

# Fitchburg State University Today

Sept. 8, 2014 - Vol 5, Issue 1

## In This Issue

Presidential Search update

Join the Community Read

Strategic Planning continues

Treasurer Grossman visits campus

University, law school sign pact

Foundation Music Lesson faculty recital Sept. 17

Resident director recognized

Teaching opportunities in GCE

CenterStage and cultural events

Faculty Notes

## Quick Links

[www.fitchburgstate.edu](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu)

[Public Relations](#)

[Campus News](#)

[Campus Calendar](#)

[Graduate and Continuing Education](#)

[Fitchburg State in the News](#)

Find us on Facebook 



  
Broadcast Yourself



[Join Our Mailing List](#)

## Presidential Search update



The Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees has formally launched the [search](#) for the successor to President Antonucci.

The Presidential Search Committee, in conjunction with the executive search firm Witt/Kieffer, is holding several forums for campus and community constituencies to offer input on the qualities to be sought in Fitchburg State's 11th president. The remaining forums will be held **Wednesday, Sept. 10** at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building.

- At 1:30 p.m., there will be an open forum for the general public and members of university communities that are unable to attend at other times.
- At 2:30 p.m., there will be an open forum for the student body.
- At 3:30 p.m., there will be an open forum for members of the Massachusetts State College Association (representing faculty and librarians).

Forums were also held on Friday, Sept. 5 for members of the APA and AFSCME unions and for non-unit employees.

Comments will be accepted by email throughout the search at [presidentalsearch@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:presidentalsearch@fitchburgstate.edu).

"This will be an open and transparent process," said Carol T. Vittorioso, chairman of the university's Board of Trustees. "The entire campus community will be involved."

The next meeting of the full search committee will be **Tuesday, Sept. 16** from 1 to 4 p.m. at Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center. Committee meetings are open to the public and campus community.

The search committee is chaired by Trustee Donald R. Irving '72, '79, president and founder of Data Guide Cable Corp. The

committee also includes:

- Martin F. Connors Jr., president and chief executive officer of Rollstone Bank & Trust and vice chair of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees
- Gail Feckley '96, '07, secretary in the university's Behavioral Sciences Department, representing the university chapter of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees
- Nathan A. Gregoire '15, president of the Student Government Association, representing the student body
- Christopher Hendry '91, '07, the university's vice president for institutional advancement, representing non-unit administrators
- Sherry Horeanopoulos, the university's security officer, representing the Association of Professional Administrators
- Nate Mackinnon, assistant commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, representing the board
- Joseph McAloon, associate professor of business administration, representing the Massachusetts State College Association
- Jessica Murdoch '08, the university's vice president for human resources and payroll services, will be a non-voting member, serving as the committee's affirmative action officer
- Andre Ravenelle, superintendent of the Fitchburg Public Schools, will represent the community
- Gladys Rodriguez-Parker, aide to U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, and a member of the university's Board of Trustees
- Carol T. Vittorioso, partner and owner in the law firm Vittorioso & Taylor, and chairman of the Board of Trustees

Administrative assistance to the committee will be supplied by Executive Assistant to the President for External Affairs Michael V. Shanley, who will serve as liaison to the trustees, and Kelli A. Lundgren, who will act as the committee's secretary.

Witt/Kieffer will also conduct the university's search for a vice president for academic affairs. That national search will start later in the fall, allowing the next president to play a major role in selecting this key member of the administrative team. University officials are committed to a transparent search process. Notices, meeting minutes and other documents related to the search will be posted on the Fitchburg State website at [fitchburgstate.edu/presidentialssearch](http://fitchburgstate.edu/presidentialssearch).

Antonucci announced this spring he would retire at the end of the 2014-15 academic year. A two-time alumnus of Fitchburg State, Antonucci was named its 10th president in 2003. His tenure has included numerous milestones for the institution, such as major construction projects like the science center that opened in 2013 and the reinvention of Hammond Hall as a new gateway to the campus. He has also re-energized the university's connection to the city of Fitchburg, extending the campus footprint to Main Street and working with community partners on continuing revitalization efforts.

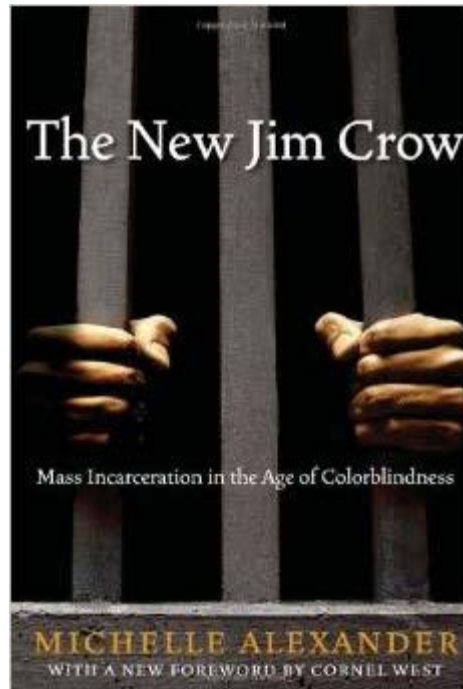
Updates on the search will be featured in each installment of the campus newsletter this fall and will also be posted on the university's website. Bookmark [fitchburgstate.edu/presidentialsearch](http://fitchburgstate.edu/presidentialsearch) to keep up to date on all aspects of the search.

### Community Read to explore *The New Jim Crow*

Issues of race, crime and punishment will be explored through multiple perspectives and media when Fitchburg State University presents its 2014-15 [Community Read](#), *The New Jim Crow*.

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.

In 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 at [fitchburgstate.edu/campus-life/things-to-do/centerstage/community-read/](http://fitchburgstate.edu/campus-life/things-to-do/centerstage/community-read/).



The semester's events start with a Constitution Day panel discussion on **Wednesday, Sept. 17** at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Speakers including Massachusetts Department of Correction Commissioner Luis S. Spencer, Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., Committee for Public Counsel Services Attorney in Charge Michael S. Hussey and Fitchburg State Professor Eric Boehme will discuss race and incarceration; the fair sentencing act; observations from the field; and other topics.



The university's Third Thursday film series, bridging the campus and the city of Fitchburg, continues this year with films selected to spotlight other themes raised in *The New Jim Crow*. On **Thursday, Sept. 18** at 4 p.m., the Academy Award-winning classic film *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962) will screen at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St. The film will be introduced by Professor Beth Walsh (criminal justice), who will also lead a post-screening discussion. Admission is free.

Films will also be screened on campus. On **Wednesday, Oct. 1** at 3:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 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.

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. 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](http://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/campus-life/things-to-do/centerstage/community-read/](http://fitchburgstate.edu/campus-life/things-to-do/centerstage/community-read/).

## Strategic Planning process continuing



Fitchburg State invites public input for its ongoing [strategic planning](#) discussion.

The campus launched the latest strategic planning process this spring and working groups will be continuing their discussions throughout the fall. The goal is to present a long-term strategic plan to the university's Board of Trustees this spring.

"This process is designed to help the university community understand its assets, value its traditions and consider its potential," President Antonucci said. "The entire campus community has been invited to take part and we are welcoming participation from beyond the campus."

The strategic planning process is led by an executive planning council chaired by Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Weizer. There are also working groups composed of students, faculty and administrators analyzing the following areas: academic planning; academic values; admissions and marketing; community; financial structure; student services; and technology.

The working groups will deliver recommendations to the umbrella Strategic Planning Committee by mid-November, after which the committee will prepare a draft report for the Executive Planning Committee (EPC). The EPC will review that draft and make its own recommendations to the university president by late December. The revised plan will then be shared with the community for feedback. The university's Board of Trustees will act on the completed plan by the end of February 2015.

Additional detail on the strategic planning process, including the dates, times and locations of the working groups' public meetings, can be found at [fitchburgstate.edu/about-us/strategic-planning](http://fitchburgstate.edu/about-us/strategic-planning).

## Treasurer Steve Grossman visits campus to discuss biotechnology

State Treasurer Steve Grossman visited campus last week to tour the science building and discuss the role higher education can play in growing the state's biotechnology economy. Grossman was accompanied by business and civic leaders including Fitchburg Mayor Lisa A. Wong. Interim Dean of Health and Natural Sciences Meg Hoey led the tour.



## Fitchburg State, UMass Law School sign articulation agreement



President Antonucci and UMass Law Dean Mary Lu Bilek signed the articulation agreement in August.

Starting this fall, students interested in careers in the law will have an opportunity to earn their bachelor's and law degrees in just six years, thanks to a new articulation agreement between Fitchburg State and the University of Massachusetts Law School.

The agreement, signed on Aug. 20 by President Antonucci and UMass Law School Dean Mary Lu Bilek, will allow qualifying students to complete three undergraduate years at Fitchburg State before proceeding directly to UMass Law for a three-year juris doctor program (completing their bachelor's degrees while on the UMass Law campus). Qualified

Fitchburg State students will be guaranteed admission to the law school.

"The joint three plus three program offers qualified, ambitious, and motivated undergraduate students an accelerated course of study that maintains high academic standards while saving students one year's worth of tuition and time," the agreement states. "This partnering academic program allows both institutions to better serve the citizens of the Commonwealth and lend an advantage to their individual efforts to recruit outstanding students."

"This agreement is about institutional collaboration that puts students first," President Antonucci said. "We are opening doors that will bring affordable, high-quality law degrees within reach of our students."

"We want students from this region to know we have a public school law school," Bilek said, adding the program is designed for students with a clear vision of their future. "A person who gets on a path and stays on a path has the qualities that a good lawyer needs."

"I wish this program was in existence 30 years ago when I was in school," said Fitchburg State Board of Trustees Chairman Carol T. Vittorioso, herself an attorney. "It's a fantastic opportunity, especially for first-generation students."

Under the articulation agreement, qualified Fitchburg State undergraduates will be permitted to substitute the first year law school for the senior year at the university, thus earning the bachelor's degree and the juris doctor degree in six years instead of the normal seven. The program is aimed primarily at students who enter the university with a strong interest in law already formed, or who develop such an interest early on, and whose career goals and legal education needs can be well served by UMass Law.

Fitchburg State was founded as a teacher training school in 1894 and has grown into a comprehensive public university offering more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, and professional fields to more than 7,000 students annually, including approximately 3,000 graduate students.

UMass Law was established at the UMass Dartmouth campus in 2010 as the state's only public law school. The institution, which has its roots in the Southern New England School of Law, is committed to providing access to students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to study law.

### Foundation Music Lesson faculty concert on Wednesday, Sept. 17

The Fitchburg State [Foundation Music Lesson Program](#) faculty will perform a free concert on **Wednesday, Sept. 17** at 7 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall. Admission is free.

Pieces will include a mid-century modern piece for solo clarinet by Heinrich Sutermeister,

performed by Monica Duncan; the Hoagy Carmichael classic "Georgia" for vibraphone solo, performed by percussionist Evan Lattimore; and selections from the American songbook performed on guitar by Paula Luria.

The Foundation Music Lesson Program is directed by Fitchburg State faculty member Michele Caniato. The program offers a range of musical lessons and classes at an affordable rate. Students have their choice of 30-, 45-, or 60-minute private lessons for either a 10 week or a 14

week plan for fall and spring as well as five-week plans during the summer.

Fall music lessons start Monday, Sept. 22, with the deadline to register Friday, Sept. 19.

For more information on the program, visit [fitchburgstate.edu/academics/academic-departments/humanities-dept/music/foundation-music-lesson-program/](http://fitchburgstate.edu/academics/academic-departments/humanities-dept/music/foundation-music-lesson-program/).

### Resident Director member of winning team at conference

Ezana Estifanos, resident director at Aubuchon Hall (where the university's First Year Residential Experience is hosted) was a member of the winning team at the Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers annual conference in May at Bridgewater State.

The conference includes a new professional case study competition, in which 13 teams compete to solve an issue pertinent to student support and housing operations. Estifanos, who came to Fitchburg State in February, was on the winning team.

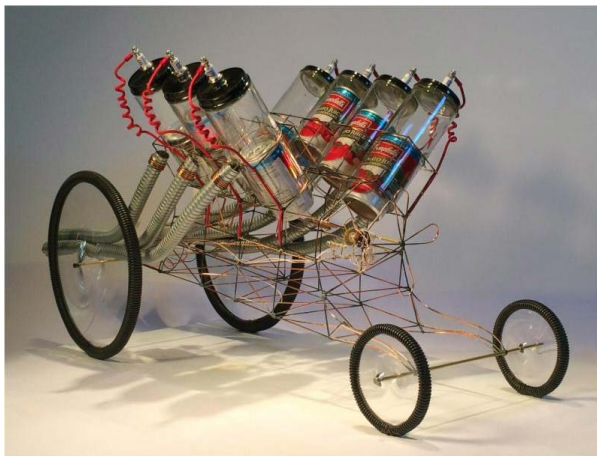
### Teaching opportunities in Graduate and Continuing Education

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.

### CenterStage and cultural events



"I Coulda Had a V8 ..." by David Lang

The Fitchburg State University [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series opens its 2014-15 season with art and sculpture installations at locations across campus.

The kinetic sculptures of artist David A. Lang will be on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery from **Wednesday, Sept. 17** through Wednesday, Oct. 22. The show will open with a gallery talk and reception on **Wednesday, Sept. 17** at 3:30 p.m. in the gallery, located at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Refreshments will be served.

"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," will be on display on the Conlon Media Wall in Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave., through Wednesday, Oct. 8. There will be a wall talk at the media wall on **Wednesday, Sept. 10** at 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The work of artist Nancy Marks will be on display in The Gallery at Sanders in the Sanders Administration Building, 300 Highland Ave., from **Wednesday, Sept. 17** 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 and highlights a recent project, "The Intimacy of Memory." With this new project, Marks examines why people choose particular objects during the healing process after someone close has died.

More about the upcoming CenterStage at Fitchburg State University arts and culture offerings can be found online at [fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage](http://fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage).

## Faculty Notes

**James Colbert**, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, (Humanities) gave a paper on "The Emotions in St. Augustine" in April at the Sewanee Medieval Conference, held at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn.



**Michael Greenwood**, second from left, is pictured with North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce Program Manager **Maria McCaffrey**; Franklin Professional Associates President **Melissa Glenny**; and Well-Being Total Home Care owner **Keith Lanzilotti**.

**Michael Greenwood** (Business Administration) helped the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce launch a new annual human resource hiring trends study. The study, called "2014 Pulse Survey of Hiring Trends," is designed to reveal senior level business and non-profit perspectives on emerging human resource hiring trends and issues in our region. Greenwood authored the survey.

"This study is an important community service because it will capture and report annual hiring trends for our region," said Chamber of Commerce Program Manager Maria McCaffrey. "The chamber wants to do everything we can to support the hiring and retention of talented workers throughout our region. The results from Dr. Greenwood's study can be used to

help local firms identify and attract talented workers by helping them compare their hiring criteria with the results from the survey."




Human resource topics covered by the study include: Hiring forecasts, degrees in demand, starting wage for entry level jobs, opinion on raising the Massachusetts minimum wage, employee benefits offered, organizational culture and preferred characteristics of the new hire candidate. Results will be released in this fall.

**Michael Hoberman** (English Studies) won two distinguished fellowships for his work on early American Jewish history:

The Tikvah Advanced Institute Summer Fellowship is a five-day seminar that he attended in New York City at the end of July. The topic for the seminar was "Is Judaism a Religion," and was led by a Leora Batnitzky, a professor of Religion at Princeton.

The Sid and Ruth Lapidus Fellowship at the American Jewish Historical Society supports advanced research on Jewish American history (especially for the 17th and 18th centuries). Hoberman said the fellowship would aid him in researching and writing a journal article on the impact of the American Revolution on Jewish families in British North America.

**Mathangi Krishnamurthy** (Biology/Chemistry) joined colleagues from the American Chemical Society in April to participate in "Chemists Celebrate Earth Day." This year's theme, "The Wonders of Water," explored the critical role of water for human life and the environment. Shown here is a group of volunteers from the ACS Northeastern Section, which hosted hands-on activities for visitors at the Museum of Science in Boston on April 13.



Archived editions of Fitchburg State University Today can be found online at <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices/administration/public-relations/fitchburg-state-university-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](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations) and click on [Request for Publicity](#).

#### [Forward email](#)



This email was sent to mbruun@fitchburgstate.edu by [mbruun@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:mbruun@fitchburgstate.edu) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Fitchburg State University | 160 Pearl Street | Fitchburg | MA | 01420