

Fitchburg State University Today

Operational changes announced in response to city's COVID-19 spike

Fitchburg State will close its residence halls and switch to remote delivery of most courses later this month in response to a [spike](#) of COVID-19 cases in the city.

“These steps are being taken as a direct result of a steep rise in COVID-19 infections in the city of Fitchburg and the surrounding areas,” President Lapidus said in a memo to the campus community on Thursday morning. “This increase in infection rate has begun to impact our campus. The state’s ‘Stop the Spread’ program will soon be implemented in Fitchburg as a means of working toward curtailing new infections.”

[Learn more](#)



Phillips selected chair of university Board of Trustees



Attorney **C. Deborah Phillips** has been elected chair of the university's Board of Trustees.

Phillips was selected for the leadership role by the Board of Trustees at its meeting this month. Also selected as officers were **Lynn Tesconi Barrieau** as vice chair and **David C. Tiernan** as clerk.

“Deb Phillips has been an engaged and valued member of the Board of Trustees since 2015, and hers will be an important voice as the university continues its evolution, including the implementation of our 2020-25 strategic plan and our upcoming accreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education,” President Lapidus said.

[Learn more](#)

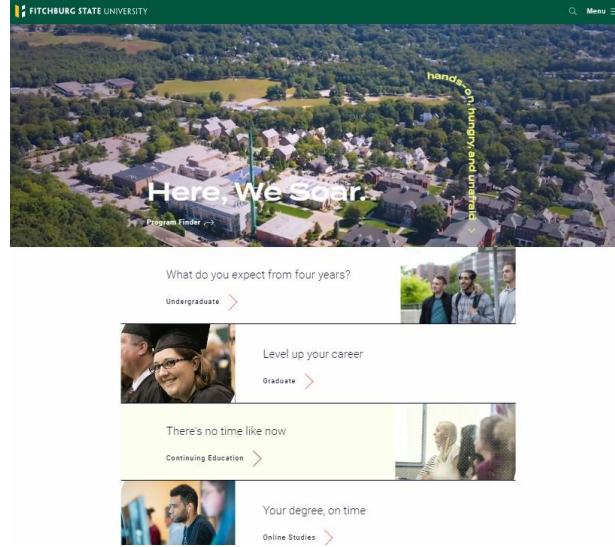
Coming Soon: New university website launching in December

In early December we will launch the new university website. In the works

for nearly two years, the new site boasts a more dynamic design that has been developed to work better on mobile devices. With more robust visuals, easier navigation, and improved organization of content, the new site will bring our thousands of monthly visitors a better experience.

The relaunched website will also be an opportunity to strengthen the university's brand positioning in the new year.

Stay tuned!



Report on Giving now available online

The 2020 Report on Giving is now available to review [online](#).

Published by the university's Office of Alumni and Development, the report reflects gifts made to the university Foundation between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Digital Humanities and 21st Century Citizenship topic of panel

The Center for Faculty Research presents a [colloquium](#) at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday on the digital humanities.

The panelists will include **Professor Catherine Buell** (Mathematics), **Professor J.J. Sylvia IV** (Communications Media), **Professor Elise Takehana** (English Studies) and **Professor Joseph Wachtel** (Economics, History and Political Science), with **Professor Kisha Tracy** (English Studies) serving as moderator.



They will address how the digital humanities usurp filter bubbles, bring diverse groups together, and reactivate public engagement, with a question-and-answer period to follow.

[Google Meet link](#)

Celebrate the Global Village with virtual celebration on Wednesday

In celebration of the International Education Week, November 16-20, World Integrated Nations and the Office of International Education present a virtual celebration of our



[Global Village](#) at 1 p.m. Wednesday. This virtual presentation of several international students to share aspects of their culture, focusing on the traditions of celebrating their favorite holiday/s.

The countries represented include Albania, Bulgaria, Poland, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe.

[Google Meet for Global Village](#)

Falcon Bazaar needs outlined

As the holiday season approaches, the Falcon Bazaar food and necessities pantry is in need of replenishing.

The Office Student Development mailed out over 1,650 Fitchburg State face coverings to our commuters and included an information card with the Falcon Bazaar's services. Since then, the office has seen an influx of students visiting the bazaar which has depleted the amount of food and necessities we offer.



To purchase items for the bazaar, please consult this [wish list](#) and have purchases shipped to:

Fitchburg State University
Student Development - Falcon Bazaar
160 Pearl Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Commercial development on Main Street celebrated



President Lapidus joined Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale and local restaurant owners Elmer and Delmy Melendez for a look at the upcoming new location of Dario's Ristorante at 655 Main St.

In an [article](#) published in the *Sentinel & Enterprise*, Elmer Melendez describes the university's investment in the Main Street Theater Block and the support of the university-backed ReImagine North of Main project

as elements in his decision to relocate to Main Street.

[Read more](#)

CenterStage and cultural events

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: "Common Ground" by Ann Strassman

The new exhibit "Common Ground," featuring the work of artist Ann Strassman, is now on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery.

Strassman's work has been featured in numerous solo exhibits in Massachusetts and beyond. The artist, whose creations include oils on canvas and acrylics on cardboard, has collected numerous accolades over the course of her career.

View the exhibit online [here](#).



Faculty Notes

Professor Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) was the program chair for the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association. The conference was supposed to be November 5-7 in Boston, but instead was a one-day virtual conference on Nov. 7. He had to make the transition to Zoom from a live conference. The conference was a mix of pre-recorded panels, Zoom panels, and a Zoom keynote address. He is now the president of the association.

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