

Contact



FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2022



SOARING HIGHER

Graduate degrees take
students to the next level.

Dayana Carlson '99, '06 has applied her graduate school
experience to her role as principal of
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School.

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Fitchburg State's School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education serves a national and global population of students who pursue advanced degrees, through in-person and online programs across dozens of disciplines.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

Lifelong learning is central to Fitchburg State's mission. Throughout our history, the university has prepared students to grow and adapt to the evolving demands they will face in their lives and careers.

That spirit of constant growth is demonstrated in the launch of our newest academic major, digital media innovation. This new program transcends disciplinary silos, incorporating social media, information design, data studies and multimedia storytelling, among other topics. Its graduates will be well-prepared for careers as social media managers, digital content creators, multimedia producers, and other developing fields.

That same spirit of growth informs the articles in this issue of Contact, where we shine the spotlight on our graduate programs. In the pages that follow, we share just a few of the many thousands of stories of individuals who take that next step to continue their academic journeys beyond their bachelor's degrees. Whether they study in our on-campus classrooms or join us from across the country and the world through our robust online platforms, we are proud to call them all Falcons.

Finally, longtime readers of Contact will know we circulated a survey at the time of our last issue to inquire about readers' habits with the magazine. We are continuing to explore a hybrid model for future issues, with print and digital components that will help us tell the ongoing Fitchburg State story in the most timely and compelling ways. We will keep you posted as these tools take shape.

In the meantime, I encourage all of you to visit our website at fitchburgstate.edu to keep apprised of what is taking place at our beloved institution.


Richard S. Lapidus



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CAMPUS NEWS

NEW DMI MAJOR LAUNCHES

The university launched its new bachelor's degree in digital media innovation this fall, preparing students for employment in continually evolving and intersecting fields including media/journalism, social media and content development.

The 33-credit major will explore digital media and how digital technology and computing are changing social and cultural systems in employment markets as new tools reshape industries across the globe.

"The beauty of the DMI program is in how it combines digital practices from diverse fields like Geographical Information Systems and Biology to Game Design and Storytelling," said Associate Professor Elise Takehana of the university's English Studies Department, who helped create the new program. "It's a fresh approach to getting students involved in building a more humane digital society in a hands-on way in their own communities."

"Finding solutions to the challenges our world faces in the 21st century will require critical and creative thinking that combines knowledge from across many different fields," said Assistant Professor J.J. Sylvia IV of the Communications Media Department, another of the program's creators. "Our graduates will be equipped with the tools to tackle these challenges, and I can't wait to see the impact that they make."

The courses in the new major will allow students to develop a large cross-section of disciplinary practices and a range of new digital skills that span social media, multimedia storytelling, information design, data studies, coding, and more. It will culminate in a community-engaged capstone project that demonstrates the changing ways we construct narratives using data, and equips students with skills to employ technologies and practices in a digital age.



SALVATORE TALKS FUTURE OF STORYTELLING

Best-selling author and double alumnus R.A. Salvatore '81, '91 returned to campus this fall for a day-long residency that included addresses to student groups and a public audience on the topic of "The Future of Storytelling."

Salvatore, who delivered the commencement address at the university's graduation ceremony in 2011, talked about the expanding media footprint of storytelling. With 20 million books sold since he was first published in the 1980s, Salvatore now plies his trade across media platforms, including graphic novels and games.

His newest book, *The Dao of Drizzt*, is a collection of journal entries written in the character of Salvatore's most popular creation, the dark elf Drizzt Do'Urden.

During Salvatore's visit to his alma mater in September, he spoke about the evolution of storytelling as media has evolved, including his own work in new platforms like videogames.

Watch his whole presentation on the university's YouTube channel, youtube.com/FitchburgState.

OATHS OF HONOR

The 5th Recruit Officer Course of the university's groundbreaking police program graduated from the police academy in September, ready to report for duty in municipal police departments across Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Most of the 21 members were hired by police departments before they graduated.

Class leader Michael Masterson of Pepperell spoke on behalf of his fellow officers.

"I can proudly say that I wouldn't trade this group for the world," said Masterson, who thanked the academy staff for being role models and modeling the highest standards. "The lessons taught by all of you will forever be ingrained in how we perform our duties."

Masterson said the new officers should hold their new profession to the highest possible standards. "True perfection is unattainable," he said. "Strive for excellence, not perfection, because the world we live in is not perfect."

FITCHBURG STATE HAS A LONG AND GROWING HISTORY OF HELPING PROFESSIONALS ADVANCE THEIR CAREERS THROUGH ONLINE AND IN-PERSON GRADUATE PROGRAMS. HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR STORIES.

MAKING A BIGGER IMPACT

Joshua Romano '10, '14 was looking for ways to make a bigger impact on students. For the career educator who had been teaching at area high schools for years, it was a post as dean of students at Lunenburg High School that inspired him to enhance his administrative credentials.

For this, he turned to Fitchburg State, where he received a master's degree in 2010. He also got to know Fitchburg State undergraduates who were completing their own pre-practicum experiences at Lunenburg High. "I've enjoyed that I've always had that connection to Fitchburg State," he said.

Two years later he was an assistant principal at Murdock High School in Winchendon, and later its principal.

Additional administrative posts followed at other schools, as did Romano's own continuing education. He completed a certificate of advanced graduate study from Fitchburg State in 2014, and earlier in 2022 he finished a doctorate at UMass Lowell. This fall he greeted the 1,800 students at Leominster High School as its newest principal.

The size and diversity of Leominster High represented a welcome challenge for Romano.

"I wanted to go somewhere larger, where you're making a bigger impact," he said.

At Leominster High, Romano looks forward to helping students navigate beyond the disruptions of the pandemic and restore the school's traditions and culture while also supporting instructional objectives. "These students took such a hit on executive functioning skills and their ability to set goals and meet them," he said. "Building up their resilience is going to be a huge effort."

He said he feels ready to take on the challenges thanks to his own scholastic experience.

"Fitchburg State was a phenomenal place for me to get the preparation for what I've done in education," Romano said. "What's produced in Fitchburg State's education program are practitioners, people who are going to go out and actually do it. You will find what you need to be effective in instruction, in developing curriculum, and in helping students. The success I've had as an educational leader is so invested in Fitchburg State. I look back very fondly at my time there."



NO TURNING BACK

Katie Richards '20 kept her MBA goal in sight despite challenges

A few short years ago, Katie Richards and her husband, Nate, were used to walking the tightrope of work-life balance. Parents of twin daughters Hannah and Maddie, they were also navigating full-time careers in business and human resources. In 2018, they decided to pursue their MBA degrees.

"Many people told me that I was completely crazy for wanting to get my MBA," Katie recalled. "But, when I first found out I was pregnant with twins in 2011, and told people I planned to return to my growing, full-time career, the response from many was that I'd have to give something up. I've always just refused to accept that I couldn't have it all. I knew there had to be a way."

Katie said Nate was steadfast in his encouragement that she would prove the doubters wrong.

They were well into their studies when the pandemic struck in 2020. "I said, 'I'm so far in, I can't turn back now.' So we did what Nate and I do best: we strategized and made a crazy plan."

The plan included getting up at 5:30 a.m., working in shifts to balance homeschooling their then-6-year-old daughters with conference calls, professional obligations, and schoolwork.

Katie would start, getting her daughters ready for school, then counting, singing preschool songs, learning to read, use scissors, and color worksheets. At 10 a.m. she and Nate would switch, and she would manage employee relations for more than 750 hospitals during the healthcare crisis.

Some things were non-negotiable, including family dinner time and putting the kids to bed.

With their daughters in bed by 8 p.m., it was Katie and Nate's turn to hit the books. "We were so grateful that Fitchburg State gave us flexibility with scheduling," she said. "We found a very real staff of professors that 'got it.' They just met the moment they were in, with tons of empathy and respect for each individual's position. It taught me that leadership is about leaning in, and meeting the moment."

It wasn't easy. "There were a lot of moments of sheer vulnerability," said Katie, recalling one night where she typed papers while her sick daughter slept on top of her. "My mom later told me, 'Someday your story will be part of someone's survival guide. Maybe it'll be your own girls.'"

With that faculty and family support, she said, it was achievable. The coursework also paid off in her career, as Katie described putting lessons from her education into practice. "I've been in many important rooms since then, for some vital discussions, and I was able to leverage my knowledge from Fitchburg State to participate at a higher



level," she said.

The couple finished their MBA degrees in 2020. Absent a traditional commencement ceremony, they made their way to campus the following fall, when the university hosted a Falcon Walk for graduates who hadn't gotten the chance to cross a stage. Katie had small caps and gowns for their twin daughters, whose support had been integral to their parents' success.

"It was their moment just as much as it was ours," Katie said.

"I hope my story reminds people, and especially other women, that we really can have it all," Katie said. "Having educational and professional goals isn't selfish, and relying on a support system will only propel you towards the finish line. There are two words when I think of that season of my life: grit and grace. I had to approach completing my MBA with a sense of perseverance, passion and hustle, but I also had to give myself grace because perfection went out the window, and that's OK. I just hope when my girls look back, they are proud, and know that mom didn't quit because they were watching. When someone tells you your plate is too full, remind them that it's not, and they just aren't as hungry as you."

BRINGING ART TO EVERYONE

Jon Allen '12 tried his hand at the traditional art game. The Massachusetts native moved to Brooklyn in 1999 and "did the gallery grind" for 10 years. He was disillusioned by the politics of the art world at that time, and dissatisfied by the "soul-crushing" experience of being an art handler and museum installer.

"I moved back to Massachusetts with nothing," Allen recalled.

Looking to find his path, he took a course in Fitchburg State's graduate program in applied communications. "I saw the program as an opportunity to grow," he said. Through the program he hoped he would find ways to develop intellectually creative concepts without being tied to a specific discipline.

And he did, with public art among those creative concepts. His master's thesis focused on using public art as a means of economic development in gateway cities such as Fitchburg.

Since graduating in 2012, he has pursued that philosophy in earnest. Allen's work is quite literally all over downtown Fitchburg, with large-scale murals adorning buildings and bridges that are passed daily by thousands of people.

One of his first works downtown was a large mural of environmentalist Marion Stoddart, adorning the rear of a building on Laurel Street facing the city's Riverfront Park. Stoddart was a major force in the cleanup of the Nashua River which passes through the city.

More large-scale works followed, including a mural of the firearms and bicycle manufacturer Iver Johnson (on Main Street) and, this summer, a sprawling work along Boulder Drive from which he drew inspiration from students in the local YMCA's "Spartacus" afterschool program. The mural itself was part of a major city initiative promoting public art, and Allen was the lead artist on the work, which features bright, smiling faces and aspirational text.

"Seeing my work embedded in the community feels good, and I am proud of each piece that I have done," said Allen, who just finished his 10th year teaching at Littleton High School. "The euphoria of completing a new mural always happens the first moments after you finish the last brush stroke, but as a professional I am always looking forward to the next project."



PATIENT-CENTERED



Hope Miller '22 was a fan of the television show "Quincy, M.E." as a kid. The 1970s series starred Jack Klugman as a medical examiner who worked with police to solve crimes. "I said at age 9 I wanted to be a forensic pathologist," Miller said.

Alas, her professional path wasn't destined to emulate the tidy contours of scripted television. But it was no less rewarding.

Miller has worked in nursing for more than 20 years, mostly in Indiana and in Texas. While working in the emergency

department, she undertook the training to become a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE). "Emergency room nursing was my first love, but SANE nursing is my passion," Miller said. "We don't do anything curative, per se, but what we do

offer is valuable if it's done well, if it's patient-centered, if it's trauma-informed, if it's administered with mindfulness and empathy. It's not something you learn overnight. It takes being able to hyper-focus on the person in front of you. That's one of the things I like about it. This is one of the few areas in nursing where you have the luxury of time to spend with the patient which is missing from most of healthcare today. Being present in that space with the patient and having time to build trust is imperative to the care that SANE/Forensic nurses provide."

To advance her career in the field, Miller began exploring her options for an advanced degree in forensic nursing. She knew she wanted an online program that would offer flexibility of schedules, and found Fitchburg State. In addition to its format, she was attracted to the program's affordable price and solid reputation.

"The fact that so many of the faculty are well-known in the field and have been doing this a long time was definitely a plus," Miller said.

Miller's studies were disrupted by COVID-19, but she wasn't going to give up on her goals. The program was a lot of work, she said, but inspired her to grow. She also enjoyed meeting other students and the networking opportunities that followed, including in-person encounters at conferences.

Miller is currently working in a sexual assault treatment center in Indiana, putting her degree and her philosophy of patient care to work. "When I have a patient, when that person is in front of me, they're my only thought," she said. "What we offer our patients is something you're probably not going to get under any other condition of nursing. My hope is, when they leave, they know it wasn't their fault, and that somehow, they feel empowered in some way to move forward with their life. Justice and healing looks different for every person. If I can maybe give them a tiny bit of foundation for those things to happen, then I've done my job."



LEARNING TOGETHER

Sharon Simmons '22 found a community of learners in her MBA program

Sharon Simmons is a believer in lifelong learning. The healthcare consultant had already completed two master's degrees and was between jobs when she decided to pursue an MBA degree.

She tested the waters with a marketing class at Columbia University and enjoyed the experience. Since she was between jobs, she decided to make the best use of the time she had been given. "I decided I am not going to be that person who just sits around and complains about everything," she said. "I like to be that person who tries to see everything as an opportunity. I tested the waters and loved it, but I didn't want to put myself in a position of starting a program that was unaffordable."

So Simmons decided to do some research.

"On a whim, I went online and looked to see what kind

of MBA programs were out there," she recalled. She found Fitchburg State's program and filled out an online form in search of information. A very positive customer service experience followed. "The representative was phenomenal, above and beyond anything I had ever imagined. She had me, and I am a hard sell."

Simmons was intrigued by Fitchburg State's course offerings, its accelerated pace and asynchronous format. She started the program in 2021.

"I really loved this program," she said. "I got a tremendous amount out of it. I loved the experience, everything about the program worked for me. The professors were extremely accessible."

That's not to say it was an easy journey. Simmons navigated personal health crises in the course of her studies, as well as losing loved ones and changing jobs, with the global pandemic also casting a shadow over the experience.

Simmons was not shy about reaching out to faculty members for help. "If a professor offers themselves up, I'm there," she said. "I took advantage of everything I could take advantage of."

She also collaborated closely with her classmates, organizing study sessions and discussions around some of the more challenging coursework. "It was a great group," she said. "People realized what we needed to do and were willing to help one another."

The human experiences have proved as valuable as any course material, Simmons said.

"I probably learned more about strategy, in a very tactical way, with the application in a university setting and self-organizing," she said. "By applying it in a very different setting, I proved to myself that I got it. My level of self-confidence took off in a different direction and has pushed me forward."



ALL IS POSSIBLE

Mary Nankya hopes her graduate degree in computer science opens doors for women

After living in Uganda her whole life, Mary Nankya decided to expand her education and enroll in graduate school at Fitchburg State.

She first learned about Fitchburg State in 2016, from friends she had met at a Women in Technology conference in Texas. Nankya, who has a bachelor's degree in computer science from Makerere University in her native country, worked with Women in Technology in Uganda, where she taught women how to use computers in a variety of careers.

Nankya said a passion for solving community problems across industries inspired her to study computer science.

"I find it so fascinating how amazing technology advances from low level to high level, and in this industry, you have to know all levels," she said.

Nankya plans to pursue a PhD after completing her master's studies. While she pursues her degree, she is working on campus as the graduate assistant for the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness.

Investing her time and resources in a master's degree has come with challenges. She has two sons, Christian and Japheth, back home in Uganda. "Being a mom, I create time to communicate with them on video during the week, and it's a beautiful experience to be here and communicate to them still while attending school," she said.

Nankya said that her family is her motivation to work hard.

"It's a decision I had to make, and school is temporary," she said. "Before I know it, it will be done and I will be with my children again."

She said she also knows her new credentials will help jump-start her career, and looks forward to being an inspiration to other women.

"I look forward to showing other women that all of this is possible," she said, "and to participate in programs that will bring women closer, and fill that gender gap between women and men in technology."

—Caroline Lanni







WHERE OPPORTUNITY MEETS AMBITION

Dayana Carlson '99, '06 is realizing her greatest ambitions as the first Latina principal at Monty Tech

Dayana Carlson may not have anticipated the career path that she has found, but she wouldn't trade it for anything.

She has worked at the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School ("Monty Tech" to the students from the 18 cities and towns it serves) for nine years, but in fall 2022 became its first graduate, first female, and the first Latina to serve as its principal.

A first-generation college student herself, Carlson got to know Fitchburg State by taking dual enrollment courses while still a student at Monty Tech. "The teachers here saw my potential and pushed me to continue with my education," she said.

A native of Uruguay, she began her career in education as a liaison for students learning English as a second language at Leominster High School. The school had an unexpected opening for a Spanish teacher, and Carlson found herself with a new role.

As she looked to build her career in education, Carlson returned to Fitchburg State and its master's offerings. "It was affordable, it was local, and I was able to continue in my career while enhancing my resume," she said. She worked at school by day, and took her master's in counseling courses at night and during the summer. "The wonderful thing about being in the school system while I was in the graduate program was I was able to immediately apply what I was learning."

Carlson was a guidance counselor for 11 years before joining the Monty Tech administration as an assistant principal, and now its principal.

From her new office, Carlson said she enjoys time spent in classrooms and vocational areas, continually inspired and proud of the teaching and learning that takes place in her building. Carlson also enjoys opportunities for face-to-face interaction with students, from lunch duty to extracurricular events. And as an administrator she looks forward to building upon a strong network of collaboration to increase career and college opportunities for them, including encouraging them to explore the opportunities available to them at her alma mater.

"I want students to leave here prepared, with as many doors open to them as possible. I want them to be both career- and college-ready," she said. "When I was a guidance counselor, if I was talking to students about nursing, I'd tell them we have one of the greatest nursing schools in our backyard. Providing those opportunities and identifying those pathways is so important."

CLASS NOTES

This Class Notes section includes news that was received between March 2, and October 8, 2022. Because of the nature of a bi-annual publication and the volume of notes we receive, you should expect to see your note about six months after you submit your information.

1970S

CATHERINE E. ROLLINS '79 was named director of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Boston/New England. Rollins was the manager of local public policy at the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS and prior to that, she was the director of operations and special projects at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

1980S



DEBORAH A. (LASEK) REIDY '82, retired from teaching on June 1, concluding a 40-year career in elementary education. Upon graduation from Fitchburg State, she began her career at Saint Mary's School in Ware. She then taught in the Dartmouth school system until moving to Florida in 1989. For the last 33 years, she taught at four different schools in the Pasco County School district in Tampa Bay area of Florida.



SHAUN BRENNAN '85 and **MIKE BARLOW '85** host an annual get together in early December in Boston to renew

long time friendships. This past year they met at the Beacon Hill Tavern in Boston and the following folks that graduated from Fitchburg State in the mid-1980s joined in the fun (from left): Bill Farrington, Steve Canova, Chris Coutreau, Dana Nemes, Mike Sergio, Bob Collins, John Reddy, Mike Barlow, Tim Fitzgibbons, John Morgan, Kathy Grady, Paul Morrison, Maureen Grady Canova, Paul Johnson.

MARY-FRANCES TINTLE '87, '01 has been appointed the new principal of Hellenic American Academy in Lowell.



CANDACE (CANDY) RACE '88 has been elected to the Board of Directors at Rollstone Bank & Trust.



JACK SHERMAN '88 received his trophy for Best Sound Design—Short Film "Beautiful Violence" at the Seoul, South Korea International Monthly Art Film Festival (April 2022).



MICHELE (THOMAS) SOMMERS '89, '95, '01, published her children's book, *The Adventure of Dharma Doxie*. Thomas-Sommers and Dharma made many new friends when they visited young readers at the Fitchburg Public Library and the South Street Elementary School.

PATRICIA A. SHERRILL '89 was appointed deputy chief of administration with the Canton Police Department.

1990S



JANE M. NIKANDER '91, has been named the new interim director of the Wilton Public/Gregg Free Library.



MICHELLE J. TYNAN '92 has been appointed Assistant Principal at Elmwood School in Hopkinton.

ANTHONY "TONY" CROWLEY '95, '21 has been promoted to staff product owner, a manager level position with the transportation IT group at TJX Companies. Crowley has been with the company for 17 years.



Fitchburg Public School educator **KRENLLY RODRIGUEZ '95, '03**, was honored on Oct. 5 as a "Latino Leader in Education" at the State of Latino Education event at the State House. Rodriguez is a counselor at Memorial Middle School in Fitchburg.

DAVID A. ANWAR '98 joined the basketball coaching staff for Mississippi State.



TRIPLE FALCON TONYA J. JARRETT '99, '05, '18, made history as the first female leader at Fitchburg High School, serving as interim principal for the 2022-23 school year.

2000S



DAYANA CARLSON '00, '06 was named the new principal at Monty Tech in June.

KEVIN F. TAVARES '00, was appointed as the new principal of Old Hammondtown School in Mattapoisett.

RICHARD E. SIMONEAU '01, joined the ConVal School District in Peterborough, N.H. as the assistant principal at ConVal High School.

THOMAS W. HIGGINS '06, '13, was named the new principal for the Nourse Elementary School in Norton.

2010s



JOSHUA M. ROMANO '10, '14, was appointed principal of Leominster High. In the military, LTC Romano just completed three years as commander of 1st Battalion, 101st Regional Training Institute, running courses for drone pilots, medics, truck drivers, and new commanders. Romano also teaches leadership classes for officer candidates and is now a Deputy Brigade Commander.

ERIC P. GOBIEL '13, was hired by Assumption University as director of athletics.

JOSEPH P. FLANAGAN '14, until recently the assistant director of student development at Fitchburg State, transitioned to the post of case manager in its division of student affairs in August. Flanagan has been with the university for four years.

TRACEY (BETTS) SAREFIELD '15 recently transitioned from the Coordinator of Study Abroad to Academic Advisor at Mount Wachusett Community College.



SKARLET M. RAMIREZ '16 was crowned Miss Massachusetts USA 2022 and represented Massachusetts at the 2022 Miss USA pageant.



THEODORE DEMOSTHENES '16 was honored at the 2022 Black Excellence on the Hill virtual event in February, hosted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus to commemorate Black community leaders who have made an outstanding commitment to their communities.

AMY L. FINI '17, is licensed mental health counselor at Thriveworks Leominster.



SGT. DEREK NIKANDER '17, was promoted to a supervisory role in the modular compound of Worcester County jail.

ANDREW LEBLANC '18, has been promoted to assistant vice president information security officer of Leominster Credit Union (LCU). Leblanc joined LCU in April 2018 as its IT risk manager.

TYLER J. SCIPIONE '18, was hired as the assistant visit center coordinator at Clark University. Prior to joining Clark University, Scipione served Fitchburg State for seven years. He started as a lead building manager for four years, before interning as an operations assistant.

CAYLYNN A. PAQUETTE '19, '21, a senior behavior technician at Shapiro Educational & Behavior Consultants, LLC., started working as QBS Safety-Care Trainer in March 2022. Paquette has been with the company for more than four years.

HAILEY R. O'BRIEN '19 was hired by Assumption University as the new resident director. O'Brien has more than three years of experience working in higher education.

MICHAEL J. TESTA '19 has been appointed the new CEO of Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care in Lakewood, N.Y.

SAMANTHA R. WOODMAN '19 recently started teaching as a special education teaching assistant for the Essex Elementary School.

BRIAN F. MORIARTY '20 was hired by the Hanover Insurance Group as a senior financial analyst. Moriarty brings over seven years of experience as a financial analyst at Baystate Health.

FAGAN R. FORHAN '20 was promoted to dean of K-12 partnerships and civic engagement at Mount Wachusett Community College. Prior to her promotion, Forhan was the assistant dean and was also director of experiential learning opportunities. She has been with the college for over six years.

KARILYN MASTERS '20 was promoted from operations manager of radiology and procedural services to senior manager at Boston Medical Center. Masters has been at the center for over six years, starting as an intern in 2016.



NICHOLAS J. BRYANT '20, recently joined the Pittsfield Police Department as a patrol officer following a six-month stint at the police academy.

SUSAN P. FOLEY '20 was promoted to academic administrator III for the Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology Department at UMass Chan Medical School.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

To place a Class Note, Celebration, Introduction, or In Memoriam in *Contact*, please visit <https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/alumni/resources/alumni-updates-and-requests-form> and fill out the form online. Contact reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Notes can also be mailed to *Contact* magazine, Fitchburg State University, 160 Pearl Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS
Photos should be at least 3.5 inches wide and have a resolution of at least 300 dpi. If you mail a glossy print to us, please make sure to include your contact information and the names of any people in the photo.

Foley has 13 years of experience at the medical school, working her way up from an administrative assistant to an administrative manager.

VANESSA C. PRESSAT '20, '21 joined Alira Health as a senior proposal manager.

ZACHARY A. TATRO '20 was hired by the TJX Companies, Inc. as a human resources business partner. Previously, Tatro worked for the city of Worcester and Venture Community Services.

ZEDDIE E. EISENHAURE '20, '22, former coordinator of Greek Life and FAB at Fitchburg State, started at AMC Networks as the office production assistant.

BRENA (PARRY) ESPINOSA '21, an MRI technologist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) was recently promoted to technical manager. Espinosa has been with the hospital for more than eight years, starting in 2014 as a nuclear medicine technologist II. Prior to working at MGH, she worked at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Cambridge Health Alliance, and St. Peter's Health Partners.

CHRISTIAN T. ORLANDO '21 was named the director of intramural sports for Boston Public Schools. Orlando is the girls' soccer coach and has been a teacher and substitute for the public schools since 2018.

LESLIE P. TKACZEK '21 joined Commonwealth Care Alliance as the clinical manager, bringing with her over 11 years of managerial experience in the healthcare field.

HEAVEN'LEIGH K. DANIEL '22 was hired by Caribbean Integration Community Development, Boston as its new communication specialist just days after commencement. Previously, Daniel was the creative director at Grizz Gang Forever Studios and an intern at Northern Light Productions.

JACOB A. DRINKWATER '22 was recently hired by the TJX Companies, Inc. as a software engineer. Drinkwater interned with TJX for a year before getting a permanent offer.

MARCUS PERLA '22 was hired by Lighthouse Imaging prior to graduation. Perla is currently working on designing precision equipment for cardiopulmonary endoscopy.

IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam honors alumni and current or retired employees who have passed away. Space limitations may compel us to include only career, military, and volunteer activities.



LEE DENIKE, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, of Lunenburg, on July 11, 2022. DeNike joined Fitchburg State in the 1970s where he was one of the founders of its Communications Media Department. DeNike helped create the immersive internship requirement that remains a feature of the program, and is fondly remembered by generations of graduates. DeNike retired as a full professor from Fitchburg State in 2000 after service that included years as chair of the Communications Media Department. He was later named Professor Emeritus.

ARE YOU A LEADER? JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

We are looking for passionate, service-oriented alumni willing to commit their time and expertise to serve on the Alumni Association Board! Contact alumni@fitchburgstate.edu for more information or to nominate someone. Nominations may be submitted at any time but the deadline for July 2023 consideration is March 1, 2023.

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1950S

GERALD F. LEBLANC '51, of West Hartford, Conn., on July 4, 2021.

DOROTHY A. (ROBUS) PRENDERGAST '54, of Bedford, on March 15, 2022.

IRJA E. (PALOJARVI) DALY '54, of Gardner, on December 28, 2020.

ANGELINA (LOVERRO) NELSON '55, of Athol, on Sept. 3, 2022.

VIRGINIA A. GAFFEY '55, '57, of Marshfield, on March 20, 2022.

RAYMOND BEAUREGARD '56, '60, of Campton, N.H., on Nov. 22, 2021.

ALICE "SALLY" (KINGSTON) BAUMAN '57, of Ashby, on Sept. 29, 2022.

DONALD J. BURGWINKLE '58, of Clinton, on March 20, 2022.

JOANNE M. (FOLEY) DEIGNAN '59, of Worcester, on August 5, 2022.

1960S

CLIFF J. FOURNIER '60, '64, of Orange, on April 13, 2022.

ERNEST "ERNIE" L. CARREIRO JR. '60, of West Barnstable, on April 16, 2022.

ED J. WALSH '61, '64 of Leominster, on Sept. 18, 2022.

ALICE MARY (O'CONNOR) LINDNER '62, of Falmouth, on March 23, 2022.

PETER R. VENNARD '62, of Chelmsford, on April 12, 2022.

ELINORE R. WEINER '63, of Venice, Fla., on June 4, 2022.

FELICE "TONY" A. D'AGOSTINO '63, of Leominster, on May 13, 2022.

MAUREEN HAYES '63, '70, of Fitchburg, on Sept. 28, 2022.

ROBERT A. O'CONNELL '63, of Fitchburg, on June 27, 2022.

ROGER C. LEBLANC '64, of Enfield, Conn., on Sept. 4, 2022.

ROLAND C. MILLER '64, of Lancaster, on Sept. 11, 2022.

ELENE L. (WIPPERMAN) TURNER '65, of West Bridgewater, on June 29, 2022.

MICHAEL SOBOL '65, '71, of Townsend, on April 16, 2022.

PAUL E. RALSTON '65, of Monson, on July 15, 2022.

FRED A. GILLIS '66, of San Clemente, Calif., on Aug. 2, 2022.

KERRY E. (COLLINS) HAUGHNEY '67, of Lynnfield, on March 7, 2022.

STEPHEN DOOLEY '67, '72, of Plainfield, Conn., on May 1, 2022.

DAVID W. SALOMAKI '68, of Brooksville, Fla., on August 26, 2022.

VERONICA M. (SWEICA) KRIEGER '68, of Clearwater, Fla., on July 15, 2021.

1970S

ERNEST H. HEBERT '70, of East Hampstead, N.H., on Sept. 11, 2022.

HILARY A. CAMPBELL '70, of Leominster, on Feb. 20, 2021

LAWRENCE F. LAFORTUNE '70, of Chiefland, Fla., on June 9, 2022.

SUE A. MAYNES '72, of Pepperell, on Jan. 27, 2022.

DAVID S. HORTON '73, of North Truro and Naples, Fla., on Aug. 26, 2022.

LEA E. GOFF '73, '78, of Winchendon, on Feb. 2, 2021.

ANNE L. (NIEMI) QUIMBY '74, of West Townsend, on June 30, 2022.

DR. JON D. GOGUEN '74, of Holden, on July 26, 2022.

DIANE M. (HESKE) KILLEEN '75, '90, of Chelmsford, on Dec. 21, 2021.

IRENE M. MOODY '75, of Shelburne, on June 21, 2021

RAYMOND F. SCANLON '75, of Bradford, on Oct. 21, 2021.

LOUISE M. FOSBERG '76, '82, of Estero, Fla., on May 16, 2017.

PAULA C. SMITH '76, of Rindge, N.H., on March 26, 2022.

SUSAN C. (CARPENTER) CURCIO '76, of Chatham, on August 21, 2022.

CHRISTINE A. (SEGUIN) BOURNE '77, of Fitchburg, on July 6, 2022.

DIANE M. (PATS) MORROW '78, of Webster, on Aug. 28, 2022.

DOROTHY ROSE (BARLOW) SCANLON '78, of Peterborough, N.H., on May 29, 2022.

ROBERT J. FERREIRA '78, of Nashua, N.H., on June 14, 2022.

LOIS E. DOSKOCIL '79, of Acton, on June 6, 2022.

1980S

JOHN S. RATTO '80, of Needham, on Oct. 12, 2021.

RONALD B. PROGEN '80, of Conway, S.C., on July 21, 2021.

JOHN J. MOLLIKA '81, of South Pittsburg TN, on April 27, 2022.

ROBERT E. STRUTHERS '81, of East Falmouth, on May 24, 2022.

GLENDA L. MALLEY '82, of Leominster, on June 14, 2022.

JAMES H. BURNS '83, of Leominster, on May 9, 2022.

THOMAS A. PASCARELLA '83, of North Andover, on March 29, 2022.

DAVID G. WYMAN '84, of Templeton, on August 12, 2022.

GRETNA R. NIEMI '84, of New Ipswich, N.H., on May 30, 2022.

NATALIE M. PEREIRA '84, of Templeton, on March 23, 2022.

THOMAS A. RINGENWALD '85, of Amherst, N.H., on August 23, 2022.

NANCY A. PELLAND '88, of Marstons Mills, on June 22, 2022.

1990S

DANIEL P. ROUSSEAU '90, of Peterborough, N.H., on Aug. 27, 2022.

ROBERT V. STOICO '90, of Portland, Ore., on March 24, 2022.

MICHAEL P. IPPOLITO '91, of Tewksbury, on Sept. 26, 2022.

MICHELLE V. DICKENS-WEIL '95, of Ashland, on Dec. 31, 2021.

JEFFREY P. STEPHENS '96, of Fitchburg, on Aug. 11, 2022.

KATHLEEN S. DWYER '98, of Newport, R.I., on Sept. 5, 2022.

MARY S. (GOSSELIN) SANDERSON '98, of Plymouth, on May 2, 2021.

ANDREW M. MCCRILLIS '99, of East Brookfield, on June 30, 2022.

PATRICIA G. BOLOGNA '99, of Plymouth and Hingham, on Sept. 28, 2022.

2000S

NEAL V. EKSTROM '00, of Orleans, on June 20, 2022.

KYLE G. FISKE '01, of Royalston, on July 4, 2022.

SUSAN M. HUI '03, of Gardner, on June 2, 2022.

CLYDE G. LOWER '07, of Fitchburg, on June 3, 2022.

2010S

JIM A. FOLTZ '10, of Columbia, Mo., on July 7, 2022.

JULIE G. MCNALLY '11, '13, on Sept. 2, 2022.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the summer 2022 issue of *Contact*, because of a clerical error, we mistakenly included alumna **JEANNETTE A. (FOUGERE) PICCICUTO '69** among our deceased graduates. We regret the error and any distress it caused her family and friends.

ALUMNI EVENTS

FALCONS ON CAPE COD

Our Falcons had a wonderful time at this year's Cape Cod events. On Aug. 20, courtesy of Bob '72, '75 and Cathey (Weisse) '74 Portrie, we were treated to a private showing of the Donald Stoltenberg exhibit at the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Dennis. On Aug. 21, we set sail on Lobster Roll Cruises out of Sesuit Harbor (Dennis). Attendees enjoyed a 2-hour cruise in Cape Cod Bay, a delicious dinner and even a few peeks of sun. Our final stop was Cape Cod Beer in Hyannis on Aug. 22. Alumni enjoyed a variety of craft beers and tried some of the amazing food from J.P.'s Twisted BBQ.



FALCONS IN BOSTON

On April 22, our Falcons gathered at The Greatest Bar in Boston, owned by alumnus Bill Fairweather '85, for networking and to hear campus updates. This was our first in-person Boston Alumni Group gathering since before the pandemic and we all enjoyed being able to interact face to face.



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