



124TH ANNUAL  
**COMMENCEMENT**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

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School of Health and Natural Sciences

VIRTUAL SPRING CEREMONY

Celebrating our May 2020 Graduates



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and the 124th annual spring commencement ceremony of the Class of 2020. This year due to the global pandemic and for safety reasons, we are celebrating student accomplishments virtually along with friends and family wherever they may be. The ceremony is delayed from the spring, because we held out hope that an in-person event eventually would be possible. Even though the event is now virtual, I know the hard work and sacrifices made to get to this day were very real. This is your day to shine!

As graduates you embody our university motto, *perseverantia*—perseverance. Commencement may signal a temporary end of your academic career, as you begin new chapters and meet new life challenges, but today I encourage you to take a moment and savor not only your accomplishment, but also the memories of all your time at Fitchburg State.

The graduates have not reached this milestone on their own. Let us also recognize the spouses, parents, family members, friends and loved ones who have provided the support and encouragement that made the graduates' success possible. If you are one of these participants today, I hope these exceptional students are inspiring a great deal of joy and family pride.

Graduates, your diploma represents your completion of a course of study, as well as a commitment to pursuing life and career goals. Your story is just beginning and we are honored that Fitchburg State provided you the path to this achievement.

In the years to come, I hope you will remain actively engaged with the university and help to shape the direction for future generations to come. As alumni, you are now part of our extended family worldwide. In times of crisis and times of triumph, we will find a way to be together, to be stronger despite any physical distances. Fitchburg State will always be your home.

Richard S. Lapidus  
President

# 124TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

## Virtual Spring Ceremony

### Fitchburg State University Chamber Choir

“America the Beautiful”

This song was composed by the Canadian-American Black composer R. Nathaniel Dett in 1918, during the midst of another pandemic.

Words by Katherine Lee Bates (1893); Conducted by Dr. Jonathan Harvey

### Welcome to Convene the Ceremony

Dr. Alberto J.F. Cardelle

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

### Commencement Remarks

Dr. Richard S. Lapidus

### Undergraduate Valedictorian

Mr. Stanley L. Choruzek, B.S. in Computer Science

### Graduate Student Leadership Award

Mr. Paul A. Thibodeau, M.S. in Counseling

### Dr. Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci

#### Student Leadership Award

Ms. Victoria L. Weisenhorn, B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies

### Congratulations and Well Wishes

Students, faculty, staff and alumni

### Congratulations from the Board of Trustees

Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Chair

### Message from the Deans

Dr. Margaret Hoey

Dean of the School of Health and Natural Sciences

Dr. Becky Copper-Glenz

Dean of the School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education

### Congratulations and Well Wishes

Department and Program Chairs

### Acknowledgement of Degree Recipients

### Congratulations and Welcome to the Alumni Family

Mr. James Walsh, Class of 1975

# 124TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

## Virtual Spring Ceremony

### Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees as of May 2020

Mr. Donald R. Irving, Chairman  
Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Lynn M. Barrieau, Clerk  
Ms. Crystal N. Aneke, Student Trustee  
Ms. Anna Maria Clementi  
Ms. Delfi L. Nieto  
Mr. Frank M. O'Donnell  
Ms. Carolyn E. Crowley Stimpson  
Ms. Martha Nicholson  
Mr. David C. Tiernan

### 2020 Honors Theses / Performances

Alyssa Ann Anderson, *Tax Cuts for the Rich: An Analysis of Trickle Down Economics*  
Sean P. Carney, *Inclusive Pedagogy*  
Olivia Rose Dolitka, *The Over and Under-Identification of ELL Students in Special Education*  
Heather Amy Ferguson, *The Importance of Representation of Diversity in Secondary English Classrooms*  
John Weston Gifford, Jr., *Audio Identities*  
Aidan B. King, *Writing A Pilot Script*  
Jonathan Gregory Medlin, *Playing by Ear*  
Abigail Kathryn Robinson, *Justice and Fairness Through the Lens of Jury Selection*  
Rachel Louise Sazonick, *Make Accounting Ethics Great (Again?)*  
Kelly P. Wilhide, *Preventing Sudden Cardiac Death in Athletes*

## GRADUATE DEGREES

### Master of Arts

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#### BIOLOGY

Katie M. Wilson  
DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

### Master of Arts in Teaching

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#### BIOLOGY

Adam Robert Richards  
RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

### Master of Education

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#### SCIENCE EDUCATION

Jeffrey Richard Bucchianeri  
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Brittany Amber Constant  
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Carlyle Kostich  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

## UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

### Bachelor of Arts

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#### BIOLOGY

Jessica Ann Horgan  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Lindsey M. Smart  
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Symantha Marie Vallee  
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

#### MATHEMATICS

Andrew Thomas White  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Gabriana Jewel Dickerson ★  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

### Bachelor of Science

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#### BIOLOGY

Elisa S. Alves \*\*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Malachi Appiah  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Chloe C. Belanger \*\*  
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Victoria G. Bisceglia \*\*  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lillian Black  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Heather Ann Bosworth ★  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer W. Cole  
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Madison Davick  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Giovanna Deandrade  
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachael Elizabeth DeLisle  
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan B. Divito  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lindsay Denise Duchnowski ★  
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Christine Chizhim Eligwe ★  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

Adeola Augustina Fasan  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Chemari D. Forde-DeBerry  
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Justin M. Girard  
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Cheyenne Marie Guetti ★  
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Ceara Lindsey Hill  
NEW IPSWICH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ousmane Keita  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Rose V. Kelley \*\*  
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole J. Kopacz \*\*  
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Theodore Alexander Liakas  
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica A. LoPreste  
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Yeboah Manu  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathryn D. Newcomb \*\*  
PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND

Jada Marie Newsome  
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Jordan Gunnar Oberg  
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Janae Simone Owens ★  
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Ramsey Philippe  
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Arlette Picazo Palacios  
EAST BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Reinardo Rosario  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Emmanuel Lagene Torres  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Erica Y. Ulrich ★  
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Smith Nuru Yeboah  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

#### CHEMISTRY

Alexander Jacob Blinn ★  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeremy O. Castillo  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Walter Muzyk  
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Vanessa Christina Pressat  
RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle Edward Robbins \*\*  
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND EARTH SCIENCE

Courtney R. Aulden \*\*  
❖ *Biology*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Silas Aiello Belvin ★  
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaitlin Marie Berube  
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Holly Victoria Elworthy  
❖ *Geographic Science and Technology*  
BOLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ernan Galindo  
❖ *Geographic Science and Technology*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Erinn Brittany Melus-Bissonnette \*\*  
❖ *Mathematics*  
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Alina Raye Salaiz  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeffrey Verner  
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

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\*\*\* Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

\*\* Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

\* Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

◆ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

## EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCE

Larry William Agnelli III \*\*  
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ana Gabriela Aguilar  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Maame Ama Asantewaa Anane  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jared T. Andy  
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Laura Silva Castro  
WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas A. Ceffalo \*\*  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Chelsea June Claggett \*  
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassandra Marie Colon  
SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Jordan Gamache \*  
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mikayla Kimberly Harnois \*  
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Karim A. Hassan  
SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle D. Hilario \*  
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtney Elizabeth Liberty \*  
HUNTINGTON, VERMONT

Bryanna Rose Luongo \*\*  
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Jefferson J. Massillon  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Louise Mazurowski \*\*  
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Brandon Mgeni \*\*  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bria L. Monteiro \*  
EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle N. Nkansah  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Joan R. O'Neil \*\*\*  
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Devante Abrams Proctor \*  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca Emily Reardon \*  
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle Azevedo Rosa \*  
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassidy Rose Salvatore  
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Laurel Taylor  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Madison R. Tocci  
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn E. Turk  
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew J.C. Valyo \*\*  
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn M. Vocell  
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Jordan Michelle Warden-Michl \*\*\*  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

\*Lexus M. Whitney \*  
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelly P. Wilhide ♦\*\*\*  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Robert St. John Wilson III  
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ernan Galindo  
❖ *Environmental and Earth Science*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Loryn Elizabeth Killay  
ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ethan McCaffrey \*  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel M. Phelps \*\*  
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

## MATHEMATICS

Alexander Philip Cochran \*\*\*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Shannon Margaret Jackson \*\*\*  
❖ *Middle School Education*  
TYNGSBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Erinn Brittany Melus-Bissonnette \*\*  
❖ *Environmental and Earth Science*  
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas John Pruyt \*\*  
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Oliver James Titus \*\*\*  
❖ *Economics*  
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

## NURSING

Emmanuella Owusu Agyemang \*  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenna May Allen  
HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Brianna Babineau \*  
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Shane Joseph Biernacki \*\*  
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Kenzie Sarah Blakely  
PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Shyanne Marie Boisse \*\*  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer Lee Buckingham \*\*  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sean M. Burke \*  
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabrielle Brynn Calder  
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristen Mary Calder \*  
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Laura Joy Calisi  
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan Casteel  
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriella Marie Ceffalo \*\*\*  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Eveline Chateau  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sadiya M. Clark  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Blair Marie Clifford  
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Lillian Hadley Clouter  
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Maura Elizabeth Crump  
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Celia-Marie Dancewicz \*  
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Heather E. Drummond \*  
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Caryn Alissa Dufresne \*\*  
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Charles Evangelista \*  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Wendy Michelle Ferrara \*\*  
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Danielle Lynne Ferreira \*\*  
BEDFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Leila Mara Ferreira  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Rebecca Lynn Fisher \*  
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Madison Sage Flerra-Weaver \*  
DAYVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Michelle Lisa Fortier \*  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Klarafina V. Foster  
CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Helen Fowler  
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Erica Grace  
CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Paige Marie Gray  
SANDISFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Haylee Elizabeth Hebert \*  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Audrey Joseph \*  
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Kariuki  
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Catherine Kelly  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Maureen Murugi Kinyanjui  
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

\*\*\* Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

\*\* Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

\* Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

♦ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

Sarah Ann Knowlton \*\*  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Aaron Scott Kowalski  
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

Jessica Kozaczka  
SOUTHWICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtney Denyce LaPorte  
JEFFERSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Carly Elizabeth Leblanc \*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

George Christopher Ledoux \*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Hope Annette Lively \*\*  
HEATH, MASSACHUSETTS

Darby Greene Lonergan \*  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Tracy E. Long  
GEORGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kalee Michelle Lord  
EAST LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison Lynn Maloof \*  
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaylee Madison Martin  
BERKLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelsey Louise-Fay Martin \*  
MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Bethany A. Mazarelli \*\*  
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Cameron J. McCallum  
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Susannah Joy Alyssa McGarry \*  
STILL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Marie Melanson \*  
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Amy Lee Messier  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nkechi Antoinette Odenigbo  
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Brendan Brian O'Flaherty \*\*  
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Aimie K. Peloquin \*\*  
SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

Karin Ann Penski  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Emma L. Phillips \*\*  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily M. Rayworth  
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mackenzie Paige Remillard \*\*  
BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS

Mikayla L. Rouette \*  
THREE RIVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

Alicia Marie Silver \*  
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Theresa Marie Skinner \*\*\*  
NORTH BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Yoon Joung St. Clair \*\*  
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Brooke M. Sweeney  
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda McLean Thorne \*  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassidy Vargas \*\*  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Carley Susan Walsh \*\*  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Walsh \*\*  
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Bailey P. White \*  
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Pamela Wright \*\*  
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Karen Lynne Wrigley \*\*  
PHILLIPSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Brianna J. Young \*  
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

## PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Austin Patrick Bell \*\*\*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Glendyuanette Carrasquillo  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Reem E. Chniouli  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Savannah Rose D'Agostino \*\*  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sandale A. Douglas \*  
HARWICH PORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Gonzalo Camprecios Gari Sr. \*  
SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Morrilly Gyles \*\*  
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaitlin Marie Hanlon \*  
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Rose Hemmings \*\*  
EASTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassy Jean-Francois  
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Madeline Rose Kuntz \*\*  
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Rose Laitinen \*\*  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Latischa Y. Ledesma  
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Erykah K. Morgan \*  
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra Otero  
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Glenn K. Perry  
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Dennis Mark Pikul \*\*  
HARDWICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Lynette J. Pimentel \*  
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie Alexandra Powers \*\*  
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Elise R. Reed \*  
SOUTH GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Henry J. Sargent  
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mike Brant Severe  
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashayla Kimani Shields-James  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kieley L. Vieweg \*\*  
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Brianna Alexis Young  
MANSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Antonia Catherine Zadroga \*\*  
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

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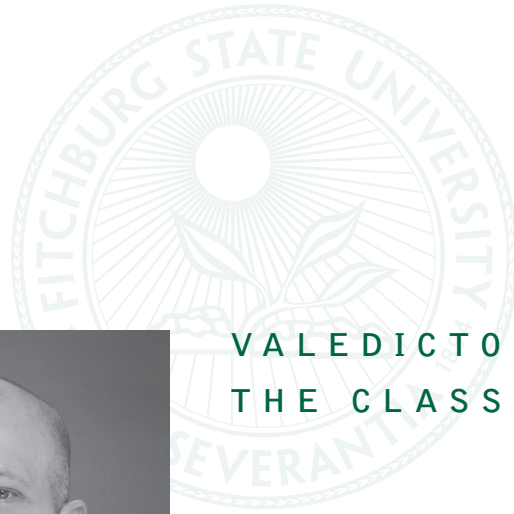
\*\*\* Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

\*\* Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

\* Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

◆ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program



## VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2020



### **Stanley L. Choruzek**

Stanley L. Choruzek is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who enlisted as soon as he was old enough in order to join the War on Terror. When an injury during training kept him from being deployed, he turned his attention to being a full-time father while earning a college degree. He began studying liberal

arts and appreciated the foundation of critical thinking it fostered.

The Worcester native graduated from Mount Wachusett Community College in 2017 and then attended Fitchburg State. In addition to his studies, he worked on campus for Information Technology. He also appreciated the diversity of students he met on campus, including fellow veterans.

Looking ahead, Choruzek sees parallels in the computer networks he helped support and the human networks that sustain all of us.

Choruzek hopes to transfer his new degree into a career in cybersecurity. His drive to serve and protect his fellow citizens has led him to the virtual front lines, where hackers try to interfere with social networks or elections.





## GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD



### **Paul A. Thibodeau**

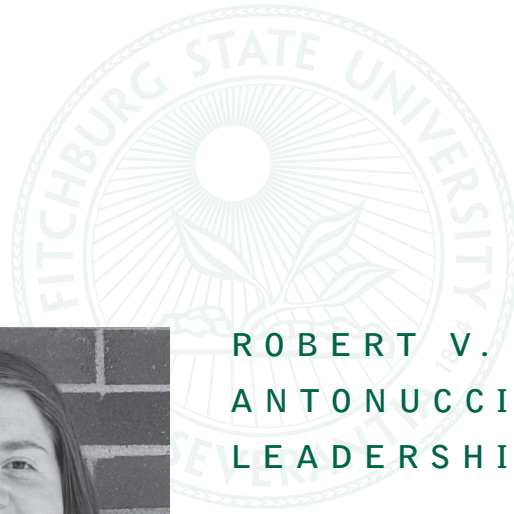
Paul A. Thibodeau has faced many challenges in his life but still considers himself blessed. After years of drug and alcohol addiction, Thibodeau got sober 25 years ago and is committed to helping others overcome their own challenges.

After completing his undergraduate degree in human services from Fitchburg State in 2015, Thibodeau continued his studies at the graduate level in the hopes of building a career in counseling. Those plans were interrupted after a horrific car crash in 2017 that shattered his femur and left him with a traumatic brain injury.

Despite those challenges, Thibodeau considers himself lucky. He believes he has survived so that he can help others overcome their own adversities.

In nominating Thibodeau for the graduate award, faculty members saluted his resilience and his commitment to continuing his studies, despite the challenges created by the accident – including delaying his graduation by a full year.

Thibodeau now works as a counselor for the Montachusett Opportunity Council and looks forward to getting his own license to practice.



ROBERT V. & JEANNE S.  
ANTONUCCI STUDENT  
LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Victoria L. Weisenhorn**  
**2020 Recipient**

This award recognizes outstanding leadership, strong academic performance and overall contributions to Fitchburg State University by one student.

PAST RECIPIENTS

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- |      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 2019 | Hailey R. O'Brien  |
| 2018 | Seferine A. Baez   |
| 2017 | Jairo M. Hernandez |
| 2016 | Megan E. Pierce    |
| 2015 | Nathan A. Gregoire |
| 2014 | Joseph Flanagan    |
| 2013 | Matthew Costello   |
| 2012 | Julie A. Fontana   |

## 2019 FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

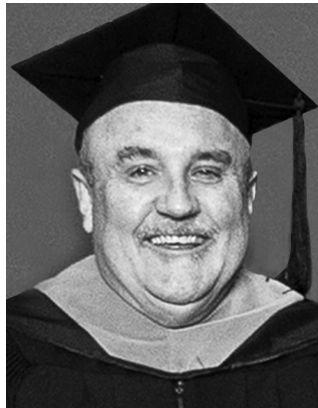
### **Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching**



#### **Dr. Randy P. Howe**

Dr. Howe, Professor of Communications Media, received the Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award, established in 1989 to honor former university President Mara (1976-1995). Howe is a previous department chair and a “double falcon,” having earned both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Fitchburg State before acquiring his EdD. He has taught graphic design, interface design, communication theory, educational leadership, and professional communications programs here for the last 21 years, and most recently led a unique inaugural marketing course onsite at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland to help promote our students’ global theater performances.

### **Contributions to the Graduate Program Award**



#### **Mr. Joseph E. McAloon (awarded posthumously)**

Professor “Joe” McAloon, who died suddenly in April 2019, is the recipient of the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award. He retired in 2018 after 35 years at Fitchburg State teaching business, advising students and evolving curriculum. He stayed on after his official retirement to teach part-time in the online MBA program and continue as its department chair, a position he held since 2008. Professor McAloon was committed to fostering students’ intellectual, creative, scholarly and professional growth. An eponymous full scholarship for the online MBA program was created this fall in his honor.

## Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship



### Dr. Kisha G. Tracy

Dr. Tracy, Associate Professor of English Studies, is the recipient of the Faculty Research and Scholarship Award. Tracy's research often examines why the Middle Ages are significant and makes important connections between the present and the past, particularly focusing on helping students explore these ideas. She is a published book author (*Memory and Confession in Middle English Literature*, Springer International Publishing AG, 2017), a co-founder of the online community The Lone Medievalist and a leader and global lecturer on cultural heritage and medieval disability studies.

## Faculty Award for Service



### Dr. Eric N. Budd

Dr. Budd, the Faculty Service Award recipient, is a Professor in the Economics, History and Political Science Department and a previous department chair. A PhD graduate of the University of Chicago, he has taught international politics here for 25 years. His service projects include helping found and direct multiple campus organizations, including Model U.N., the FSU Speaker Series and the Center for Conflict Studies. He also volunteers in his community and looks forward to leading one of our student study abroad programs this spring in Ireland. With this Service Award, Budd is the only professor to have earned three of the four faculty awards.

## Dr. Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award

### PAST RECIPIENTS

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2018	Elizabeth (Beth) R. Walsh
2017	Kelly C. Morgan
2016	Meledath Govindan
2015	Benjamin A. Railton
2014	Sean C. Goodlett
2013	Joshua B. Spero
2012	George F. Bohrer
2011	Howard H. Thomas
2010	Jane A. Fiske
2009	Christine Cosgrove
2008	Peter Laytin
2007	John J. Paul
2006	Eric N. Budd
2005	Gerald M. Higdon
2004	Louis J. Zivic
2003	Barbara S. Cammuso
2002	Thomas Battinelli
2001	Maria M. Jaramillo
2000	Andrea J. Wallen
1999	Edmund B. Thomas
1998	Lee N. Cunningham
1997	Robert F. Champlin
1996	Colin E. Bourn
1995	Pasquale E. Micciche
1994	Rosemarie S. Giovino
1993	Helen O'Flaherty
1992	Caroline A. Murphy
1991	Donald J. Schmidt

## Faculty Award for Service

### PAST RECIPIENTS

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2018	Megan M. Krell
2017	Elizabeth S. Gordon

## Contributions to the Graduate Program Award

### PAST RECIPIENTS

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2018	John M. Hancock
2017	Chola Chisunka
2016	Nancy L. Murray
2015	Harry Semerjian
2014	Anne M. Howard
2013	Richard J. Spencer
2012	Elaine E. Francis
2011	Michele M. Zide
2010	Rosemarie S. Giovino

## Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

### PAST RECIPIENTS

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2018	Katherine R. Jewell
2017	Teresa Fava Thomas
2016	Eric N. Budd
2015	Jeffrey E. Warmouth
2014	Benjamin A. Railton
2013	Michael B. Hoberman
2012	Susan R. Williams
2011	Joshua B. Spero
2010	Jannette M. McMenemy
2009	Susan M. Wadsworth
2008	Maria M. Jaramillo
2007	Christopher K. Cratsley
2006	Robert J. Wellman
2005	Benjamin D. Lieberman
2004	Paul I. Weizer
2003	Robin D. Dinda
2002	Cynthia Crosson
2001	Nan Wiegersma
2000	Howard H. Thomas

## UNIVERSITY SYMBOLS

The university's colors are white, gold and green. White and gold were formally adopted in June 1900, and green was added in 1979. They signify wisdom, inspiration, purity and perfection. The school motto, also adopted in 1900, is Perseverantia. This Latin word was freely translated to mean "achievements brought about by quiet will."



The university flower, the saxifrage, exemplifies the motto. The saxifrage, a small white flower with a golden center, was often found growing through cracks of rocks in early spring. Tiny as the flower is, it appeared to be so strong it could break rocks, through its gentle perseverance, its ability to overcome difficulties in its growth from seed to fruition, from lower to higher, from darkness to light.

These triumphs parallel each individual's growth through education.

In 1900, the saxifrage was adopted as the original college seal. Its white flower petals were surrounded by a golden wreath of saxifrage leaves.

The seal has evolved along with the institution, most recently in 2010 with the attainment of university status. The saxifrage and the motto remain prominent in the design, though they are depicted with a clean, elegant, contemporary look. The current academic logo incorporates a multitude of visual symbols: a shield, a book, an abstract set of wings, and, finally, a subtle "F" in the negative space.

## PRESIDENTIAL COLLAR

At formal academic occasions, the president of Fitchburg State University also wears the Presidential Collar. The links in the collar are engraved with the names of Fitchburg State's eleven presidents and years of service. The Presidential Medal, which incorporates the university seal, is suspended from the collar.

### Principals / Presidents

2015–Present	Richard S. Lapidus
2003–2015	Robert V. Antonucci
2002–2003	Michael T. Rivard (Interim)
1995–2002	Michael P. Riccards
1975–1995	Vincent J. Mara
1963–1975	James J. Hammond
1953–1963	Ralph F. Weston
1950–1953	Ellis F. White
1945–1950	William J. Sanders
1927–1945	Charles M. Herlihy
1920–1927	William J. Parkinson
1895–1920	John G. Thompson

## REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie uncertainly in 13th century England, when Edward III granted a charter to the University of Oxford. A close connection between the university and the church (the chancellor was the bishop's representative) may explain why illustrations depict the members of Oxford wearing gowns resembling clerical cassocks—closed in front and reaching the ground all around. Like the more lavishly trimmed ecclesiastical vestments, costume for advanced degrees was more elaborate.

A more practical reason than religious concurrence may have also prompted the adoption of long gowns. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were cold and often damp, and so robes (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion. The distinctive gown nevertheless set the student apart from his fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costumes for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee's prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown and hood it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree—bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor's or master's degree, gold for a doctor's degree or the governing officers

of educational institutions. A few institutions have soft velvet tams instead.

The gown is normally black, and the gown's cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor's has long, pointed sleeves, while the master's has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor's sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well.

The hood tells the most about the wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college (Fitchburg State University's colors are white, gold, and green). The color of the hood's binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted.

### ARTS & SCIENCES

- Communications Media – White
- Criminal Justice – White
- Economics – Copper
- English Studies – White
- Game Design – White
- History – White
- Human Services – White
- Interdisciplinary Studies – White
- Political Science – Light Gold
- Sociology – White

### BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

- Business Administration – Drab
- Computer Information Systems – Golden Yellow
- Computer Science – Golden Yellow
- Industrial Technology – Golden Yellow
- Occupational/Vocational Education – Light Blue
- Technology Education – Light Blue

### EDUCATION

- Education – Light Blue

### HEALTH & NATURAL SCIENCES

- Biology – Golden Yellow
- Chemistry – Golden Yellow
- Earth Systems Science – Golden Yellow
- Exercise & Sports Science – Golden Yellow
- Geographic Science & Technology – Golden Yellow
- Mathematics – Golden Yellow
- Nursing – Apricot
- Psychological Science – Golden Yellow



## HISTORY

Established in 1894 by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature, the State Normal School in Fitchburg opened in temporary quarters in the old high school building on Academy Street. Principal John G. Thompson, aided by a teaching staff of three, implemented a two-year teacher training program

for women that had forty-six participants. In December 1896, the school expanded into a new building, known as Thompson Hall, and set up the State Schools of Observation and Practice in city buildings on Day Street and Highland Avenue.

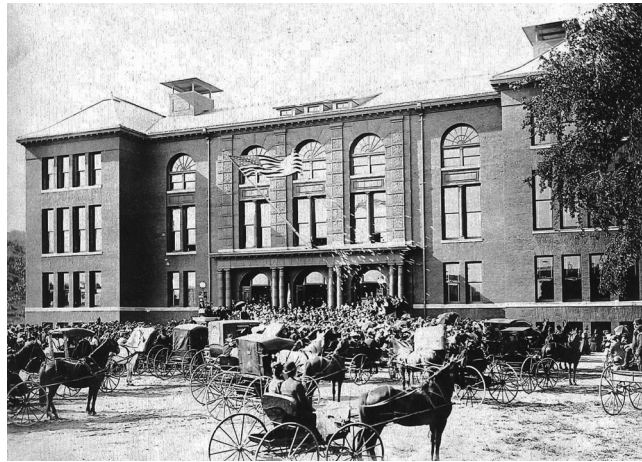
In the next decade the school was a trendsetter for programs in Education. The Edgerly School opened, originally as an eighth-grade model and practice school, and then in 1910, it became one of the first junior high schools in the United States. The following year the school initiated the first practical arts teacher training course in the country for men.

In 1930, the State Normal School was authorized to offer a bachelor's degree in practical arts, and in 1932, when it became the State Teachers College at Fitchburg, four-year degrees were offered in all areas of education.

Under the auspices of the State Division of University Extension, summer courses were first offered in 1915, marking the beginning of the college's commitment to Continuing Education programs. In 1935, the college was also authorized to establish graduate programs and in 1954 the first evening courses were offered.

In 1960, the college changed its name and expanded its mission. The State College at Fitchburg diversified its programs to include degrees in disciplines other than education. In 1965, its name was officially changed to Fitchburg State College, which today offers forty-nine undergraduate degree programs in eighteen academic departments, twenty Masters Degree programs, five Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study programs, and seven Graduate Certificate programs. Enrollment is up to 3,100 full-time and 4,000 part-time students, which include 1,100 matriculated graduate students. The campus has expanded from a single structure on High Street to thirty-two buildings on ninety acres, becoming the educational center for the Montachusett region. The college proudly offers traditional and nontraditional programs to serve the educational needs of its students as undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students.

On July 28, 2010, Gov. Deval L. Patrick signed legislation establishing a State University system in Massachusetts, and the institution's current name—Fitchburg State University—was enacted.







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