



124TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

School of Education

VIRTUAL WINTER CEREMONY



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and the winter ceremony of our 124th commencement. The celebration today is the second of two commencements we are conducting this week for the Class of 2020. The traditional undergraduate and graduate spring commencements were postponed to yesterday and were also held virtually, because the pandemic restrictions made it impossible to gather in person last May.

Unfortunately, global conditions have not improved this winter, so we must celebrate student accomplishments virtually.

Your ceremony may be virtual, but I know the hard work and sacrifices made to get to this day were very real. This is your day to shine!

Our graduates exemplify the university motto, *perseverantia*—perseverance. Commencement signals the successful completion of an important goal, as well as the beginning of new chapters and challenges. I encourage graduates to savor their accomplishments and their memories of life spent in this academic community.

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, the diploma you earn tonight represents your completion of a course of study, as well as your commitment to pursuing your personal and career goals. Your story is just beginning and we are honored that Fitchburg State will forever stand as a key chapter.

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 Winter 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

Ms. Caroline Anderson

B.S., Environmental & Earth Science, Minor in Chemistry

Graduate Student Leadership Award

Ms. Michelle A. Tilden

Master of Occupational Education

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. Nancy Murray

Dean of the School of Education

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 Winter Ceremony

Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees

Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Chair
Ms. Lynn M. Barrieau, Vice Chair
Mr. David C. Tiernan, Clerk
Mr. Donald R. Irving
Ms. Martha Nicholson
Ms. Delfi L. Nieto
Mr. Frank M. O'Donnell
Mr. Steven Olson, Student Trustee
Ms. Karen Spinelli
Ms. Carolyn E. Crowley Stimpson

2020 Honors Theses / Performances

Kurtis M. Kendall
The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Journalists
Rebecca Ann Rouleau
The Benefits of Hands-on Learning

The following list of graduating students was prepared before final grades were reported and inclusion herein does not constitute evidence of graduation. Conversely, the absence of a student's name from this list does not mean that the person will not be awarded a degree.

GRADUATE DEGREES

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Steven L. Bergman
EAST WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

James P. Cardaci
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn Marie Damaris
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Kerri Elizabeth Harding Dias
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Christine Marie Giacomozzi
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Bock Lawlor
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtney Erin Powell
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Janet Cameron Smith
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Beth Pagar Wein
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Education

CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

Marissa Lynne Asa
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Mackenzie Haley Aveni
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kunta Barros
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Beals
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph Michael Belsito
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Anthony Bennett
CHESTER, VERMONT

Danielle Gremaux Bettencourt
EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Shannon Elizabeth Bigelman
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Shayla Elizabeth Billian
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachel M. Bishop
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Cecilie Ann Carroca Boga
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Mary Brain
HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Roselma Brown
DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas William Burgos
WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

Laura Marketti Burnett
PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Francis Patrick Burns
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Richard F. Callahan
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Paul Canelas
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Lee Cannon
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Colleen Patrice Carchedi
NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelsey Ann Carnovale
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Lee Carpine
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Christine Cebula
BRIMFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Elizabeth Coffey
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Marena Helen Cole
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lucia M. Collette
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Caitlin Daly Conley
MANSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Keenon Jamall Cunningham
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael E. Dargan
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathryn Marie Davis
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine Mary Dean
GLEN ROCK, NEW JERSEY

Jennifer Rebecca DeForge
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Nora Danielle DeJas
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashlie Ann DeMarco
WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT

Mary Grace DiBenedetto
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Robert Diccico
ROSLINDALE, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas Francis Dolphin
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Irene Busa Dresser
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Christopher Duggan
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas Gerald Dugre
WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

Keri Esposito
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Danielle B. Fuchs
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Taryn Christine Gaffney
COTUIT, MASSACHUSETTS

Diane E. Galanti
FOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Beatrice Gardner Gallagher
DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Lindsay Elizabeth Gangi
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenna Gibbons
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Shioban Marie Grout
ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Devin Kathleen Guerard
NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Jamie Noelle Hannan
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Marley Hart
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sara Beth Haskell
SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS

Madeline Grace Hennessey
WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Kenneth Ernest Horne
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Catherine Pauline Hurd
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Colleen Ashley Jenkins
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Anne Johnson
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Keough
PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Brittany Jean Koerner
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Elizabeth Kuhn
NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Calean Marie Lacroix
MASHPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Kayla Ann Leary
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriella Anna Lima
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Scott Stephen Lombardi
PAXTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Molly Elizabeth Lovell
EAST BRIDGEWATER, 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

Abigail Thacher Lucas
BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeffrey Lueth
PITTSSTON, MAINE

Jessica Ann Martel
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Richard William Martin
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Clements Martin
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Manahel Jamal Massis
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Haley Marie McAuliffe
BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Brian Joseph McNally
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Heather May McNaughton
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Larry Jose Medeiros
NORTH DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelly Cahil Melanson
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassandra Rose Mizzoni
MARIETTA, GEORGIA

Francis D. Morreale
NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Lee Neenan
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

Crystal Marie Nunes
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Patricia O'Brien
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Julie O'Neill
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan A. O'Rourke
BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Lee Parker
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine Ann Perrault
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Marie Perry
MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Ann Plante
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Brendan Poirier
SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS

Molly Sarah Rae
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathryn Elizabeth Rindo
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Rooney
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Wendy Levy Rush
WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Colleen Elizabeth Saia
PLAISTOW, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Brenna Moriarty Salay
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle Marie Salvucci
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Amie Lynn Catherine Santos
GEORGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Kayla Silva
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Christine Sirrell
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer Ann Hessel Smith
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kiera Lee Songin
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Katharine C. Sparks
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Margaret Anne Stewart
BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Thora May Stickney
EAST TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sheena Marie Suttlemyre
CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND

Rikke Taylor
NORTH EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew Joseph Tessier
SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Marie Tetreault
DORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Antonia Maria Tontodonato
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Rosa Torres
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Leanne Elizabeth Turnak
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Roxanne Frances Vento
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Renee G. Vergara
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Michael Ward
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan May Wheeler
WEST HATFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph Roger Wilder
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Carol Ann Wilson
PELHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca Frances Wilson
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Julia R. Zeidman
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Fallon Rose Fantasia
SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alexis Michelle Hill
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Lea Nicole Lafond
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Alondra Yvette Pedraza
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ciara Ann Rossi
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Rose Thibodeau
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Paula Jean Valiton
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Samantha Lee Bessette
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Lynn Crawford
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Erica L. Debrececi
BRADFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jamielee Farrar
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Gail Patricia Gardner
EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Halaby
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Louise King
ROCKPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenary L. Merced-Santos
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Wilmine Julie Merlain
TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND

Margaret M. Russo
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Zille Huma Shams
BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Keith Randall Sherman
MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

Carlos V. Silva
ASHLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Thibodeau
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph Thomas
GOLDEN, COLORADO

Shakesha Ray Thompson
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher C. Turner
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Wilkin
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Despina Wilson
NORTH FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

EDUCATION 5-12

Arianna Pangiota Barnes
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Brandy L. Berube
DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Carolyn Christine Buckley
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Camille
CAMBRIDGE, 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

Meredith Joan Gallagher
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher J. Huss
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nydia Yamira Leger
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Leanne Marie Aiello
BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Colleen Elizabeth Barter
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Mae Battaini
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Noelle Beaulieu
BRADFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Debra Jane Bettencourt
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Ann Bidus
FLORENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Tara M. Capps
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathleen Donohue Cerra
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Rose Champagne
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeffrey Allen Cole
WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Anne Coons
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alicia Mary Copeland
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca L. Couture
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Lynn Cucchiara
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Davey
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

Paul R. DellaValle
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Catherine Rebecca Djerbaka
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Cathy A. Dobiszewski
WHITE HOUSE STATION, NEW JERSEY

Mariah Ashley Dolan
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Judit Flamenbaum
FLUSHING, NEW YORK

Alissa Coates Frederick
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Gawlik
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Tedi George
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Gravelle
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle M. Grenier
SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Amber Nicole Gustafson
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelly A. Harvey
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sua Im
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lindsay Elizabeth Irons
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Shelley N. Kile
PERRYTON, TEXAS

Christina M. Klemencic
NORTH AURORA, ILLINOIS

Chad C. Lawrence
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Taylor A. Levy
NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriele Loeffler
WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathryn Elizabeth MacLellan
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Holly Anne McKean
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Grace Carr Morgan
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Christie M. Mullen
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison Anne Murray
READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine M. O'Malley
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Derek B. Patno
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Alisha Ellen Rose Pierce
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa Claire Reynolds
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Elizabeth Robbins
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Felicia Marie Scott
DUNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Alyssa Short
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Lynden Marie Sparks
EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Marissa Nadia Ninni
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca L. Therrien
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Kiel Tuecke
GARNAVILLO, IOWA

Micayla Jean Varieur
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Joie Christina Vaughan
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Lucy Elizabeth Warren
MILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Science in Education

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Kelly Ann Doherty
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Bryant Ross Robinson
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

*Rebecca A. Weisenhorn
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Kaylin M. Basso *
❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Angela Dawn Douthwright ***
❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kassidy Ann Edwards *
❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Shantel Jones-Pereira **
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassie J. Kelson
WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ebony Lynn Martin
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Kacie R. Martines **
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Ariana Ryland-Reid
MATTAPAN, MASSACHUSETTS

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Jessica M. Caouette **
❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Delaney G. Mathews **
❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Ciara Kaitlin Whitney **
❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
LEOMINSTER, 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

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION

Jacob W. Laflam

❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sanya Thaiesha Sum *

❖ *English Studies*
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Emma Mae Campbell **

❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jordan Denise Long

❖ *Interdisciplinary Studies*
LEOMINSTER, 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



VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2020



Caroline Anderson

Caroline Anderson is graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average and a record of significant scholarship and academic achievement at Fitchburg State University.

Anderson's passion for the world around her is reflected in her major of environmental and earth science with a minor in chemistry. She has a deep interest in climate change and its impacts on the ocean.

As an undergraduate, Anderson was among the first cohort of students to participate in a grant-funded summer research program in which she worked with peers and faculty members on projects related to the local environmental and community health. The following summer, Anderson returned to the program as a peer mentor.

She has presented original research at conferences across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico, and interned with Professor Jane Huang on a project for the Worcester County Overdose Death Response Initiative Project, an effort begun by the Worcester District Attorney's Office in response to the opioid crisis.

Anderson was also the valedictorian of her graduating class at St. Bernard's Catholic High School in Fitchburg, where she was awarded the Rensselaer Medal for excellence in math and science.

Following graduation, Anderson is pursuing graduate school to continue her studies in oceanography.



GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD



Michelle A. Tilden

Michelle Tilden is a career educator, having worked with diverse learners for nearly 30 years. Since 2002, she has taught early education at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School in Franklin, where her students are training for employment in the field of human services.

Like many graduate students, Tilden had to balance personal and professional challenges with her scholastic demands. She overcame these hardships to complete her degree and graduates with a Master of Education in Occupational Education.

In being nominated for this award, Tilden's advisor cited numerous contributions to her field, including bringing students to the national SkillsUSA conference where they won 4th place. The experience led her to be one of the lead advisors for many years. She continues to coach individuals and teams of students from the early education program.

At her school, Tilden has shown herself to be a leader through service on numerous committees and training projects. She is the vocational representative for a team of teachers and administrators who work together on improving the educator evaluation process in their district. The vision for this evaluation process is to embrace a collaborative coaching model of evaluation with an emphasis on reflective practices to promote individual and school development and growth, recognizing individual strengths and contributions consistent with continuous school improvement and the school's core values.

2020 FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching



Dr. Paul I. Weizer

Dr. Weizer of the Department of Economics, History and Political Science received the Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award, established in 1989 to honor former university President Mara (1976-1995). He founded the Fitchburg State's

Moot Court program that enables students to compete in regional and national Moot Court Competitions where they consistently place at the top alongside students from some of the country's most prominent universities. Weizer has held many senior administrative roles, too, including interim provost, dean, department chair, and graduate program chair.

Contributions to the Graduate Program Award



Dr. Daneen Deptula

Dr. Deptula is a professor in the Psychological Science Department and chair of the Graduate Counseling Program in the Behavioral Sciences Department. Her numerous contributions to the graduate program include curriculum

development, such as developing an accelerated program of study, and the introduction of hybrid courses and certificates. She advises students and teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Her research in the newly emerging field of cyber aggression involves collaborations with both undergraduate and graduate students.

Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship



Dr. Catherine Buell

Dr. Buell is a professor in the Mathematics Department. Her research interests stretch from orbit decompositions of matrix groups, a sub-field of algebraic group theory, to visual stylometry which integrates mathematics, philosophy,

computer science, and art to classify artwork. Other interdisciplinary projects she initiated include creating a statistics course for social justice and writing a computer program to assist her science colleagues and their students studying silver-nanoparticles and their impacts on plants. Her newest research thread studies ethics in math, a controversial new topic in her field.

Faculty Award for Service



Dr. Jenn Berg

Dr. Berg is a professor and former chair of the Mathematics Department. A large investment of her volunteer time has gone to her faculty colleagues, state and national educational administrators, parents and students (at all academic levels) to establish

institutional learning goals and assessing their effectiveness. She also developed “Team Accountability” sessions to help faculty discuss, gather and compose their re-appointment materials and continued making herself available over time as a resource and confidant. Berg has held many faculty union positions, too, both on boards and as a member of the bargaining team.

(Her preference is for lower case letters. She is currently on a leave of absence.)

Dr. Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Randy P. Howe
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

2019	Eric N. Budd
2018	Megan M. Krell
2017	Elizabeth S. Gordon

Contributions to the Graduate Program Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Joseph E. McAloon (awarded posthumously)
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

2019	Kisha G. Tracy
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.

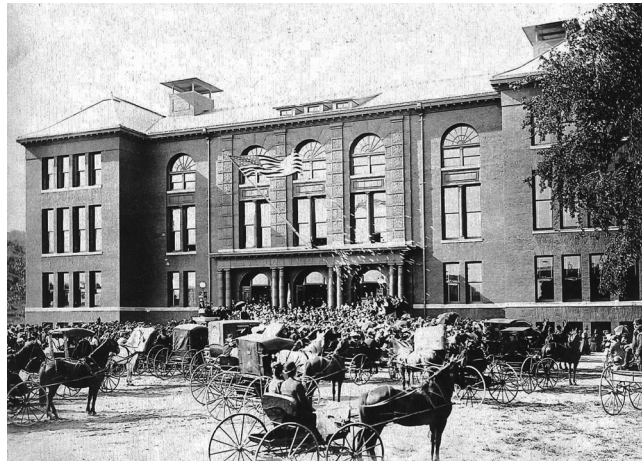
In the next decade the school was a trendsetter for programs in Education. The Edgerly School opened, originally as an eighth-grade model and practice school, and then in 1910, it became one of the first junior high schools in the United States. The following year the school initiated the first practical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