

## TAKING THE PULSE OF HEALTH CARE

Alumni and students at  
the forefront of change



FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Contact

SUMMER 2017

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Emergency Prep 10
- Research & Development 16
- Prescription for the Future 20
- Faculty Notes 24

**MICHELLE McCOOL HEATLEY '17**  
advances her career with a forensic  
nursing degree (p27).







Earth and Geographic Sciences Professor Jane Huang, center, with Jacob Hogue '18, left, and Sean Beverly '18, research local water quality to determine its impact on public health. See story, page 16.

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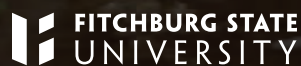
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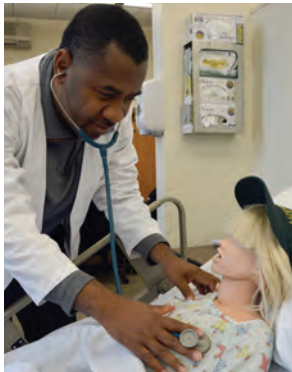


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# INSIDE

## HEALTH CARE | Feature Section



### 8 Changing Landscape of Health Care

Learn about the many ways Fitchburg State alumni, students and faculty maneuver opportunities and challenges in health care.

### 10 Emergency Prep | Mary Pat Couig '79

The alumna describes her journey from Fitchburg State to the VA, and where public health is headed.

### 13 Community Connections

Students are taking their classroom skills and applying them in real-world settings, from healthy cooking demonstrations to health screenings at homeless encampments.

### 16 Research and Development

Multidisciplinary student-faculty research projects are creating opportunities for students and contributing to the health of our city.

### 18 Looking Forward

The university is looking at new concentrations and programs surrounding healthcare, from the strength and conditioning program at Landry Arena to a possible program in environmental health. Also, international options may broaden our students' horizons.

### 20 Prescription for the Future | Patrick Jordan '85

The chief operating officer of Lahey Hospital & Medical Center looks at the challenges facing the industry.

### 23 Get Real

Philanthropy will help prepare Fitchburg State nursing students with improved simulation.

## Departments

### 2 From the President

The university is on the move. How do we continue to refresh the magazine to better reflect what you want to know and experience? Engage in the discussion.

### 3 Campus News

Highlights include recognizing our first graduate of the new dyslexia specialist concentration, a new "test optional" admissions model, and an initiative two decades ago that turned into a million dollar idea.

### 6 Commencement News

Experience the energy our undergraduates brought to the day and welcome them to our growing alumni community.

### 24 Faculty Notes

A signature faculty recognition event debuts honoring excellence in teaching, research, contributions to the graduate program, and service, plus highlighting those newly approved for tenure and promotion and paying tribute to retirees and emeriti professors.

### 26 Alumni News

Lee Maniff '14 part of Patriots dynasty  
Michelle McCool Heatley '17 earned her master's in forensic nursing this May  
Class Notes  
Alumni & Development





“AS WE  
EXPLORE  
NEW WAYS  
TO KEEP IN  
TOUCH IN  
PRINT AND  
ONLINE, WE  
INVITE YOUR  
FEEDBACK  
THROUGH  
OUR READER  
SURVEY”

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I invite you all to take a moment and read about all that is happening at your alma mater. This year marks my second full year at the university and I am amazed at how quickly the time has passed. But I am even more impressed by how much the university has accomplished. Student enrollment continues to trend upward. Graduation rates remain strong. And we've been able to do this while holding tuition and fees steady, even as others have had to raise prices..

In addition, we continue to design new educational offerings like our new concentrations in cybersecurity in computer science and the birth to grade 8 non-licensure track in the undergraduate evening early childhood education program. These initiatives and our improved efficiencies help us put quality education within reach of all students.

*Contact* is your magazine. Note that this issue has been retooled to help make the stories and photos more inviting while retaining the sections and features you value most.

It has been many years since we revisited the magazine's design and editorial approach. As we explore new ways to keep in touch in print and online, we invite your feedback through this reader survey: [www.fitchburgstate.edu/contactsurvey](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/contactsurvey). Kindly respond by September 22.

We are especially interested in your thoughts about the following:

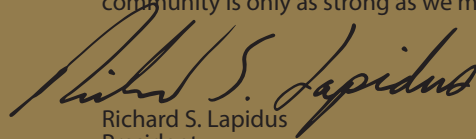
**Introducing themes.** Publications often focus on a single important and timely topic. The theme this issue is health care. Let us know what other topics we should explore. For example, let Alumni Relations know if you consider yourself an entrepreneur and have a good story to tell, because we may showcase alumni entrepreneurs next time. We will strive to keep the topics inclusive, so everyone can relate somehow.

**Look and feel.** We intentionally try to “show versus tell.” We are upping our photography standards and are experimenting with layout, fonts and color. Let us know what you think.

**News and features.** Do you feel well informed about current events at the university and ways students are achieving their goals and contributing to society? Do you feel the same school spirit and pride as when you were a student?

Let's work together to make our communications and engagement more meaningful and thought-provoking.

I also invite you to stop by and say “hello” and to participate in our many activities here on campus or near you. Homecoming is just around the corner: September 22-24. I encourage you to reach out to classmates and make it truly memorable. Remember, our community is only as strong as we make it, so please stay connected.

  
Richard S. Lapidus  
President



# TAKING THE LEED

The first phase of the now completed Hammond Hall renovation project received LEED silver certification this spring. The project joined Mara 8 and the Antonucci Science Complex in achieving the certification, recognizing campus efforts to reduce its carbon footprint through the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, and the consumption of less energy and water than buildings of comparable design and function.

The latest LEED designation comes as the university continues large-scale energy efficiency projects funded in part by the state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance. They include upgrading all campus

lighting to LED fixtures and converting individual building environmental controls to online systems that will better enable the university to track performance and make adjustments. The university's water consumption will also be reduced by replacing restroom fixtures with low-flow units.

Together with other planned improvements, the energy projects will annually reduce the university's electric use by 1.3 million kwh; save 47,000 gallons of fuel oil; cut water use by 12,300 gallons; reduce greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating 1,100 tons of carbon dioxide; and reduce overall energy expenditures by \$480,000.







### A READING SPECIALTY

This spring, Margaret Reilley, a teacher in New Jersey's Stafford Township School District, earned her master's degree, top grades, and the distinction of being the first graduate of Fitchburg State's new dyslexia specialist concentration.

From her home 260 miles away from the Massachusetts campus, Reilley tackled literacy, language disorders, assessment methods, and other related topics to earn her M.Ed. in Special Education: Guided Studies – Dyslexia Specialist. The online program launched in fall 2015 in partnership with Wilson Language Training, a nationally recognized leader in multisensory, structured language programs based on Orton-Gillingham principles of instruction.

"It was always a goal of mine to pursue a master's degree," said Reilley, a special education teacher at McKinley Avenue Elementary School in Manahawkin. "With these courses and the Wilson training, I was able to increase my knowledge about learning disabilities and how to best help all of my students."

The program is geared toward educators currently working or pursuing career opportunities including Title I or reading teacher, reading specialist, literacy coach or special education reading specialist.



### TO SERVE AND PROTECT

The first cohort of students to complete the bachelor's program of Fitchburg State's "4+1" criminal justice police concentration walked across the commencement stage in May and have begun their yearlong master's program and academy training. By next year, they will be "street ready" to work in any municipal police department in Massachusetts.

President Lapidus and MPTC Executive Director Daniel Zivkovich signed a memorandum of agreement this spring that formalized the program that launched two years ago. With the incoming first-year arrivals this fall, the program will have nearly 200 students.



### HADLEY ONE OF 29 WHO SHINE

Breanna Lyn Hadley '17, shown here with Gov. Charlie Baker, represented Fitchburg State as one of Massachusetts' "29 Who Shine" during a ceremony at the Statehouse in May, part of the state's celebration of the accomplishments of students from each of its 29 institutions of public higher education. Hadley was active in Greek Life on campus and also worked as an orientation leader, helping fellow students succeed at Fitchburg State. She graduated with honors in May with a degree in criminal justice and plans to continue her education and start a career in law enforcement. Beyond campus, she was active with the Alternative Spring Break program, raising funds and donating her time building and rehabilitating homes for those in need. Hadley was joined at the ceremony by Kelli Lundgren, staff assistant in Human Resources, whom she cited as a key influence on her collegiate success.

### SUCCESS IS AN OPTION

Starting this fall, Fitchburg State will no longer require standardized test scores as part of its admissions process.

In adopting the "test optional" model, Fitchburg State joins other institutions in acknowledging that standardized tests are often not as accurate in predicting academic success as a student's prior academic record and grade point average. Eliminating the test score requirement is also expected to increase the university's accessibility to a greater population of students, in keeping with Fitchburg State's mission and core values.

Provost/VP for Academic Affairs Alberto J.F. Cardelle said giving students the option to submit SAT or ACT scores will empower students and families in how they present themselves for admission to the university. For those students who feel their SAT scores are accurate indicators of their ability to succeed at Fitchburg State, they can choose to submit them. For other students, however, the option not to submit will be removing a perceived barrier to continuing their education.

The university will still require the tests for certain programs and for determining eligibility for merit-based financial aid.



## A MILLION DOLLAR IDEA

When Roberta Fitzmaurice Connors '63 and her husband Bill approached the university's advancement team in 1998, they were hoping to help fundraising efforts by creating a new event. "I don't know if we were the most creative people at the time," Connors said, "but we both loved to golf and we thought,

'Wouldn't it be fun to create a tournament?' Ultimately, we knew we wanted to give back to my alma mater and public higher education in general. Providing scholarship support for students in some way really resonated with us. That said, we had no idea the tournament would become what it is today."

Hosted at Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, the event celebrated its 20th anniversary July 10, with 120 participants enjoying a great day of golf. The \$85,000 raised at the event brought the tournament's 20-year total to more than \$1,050,000.

"The tournament is our signature fundraising and friend-raising event each year," said Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Christopher Hendry '91, '07. "We bring together alumni, friends, staff and the community, all to support the university. Our corporate partners have helped raise the significance of the event by choosing to support us among countless deserving organizations. At the end of the day, we all understand what it means to provide a scholarship to a deserving student. That impact, making higher education more affordable, is immensely satisfying for our donors."







# COMMENCEMENT

At the undergraduate ceremony Saturday, May 20, Mary Pat Couig '79—program manager in the Office of Nursing Services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and formerly an assistant surgeon general in the U.S. Public Health Service—reflected on her storied career and offered life lessons for the graduates (see article, page 10). Couig was presented an honorary doctorate in science at the ceremony.

Also presented with an honorary degree was Rollstone Bank & Trust President and CEO Martin F. Connors Jr., who is finishing his 10th year on the university's Board of Trustees. His tenure included three years as chairman. Under his chairmanship, the university expanded and implemented new academic programs, and made a transformative investment in its host community through the purchase of the downtown theater block, President Lapidus said.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was given to Stephen F. LaVie, who retired in June as a senior emergency preparedness specialist in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response. Before joining the NRC in 1997, he served 15 years at the Beaver Valley Power Station working on radiological consequence analyses and was one of

the first responders to the Three Mile Island incident in 1979.

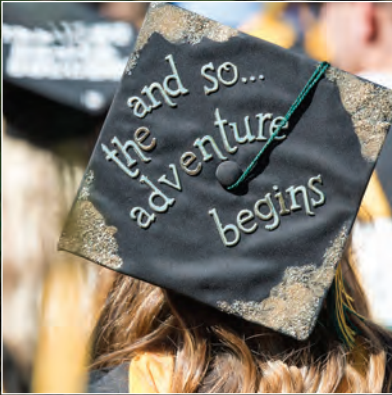
LaVie left his studies at Fitchburg State in 1969 to serve in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era. He was presented his diploma at a surprise ceremony in April at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The Graduate Student Leadership Award was presented to Joana Dos Santos at the graduate commencement ceremony. Dos Santos has lived and explored the immigrant experience since arriving in the U.S. as a teenager from her native Uruguay 15 years ago. She has been an advocate for immigration reform for years, organizing immigrants and supporters in the region.

Laura M. DeMartino delivered the valedictory address. A highly motivated scholar throughout her academic career at Fitchburg State University, DeMartino majored in English Studies with a concentration in literature and finished her studies with a near perfect grade point average.

The Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Student Leadership Award was given to Jairo M. Hernandez, who served on – and founded – numerous clubs and organizations while at Fitchburg State, as well as working as a lead tour guide. View the commencement videos at [youtube.com/FitchburgState](https://youtube.com/FitchburgState).





Ethan Vara '17 (above) celebrates his graduation in style.







# CHANGING LANDSCAPE

LEARN ABOUT WAYS FITCHBURG STATE ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FACULTY MANEUVER OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES.

#### **The first public state university in Massachusetts to offer a Nursing program**

- Leading the national and international expansion of our undergraduate and graduate online degree programs;
- Helping to move health care from hospitals to communities;
- Creating strategic partnerships with others who share our vision.

#### **Multidisciplinary approach**

- Contemporary health care delivery includes exercise and sports science, environmental health and population health.
- Students come from a variety of academic majors:
  - Business Administration, and Communications Media: survey design, data collection and analysis;
  - Earth Systems Science: environmental mapping and analysis;
  - Earth and Geographic Sciences, and General Sciences: environmental science and engineering, water quality and sediment analysis, and species health;
  - Nursing, and Exercise and Sports Science: health screenings and analysis, preventative care, and trauma care.

#### **Featured alumni**

- Mary Pat Couig '79 is an emergency management and response executive in the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.
- Patrick Jordan '85, chief operating officer (COO) of Lahey Hospital & Medical Center considers new health care delivery, business and technology models.
- Michelle McCool Heatley '17, associate chief nursing officer (ACNO) at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, leads an expanded emergency unit while raising her family and completing her online master's degree in forensic nursing.

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# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MARY PAT COUIG '79  
HAS DEDICATED HER CAREER  
TO IMPROVING THE PUBLIC HEALTH

**B**e prepared. It's one of the life lessons Mary Pat Couig shared in her keynote address as this spring's undergraduate commencement speaker, and it's a mantra that's helped her capitalize on opportunities she faced on her educational and professional journey. It's also a keen summation of her life's work.

Couig serves as one of the nation's top nurses. As program manager in the Office of Nursing Services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs she advises national leaders on public health emergency preparedness for issues like disease outbreaks or terrorism. Previously, she had a distinguished career in the U.S. Public Health Service, where she took the hard-earned wisdom and perspective of a front line nurse to the national policy level.

"It's important to me to be able to make a difference," Couig said.

She grew up in Western Massachusetts and completed her registered nurse degree at Berkshire Community College. Knowing the American Nursing Association felt the standard of preparation should be a bachelor's degree, Couig looked to advance her education to move her career forward. Like other members of her family, Couig had enjoyed rewarding experiences in public higher education, and Fitchburg State's RN to BS in Nursing fit the bill. Her final semester involved a practicum at a women's clinic in Boston where she put her classroom skills to use.

## WESTWARD

It wasn't long before Couig was in search of new challenges. "Since I'd grown up in Western Massachusetts, I really hadn't seen the world," she said. She found a post at the Indian Health Service in Arizona, which turned into a nursing service directorship at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center.

"It was quite a culture shock," she said. "At that time there weren't any classes on cultural sensitivity and how you approach people from different backgrounds." So Couig learned from her adopted community, and gained insights that would serve her for the rest of her career. "They were eager to help me learn about their culture, and there were opportunities to observe and participate in some of their cultural traditions."

As a clinician, she learned from her patients about their environment and living conditions. Her experience as a Caucasian woman in a predominantly Navajo area was also eye-opening, as Couig learned how it felt to be part of a minority population. "It was an important lesson," she said.

After several years in Arizona, Couig again found herself ready for a change. Her years in the emergency room had been challenging, but she longed for a new learning adventure. A graduate program in public health beckoned, and Couig went to Johns Hopkins School of







Hygiene and Public Health to continue her education. "That was another foundational decision for me," she said. As a member of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, Couig indulged a lifelong wish to serve her country.

Recruited by the Food and Drug Administration for a post in its Boston field office, Couig worked on projects including inspections of medical device firms, blood banks and new drugs. While in Boston she got to escort the then-director of the FDA, which led to an invitation to Washington, D.C. and another career milestone. In December 2000, she was appointed the Chief Nurse Officer for the U.S. Public Health Service, where her duties included serving as an advisor to the U.S. Surgeon General, as well as working with the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Red Cross and Veterans Administration. She was now able to support proactive public health efforts at the national level, looking at major initiatives from the unique perspective of an experienced nurse.

### PREPARED TO SUCCEED

Emergency preparedness was a major element of Couig's work, and she helped coordinate disaster response efforts for major events like the 9/11 terror attacks and the anthrax scares that followed. She developed policies and procedures that were used to better manage ice storms, forest fires and hurricanes.

Couig retired from the commissioned corps in 2006, and took some time off to spend with her family. She and her husband, Dr. Merton V. Smith II, live in Maryland and have two children. She later rejoined public service in the Office of Nursing Services at the Department of Veterans Affairs. "It was a good fit," she said, one that also inspired her to continue her education. At age 58, Couig earned her PhD. "You need to ask yourself what you want to do, and what education or skill set do you need to get there," she said, recounting the thought process that led her to pursue a doctorate. "That should be what drives you."

As program manager in the Office of Nursing Services at the Veterans Health Administration, Couig brings a seasoned perspective to efforts to improve training for registered nurses making the transition from education to practice. That includes teaching nurses to be inquisitive beyond the clinical setting. "Do patients have the support systems at home for what they need, so they're not back in the hospital in a week?" she asked. "What's the patient's environment? Do they need support from visiting nurses? Within the public health arena, there's a lot of focus on the environment."

### MOVING FORWARD

Couig said health care practitioners need to be mindful of these environmental factors in order to be effective. Issues like access to healthy food and clean water are central to public health, she said, and institutions that train medical professionals need to pay attention to them.

"I would expect there to be more of a focus on looking at health as a continuum," she said. "We need to make sure there's a connection between the hospital and the community to insure care and services they need are available. What does the community want, and what information does the community need to make those decisions? So much of health care is focused on sick care, and not on prevention."

That is a message that has already been heard at Fitchburg State, and the pages that follow illustrate how the university is at the forefront of efforts to train leaders in health care.





# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## NURSING STUDENTS ARE EXPLORING PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES WHERE THEY ARISE

Community Health has long been a foundational course for Fitchburg State nursing students, and Professor Deborah Benes is expanding a project-based approach to the class with a focus on reflecting the region's changing needs.

"All communities are different," she said. "You need to learn your community's needs and address them from a healthcare perspective."

The class projects proved eye-opening for the students.

### INTO THE FIELD

A recent project Fitchburg State nursing students pursued was working with the local homeless. Benes wanted the students to get a close-up look at what that population experiences, so she contacted Our Father's House, a homeless shelter in Fitchburg.

Daphnely Diaz '17 was among the students who went into the field to observe homeless encampments and make health assessments of those living there. "We didn't know what to expect," she said.

Fitchburg State students explore a homeless camp in the city. (Photo by Ashley Green '12, courtesy of the Sentinel & Enterprise)



While many of the camps the students visited weren't occupied, they were still given valuable insights into the quality of life for their inhabitants. They were struck by incredible resourcefulness, demonstrated by shelters fashioned from cast-off tarps and blankets.

"It was mind-blowing to see human survival instincts," said Diaz.

### SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

Adam Taylor '17 was similarly impressed, not only by the creativity of the improvised shelters, but also the dedication of the outreach workers who try to help the homeless population. The encampments he visited were just off the beaten path; closer than most people probably realize.

"It's a good experience for someone who has no idea what the homeless are doing to survive," Taylor said.

Taylor was older than many of his peers in the program, informed by life experiences shaped during his time in the U.S. Marine Corps. He had completed a degree in exercise physiology and was working as an insurance claims adjuster when terrorists struck the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001. "I was in the recruiter's office two days later," he said.

After four years of honorable service, Taylor returned to his career. But as the years went on he found his passions weren't fulfilled. "I'd always had an interest in human anatomy and biology," he said, and his mother and best friend were both nurses. He decided to go back to school.

In addition to visiting the homeless, Taylor's educational training included a placement at the Veterans Homestead in Fitchburg as part of a program on chronic health. The center is a sober living home for veterans in recovery from substance abuse related issues.

Taylor said he appreciated playing a part in caring for those who had served their country. Beyond the homestead, he had also completed a placement at a Veterans Administration facility in West Roxbury. "These are my heroes," said Taylor, who hopes to continue caring for veterans in his career. "They're very deserving. It's gratifying as a student and a future nurse to be appreciated by the people you're trying to care for."

### LIVING HEALTHY

Farah Destine's '17 studies took her to a community center in Fitchburg that serves a needy and diverse population.

Destine is nearing the end of her formal schooling – she will graduate in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing – but already has years of experience in health care.

She left her native Haiti 11 years ago in search of new opportunities and settled in the Boston area, where she had relatives in the city's large Haitian community. Destine found work as a home health aide and said the direct contact with patients was very fulfilling.

"It gives you a sense of what's going on in the community," she said, describing a perspective that would continue to

inform her studies. "Nursing is all about education."

After completing her LPN degree, she enrolled in Fitchburg State's LPN to BS in Nursing program four years ago. It's been hard work, she said, maintaining a rigorous course schedule while working and raising a young family. "Each of us has challenges," she said, "but it's knowing a better life is waiting for you with your degree."

Through Benes' community nursing class, Destine went to a social service agency in Fitchburg and worked with the local population on projects related to healthy eating. The center also includes a food pantry. "It was a very nice experience," she said. "Facing something you haven't done before sounds like a lot, but I enjoyed sharing the conversations."

The population she visited experiences high rates of hypertension, diabetes and several other conditions that can be managed through changes in behavior.

With other students, Destine demonstrated how to prepare healthy meals. She looked into her own cultural traditions for recipes, and shared a Haitian legume dish featuring eggplant, carrots, spinach, green beans, cabbage and peppers. "They loved it," she said.

Fedner Edouard '17 also emigrated from Haiti to Massachusetts, starting a new life and career after working as a statistician in his native land. He similarly enjoyed sharing his cultural heritage and nursing expertise with the local residents.

"They were very interested because every time they came to the food pantry, they had questions," Edouard said. "We were able to give them the exact responses they needed."

Edouard works at a group home when not studying—he expects to graduate in December—and finds his work satisfying even as he balances work, school and being a father of three. "With motivation, everything comes," he said. "You feel good when you take care of people who can't care for themselves."

"As nurses, you think your job will always be at the bedside," added Farah. "But you can be a nurse anywhere."

### MEETING PATIENTS WHERE THEY ARE

The project-based approach to community nursing will continue this fall. Diaz, who graduated in May, said it carries valuable lessons.

"Your ZIP code can determine your life span; you can be set up for failure from the beginning," she said. If the evidence points to a community-wide problem such as obesity or diabetes, Diaz said, then a solution needs to be devised at the broadest level. "Target people before they develop a problem. If you're already in the hospital, it's like putting a Band-Aid on the problem. It's not really fixing it."

Professor Nancy Duphily, chair of the Nursing Department, said the approach pays dividends and credits the creativity of her department's faculty in creating these opportunities for students. "It helps students see the connection between theory and practice," she said. "They're thinking and responding like nurses."





Farah Destine '17 tests her skills in one of Fitchburg State's nursing laboratories.



# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

THIS SUMMER, FITCHBURG STATE STUDENTS ARE WORKING AS RESEARCHERS WITH UNIVERSITY FACULTY ON PROJECTS DESIGNED TO ASSESS AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THEIR HOST COMMUNITY.





From the banks of the Nashua River to the city's parks, students are venturing beyond the campus this summer to work on projects that will promote the public health and may be harbingers of future

interdisciplinary efforts at the university. The paid research projects are funded by a three-year, \$240,000 grant from the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, one of the largest grants Fitchburg State has ever received.

"We'll be getting a better feel of activity behaviors of Fitchburg residents, and seeing how the activity patterns affect health outcomes," said Danielle Wigmore, chairman of the Exercise and Sports Science Department. "The goal in years two and three of the project is to take what we've learned and link it to a campaign."

Students and faculty from the Business Administration, Earth and Geographic Sciences, Communications Media and Exercise and Sports Science departments are exploring the relationship between health and physical activity, including issues of access and physical activity habits, and how those intersect with the healthcare economics for local businesses. The work will include surveys, health screenings and mapping subjects and resources.

The second project brings together the Environmental and Earth Sciences and Biology and Chemistry departments to analyze

the health and community impact of the Nashua River, comparing historical data and current perceptions.

Together, the projects support the university's growing research culture while providing unique opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate across disciplines.



Professor Elizabeth Gordon, center, exploring the Nashua River with students Tallie Foster '19 and Kaitlin Berube '19.



# LOOKING FORWARD

NEW PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS ARE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS AND ABROAD







Professor Danielle Wigmore, chair of the Exercise and Sports Science Department, says the new strength and conditioning concentration will be the first of its kind in Massachusetts.

The Carmelita Landry Arena at the Wallace Civic Center is in the midst of a multimillion-dollar renovation that will let Fitchburg State grow and strengthen its academic programs while creating recreational opportunities for our host city.

Formerly an ice rink, Landry will soon be home to the university's new state-of-the-art strength and conditioning



center for students in Exercise and Sports Science. The department is developing a new program that is scheduled to go through approval this fall with courses slated to launch in January to coincide with Landry's reopening. Exercise and Sports Science Chairwoman Danielle Wigmore called the proposed new strength and conditioning concentration a logical step forward for the growing department.

"We will be the first public institution in Massachusetts to offer this program," she said. "Our students will get to do two years of practicum there."

Beyond the strength and conditioning facility, Landry will have a multi-purpose, multi-season turf field. The field will be used for Falcon athletic practices and will also be open to the public when not in use by the university.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alberto J.F. Cardelle said the university is also exploring a new concentration in environmental and public health. Just as the game design program bridges the disciplines of communications, computer science and English studies, the proposed new concentration will take a wide view of the topic.

"The Office of Academic Affairs is in the process of developing a new concentration that will harness our faculty's expertise in health care, environmental science and engineering to develop a multi-disciplinary degree program," Cardelle said. "The new concentration will allow students to have other avenues to enter the growing area of population-based health care delivery."

Jane Huang, a professor in the Earth and Geographic Sciences Department, said the program reflects evolved thinking on public health. "The air we breathe, the water we drink, our access to healthy food—all of these are connected," she said.

Elizabeth Gordon, chair of the Earth and Geographic Sciences Department, said the new program would combine the university's expertise—and student interest in—a variety of STEM fields and disciplines—from nursing, biology and chemistry to exercise and sports science and earth science.

### BEYOND BORDERS

Cardelle was accompanied by several faculty members this spring on a trip to Costa Rica to explore potential partnership opportunities. The discussions led to next spring's planned Nursing Department global health program that will be offered at the Universidad Iberoamericana in San Jose.

"We hope that this program will be the first of a long-term relationship," Cardelle said. "We want to expand the program to other disciplines including education, biology, chemistry and psychology."

Utilizing faculty contacts, the Nursing Department is exploring exchange programs in Ghana, with a course scheduled for summer 2018.



# PRESCRIPTION FOR THE FUTURE

PATRICK JORDAN '85, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
AT LAHEY HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

While his career in the healthcare industry goes back 25 years, it was the farthest thing from Patrick Jordan's mind when he enrolled at Fitchburg State. The first member of his family to go to college, Jordan was looking for a way to help pay for his education and enrolled in the college's ROTC program. "It made all the difference in the world," he said, opening doors of opportunity and experience. He cultivated his leadership skills in the U.S. Army and after completing his service was hired in materials management at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1992, starting a successful career in the healthcare field that included several years at Newton-Wellesley Hospital before joining the Lahey team in 2014. We asked him to discuss the ongoing evolution of our healthcare system.

## **What do you see as the role of higher education in the future of health care? Should doctors and nurses consider getting their MBAs?**

There are several forces impacting the future of healthcare administrators. First, mergers and consolidation are reducing the total number of administrative positions, especially at the senior level. This is offset by a significant number of aging executives that are, or soon will be, retiring. Further complicating matters is a growing trend towards physician and nursing trained executives entering the field. I believe an MBA or other advanced degree, along with a resume that speaks to results, will enable candidates to differentiate themselves. The industry is undergoing massive change, so this will allow individuals who can manage change to excel personally and make a difference in the way that health care is managed in this country.

## **How does technology innovation improve health care and expand access?**

The requirements of the meaningful use provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is having a profound effect on the healthcare field. The deployment of electronic health records has had a huge impact on providers and their

everyday work effort, and it is not always making it better. The task overload is adding to the growing problem of provider burnout. These systems are expensive and are adding to the financial hardships of provider organizations that are facing multiple negative impacts on their ability to be financially sustainable. That being said, these systems are resulting in safer and higher quality care. Further, as we transition more broadly from fee for service to population health, these systems are critical to manage the healthcare value proposition. Much work is still required to harness the power of these systems and turn data into actionable information that changes healthcare practice, leading to better outcomes. Finally, the explosion in pharma and biotechnology is positively impacting new patients' lives every day. However, it comes at a great cost to our society that is struggling to pay for its healthcare costs already.

## **How are hospital and medical center business models changing to better control health care costs?**

Although we are still largely being reimbursed on a fee for service basis, increasingly provider organizations are being reimbursed on value—quality, service and total medical expense. This is really a shift in the business model, which we all know can be fraught with hazard. Negotiating this tightrope will require careful execution, innovation and new models of care delivery.

## **What do you see on the horizon for health care policy shifts at the national and state levels?**

There will continue to be significant downward pressure on healthcare costs and spending. We will see more mergers and acquisitions as organizations attempt to gain scale and leverage. Weaker organizations will fail. Those that survive—the vast majority—will have innovated and adapted, and patients, communities and payers will feel the benefit. The bottom line is, hold on to your hat.











# GET REAL

MODERN SIM LABS AND HEALTH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REPRESENT A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR REDUCING STUDENT LEARNING CURVES AND IMPROVING CARE WHILE BOOSTING STUDENT HIRING AND CAREER POTENTIAL.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The undergraduate nursing program has grown from 138 students directly involved in skills training in 2008 to 238 today.

As the first public state university in Massachusetts to offer a Nursing program, Fitchburg State's strong reputation, dedicated faculty and rigorous educational programs are receiving both national and international recognition. Innovative, quality health care is always at the heart of what we do. Efforts to remain contemporary and competitive are costly, however.

In the past, it was standard for nursing students to practice nursing skills like injections using an orange or injection pad. Nursing practicums currently involve students working in clinical settings with patients under direct professional supervision. The process can be complex and expensive to coordinate, though, with multiple nursing programs vying for clinical sites.

Today, state-of-the-art "simulation" learning labs recreate hospital settings and situations on college campuses by promoting real work skills training and experience. This approach empowers students' knowledge application and decision-making.

"I always talk about aeronautics when explaining the benefits of incorporating simulation into the nursing curriculum," said Fitchburg State Lab and Simulation Coordinator Carol (Hogan) McKew '79. "Pilots are trained to land a plane successfully in an emergency because they have practiced many, many hours first in a simulation lab. Failures made in a simulated environment help prepare you to be successful for the real thing. Why should nursing be any different?"

Some "sim labs" can be quite sophisticated. Multiple hospital rooms, exam rooms, ICU, or birthing suites are re-created down to exact details. Intravenous pumps, oxygen, electronic monitors, and crash carts add to the reality. Computerized "manikins" representing a range of ages, from newborn to adult, not only speak, but also exhibit physical signs and symptoms. They imitate human features and responses, such as vital signs, pupillary response, respiratory distress and bleeding. When students scan in medications using an automated medication administration system, the manikins respond as real people might with blood pressure changes or convulsions. The students learn by doing; instructors assess and evaluate student learning through direct observation and debriefings.

Modern sim labs and health educational programs represent a new opportunity for reducing student learning curves and improving care while boosting student hiring and career potential. If supporting nursing education and health care are part of your philanthropic priorities, consider contacting Fitchburg State's Office of Advancement to discuss ways you might help.



# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

THE UNIVERSITY LAUNCHED A NEW EVENT THIS MAY TO CELEBRATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES OF OUR FACULTY

The ceremony included recognition of faculty members approved for tenure and promotions, a tribute to retirees and emeriti professors, and the following annual faculty awards: The Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching: Professor Kelly Morgan (Communications Media). The Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship: Dr. Teresa Fava Thomas (Economics, History and Political Science). Contributions to the Graduate Program: Dr. Chola Chisunka (English Studies). Service Award — *new this year*: Dr. Elizabeth Gordon (Earth and Geographic Sciences). View faculty awardees' profiles at [www.fitchburgstate.edu/2017awards](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/2017awards)



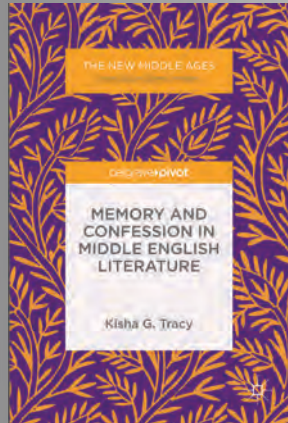
Vice President of Institutional Advancement Chris Hendry '91, '07 (left) and Professor Randy Howe (Communications Media) (right) welcomed Professor Emeritus Lee DeNike at the event.



Two professors were inducted as new emeriti faculty: Dr. Barbara Powers (Nursing), pictured with President Lapidus, and Dr. Janice Alberghene (English Studies).

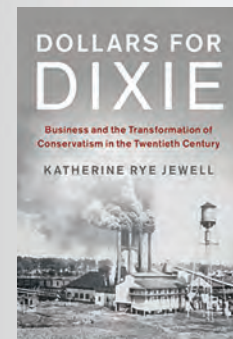


## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



**KISHA G. TRACY'S** (English Studies) book *Memory and Confession in Middle English Literature* was published by Palgrave MacMillan. The book argues that the traditional relationship between the act of confessing and the act of remembering is manifested through the widespread juxtaposition of confession and memory in Middle English literary texts and, furthermore, that this concept permeates other manifestations of memory as written by authors in a variety of genres. This study, through the framework of confession, identifies moments of recollection within the texts of four major Middle English authors – Langland, Chaucer, Gower, and the Gawain-Poet – and demonstrates that these authors deliberately employed the devices of recollection and forgetfulness in order to indicate changes or the lack thereof, both in conduct and in mindset, in their narrative subjects.

**KATHERINE RYE JEWELL'S** (Economics, History and Political Science) book *Dollars for Dixie: Business and the Transformation of Southern Conservatism* by Cambridge University Press. The book considers how southern industry responded to the decline of a regional wage structure and the rise of globalization. Organized in 1933, the Southern States Industrial Council's (SSIC) adherence to the South as a unique political and economic entity limited its members' ability to forge political coalitions against the New Deal. The SSIC's commitment to regional preferences, however, transformed and incorporated conservative thought in the post-World War II era, ultimately complementing the emerging conservative movement in the 1940s and 1950s. In response to New Dealers' attempts to remake the southern economy, the New South industrialists—heirs of C. Vann Woodward's "new men" of the New South—effectively fused cultural traditionalism and free market economics into a brand of southern free enterprise that shaped the region's reputation and political culture. *Dollars for Dixie* demonstrates how the South emerged from this refashioning and became a key player in the modern conservative movement, with new ideas regarding free market capitalism, conservative fiscal policy, and limited bureaucracy.





# ALUMNI NEWS



## MVP—FITCHBURG STATE ALUM LEE MANIFF '14 PART OF PATRIOTS DYNASTY

With his view from the Super Bowl LI sidelines in February, Fitchburg State alumnus and Billerica native Lee Maniff '14 got to experience one of the greatest comebacks in professional football history when the Patriots surged from a 25-point deficit to defeat the Atlanta Falcons in overtime.

"Even now it seems unbelievably outrageous to me," he said.

Maniff, 25, made his own contributions to the Patriots as a seasonal assistant trainer, bringing the same passion, intensity and attention to detail to his work helping to ensure the players' health as the team does to winning.

He recently relocated to Raleigh, N.C. and is exploring professional opportunities in sports medicine down South. But he will never forget his experiences leading up to Super Bowl LI.

### WORK AND FAMILY

Maniff found his calling while a student at Fitchburg State, where he studied exercise and sports science with a concentration in exercise physiology. In his sophomore year he was interviewing for an office work-study post when administrative assistant Cheryl Sarasin suggested he may get more out of working with the Fitchburg Falcons' athletic trainers, Todd Souliere and Rebecca Shersnow. That night he was on the sidelines for the Falcons' football game at Elliot Field.

The athletic trainers here connected him with alumnus Devan McConnell '08, the ice hockey performance coach at UMass Lowell. Maniff secured an internship there that afforded him a close look at the culture of intensity that accompanied the hockey team's success.

After graduating, Maniff continued his education at Bridgewater State and landed a seasonal athletic trainer position with the Patriots in October 2015. Despite the fame and accolades the team has accrued, Maniff said the players are down to earth and appreciative of the work he and his colleagues perform.

"I can't stress enough the character of all these guys," said Maniff. "They're so famous, but they couldn't be more endearing with everything they say."

As a trainer, his goal was to help athletes avoid injuries and recover quickly from them. "The average NFL career is about three years," he said. "The health and training lessons I'm trying to teach ideally extend well beyond the football field over a person's lifetime."

Maniff implemented strength and agility programs developed by the senior athletic trainers. "I want to make sure we're fine-tuning every aspect of their conditioning," he said. "If the players reach their goal, I know I've reached my goal."

### SUPER BOWL GLORY

Maniff's mother had never flown on a plane before, and her proud son was able to get her a seat on a chartered jet to Houston for the big game. He was also happy to have his girlfriend, Laura, accompany him on the trip.

"They had the time of their life," Maniff said.

The electricity carried over into the game, an instant classic that saw the team head into halftime significantly behind. Still, at halftime players were talking about what a crazy story would be told the next day as a dramatic turnaround took shape.

"Atlanta was prepared to win, but they weren't prepared to finish. And that was clearly the difference," Maniff said.

The momentum had shifted, and the surging Patriots kept scoring until the thrilling overtime win, a moment that will be forever replayed by jubilant Patriots fans. Maniff was on the field as the celebratory confetti rained down.

"It was a dream, and I was able to share it with my mother and my girlfriend. It was incredible."

Maniff is looking at new opportunities within the arena of sports medicine, perhaps in a hospital setting. "I can walk away from the NFL knowing I was a part of the greatest accomplishment possible," he said. "I have more energy than I can possibly describe, and I owe it to myself to take some chances and see what else is possible."

His experience with the reigning champions taught him that dreams, fueled by determination, can come true.



## MICHELLE MCCOOL HEATLEY '17—HEALTH AND THE LAW

Boxborough native Michelle McCool Heatley '17, associate chief nursing officer (ACNO), ambulatory and emergency nursing at Burlington, MA-based Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, is used to being on the front lines of helping people. This May, the mother of four completed her online master's degree at Fitchburg State to extend her knowledge and care into a new area of expertise: forensic nursing.

"I was looking for a stimulating and interesting curriculum when I decided to return for my master's degree," said Heatley. "The program Fitchburg State offers is different, yet also complements my career in emergency nursing which is my passion."

Forensic nursing applies nursing science to public or legal proceedings and integrates the forensic aspects of health care with other bio-psycho-social education. Students deal with

the prevention, investigation and treatment of victims of trauma or death, as well as the investigation and treatment of their perpetrators.

Studies are completed 100% online, but the program also requires 420 practicum hours. Heatley is grateful to Lahey's leadership team for supporting her through this journey. Her valuable field experience included time spent with the Burlington Police Department's special victims office, as well as with the Billerica House of Correction's health unit. She also participated in autopsy reviews and went on calls with the ADMs at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Concord, NH, as part of its death scene investigation team.

"What you see on law and order TV shows is representative, but the investigative work is not neatly accomplished in one hour," she quipped.

In addition to managing Lahey's new and expanded emergency department, Heatley also oversees its patient flow team, TRac, as well as ambulatory nursing and case management. She has worked with an interdisciplinary team there to launch the hospital's violence prevention program, the focus of her thesis. According to Heatley, "Workplace violence against those in the healthcare profession is on the rise. It has been an amazing leadership opportunity to work with our staff to enhance their sense of safety while at work."

Heatley's prior nursing experience included serving as ACNO at UMass Memorial HealthAlliance Hospital in Leominster, overseeing both emergency and surgical services, and similar leadership roles at both Mount Auburn Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.





# CLASS NOTES

This Class Notes section includes news that was received between December 16, 2016 and June 20, 2017. 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.

## 1940S



**MARJORIE (KILLELEA) O'NEIL '43** celebrated her 95th birthday this April with her family in attendance, which included three generations of alumni and three couples who met at Fitchburg State and were married. Marjorie, herself, married **CAPT. JOHN "JACK" O'NEIL '43** (deceased), her son **STEPHEN '70, '74** married **JEAN (LEONARDI) O'NEIL '70** and daughter **SUSAN '72** married **JOSEPH M. WERNIK '71**. Stephen and Jean's daughter **KATHRYN O'NEIL** is also a Falcon, from the class of 2004.

## 1960S

**EMILE S. JOHNSON, JR. '61** was welcomed into the Leominster High School Hall of Fame during its second induction ceremony on May 6. Johnson was honored as a coach who won a record 725 games coaching baseball, along with three state championships. He also had 429 career coaching wins in soccer and two state titles. Johnson never had a losing season in baseball with tournament appearances in 42 of his 43 seasons at the helm. He also coached varsity girls' basketball with three tournament entries and was a girls' varsity basketball referee for 30 years.

## 1970S

Alumni and former Fitchburg State coaches **RICH MELILLO '77** and **JIM TODD '76, '81** embarked on more than just a reunion for the men's basketball team this January. They initiated



an endowed fund to create sustainable impact in support of the men's basketball team and challenged their fellow Falcons and teammates to give generously. Over five months and three events, 220 alumni and friends answered the call and have raised close to \$60,000. The goal is to provide support for a pre-season tournament annually or maybe, one day, to even endow the head coaching position at the university.

**WILLIAM F. MCSHEEHY '70, '82** was one of 20 local people named by the Sentinel & Enterprise for helping to make 2016 memorable. McSheehy has put a lot of time and effort into organizing and bringing events to Fitchburg. The longtime resident is the chairman of the Fitchburg Historical Society's annual Holiday House Tour, an event that annually draws hundreds of people on a tour through the city. He helps raise money for Civic Days by participating in the toll booth fundraisers set up on Main Street throughout the year. He is also a co-chair of the Fitchburg Holiday Decorating Committee. In 2014, McSheehy and his wife, **MAUREEN A. (GRIER) MCSHEEHY '70, '82**, were crowned king and queen of Fitchburg. McSheehy is among a dedicated group of people who do everything they can to make Fitchburg a better place to live.

**PETER G. CAPODAGLI '73, '81** was one of 20 local people named by the Sentinel & Enterprise for helping to make 2016 memorable. Owner of Boulder Art Gallery, Capodagli has been working with Fitchburg Greenway Committee to establish a permanent, self-guided tour from Rollstone Boulder in Upper

Common and up Rollstone Hill, in addition to his walking tours.

**JEFFREY L. BURCH '77, '81**, a Worcester native, retired from teaching technology education this spring at Medway High School where he taught for the last 18.5 years.

**STEPHEN L. DINATALE '79**, mayor of Fitchburg, received an award recognizing his advocacy for his community's arts and cultural heritage from the Massachusetts Cultural Council during a ceremony at the Statehouse in February. DiNatale, who worked with Fitchburg State students and the Fitchburg Art Museum to produce a video showcasing the city's art, history and scenes, was recognized for highlighting how art and culture can improve cities and towns.

## 1980S

**MARYANN (CATINO) PERRY '82, '94**, of Gloucester, was recently elected to the all-volunteer board of directors for the Lynch/van Otterloo YMCA in Marblehead. Perry is superintendent of the Marblehead Public Schools system.



**ROBERT G. HASSON '83**, a former teacher and superintendent, was confirmed in March to serve as Maine's education commissioner. Hasson has been acting commissioner since November.

**BARRY Y. ZOLL '83** retired from America Honda Motor Company of Torrance, Calif., after 25 years of service in various locations across the United States. He currently serves as a district parts and services manager for Kia Motors America of Irvine, Calif.

**IDA BEA TOMLIN '84**, of Meridian, Miss., has been selected director of operations for the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience (The MAX).

**ARNI B. CASAREALE '87** was appointed chief operating officer at Arbour Counseling Services, a network of mental health and addictions outpatient treatment centers in New England for children, adolescents, adults and seniors.



**Laurie N. (Hall) Dornig '89** retired after serving 24 years as clerk magistrate of Orange District Court.

## 1990S

**MICHAEL T. CONNOLLY '90, '07**, principal of Mansfield High School, was named assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. Connolly came to MHS in 2007 as assistant principal and was promoted to principal in 2011.



**ANTHONY F. LORENZEN '90** just published his first novel, *Saint Somebody Central Catholic*. Lorenzen taught theology in Catholic high schools for eight years before becoming a Unitarian Universalist parish minister. In between writing sermons, Lorenzen is working on his next novel.

**LISA-MARIE (ANGIUONI) IPPOLITO '93, '95** has been appointed principal of the Joshua Eaton Elementary School in Reading. Ippolito was the



district STEM coordinator for the Wilmington Public Schools where she worked for the last 16 years.

**FRANK M. O'DONNELL '93** was reappointed as the alumni representative to the Fitchburg State Board of Trustees.



**JOHANNA L. BELIVEAU '95** was named director of quality, patient safety and compliance at Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center in Windsor, Vt.



**LISHA M. CABRAL '98** was promoted to superintendent of Easton Public Schools after having served as assistant superintendent since 2013.

**CHRISTOPHER CHEW '99** performed in the role of the Ghost of Christmas Present in the 2016 Hanover Theatre production of "A Christmas Carol."

## 2000s



**CHESTER A. JACKSON '03** was named the new North Andover High School principal.

**MICHAEL M. LACAVA '05** is leaving his post as principal of the Harrington Elementary School in Chelmsford to become K-12 director of performing arts in

Wellesley Public Schools. LaCava has conducted the concert band at his graduate alma mater, Fitchburg State, for the past 14 years.

**RICHARD C. ROCHE '07** exhibited his "plein air" landscape paintings during the entire month of June at the 1717 Shoppe in Westborough.

**BRIDGET H. TUCKER '07, '11** was elected to represent Westminister on the Ashburnham-Westminister Regional School District School Committee in April. Tucker is currently a 5th grade teacher in the Wachusett Regional School District.

**BARBARA A. (BOATENG) AMANKWAH '08** has been hired by Sullivan Insurance Group in Worcester, where she will serve in their personal lines department. She worked in the insurance industry at Commerce Insurance, now Mapfre, as well as at agency, Eastern Insurance.



**JEREMY P. DEXTER '08** has been named director of product development engineering at Hyde Industrial Blade Solutions in Southbridge.



**RYAN W. MCNUTT '08, '14** was named city manager by the Claremont, N.H. City Council earlier this year. McNutt previously served as town administrator in Lancaster.

**JUSTIN M. SPARKS '08** was elected to represent Westminister on the Ashburnham-Westminister Regional School District School



**DONALD R. IRVING '72, '79** was elected chairman of the Fitchburg State Board of Trustees on April 4. Irving has been a member of the board since 2011. He and his wife **KAREN A. (LINDROTH) IRVING '90**, live in New Hampshire. He was the founder and president of Data Guide Cable Corp. in Gardner and is currently owner and president of the real estate development firm Nichols Square LLC.



**ROSALINE CARDARELLI '81** is the co-founder of a humanitarian organization called the Amal Alliance, established to address the needs of children in refugee camps around the globe. The organization helps children using alternative education methods—reading, sports and yoga—to help pass the months or even years while they are displaced in such camps to actively engage them in the most productive way possible, despite the trauma they have already faced under such difficult circumstances. This spring, Dr. Cardarelli returned from a particularly productive trip to Chios, Greece where she visited with refugee families.



**TAMMY C. (BELMORE) ANDERSON '94**, a special education teacher in the North Middlesex Regional School District for 23 years, was recently presented the Joel D. Miller Award for teaching excellence.

Anderson grew up in Hudson, N.H. and studied special education with a dual certification at Fitchburg State.

Varnum Brook School Principal Tara Hanley, herself a double Falcon, credited Anderson for her work creating programs and educational plans, coordinating services with parents and mentoring teachers. "Most importantly, she has built an understanding among our entire staff about what it means to every child that they are recognized as individuals who deserve an excellent education," Hanley said.

She has helped organize her school's participation in the Special Olympics for over 20 years and established the "Sidekicks" program that brings peer buddies from outside her substantially separate classroom to the games.

She lives in Pepperell with her husband and their two children.

The teaching award is named for Joel D. Miller, considered one of the three founders of the State Normal School in Fitchburg. Miller Hall is named for him.



Committee in April. He is currently a first-grade teacher and technology coordinator at Lunenburg Primary School.

## 2010s

**JOHN J. DOUGHTY '10 AND BRIDGET C. (TRELEASE) DOUGHTY '11** were married on March 10, 2017.



**MARIBEL FOURNIER '15** has been named deputy state fire marshal at the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services.



**COURTNEY L. (SILVA) REZENDES '15** was one of nine bakers on the Food Network's Spring Baking Championship that aired this March. She is a baking and pastry instructor at Bristol Community College.

**LT. COL. FEDENCIA PAGADUAN FITCH '12**, U.S. Army Reserve instructor and Princeton resident, has been chosen as the next Northeast Quabbin Veterans' Services district director. Fitch's history includes time as a battalion commander as an assistant professor of military service.

**MATTHEW J. GOGUEN '12** was appointed to the City of Rockville, Md. Historic District Commission. He lives and works in Rockville as a historian for History Associates, Inc., a firm specializing in corporate histories, litigation and museum exhibit services.

**JAMIE L. (BREEDLOVE) PARKER '12** is working as an events services manager for the Albany Capital Center, a new convention center located in Albany, N.Y.



**DYLAN C. HICKS '14** (right) and **NATHAN C. WRIGHT '14**, both graduates of the Fitchburg State ROTC program, deploy together overseas for a year with Bravo Company 1-181 Infantry Regiment in support of the Multi-National Force Observers in the Sinai Peninsula for joint security.



**ALEXANDRA VALDEZ '15** assumed the position of Jamaica Plain neighborhood coordinator this January and is the first bilingual coordinator to serve in this role. Valdez was named Boston's Latino liaison after graduating from Fitchburg State and will remain in that post in addition to the new role.



**DAVID J. GINISI '16** was hired earlier this year by the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce as its member services associate.



The alumni office makes its best effort to notify alumni of upcoming events through its Contact magazine, monthly e-newsletters, e-mails, postcards and personal invitations. If you miss us too, make sure we have your most current contact information on file by calling or emailing us.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## TO PLACE 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.

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.

### 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.



**FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Notes can also be mailed to *Contact* magazine, Fitchburg State University, 160 Pearl Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

#### 1940S

**WILLIAM H. SULLIVAN '42**, of Naples, Fla., on April 6, 2017.

**JAMES E. FEELEY, JR. '43**, of South Dennis, on March 12, 2017.

**RENA T. BISCEGLIA '47**, of Leominster, on January 31, 2017.

#### 1950S

**CARL R. JOHNSON '51, '56**, of Warwick, RI, on December 31, 2016.

**GILBERT P. TREMBLAY '57, '60**, of Leominster, on December 17, 2016. He is survived by his wife Carol A. Tremblay '63, '70.

**JOAN E. (GILBERT) MOULTON '59**, of Gardner, on December 7, 2016.

#### 1960S

**TIMOTHY J. LEBLANC '63, '67**, of Gardner, on February 9, 2017. He is survived by his wife Sandra J. LeBlanc '64.

**DAVID F. WATERS '63**, of Rehoboth, Del., on April 3, 2017.

**JOHN F. TALBOT '64**, of Westminster, on February 22, 2017. He is survived by his wife Ann (Mill) Talbot '64.

**DAVID J. CUCCHIARA '65**, of Leominster, on February 17, 2017.

**WAYNE P. MONTUORI '67**, of Pelham, N.H., on January 12, 2017.

#### 1970S

**JAMES GEORGE '70**, of Fitchburg, on January 27, 2017.

**DAVID A. BASQUE '71**, of Tarpon Springs, Fla., on March 20, 2017.

**JOSEPH L. NOSELLA '71**, of Scituate, on March 17, 2017.

**RONALD N. MERKEL '72**, of Fort Myers, Fla., on February 14, 2017.

**JOSEPH F. VON DECK '72**, of Ashburnham, on March 19, 2017.

**ROLAND T. COTTON '73, '75**, of Harvard, on May 26, 2017.

**JANET M. BADAGLIACCA '75**, of Fitchburg, on April 28, 2017.

**KATHLEEN A. MULLANEY '75**, of Suffield, Conn., on February 19, 2017.

**ARTHUR H. LAFLAMME '77**, of Rowley, on March 16, 2017.

**CATHERINE F. (CROWLEY) PHILLIPS '77**, of Fitchburg, on January 24, 2017.

**CHERYL H. (HARVIE) IRVING '79**, of Manchester, N.H., on May 7, 2017.

**NANCY (BADAGLIACCA) RAY '79**, of Bedford, Texas, on January 21, 2017.

#### 1980S

**KAREN M. (CANNAVINO) PLOTKIN '80**, of South Deerfield, on December 26, 2016.

**HELEN M. (GONVILLE) NORMANDIN '82**, of Plainfield, Conn., on February 10, 2017.

**PATRICK M. CEFALO '84**, of Fitchburg, on May 1, 2017.

**ROBERT J. GABLOSKY '84**, of Haverhill, on January 30, 2017.

#### 1990S

**JULIA V. (TOMASINI) CASEY '90**, of Windsor, Vt., on May 12, 2017.

**GEORGIA A. PASQUALONE '99**, of Arlington, on June 12, 2017.

#### 2010S

**HILLARY (BARTLETT) NEWSOME '12**, of Pennsylvania, formerly of Leominster, on March 16, 2017.

**STACEY M. MILIUS '16**, of Townsend, on March 27, 2017.



**DR. JOSEPH B. ADDANTE '79**, of Fitchburg, on March 6, 2017. Dr. Addante is the proud son of Italian immigrants, forever a hometown boy and an ambassador for his profession in podiatry. He served in the U.S. Army Corps, Army of Occupation in Beijing, China in 1945. Upon return, he resumed his education at Fitchburg State and Temple University where he graduated from Chiropody School in 1953.

Dr. Addante returned to Fitchburg to practice and was instrumental in the evolution of the profession of podiatry both politically and educationally. He was president of the Massachusetts Podiatric Medical Society, a member of the board of trustees of the American Podiatry Association, a member of the Council on Podiatry Education (the accrediting body for podiatry colleges) and a member of the board of trustees of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine. He encouraged, trained, challenged and inspired many students, externs, and residents.

At Fitchburg State, in recent years, Dr. Addante served on the board for the Center for Italian Culture where he was the unofficial local historian.



# EVENTS

## BIENNIAL ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

This fall the Alumni Association will honor four alumni at the biennial Alumni Awards Dinner. **DR. ROSALINE CARDARELLI '81**, CEO, Eagle Development (Alumni Achievement); **JOHN M. COSENZE '82**, Director, National Geographic Channel (Alumni Leadership); **CHRISTOPHER J. SEIDLICH '07, '11**, SVP & CFO, Rollstone Bank & Trust (Young Alumni Recognition); and **MARK J. COUGHLAN '77**, organizer of the annual Mohawk Christmas Pasta Fest (Booster Award)

The Department of Exercise and Sport Science brought back five alumni to speak with students about the variety of careers they could pursue in their field of interest. **MEGAN M. MACOMBER '13** is currently enrolled in a physician assistant program at Bryant University. **DEVAN MCCONNELL '08** is the head hockey performance coach at UMass Lowell. **NICHOLAS I. NORMANDIN '08** and his wife Tiffany are co-founders of Push-Pull Training LLC, a company that delivers corporate wellness consulting for small and large companies within Central Massachusetts. Nicholas is also a CrossFit Level 2 Trainer and head coach at CrossFit EXP. **MALLORY PERRON '14** is a registered nurse at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. **NIKKI TIBBETTS '12** is a doctor of physical therapy at Heywood Rehabilitation Center in Gardner.



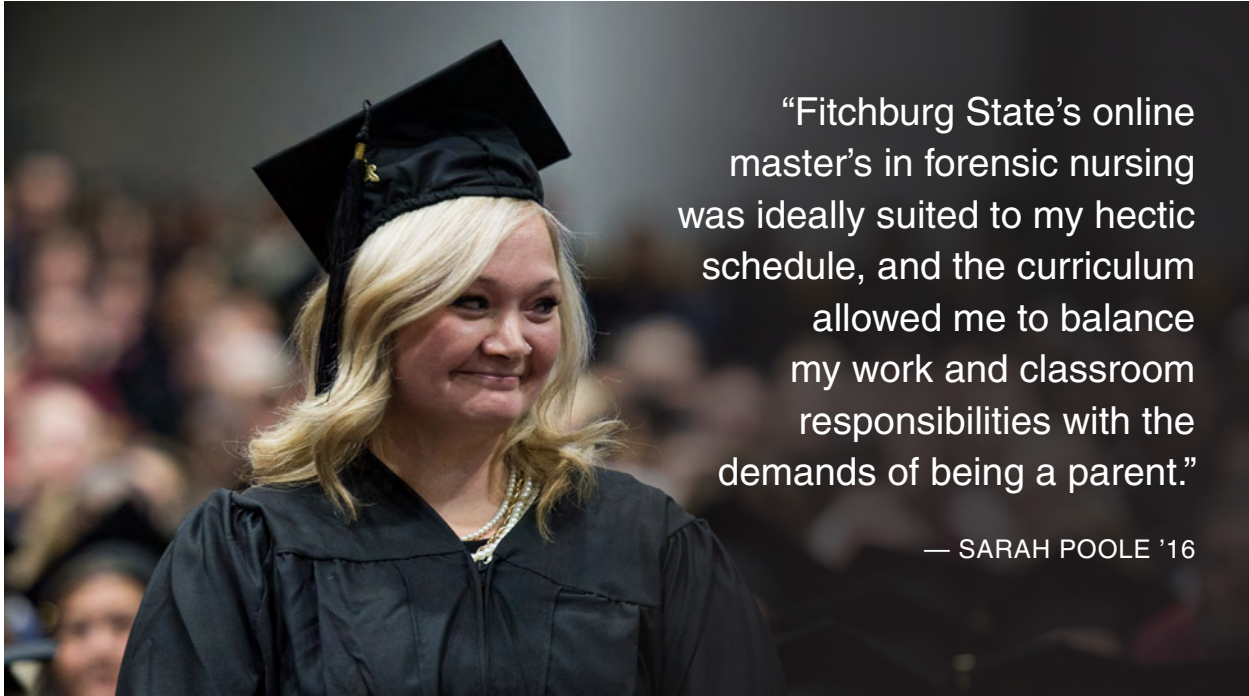
From left to right, Devan McConnell, Nick Normandin, Nikki Tibbetts, Megan Macomber, Mallory Perron, and Dr. Monica Maldari



In June, more than 50 Fitchburg State alumni, faculty, students, and staff volunteered at a Fitchburg Habitat for Humanity home build site (top right photo). (Viewing additional photos counterclockwise) Alumni also gathered at two different events in March in Florida, including a Red Sox training game and Naples' St. Patrick's Day Parade. Washington, D.C.-alumni gathered for a local area event there, too.







“Fitchburg State’s online master’s in forensic nursing was ideally suited to my hectic schedule, and the curriculum allowed me to balance my work and classroom responsibilities with the demands of being a parent.”

— SARAH POOLE '16

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## Calling all entrepreneurs!

We are working on upcoming themes for Contact magazine and want to feature success stories about our alumni entrepreneurs.

SEND US YOUR STORY AT: [alumni@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:alumni@fitchburgstate.edu)



## FITCHBURG STATE ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Do you remember that stellar athlete from your college days? That superstar you looked forward to cheering on each week? Nominate him/her for the next Hall of Fame induction class of student athletes, teams and contributors in 2018. Nominations will be accepted through March 1, 2018.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, VISIT: [fitchburgfalcons.com/InsideAthletics/Alumni](http://fitchburgfalcons.com/InsideAthletics/Alumni)



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## ALUMNI WEEKEND

September 22-24

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