptures of artist David A. Lang will be on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Wednesday, Oct. 22.

"For the last several years my sculptural work has become largely kinetic and interactive," Lang said. "It is often witty, profound and provocative. Much of it seems to exist in the realm of the unlikely. These days, my mind is in a whirl, trying to understand how to make very complicated things appear to be smooth, slow and coordinated."

A video compilation of other pieces of Lang's kinetic sculptures, entitled "Inventions, Contraptions & Flights of Fancy," is on display on the Conlon Media Wall in Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave., through Wednesday, Oct. 8.

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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[today-archive](#). For questions about Fitchburg State University Today, contact the Public Relations Office at (978) 665-4694. To submit to Fitchburg State University Today, visit the Public Relations site at www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations and click on [Request for Publicity](#).

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