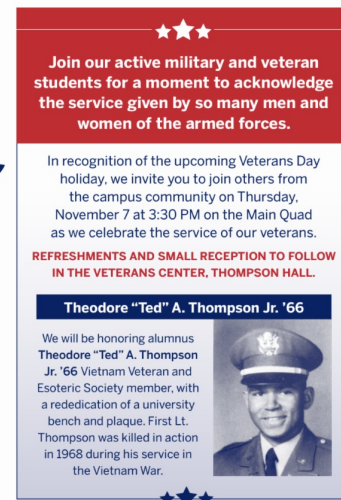


Fitchburg State University Today

Recognizing Service

The university will honor active military and veteran students with a program at **3:30 p.m. Thursday** on the main quad.

The program, which will be followed by a reception in the Veterans Center in Thompson Hall, will include a recognition of alumnus Theodore "Ted" A. Thompson Jr. '66, who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968.



Inaugural cohort of Presidential Fellows and Ambassadors

President Hodge recently announced the names of the inaugural cohort of Presidential Fellows and Presidential Ambassadors for the 2024-25 academic year. These members of the campus community will serve as special advisers to the president and cabinet, and will also perform service projects during the coming year.

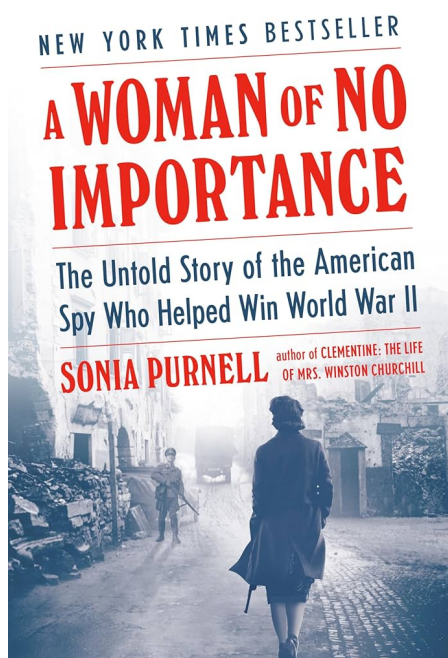
The inaugural Presidential Fellows include:

- Professor Christine Dee, Economics, History and Political Science (Senior Fellow)
- Professor Laura Garofoli, Psychological Science (Senior Fellow)
- Professor Kisha Tracy, English Studies (Senior Fellow)
- Professor David Weiss, Behavioral Sciences (Senior Fellow)
- Assistant Professor Jescah Apamo-Gannon, Education (Fellow)
- Associate Professor Katharine Covino, English Studies (Fellow)
- Assistant Professor Dustin Halterman, Education (Fellow)
- Associate Professor Lindsay Parisi, Exercise and Sports Science (Fellow)
- Professor Daniel Welsh, Biology (Fellow)

The inaugural cohort of student Presidential Ambassadors includes:

- Julia Arena, Exercise and Sports Science
- Victoria Axelson, Biology
- Lucas Boudreau, Business Administration, Information Systems Management
- Michael Burns, History
- Joshua Cronin, Communications Media
- Matthew Gill, English, Secondary Education
- Danna Isabela Gomez, International Student (Bogata, Colombia), MBA
- Selma Martey, Public Health
- Amari Rogers, Biology

Additional information about the projects engaged in by the fellows and ambassadors will be shared with the campus soon.



Community Read recognizes veterans with reading of wartime letters

The university's [Community Read](#) of "A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II" continues this week.

There will be a book discussion at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday** at the Leominster Public Library, 30 West St. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Leominster Public Library, will be facilitated by the library's local history and genealogy librarian Diane Sanabria. No registration required, and the event is free and open to the public.

Next, the public is invited to "Writing Home to Fitchburg: A Reading of WWII Service Members' Letters" at **3:30 p.m. Thursday** at the Fitchburg Historical Society, 781 Main St.

[Community Read 2024-25](#)

Speakers Series continues today

The university's Speakers Series continues **today at 12:30 p.m.** with a virtual talk by **Julie Pierce** (Business Administration) on "Municipal Barriers to Entrepreneurship." Join the discussion [online](#).



CDI hosts post-election dialogue Wednesday

The [Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness](#) will hold a post-election dialogue at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday** in Hammond G01.

Light refreshments and drinks will be served. All participants are asked to be respectful and mindful of others who attend the event. No disrespect or hate language will be tolerated.

TRIO SSS celebrates National First Gen Day on Nov. 7

The staff and participants of the TRIO SSS, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math and Science programs invite campus community members to gather at **3:30 Thursday** in the Falcon Hub to celebrate the achievements of all aspiring, current, and graduated First Generation College students at Fitchburg State.

The event will include a welcome from the TRIO directors, followed by treats and cider and concluding with first-generation bingo at 4 p.m.



Research Roundtable begins on Tuesday, Nov. 12

The university's office of [Institutional Research and Planning](#) will launch its new Research Roundtable at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 in SCI 314.

Following the first meeting on Tuesday, the roundtable will meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m. During meetings, attendees will discuss selected research papers and share insights relevant to our campus community. Whether you're a

seasoned researcher or simply curious about the latest trends in education and data analytics, we welcome all perspectives and backgrounds.

The program will launch with a discussion of an article about improving retention through a belonging intervention at a broad-access Hispanic-Serving Institution. Guests are also encouraged to suggest articles or topics for exploration in future sessions.

Those interested in joining, or who have questions, should email Associate Director of Institutional Research and Planning [Becca Buonoco](#). Drop-ins are also welcome.

Mathematics Department hosts alumni panel talk

The Mathematics Department recently held an alumni panel that included Jared Weed '13, a software validation engineer at Raytheon; Dani Chase '24, a Finance Senior Associate at State Street; Hannah Vella '16, a mathematics teacher and Department Chair at Groton-Dunstable High School, and Mark Maggio, director at Willis Towers Watson. The panel gave their backgrounds both personal and academic, and told their "Mathematics Story," of how they ended up being in mathematics. Additionally, the panel took questions from the audience of mathematics majors, mathematics students and faculty. Pictured, from left, are Jared Week, Mark Maggio, Hannah Vella, Dani Chase.



Keep up with campus happenings on the Burg Blog

Follow the [Burg Blog](#) for timely updates of campus life.

Among the recent articles and slideshows, see scenes



advanced [stage light design](#).

[Burg Blog](#)

from the [Golden Pumpkin Halloween](#) costume contest; the Fitchburg Indian Student Association's [celebration of Diwali](#); the music [faculty recital](#) in Kent Recital Hall; an information session for students interested in [law school](#); views of the admissions [open house](#) on Oct. 26; and academic scenes including [life science for educators](#), [ceramics](#), [physical chemistry](#), and

Cultural Events

Theater production explores prejudice

A thriller about prejudice and its dark manifestations is the fall theater production from the Communications Media Department. "American Underground," written by Brent Askari and directed by university Professor Kelly Morgan, will be staged in November at the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Admission is free and open to the public.

In "American Underground," playwright Brent Askari shines a spotlight on America's history of constructing a societal Other. Just like the Irish, Italians, Jewish, Japanese and other waves of immigration before them; Muslims in Askari's fictional, near-future America face persecution on a widespread, deadlier scale.

The play follows Jeff and his family as their ethics and morals are put on trial when they decide to shelter Sherri, a Muslim-American hiding from the Government. Will freedom ring at the end of the story or will the more vulnerable members of our society become just another statistic?

"American Underground" is presented by Fitchburg State University's Communications Media Department in association with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Fitchburg. There will be an audience discussion following the debut performance on **Wednesday, Nov. 13**, with Furqan Mehmud of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

"This play is about Islam and it gives us an opportunity to combat Islamophobia," Mehmud said. "Hopefully it will make people aware of Islam and lead them to ask questions to combat the misinformation out there."



Fitchburg State University's
Communications Media Department
in association with
The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Fitchburg, MA
presents



Written by
Brent Askari

Directed by
Kelly Morgan

AMERICAN UNDERGROUND

NOV 13 - 17 and NOV 20-23, 2024 at 7 PM
NOV 17 and 24, 2024 at 2 PM
WALLACE THEATER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
MCKAY COMPLEX
67 RINDGE ROAD, ENTRANCE B
FITCHBURG, MA 01420

Playwright Brent Askari's "American Underground" takes place in "the not-so-distant future." This riveting thriller takes us inside a stark vision of an unapologetic America.

The production is being mounted with two full casts, composed of current Fitchburg State students as well as alumni, who will take the stage on alternating performances.

The play will be performed at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 13; Thursday, Nov. 14; Friday, Nov. 15; Wednesday, Nov. 20; Thursday, Nov. 21; Friday, Nov. 22; and Saturday, Nov. 23.** There will also be matinee performances at 2 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 16; Sunday, Nov. 17; and Sunday, Nov. 24.**

Faculty Notes

Associate Professor Katharine Covino (English Studies) won the American Educational Studies Association (AESA) Critics' Choice Award for her co-edited volume *The Intersections of Critical Pedagogy, Critical Literacy, and Social Justice: Toward Empowerment, Equity, and Education of Liberation*.

Established in 1968, AESA is an international society for students, teachers, researchers, and administrators who are interested in the foundations of education. The majority of AESA members are college and university professors who teach and research in the field of education with areas of interest drawn from across the liberal arts. Collectively, the organization's leaders and members share a cross-disciplinary interest in exploring issues such as minority studies, gender studies, multicultural education, democracy, as well as educational equality and equity. Dedicated to considering and reflecting on educational topics from a plurality of academic viewpoints and perspectives, the group works to identify and disseminate scholarly research and resources with educators and administrators across the globe.

The AESA Critics' Choice Book award is given to top titles in Educational Studies, as selected through multiple rounds of review by AESA award committee members. The award, shared at the annual conference in early November, indicates to readers that the books are outstanding in terms of research and scholarship and are of high interest to the field of Educational Studies.

Professor Kisha Tracy (English Studies) received the 2024 Research for Justice and Equity Award from the Disability History Association. In announcing the award, the association cited Tracy's commitment to social justice and the accessibility of knowledge and educational resources. Her academic research, public scholarship, and service emphasize the diverse range of lived experiences in medieval history. This work raises awareness about disability, race, gender, and sexuality in history, challenging white supremacists' appropriation and distortion of medieval/medieval-esque imagery in their rhetoric. For her winning project, "Medieval Heritage of the Marginalized," Tracy will design three interconnected medieval history workshops on a public digital platform dealing with disability, gender and sexuality, and race and racism. These accessible and widely available workshops will gather and adapt existing resources she has produced, create new resources such as teacher guides, incorporate visual materials, and include creative pieces to engage younger audiences.

Professor Tracy also delivered her Harrod Lecture, "Decolonizing the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages," last week in Presidents' Hall. See [images](#) from the talk on the Burg Blog.

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