

Contact



FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS
of changing lives

SUMMER 2019 • A Legacy of Innovation • pp. 6–23



Executive Editor | Marilyn Siderwicz | Executive Director of Marketing and Integrated Communications | msiderwicz@fitchburgstate.edu

Editor | Matthew Bruun | Director of Public Relations | mbruun@fitchburgstate.edu

Vice President for Institutional Advancement | Jeffrey A. Wolfman | jwolfman@fitchburgstate.edu

Director of Alumni Relations | Emily Austin-Bruns | eaustinb@fitchburgstate.edu

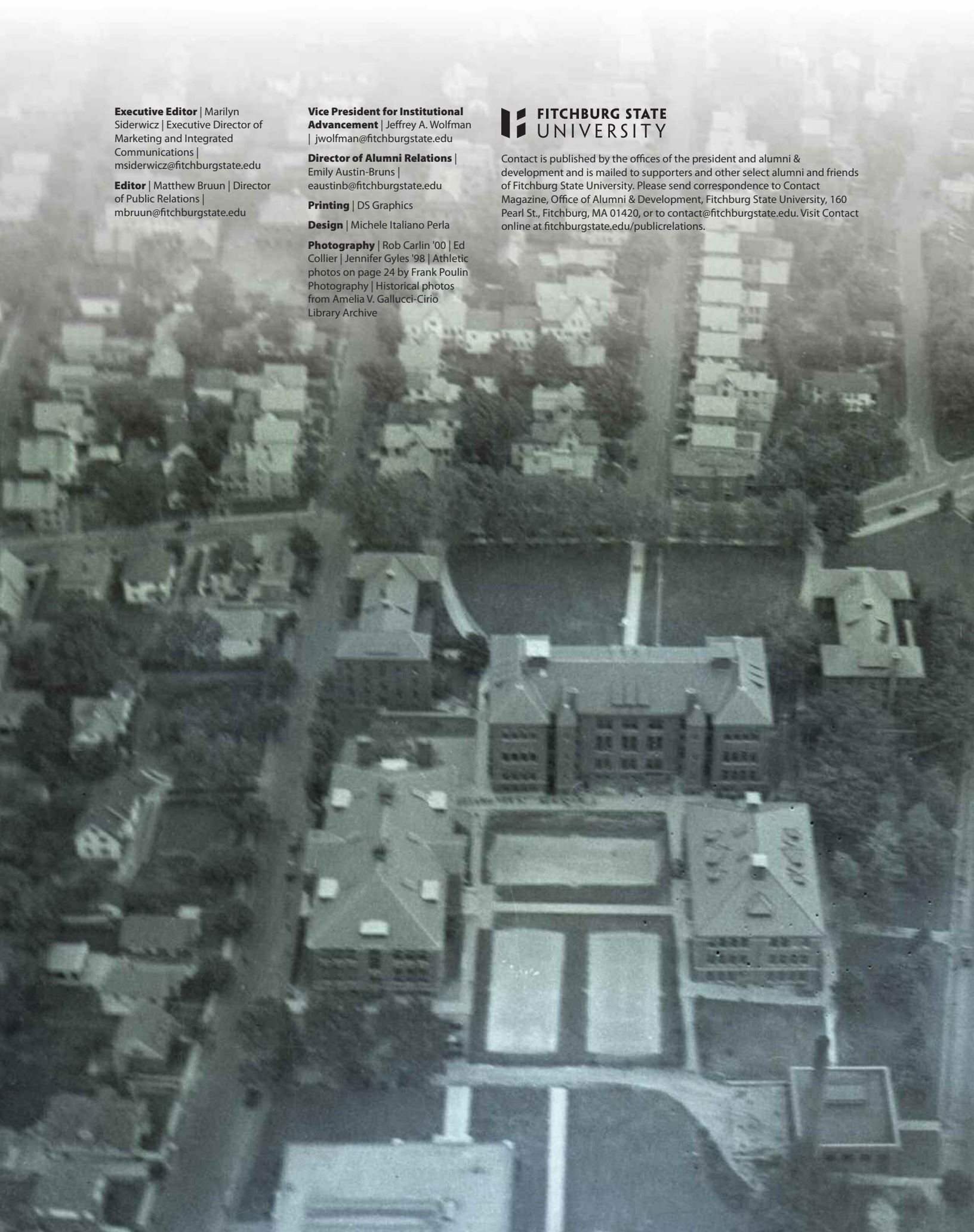
Printing | DS Graphics

Design | Michele Italiano Perla

Photography | Rob Carlin '00 | Ed Collier | Jennifer Gyles '98 | Athletic photos on page 24 by Frank Poulin
Photography | Historical photos from Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio
Library Archive



Contact is published by the offices of the president and alumni & development and is mailed to supporters and other select alumni and friends of Fitchburg State University. Please send correspondence to Contact Magazine, Office of Alumni & Development, Fitchburg State University, 160 Pearl St., Fitchburg, MA 01420, or to contact@fitchburgstate.edu. Visit Contact online at fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations.



INSIDE

2 FROM THE PRESIDENT

3 CAMPUS NEWS

Our undergraduate research conference marks its 10th anniversary, Alexander Ramos '19 is saluted in Boston, we celebrate student veterans, and observe our 123rd Commencement Exercises.

6 LEGACY OF INNOVATION | Feature

Fitchburg State celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding in 1894. Then and now, the institution has led by innovation. Read about Fitchburg State's history and path forward.

24 ATHLETICS

Coaches of the Year

25 FACULTY NOTES

26 ALUMNI NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope you noticed our highly colorful magazine cover this issue. The collage was created using individual class banners from our university archives. I regret we were not able to include every class year. We thought it would be a fun way, though, to show our expansive school pride—especially as we celebrate our 125th anniversary.

Perhaps you also read the slogan added to the anniversary logo: Celebrating 125 years of changing lives. What better way to celebrate a century-and-a-quarter of accomplishments than to highlight all those who have come before and became who they were meant to be?

I encourage you to review the university's history timeline in our Legacy of Innovation feature. I'm confident you'll learn something new about your alma mater. The stories on those pages also demonstrate how our legacy of innovation continues today and into the future. Whether blazing new paths for women in technology, earning a specialized degree online, or relating course material to real world challenges, students and alumni remark how Fitchburg State has truly transformed them. I trust you share their sentiment.

I usually make note at our commencements that milestones like graduations and anniversaries are a good cause for celebration. It is important to look back on accomplishments. But I also like to remind everyone that many others like parents and spouses often share in that success and should be acknowledged, too. Therefore, at this momentous occasion in our history, let me thank all of you, our family, for everything you have contributed to Fitchburg State. Whether you are Gold Key alumni or more recent graduates, you surely have left your mark on us and we are eternally thankful.

Please visit fitchburgstate.edu/125 to learn more about our 125th anniversary plans. Come back to join us for events and activities if you can, or reach out to me if you have new ideas to suggest. I look forward to making our next 125 years even better!



Richard S. Lapidus
Richard S. Lapidus
President

CAMPUS NEWS

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE TURNS 10, WELCOMES THE COMMUNITY

Fitchburg State is celebrating its 125th anniversary during the 2019-20 academic year, but one of our newer traditions marked its own milestone this spring. The Undergraduate Conference for Research and Creative Practice celebrated its 10th anniversary, providing an opportunity for the campus and broader community to come together in recognition of the university's academic and artistic strengths.

A newcomer to the conference was Dana Shahar '20 of Chelmsford. An elementary education major, Shahar transferred to Fitchburg State this academic year and brought her love of creative writing with her.

Shahar submitted a poem, "One Hundred Bedtime Stories," inspired by the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. Her work was accepted into the conference and won first place in the creative writing category.

"I had a wonderful time attending the conference and experiencing the phenomenal work of my peers," she said after the Honors Convocation, where she also took home the Matti N. Antila Poetry Award. "The opportunity and recognition was an auspicious way to kick off my academic career at Fitchburg State."

Samantha Richard '19 of Gardner placed first in the conference with her presentation on microplastics in the Nashua River watershed. "I never thought that I would place first in this conference," she said. "My biggest advice to other students is to not be scared, and to embrace the future. You never know whether or not you'll win, embarrass yourself, lose, whatever, but if you never put yourself out there, you will never have the chance to do great things."

Richard plans to continue her scholarly presentations. "I will be speaking at several high schools and other research conferences in the future, and this research conference has given me the courage to put myself out there and present my work to more people," she said. *(For more about Richard and her research, see page 15.)*

Samuel Gallagher '19 of Leominster has presented at the undergraduate conference each of his four years at Fitchburg

State. He also presented work on the land use and land cover of the Nashua River watershed.

"The conferences have definitely prepared me to speak in public forums," Gallagher said. "I've been able to present at regional and international conferences, and I've really enjoyed it."

Gallagher was part of a team of paid student researchers who explored the health of the Nashua River and the Fitchburg community. The work saw him work closely with his peers and professors, and the experience broadened his horizons.

"I would encourage every student who is remotely interested to pursue presenting at the conference," Gallagher said. "There are so many professors here who will encourage you. It's a great experience."

Gallagher plans a career in environmental science and geospatial information systems fields and is considering graduate school in the future.



RAMOS SHINES IN BOSTON

Alexander Ramos Jr. '19 of Leominster was honored in Boston this spring as one of the "29 Who Shine" in the state's public higher education system. Ramos, who majored in political science, completed his studies on an accelerated pace by taking dual enrollment classes in high school. At Fitchburg State, he competed with the Moot Court team and was elected student representative to the university's Board of Trustees.

Also recognized at the 29 Who Shine ceremony was Professor Paul I. Weizer (Economics, History and Political Science), whom Ramos selected as his mentor.

"Dr. Weizer has consistently gone above and beyond in his support of my personal and professional aspirations, from advising me on what classes to take to prepare for law school to counseling me about whatever hardships I encountered," Ramos said. "I am forever indebted to him for his guidance and teachings."



APPRECIATING OUR VETERANS

The campus saluted its student veterans this spring with an afternoon of events designed to increase awareness and show appreciation for those who serve.

Debra Perini '19 of Sterling helped organize the event as a work study student in the Veterans Center at Thompson Hall. She served 25 years in the U.S. Air Force before returning to school to complete her degree in middle school education.

Perini said she always felt welcome on campus even as a non-traditional student, crediting faculty members from across departments with giving her the encouragement to move forward. She also had strong words about the current student body. "Having immersed myself for two years with this generation of students has given me hope for the future," she said.

Katelyn Turk '19 of Leominster will complete her degree in exercise and sports science this winter. She came to Fitchburg State after four years in the U.S. Navy and deployments across the globe. She also worked in the Veterans Center where she was able to help her fellow student veterans navigate college life.

"I love it here," she said. "The faculty has been great and the Veterans Center is a great resource."

Her husband, Chris Turk '20, is also a veteran, having served 14 years in the Navy. "Going from the military to a college campus was a rough transition," he said. "But it's nice having the Veterans Center, because we can all relate."

The Turks enjoyed the appreciation event with their 3-year-old son, Ethan.



Steven D. Borges '90, executive vice president and chief executive officer of Nypro Healthcare, offered advice to the graduates and their families in his address.



FITCHBURG STATE HELD ITS 123RD COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES IN MAY, CONFERRING MORE THAN 800 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREES OVER TWO CEREMONIES.



Valedictorian Madison Medina, graduating with a degree in criminal justice, addressed her fellow graduates and guests.

Christine Foote-Lucero of Colorado was given the Graduate Student Leadership Award. She completed an online Master of Science in forensic nursing.



Anna M. Clementi, center, a member of the university Board of Trustees, was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of her service and philanthropy. She was hooded by Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Alberto Cardelle, left, and President Lapidus.



A LEGACY OF THEN AND NOW

**1894—FITCBURG
NORMAL SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED BY
THE
MASSACHUSETTS
LEGISLATURE TO
EDUCATE AND
TRAIN TEACHERS
FOR THE REGION'S
SCHOOLS.**

**1896—COLLEGE
MOVED TO NEW
BUILDING,
THOMPSON HALL,
ON PRESENT SITE.**

**INCOMING CLASS
EXCEEDS 100
STUDENTS.**



Joseph G. Edgerly

**1895—FIRST
CLASSES OFFERED
AT THE ACADEMY
STREET SCHOOL IN
DOWNTOWN
FITCBURG.**

46 women enrolled, hailing from 17 Massachusetts towns as well as New Hampshire and Vermont. John G. Thompson named to head the new school.



INNOVATION

The story of Fitchburg State begins in the mind of Joseph G. Edgerly, a tireless supporter of the importance of public education. A former farmhand in his native New Hampshire, Edgerly was appointed the superintendent of schools in Fitchburg in 1875. He saw early on the need to reorganize the education system and advocated for the creation of a more formal training regimen for teachers. "We desire now that we may have competent teachers, that we may have schools to train the teachers that we need," Edgerly said in 1893. "We desire to have good schools."

Edgerly's vision was made reality on June 6, 1894, when Massachusetts Gov. Haden Greenhalge signed legislation creating the Normal School at Fitchburg. For 125 years, Fitchburg State has been changing lives – of teachers, of students, of communities. The university has been innovating as long as it's been in existence and is poised to continue exploring new ways to respond to the needs of an ever-evolving world.



1898—ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDED.

RUTH JEFTS ELECTED FIRST ALUMNI PRESIDENT.

1900—EDGERLY SCHOOL, NAMED FOR FITCHBURG SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT JOSEPH G. EDGERLY, OPENS ON THE MAIN CAMPUS.

1897—FIRST GRADUATING CLASS RECEIVES DIPLOMA.



1903—MILLER HALL OPENS, HOUSING THE WOMEN'S DORM.

Today the building houses academic offices as well as the Miller Oval.

A LEGACY OF INNOVATION

THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECLARES: "THE DESIGN OF THE
NORMAL SCHOOLS IS STRICTLY
PROFESSIONAL; THAT IS, TO PREPARE, IN
THE BEST POSSIBLE MANNER, THEIR
PUPILS FOR THE WORK OF ORGANIZING,
GOVERNING AND TEACHING THE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH. TO THIS END THERE
MUST BE THE MOST THOROUGH
KNOWLEDGE, FIRST, OF THE BRANCHES
OF LEARNING REQUIRED TO BE TAUGHT
IN THE SCHOOLS; SECOND, OF THE BEST
METHODS OF TEACHING THOSE
BRANCHES; AND THIRD, OF RIGHT
MENTAL TRAINING."

—From the State Normal School
catalogue and circular, 1896

**1909—THE
PRACTICAL ARTS
TEACHER
TRAINING COURSE
FOR MEN, THE
FIRST OF ITS KIND
IN THE COUNTRY, IS
INSTITUTED.**



**1912—ATHLETIC
PROGRAM BEGINS
WITH BASKETBALL
COMPETITION
AGAINST LOCAL
HIGH SCHOOLS
AND COLLEGES.**



**1910—EDGERLY
SCHOOL BECOMES
ONE OF THE FIRST
JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOLS IN THE
COUNTRY. MANUAL
ARTS BUILDING IS
DEDICATED.**

APPLIED LEARNING: THE EVOLUTION OF TEACHER TRAINING

Fitchburg State's first principal (as the Normal School's leaders were originally known) was John G. Thompson, an accomplished educator in his own right. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1886, Thompson taught in public schools in Waukegan, Ill. and Sandwich, Massachusetts. He served as principal of Winchester High School in New Hampshire and Southboro High School in Massachusetts before becoming superintendent of a new district including Southboro, Northboro, Shrewsbury, and Berlin, and later of Leominster, Massachusetts. In 1894, Thompson was appointed principal of the newly established Fitchburg Normal School.

During his tenure at Fitchburg Normal School, Thompson co-created the Thompson Readers, used as texts

for teaching children how to read at schools across the country (vintage editions of these texts are available to view in the archives in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library).

Thompson also recognized the importance of having a model school in which student teachers could observe and teach. The second building on campus, later named for Joseph Edgerly, opened in 1901.

The practice school concept has evolved and remains a cornerstone of the university experience. The McKay Arts Academy is located on campus and remains a fundamental asset. Teacher candidates practice their skills under the supervision of practitioners at schools across the region.

Professor Annette Sullivan's sophomore students engage in a robust pre-practicum experience at McKay in Jennifer



1922—FIRST SAXIFRAGE YEARBOOK PRODUCED. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED.



1915—FIRST SUMMER EXTENSION COURSES OFFERED, REPRESENTING THE BEGINNING OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AT THE COLLEGE.



1932—NORMAL SCHOOL BECOMES THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE AT FITCHBURG.

Programs leading to the bachelor's degree announced.

A LEGACY OF INNOVATION

Brown's second-grade classroom. The class goes beyond the traditional lecture model to include weekly visits with the second-graders, with teacher candidates practicing what they've learned.

"While any classroom experience is good for any teacher to have, this model really allowed us to build our confidence and our skills," said Tanya Rowan '18, '21, who is pursuing a master's degree in special education with moderate disabilities in grades pre-K to 8. "This model gave us a few more tricks of the trade than you'd normally receive. It's important for teachers to learn early that a 'one size fits all' model doesn't work in today's classroom."

Rowan, Sullivan and Brown made a joint presentation on "The Making of a Teacher" to a Massachusetts Association of Colleges for Teacher Education conference this spring, impressing fellow attendees with the innovative model. Brown said the project has improved her students' learning, and Sullivan said the teacher candidates also make great strides. The model may be expanded to other classes.

"The teacher preparation program has been redesigned to include more meaningful field experiences and updated courses," said Professor Denise LaFrance, chair of the

Education Department. "Teaching is a dynamic process that evolves to meet the needs of students and teacher preparation candidates."

Dean of Education Bruno Hicks said the scaffolded experience means teacher candidates have amassed significant hours practicing their craft even before the senior-year student teaching experience.

"Their experiences are aligned with methods courses, so teacher candidates get to work in class, get feedback, and practice modifying curriculum before they get to student teaching," he said. "Research shows if you can attach research to practice, your abilities to apply that knowledge as a teacher increase."

For Rowan, the experience of presenting at a conference of professional peers was itself amazing. "The support and feedback I received at Fitchburg State helped to build my confidence," she said. "Two years ago I never would have been able to stand up in front of professionals. It was such an accomplishment for me. I owe a lot of that to the professors who showed me that I do have something valuable to offer and believed in my abilities."

1935—ANTHONY BUILDING, NAMED FOR PROFESSOR WILLIS B. ANTHONY, OPENS.

COLLEGE AUTHORIZED TO ESTABLISH GRADUATE PROGRAMS.



1940s – IN RESPONSE TO WORLD WAR II, FITCHBURG STATE BEGINS FLIGHT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ARMY AND NAVY.

1943—NURSING PROGRAM BEGINS WITH COOPERATIVE NURSING EDUCATION EFFORT WITH BURBANK HOSPITAL.



Kelsey Comiskey '20 is one of the students getting hands-on classroom experience at the McKay Arts Academy.



1956—FUNDING APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A DORMITORY AND DINING HALL ON THE WEST SIDE OF NORTH STREET.

This signaled the college's first expansion beyond the main quadrangle and the beginning of a decade of physical growth.

1952—SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION PROGRAM BEGINS.

1946—LANDMARK GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. FIRST INTRAMURAL ATHLETICS PROGRAM STARTED.





“FITCHBURG STATE WAS VERY BRAVE TO TAKE ME ON AS A STUDENT. I COULD HAVE BEEN A COLOSSAL EMBARRASSMENT TO THEM, AND INSTEAD THEY GAVE ME THE SKILLS TO DO WHAT I’VE DONE MY ENTIRE LIFE. THEY WERE AHEAD OF THEIR TIME.”

—Cheryl (Blackmar) Reynolds '68

FIRST IN HER CLASS

Cheryl (Blackmar) Reynolds '68 wasn't looking to be a trailblazer when she first checked out Fitchburg State in 1964, but it was a fortuitous find for her and her future alma mater.

As a student in New Jersey, she had always been drawn to industrial arts. “I took art classes and designed things that could only be built in the shop,” she recalled. “My guidance counselor contacted (the local college) and their response was they didn't have women in industrial arts, and they weren't interested in having any.”

So she started looking around the Northeast for other options, and her guidance counselor found Fitchburg State. There were no women in the program, she learned, but neither was there opposition to having them. “So I took the Trailways bus and walked from the station to campus,” she recalled. She met with President James J. Hammond, department chair Edward Donnelly and Registrar John Mazeka for an interview.

“I had no idea that all the other industrial arts students didn't have to be interviewed like this,” she said. “I was a little nervous because Fitchburg State was the only school I applied to.”



1960—NAME CHANGED TO STATE COLLEGE AT FITCHBURG.

COLLEGE EMPOWERED TO AWARD DEGREES IN DISCIPLINES OTHER THAN EDUCATION.



1963—SCIENCE BUILDING OPENS; ALSO HOME TO LIBRARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.

She was accepted, and became the first woman in the program's history, even netting a front page profile in the Fitchburg *Sentinel* newspaper just days into the fall semester.

"It was awkward sometimes," she said, recalling an instructor who was particularly challenging. "One time he threw down his cigar and said, 'I see no reason for women in industrial arts. I wasn't there to prove *women* could teach industrial arts. I was there because *I* wanted to teach industrial arts."

Reynolds found the program fulfilling and appreciated the professional opportunities that came her way. "There were four jobs apiece for each of us in those days."

After she graduated she was one of just 10 women in the country teaching industrial arts.

She taught in Connecticut for five years before leaving to raise a family, but remained active in the profession through advocating for industrial arts education as it evolved into technology education.

After raising her family, Reynolds and her late husband got into the property management business (growing from a six-unit property in 1970 to 24 properties now). She still does all the repairs to her properties, applying her technical

expertise. "In your lifetime you may never need a brain surgeon, but everyone will need a plumber or an auto mechanic," she said.

The university's industrial technology offerings have changed with the times, now encompassing a wide array of sub-specialties to match the needs of modern industry.

"Manufacturing has gone digital, and the precision and complexity of additive technology and information tools have created new opportunities and new career pathways in manufacturing," said Dean of Business and Technology Keith Williamson. "We've created a new degree in engineering technology to help our manufacturing workforce and added cybersecurity to our computer information systems program to help our tech companies find local talent for their large number of unfilled jobs."

Reynolds looks back on her days at Fitchburg State with fondness, and returned to campus last fall with other members of the Class of 1968 for their induction into the Gold Key Society.

"Traditional things take a long time to change," she said. "I've done my best to encourage other women to get into technical education."

1966—AUBUCHON HALL OPENS, FIRST AS A DORMITORY FOR WOMEN.

Named for William F. Aubuchon, who chaired the institution's board for nine years.

1964—MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.

1965—NAME CHANGED TO FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE.



HOW FITCHBURG STATE CHANGED MY LIFE: “MY SPECIFIC PROGRAM IS NOT COMMON. WHEN I STARTED LOOKING, THERE WERE MAYBE FOUR OR FIVE ONLINE PROGRAMS IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY. FITCHBURG STATE CHANGED MY LIFE IN THAT I WAS ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY SPECIALTY AND

MAINTAIN THE ABILITY TO STAY IN MY HOME.”

– Christine Foote-Lucero '19



SERVING THE PUBLIC

Fitchburg State has been supporting public health for more than 75 years. The university's Nursing Department's origins date to 1943, when a combined training program was begun with the Burbank Hospital School. It established Fitchburg State as the first educational institution in Massachusetts to offer a baccalaureate degree for nurses.

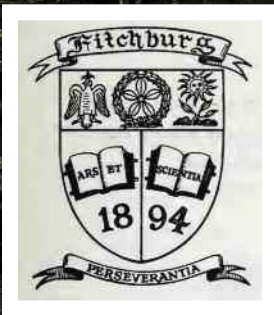
In the ensuing decades, 4,000 nurses have graduated from the program, and the innovations have continued.

In 1996, a Master of Science in Forensic Nursing program was established, serving students where the disciplines of nursing and criminal justice intersect. The program has been available completely online since 2008, expanding the student pool to the national and international level.

One of its most recent graduates is Christine Foote-Lucero of Loveland, Colo., a forensic nurse examiner at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora who has presented at state and national conferences on a variety of forensic and trauma topics. Foote-Lucero was recognized this spring with the Graduate Student Leadership Award.

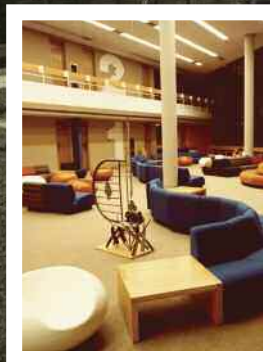
1970—ALL COLLEGE COUNCIL INSTITUTED.

1971—MCKAY CAMPUS SCHOOL OPENS.



1974—HAMMOND BUILDING, HOUSING THE CAMPUS LIBRARY, OPENS.

Named for President James J. Hammond, who led Fitchburg State from 1962-1975.



THE FUTURE IS INTERDISCIPLINARY

The Division of Health and Natural Sciences marks another milestone later this year with the launch of the new major in environmental public health.

“By combining science, health professions, and social science disciplines into one unique major, environmental public health graduates will be well-positioned to tackle the most challenging public health needs in our communities,” said Dean of Health and Natural Sciences John Schaumloffel.

Professor Elizabeth Gordon, chair of the Earth and Geographic Sciences Department that will house the new major, said the program emerged from collaborations between Professor Jane Huang (who specializes in Geographic Information System applications) and Professor Deborah Benes from nursing. “This is a pathway that allows students to tap into their interest in the health fields, but from a different direction,” Gordon said.

Samantha Richard '19 of Gardner, who will complete her degree in environmental and earth science this winter, said the new program speaks to her own ambitions. “I’m really hoping that the new major can help allow students to think of how our impacts on the world around us can come back to affect us in harmful ways in the future,” she said.



1975—BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.

1977—COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA PROGRAM APPROVED.

FIRST FALL CONVOCATION.



1976—FACILITIES BUILDING OPENS, LATER NAMED FOR JOHN P. DUPONT.

Dupont worked for the institution as a steam fireman from 1947 to 1961 and later chief engineer of the power plant from 1961 to 1986. The university’s signature smokestack is attached to this building.

MERGING DISCIPLINES

Fitchburg State may have originated as a teacher training school, but decades ago it was decided that a liberal arts foundation was an important augmentation.

"A number of years ago, this normal school saw the value of awarding four-year liberal arts degrees to create citizens of the world," said Dean of Arts and Sciences Franca Barricelli. Balancing that liberal arts foundation with a variety of professional programs has been essential to the creation of well-rounded graduates.

"With a liberal arts background," she explained, "our students can measure, can express themselves and critically assess. All of these skills together – the benefit of broad-based learning – prepare human beings who can think and contribute meaningfully to the world in which they live."

That balance is embodied in the "History by Design" course co-taught by Professor Joseph Wachtel and Professor Jon Amakawa wherein history and game design students created virtual time travel for visitors to historic sites. This spring they worked on a project for the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area based on the Battle of Lexington and Concord that marked the onset of the American Revolution.

"This battle was fought in front of people's homes," Wachtel said. Through augmented reality, visitors can experience these existing sites as they appeared almost 250 years ago.

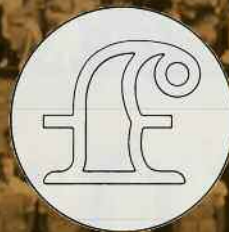
"These students have been able to work within their roles as artists and programmers and historical researchers, and they've really blossomed," Amakawa added.

Game Design student Emily Cummings '21 of Maine



loved the experience. "Every time I'd draw something I'd have to run it by the historians for accuracy, for the little details," she said.

Wachtel said the project lets students see beyond their own perspectives. "When students go out into the world, they're going to be with people from different backgrounds," he said. "The skills they're learning in the liberal arts are what they'll use in the world."



**1981—
MONTACHUSSETT
ECONOMIC
CENTER
ESTABLISHED TO
ASSIST AREA
BUSINESSES.**

**1978—PRESIDENT
VINCENT J. MARA
ESTABLISHES THE
FITCHBURG STATE
COLLEGE
FOUNDATION, AND
LAUNCHES
EXTENSIVE
FUNDRAISING
PROGRAM.**

**1979—HARROD
LECTURE SERIES, A
SHOWCASE OF
FACULTY TALENT,
BEGINS.**

**FIRST HONORS
CONVOCATION.**

HOW FITCHBURG STATE CHANGED MY LIFE: "ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT FITCHBURG STATE IS THE FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO; ON THE SECOND OR THIRD DAY OF CLASSES, MY PROFESSORS KNEW ME. FITCHBURG STATE HAS CHANGED MY LIFE IN THAT NOW I KNOW I REALLY WANT TO BE A POLICE OFFICER. IF I WASN'T HERE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D BE DOING."

– Perry Ofori '20

1988—SWEEPING NEW LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES PROGRAM APPROVED.

NEW MAJOR IN BIOLOGY/EXERCISE SCIENCE BEGINS, EVENTUALLY EVOLVING INTO THE EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.



A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL

Fitchburg State has added academic programs throughout its history, responding to workforce development needs and finding ways to innovate. Among recent additions, the Communications Media Department's major in game design is the only one of its kind at a public institution in New England. And the five-year police program whose graduates earn bachelor's and master's degrees and certification to serve in municipal police departments across the state is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

Perry Ofori '20 was in middle school when his family emigrated from Ghana, and is the first in his family to pursue a college education. His commitment to public service inspired him to enroll in Fitchburg State's police program.

"I want to be a positive role model," Ofori said. "As a police officer you're able to help people in different ways."

The Dean's List student is also active in the university's Army ROTC program and a resident adviser in Herlihy Hall, where the university's criminal justice residential learning community is housed.

"It's all about time management, and that's one of my strengths," Ofori said.

At Herlihy and as a platoon leader with the police program, he is able to impart valuable lessons to his fellow students. "That's where peer to peer leadership comes into play," he said.

This spring he received the inaugural Academy Director's Award in recognition of his vision and innovation, and will be a co-class leader in the coming academic year.

"I'd heard things from other students about what Perry was doing with his students at Herlihy, including team-building outings and skills development," said Academy Director Lisa Lane. "He truly believes in what he's doing and the integrity of the program."

1989—MARA VILLAGE RESIDENCE HALL COMPLEX OPENS, NAMED FOR VINCENT J. MARA, WHO SERVED AS PRESIDENT FROM 1976 TO 1995. THE RESIDENCE HALL COMPLEX NOW SPANS EIGHT BUILDINGS.



HOW FITCHBURG STATE CHANGED MY LIFE: “AS AN UNDERGRADUATE, I GREW ACADEMICALLY AS WELL AS IN LIFE. YOU’RE A YOUNG ADULT, YOU’RE TRYING TO EXPERIENCE LIFE, MAKE DECISIONS, GOOD AND BAD, AND LEARN FROM THEM. MY EXPERIENCE AT FITCHBURG STATE REALLY HELPED ME DISCOVER WHO I WOULD BECOME.”

— Carolyn Perla '07, '18

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Carolyn Perla '07, '18 completed an undergraduate degree in sociology and was looking to advance her career when she came back to Fitchburg State to pursue her MBA. Working at IC Federal Credit Union, Perla knew the advanced degree would help her upward mobility.

What attracted her to the online MBA program was the flexibility it offered, with in-person and online options. “Having the opportunity to go through the program that fit my life was huge,” she said. “I completed the program with a network I can take into the world.”

Perla was recognized in winter 2018 with the Graduate Student Leadership Award in recognition of her contributions to the program and was named vice president retail banking at IC Federal Credit Union earlier this year.

“What is happening at Fitchburg State is reflective of what is happening both nationally and globally,” said Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education Becky Copper Glenz. “Those programs with a professional focus that attract working professionals have moved to online and hybrid models, and this is especially true among master’s level graduate programs where the majority of students are working and pursuing a degree to assist with advancement



1998—FIRST ONLINE COURSES OFFERED.

1994—COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL. SUCCESSFUL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BRINGS OVERALL ENDOWMENT TO \$3.5 MILLION.



1999—CENTER FOR ITALIAN CULTURE (CIC) FOUNDED.

The CIC encourages the understanding and appreciation of all aspects of Italian language and culture through programming and support of international experiences.

or greater mobility in their career.

"I also believe this is reflective of a changing culture and workplace where more and more companies are expecting that their staff can communicate effectively in online settings, complete projects and daily work as part of a virtual team, know how to conduct research online and work independently which are all skills that you gain through online education," she continued. "People are placing a high value on time and accessibility given the fast pace of our current culture and online education allows people to better balance work, personal life and their academic life."

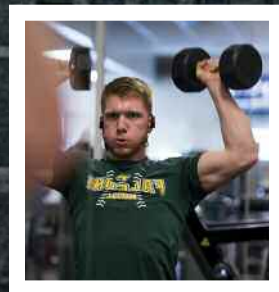
"We've seen enormous growth in our MBA programs as working adults see opportunities to advance their careers along pathways that make their organizations better," said Dean of Business and Technology Keith Williamson. "We're responding by providing new MBA tracks in Healthcare Management and Marketing to expand options beyond the demand for our management tracks."



2004—ONLINE COURSES EXPAND WITH CHANGES TO TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE.

ADULT LEARNING IN THE FITCHBURG AREA (ALFA), A LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE OFFERING NON-CREDIT DAYTIME CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS, IS FOUNDED.

2000—ATHLETICS AND RECREATION CENTER OPENS ON NORTH STREET.



INFORMATION LITERACY

Like many other instructional spaces that have evolved over Fitchburg State's history, the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library has adapted to serve the needs of its community of students, faculty and staff.

The library was founded in Thompson Hall and moved to the Sanders Building in 1963. When the Hammond Building was completed in 1975, the library was moved into its current quarters. That space has undergone significant renovation and was modernized in 2016 to incorporate a variety of spaces including individual and group study rooms, computers labs, and the Center for Teaching and Learning, and its spacious first floor is often used for public presentations.

Library Dean Jacalyn Kremer said the university's resources recently doubled in size with the advent of e-books. The approximately 180,000 print volumes in the library are complemented by 180,000 electronic titles (a coincidence, she said). The library has also 100,000 online journals to explore.

Guiding students through this abundance of resources is a staff of professional librarians. "The librarian isn't just waiting behind a desk for someone to come up to them," Kremer said. "Our librarians are partnering with faculty to

teach students vital research and information literacy skills. Last year we taught 247 research classes, online and in person."

The library's digital holdings, including multimedia databases, archival university records and historical photographs, can be viewed online at fitchburgstate.edu/library. Alumni are welcome to visit the library to use its online resources and check out books.



2005—FITCHBURG STATE TAKES OVER MANAGEMENT OF WALLACE CIVIC CENTER AND RENOVATES ICE RINK.

2010—NAME CHANGED TO FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY. UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE FOR RESEARCH AND CREATIVE PRACTICE LAUNCHES.





2012—RENOVATED HAMMOND HALL REOPENS, CREATING “FRONT DOOR” TO CAMPUS BRIDGING UNIVERSITY AND WIDER COMMUNITY.

2015—UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES GROUNDBREAKING POLICE PROGRAM, WHOSE GRADUATES COMPLETE TWO DEGREES AND CERTIFICATION TO WORK IN MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE STATE.



2013—ANTONUCCI SCIENCE COMPLEX OPENS WITH STATE OF THE ART LABORATORIES FOR BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND EARTH SCIENCES.



A COLLEGE TOWN

Many of the city of Fitchburg's features cited in the Normal School's inaugural program of study have evolved over the past century, but the Fitchburg Art Museum, public library and train station remain important regional assets. The university has long recognized and nurtured its role in the life of the city, with robust partnerships that include internships and applied learning opportunities, and that is poised only to grow in the coming years.

For several years, students have enjoyed credit-bearing internships at the art museum while class projects have developed marketing collateral for exhibits and supported institutional branding.

The university's commitment to Fitchburg's revitalization is reflected in the brick and mortar of the Main Street Theater Block, purchased by the university in 2016 and now home to its ideaLab and game design studio. The spring semester marked the first time that game studio students called Main Street their base of operations. Future phases of the Theater Block project will bring the 1,200-seat performance venue back to life, serving as a campus and regional attraction.

The university is also the lead sponsor of Relmagine North of Main, a multi-agency partnership designed to revitalize the neighborhood bridging the campus and the heart of downtown.

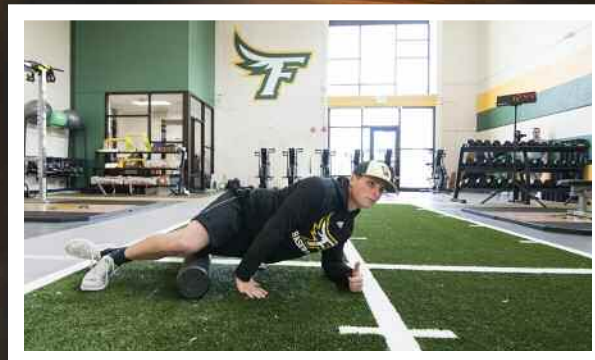
Institutional efforts include the Center for Professional Studies, located at the intermodal transportation center on Main Street, and a hub of adult learning for decades. The

Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area (ALFA) program, meanwhile, provides affordable, non-credit-bearing courses for those wanting to broaden their horizons just for the fun of it.

Student and faculty energies are also serving the public good, from grant-funded research exploring the health of community residents and the conditions of the Nashua River that flows through the area, to the Community Research & Consulting Group founded recently through the Crocker Center for Civic Engagement. That group links the university's intellectual capital to real world problems. It's also bringing social and cultural enrichment, demonstrated in projects this spring like helping students in the Leominster Public Schools learn how to play musical instruments, or a place-making project in downtown Fitchburg wherein students put on a petting zoo for local families.

2018—CARMELITA LANDRY ARENA AT WALLACE CIVIC CENTER RE-DEDICATED AS YEAR-ROUND SPORTS CONDITIONING FACILITY FOR VARSITY ATHLETES AND STUDENTS IN EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCE PROGRAM.

2016—UNIVERSITY PURCHASES MAIN STREET THEATER BLOCK AS SITE OF GAME DESIGN STUDIO AND IDEALAB. RENOVATION OF THEATER ITSELF UNDER REVIEW.



2019—NEW MAJORS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL STUDIES LAUNCH. UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES.

“FITCHBURG, ONE OF THE MOST RAPIDLY GROWING AND ENTERPRISING CITIES OF MASSACHUSETTS, HAD IN 1895 A POPULATION OF 26,409. IT IS READILY REACHED BY RAILROAD FROM ANY POINT IN THE NEW ENGLAND STATES, SITUATED, AS IT IS, ON THE FITCHBURG RAILROAD. ... ITS LARGE AND WELL-SELECTED PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ITS FINE ART MUSEUM, TOGETHER IN THE BEAUTIFUL WALLACE BUILDING, AFFORD UNUSUAL ADVANTAGES FOR SPECIAL WORK BY NORMAL SCHOOL PUPILS.”

—From the State Normal School catalogue and circular, 1896

Keep up to date with events and activities surrounding the anniversary by visiting FITCHBURGSTATE.EDU/125



ATHLETIC ALL STARS

This spring, Fitchburg State's softball and baseball teams had unprecedented runs in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) post-season. Baseball Coach Kevin Barnaby and Softball Coach Merry MacDonald were named the 2019 MASCAC Champion's Choice Coach of the Year for their achievements.

Under Coach Barnaby, the baseball team set a new record for most wins (26) in a season and tied or broke seven team records. Coach MacDonald's softball team set a new mark for most regular season wins (24) and tied the team record for most wins (26) in a season. Below, we discuss the recently wrapped seasons with the honored coaches.

WHAT IS YOUR BASEBALL PLAYING AND COACHING BACKGROUND?



Coach Barnaby: I was a four-year starter at Leominster High School and I played two and a half years at Worcester State University. When I was 27 I went back to get my degree and started coaching college. I spent a year at Fitchburg State as an assistant coach before jumping to UMass Lowell

for two years and I just finished off my fourth year here at Fitchburg State.

Coach MacDonald: Initially I played at Wheaton College, then I transferred to Endicott College and played three seasons there. After college I became the graduate assistant softball coach at Springfield College for two years and just completed my seventh season at Fitchburg State.

COACH BARNABY, YOU GRADUATED FOUR SENIORS THIS YEAR (TOMMY PARSONS, ANDREW DUNN, NOAH MILLIARD, AND ADAM SOMERS) WHO PLAYED A COMBINED 173 GAMES. WHAT IMPACT DID THEY HAVE ON YOUR TEAM?

Coach Barnaby: They are the four guys that have bridged the gap from where we started and set the foundation to where we are now. They've been instrumental in embracing everything we believe as a coaching staff that needs to happen, on the field, in the weight room, and in the classroom. I cannot express how grateful I am to have those guys explain our model to our younger players when they get to campus.

COACH MACDONALD, YOU GRADUATED SEVEN SENIORS THIS YEAR (MELISSA DIPHILIPPO, SAMANTHA WOODMAN, NICOLE SYLVESTER, MADDIE MEDINA, MICHELLE LEBLANC, MICHAELA KEENAN, AND HAYLEY MCCARTHY) WHO PLAYED A COMBINED 698 GAMES. WHAT IMPACT DID THEY HAVE ON YOUR TEAM?



Coach MacDonald:

Since their freshman year I was trying to change the culture and this was the group that bought in. They have so many big personalities and are great leaders, they came together with what they had to do and work together to achieve that. This year we had three of them get hurt in the key part of the season and they were still excellent leaders, still

helping the underclassmen. It could have been easier for them to give up and yet they were on the field doing over and above to help the younger kids feel comfortable which ultimately led to the success that we had.

WHAT DO YOU TELL YOUR POTENTIAL RECRUITS ABOUT AND FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY AND BEING A NCAA DIVISION III ATHLETE?

Coach MacDonald: I see a lot of athletes that want to go Division I or II. I tell them that in DIII you can get a balance of academics and athletics and also here it's going to be more cost-effective. I sell them on the fact that I am a full-time coach here and the dedication to the program that I have in meeting with each student-athlete regularly, talking with them one-on-one, and establishing that personal relationship that they may not get at other schools.

Coach Barnaby: Fitchburg State's campus sells itself; what we do is highlight certain aspects that an athlete would look for, specifically Landry Arena, our locker room and playing fields. In Division III we try to tell them you are going to develop as a person here. If you can prove that you can handle athletics, academics, doing volunteer efforts, and possibly working a job, your resume will sell itself. Here it is not the promise of professional baseball, it's the promise of being professional in whatever their major might be.

CELEBRATING FACULTY EXCELLENCE



Professor Randy Howe '84, '90 (Communications Media), second from left, received the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching from President Lapidus, far right. The award is named for the former president who served Fitchburg State from 1976 to 1995. Two of President Mara's children attended the ceremony: Clare (Mara) Rowland '88, at far left, and John E. Mara '81, '94, second from right.

The university held its third Celebration of Faculty Excellence this spring, recognizing faculty members on the milestones of tenure and promotion, as well as retirements, emeriti status and the university's signature faculty awards. The Contributions to the Graduate Program Award was presented posthumously to Professor Joseph E. McAloon (Business Administration), who died suddenly this spring. McAloon was remembered with a celebration of life in May where his more than three decades of service to the university community was honored by colleagues and students from throughout his career.



Professor Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) received the Faculty Award for Service.



Professor Kisha Tracy (English Studies) was presented the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship.

CLASS NOTES

This Class Notes section includes news that was received between November 20, 2018 and May 1, 2019. 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.

1960S

PATRICK J. O'LEARY '64, a longtime coach/teacher and guidance counselor in Saugus, now lives at the Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club, which is an over 55 community in Port Charlotte, Fla.

1970S

SANDRA C. (WALKER) REHLER '77, '06 was named the interim superintendent of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District. Rehler is the district's director of curriculum and formerly an assistant principal at Overlook Middle School.

1980S

DENNIS C. MALVERS '80 retired after 38 years in higher education. Malvers began his career at Merrimack College in residence life, then served at Middlesex Community College for over 30 years in student affairs, and most recently in college advancement.

CHERYL A. (GRACE) VACCA '81 left the pharmaceutical industry and became a residential real estate agent with Keller Williams Real Estate.

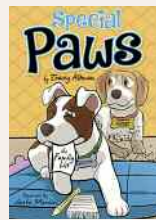
CHARLES LYDEARD '84, chair and professor of biology at Morehead State University, Ky., recently co-edited a book entitled *Freshwater Mollusks of the World - A Distribution Atlas*, which was published by Johns Hopkins University Press.



DEBRA A. JEFFRIES '85, '90 was honored by the Fitchburg Rotary Club this May for her 32 years of service to the Crocker Elementary School community in Fitchburg. Jeffries initiated Project P.E.A.C.E., in which students get their first taste of politics and voting.

Students are able to vote for local and national politicians in real ballot boxes that Jeffries acquired for the school.

NANCY H. (SNOW) BASTIEN '86 has self-published four books and completed her fifth book which has been published by Rose-Dog Books. Bastien's latest two books will be available through online retailers.



TRACEY (KUSINITZ) ALTMAN '88 announced the launch of her new children's book, "Special Paws," that shows kids the benefits of building families through rescue pet adoption. Available on Amazon with all proceeds going to non-profit rescue agencies.

1990S



SHAUN A. SUHOSKI '90 has been appointed to the state's Rural Policy Advisory Commission by Governor Charles D. Baker. The commission is charged with issuing policy recommendations to the state legislature and administration specific to rural communities. Suhoski holds a law degree from New England Law - Boston and has served as town manager in Athol since 2014. He previously held similar posts in Sturbridge and Ayer.

SEAN M. WHITTLE '90 was officially named the head coach of the Gardner High School football team. Whittle had been interim head coach since September.



DOROTHY D. BRIDEAU '91, '95 was honored this May by the Fitchburg Rotary Club for her work as

Memorial Middle School's literacy and math coach. She is also a member of the school's instructional leadership team, and has been instrumental in developing the turnaround plan/school redesign grant application. As a literacy coach, Brideau's duties also include going into classrooms and modeling lessons, reviewing curriculum and assessments and leading professional development.



JOHN K. HONEYCUTT '91 assumed a newly created position with Google Cloud as the vice president of telecommunications, media and entertainment verticals. Prior to joining Google, Honeycutt worked at Discovery for 15 years, most recently serving as the chief technology officer.

STEVEN M. LAMARCHE '91, superintendent of the Bourne public schools, was named the new superintendent of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District.

LISA M. (PETEL) MOISON '91, assistant dean of Graduate and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State, was the keynote speaker at the 20th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration at the First Church Unitarian Universalist, Leominster, in January. Moison spoke about how prison writing programs can help the incarcerated find their voice, an identity, and an outlet.



THERESA R. (WESSELLS) SMALL '95 recently joined the St. Joseph Hospital Midwifery in Nashua, N.H. Previously, Small worked at St. Joseph Hospital as a registered staff nurse. She has over 20 years of experience caring for women and newborns in labor and delivery, postpartum and pediatrics.



SANDI L. KAISER FORTUNE '96 was hired as the creative director for Howell Liberatore & Associates, an advertising and marketing firm in Elmira, N.Y.



KIMBERLY E. LEWIS '96 attended Fitchburg State's Spring Convocation with friends **YVONNE D. STEADMAN '98**, and **LAURA A. NEVES** to meet the recipient of the Dinelle L. Finch Memorial Scholarship, a scholarship set up in memory of their former roommate.

TARA J. DYGON '98 recently received her Master of Education in school nursing from Cambridge College. Dygon currently works for Waltham High School as a school nurse.

2000S



NICOLE CORROTO '03 was promoted to vice president of Rollstone Bank & Trust. Corroto has been with RBT since 2005.



LINDSAY R. FLATHERS FRIEND '05, drama specialist at McKay Arts Academy, was honored by the

Fitchburg Rotary Club this May. She is the co-director of the McKay musical and talent show, and has been an active participant in the Leader in Me program since its start.



JENNIFER M. ARADHYA '06 was named the vice president for marketing and programs for the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.

Aradhya has over 20 years of professional nonprofit experience and has received numerous awards for her design and marketing work.



KORRY B. (DESLAURIERS) DOW '07, the acting interim president of Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer, was officially

named president of the hospital. Dow has been with the hospital for more than a decade and was previously the hospital's CFO.



MATTHEW T. FRANCIS '07 recently joined UniBank as the assistant vice president and relationship

manager of the Uxbridge branch.

MATTHEW R. ZANGHI '07, primary care physician at Fitchburg Adult Medicine, presented to a group of biology and chemistry students this spring, who are interested in going pre-med. Zanghi returned to Fitchburg two years ago to take over for his own primary care physician, Dr. Raymond Wolejko, who retired. He also serves as a faculty member at UMass Medical School, where he received his Ph.D.

CHARLES S. CHOLEVA '08 received the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable

Foundation. Choleva is a teacher in the Pre-Employment Program (PEP) at Franklin County Technical School. He has been teaching in the PEP program, designed for students with physical or cognitive challenges, for 11 years. He is a certified mentor teacher, has been a class advisor for eight years, coordinates several community service projects each year and runs the school store with the help of his staff and PEP students.

LARA F. FOX '08 and **ASHLEY L. ROGERS '06**, both proud alumni of the Fitchburg State theater department, co-produced an original play written by Rogers. The play, "Generation (Laz)Y," is a satire about millennials, and was performed in April at The Tank in New York City.

2010S

BRIAN D. SCHELL '10, current Wilmington High School cross country and track coach and former Fitchburg State runner, accomplished his lifelong dream of running the Boston Marathon this year.

TIFFANY M. (BEGIN) STEARNS '10 recently joined the Merrimack College's Communication and Media Department as the media manager. Stearns will be working on various media projects and teaching production classes.



MICHAEL T. DONOVAN '11 was announced as the head coach of the St. Peter-Marian High School football team in Worcester. Since 2012, Donovan served as the associate head coach and offensive coordinator for Fitchburg State, working primarily with the quarterbacks and wide receivers.

BENJAMIN T. PROULX '11 earned a 2019 Grammy nomination for directing a music video titled "I'm Not Racist," a



This May, Jeffrey A. Wolfman joined the campus as vice president for institutional advancement, overseeing the Offices of Alumni & Development and Grants and Sponsored Programs. These offices raise philanthropic support from individuals, corporations, foundations

and federal and state grants, and provide programming and services for 47,000 alumni.

"In the short time I've been here I've witnessed a culture of accomplishment and innovation, where faculty are competing for large and small grants, further differentiating Fitchburg State from the other public universities in the Commonwealth," Wolfman said. "I give credit to President Lapidus and my new colleagues for restructuring and leading this campus on its upward trajectory."

Wolfman brings more than 40 years of experience in fundraising, development and annual giving to his new role. He looks forward to building upon the successes of this office by reaffirming the value of a Fitchburg State education and re-engaging alumni in the success of current students. "There are so many ways alumni can give back," he said. "Their success and impact in the world is a direct result of the quality education they received at Fitchburg State. Their stories inspire current students to finish their degree and fuel our amazing faculty in the important work that they do. Whether it is giving time, talent or treasure; whether they are 22 or 92; alumni participation defines the margin of excellence at this institution and I want to make sure all 47,000 alumni know how, together, we can make a difference."

Fitchburg State continues to offer endless opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. "Despite some of the financial challenges universities are facing due to declining enrollments nationwide, Fitchburg State is fortunate the state provides 27% of its operating budget, and over the 124 years of its existence, countless graduates have made annual contributions and provisions in their estate plans building our endowment to over \$20 million," Wolfman continued. "We can count on philanthropic support to supplement the operating budget. Our students, faculty and staff continue to innovate, achieve and carry forth the legacy of an accessible, affordable, and quality education, the hallmark of Fitchburg State."

ALUMNI news

work viewed more than 106 million times on YouTube. The video was a collaboration with American rapper/songwriter Joyner Lucas. Their video was one of five nominated in the category for Best Music Video Grammy.



HANG T. TRAN '11 is an award-winning graphic designer who was hired last fall by brand development firm Six-Point Creative. Tran has provided creative direction, graphic design, image development, and production services for national and international brands while working for PUMA in Westford and for Brigade in Hadley.



ERIN E. JABLONSKI '12 was hired as a nurse practitioner for the gastroenterology department of Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, N.H. Jablonski brings experience as an advance nurse practitioner from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Services and as a director of health services from RiverMead Lifecare Community.

MATTHEW E. MYERS '13 accepted the position of marketing specialist at Methods Machine Tools, Inc. in Sudbury.



CHRISTOPHER A. AGUILAR '14, a senior staff accountant with Robert C. Alario CPA P.C., was recognized as an emerging leader by Wolters Kluwer Tax & Accounting. Wolters Kluwer provides professional information to accountants and other industries.

PATRICK J. GALLAHUE '14 joined the Buffalo Sabres as the promotions and events coordinator.



JESSICA VOAS '14, MERCEDES VILLENEUVE '18, CONNOR KNEELAND '17, CONNOR BOTTS '18 and **MIKE GRASELA '13** (pictured L-R) were alumni panelists during Visions 2019, the Department of Communications Media's annual student exhibition.

DEVIN P. GATES '15 was recently hired as the head coach of Leominster High School's Blue Devils football team. Gates played collegiately at both Fitchburg State and Worcester State before becoming an assistant coach for both institutions.



ALEXANDRA VALDEZ '15 was appointed director of engagement for the city of Boston's Economic Mobility Lab. The lab is a team of social entrepreneurs centrally located in the Mayor's Office of Policy that researches and tests ideas with the potential to dramatically increase upward economic mobility for low- and moderate-income Bostonians. Valdez served as the mayor's neighborhood liaison for Jamaica Plain and the Latino community in the Office of Neighborhood Services since 2016.

KIARA Y. PICHARDO '17 recently appeared as a cashier in a Dunkin' Donuts commercial and in nine episodes of the Netflix drama series "The Society."

RILEY L. GRINKIS '18, of Gardner, made it to the second day of oral arguments in the American Moot Court Association national championship in January. Grinkis graduated from Fitchburg State in December and is headed to Northeastern University Law School on a full scholarship.



AIDAN W. HORGAN '18 accepted the position of member services specialist at the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce this winter.

LAWRENCE L. NFOR '18 was honored at the Black Excellence on the Hill ceremony at the Massachusetts State House. Nfor serves as a Leominster Public Library trustee and ambassador for the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce.

NICOLE T. PATTERSON '18, of Littleton, was recently sworn into the Sturbridge Police Department and is one of the youngest members. Patterson is EMT-certified, has six years in the United States Army Reserves under her belt, and is working toward her master's degree in criminal justice through the 4+1 police program at Fitchburg State.



EVAN T. PHILLIPS '18 was promoted to account executive, group sales for the New York Mets.

RYAN J. RICHARD '18, of Shirley, was promoted from reserve officer to patrol officer on the Littleton Police Department.

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

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS
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

FACULTY

PROFESSOR STEPHEN D. GOLDSTEIN, of Ipswich, on November 10, 2018. In 2004, Goldstein came to Fitchburg State after many years in editorial and advertising design and owning his own graphic design firm, Good Graphics Group, whose clients included the Du Bois Institute at Harvard University, the Government of Jamaica, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He was a full-time tenured professor of graphic design in the Communications Media Department at the time of his death. Among his many achievements at the university was the initiation of the Communications Media Department lecture series, which brought distinguished guest lecturers in graphic design, photography, film, video, and digital media to the campus. He was also an avid and accomplished photographer, and had exhibited at the Photographic Resource Center in Boston, among other places.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH E. MCALOON, of Fitchburg, on April 14, 2019. A most valued member of our University community for 35 years, McAloon's legacy of service to the Business Administration Department and Fitchburg State as a whole is monumental, as a professor, department chair, program chair, and union president. His contributions were defined by an unyielding dedication to his students and a ceaseless commitment to his fellow faculty members. Though he had "retired" last year after 34 years with Fitchburg State, he stayed on as chair of our online MBA program. Prior to his tenure here, McAloon served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force.

1950S

PATRICIA A. (MORSE) HEATH '53, '61, of Cataumet, on April 10, 2019.

JUDITH M. (CONNORS) PLEASANTS '57, '66, of Harwich Port, on February 18, 2019.

1960S

FRANCIS J. KANE '61, of Marlborough, on November 30, 2018.

WILLIAM G. QUILL '63, of Newburyport, on December 26, 2018.

ROBERT R. FARNUM '65, of Great Barrington, on November 18, 2018.

1970S

SALLY J. LAJOIE '70, of Baldwinville, on March 17, 2019.

WILLIAM C. MACDONALD '70, '75, of Leominster, on January 9, 2019.

LORETTA M. CICCARELLI '72, of Worcester, on February 23, 2019.

ARLENE C. (WARD) GIBSON '73, '78, of Ayer, on November 17, 2019.

WILLIAM L. GIGLIO '77, '79, of Wakefield, on March 1, 2019.

1980S

MYRNA F. SILVERMAN '84, of Andover, on April 18, 2019.

JAMES M. PERRY '87, of Saugus, on June 5, 2018.

1990S

KELLY A. (ROURKE) ENGLER '90, of Townsend, on December 21, 2018.

2010S

MARK T. LINES '13, of South Windsor, Conn., on January 27, 2019.

MET & MARRIED

KATHLEEN A. (FILLION) BRANCALEONE '11 and her husband **RICHARD M. BRANCALEONE '09** met at Fitchburg State during their last year living on campus. They were both involved in numerous organizations; he was a passionate brother of Sigma Pi, and she was the vice president of FAB, yet their paths never really crossed. That all changed when they both joined the SGA executive board for the Class of 2009. After graduation, Richie and Kate went their separate ways, but they never lost touch. Everything aligned for them romantically in the summer of 2012. Richie proposed at the Baseball Tavern near Fenway with all of their closest friends in attendance. They were married in August 2015 (a wedding that included 30-plus Fitchburg State alumni and staff, including Falcor the Falcon). The couple shares, "Fitchburg State always has, and always will, hold a special place in our hearts."



MARSHALL MILLER '11 and **SARAH G. (DOUCETTE) MILLER '11** were married on January 18, 2019 in Tewksbury. Miller is a carpenter for Joe Stanton Construction and Doucette is a graphic designer at MIT Lincoln Laboratory.



AMANDA K. LANDRY '14 and husband, **PEDRO R. CAMILO '15**, met at Fitchburg State in 2012. They were engaged New Year's Day 2017 and three days later found out they were expecting their first child. They married June 10, 2017 in Prescott Park in Portsmouth, N.H. and welcomed their daughter, Hayden Nicole, on September 11, 2017. They are currently living in Bennington, N.H.

ALUMNI EVENTS



The Mohawks' Annual Christmas Pasta Fest in Waltham was another great success, reuniting 40 brothers from across the globe.



Debra Roberts '90, '94, '03 (far left) poses with Glenn's Friends, a group formed to honor the memory of Deb's late husband and Fitchburg State alumnus Glenn A. Roberts '92, who passed away in 2013 from familial ALS. On February 2, Glenn's Friends hosted the Glenn Roberts Memorial Hockey Game, in collaboration with the Falcons hockey team, to raise funds for the ALS Association Massachusetts Chapter and a scholarship at Fitchburg High School, also named in Glenn's memory.

ALUMNI CAREER NIGHT
explore & connect

Alumni Panel Discussions and Networking

FEBRUARY 27, 2019
5:00-6:30 P.M.
HAMMOND HALL, MAIN LOUNGE

A number of alumni participated in an Alumni Career Night at the end of February, highlighting careers in biology and chemistry, communications media, exercise and sports science, and mathematics. The event included the following alumni, pictured L-R: Kenneth Pajington '05; Katherine Calder '08; Scott Lehto '08; Dawn Morton '90; Stephanie Pratt '02; David Alexander '12; David Keese '08; Erik Weikert '10; Erin Denette '10; Janine Mudge '82; Kayla Stacy '14; Damian Perry '13; Danny Quin '11; Jared Weed '13; Emmanuela Demosthenes '17; and Marissa Binnall '15.



Hockey Coach Dean Fuller '78 hosted the Alumni Ice Hockey Game on January 26, for a friendly alumni vs. alumni game at the Wallace Civic Center. Coach Fuller was able to show players the new video

review room located at the rink, a project made possible by philanthropic support. The room is available to all athletic teams, with ideal proximity to the Landry Arena sports training facility.



The month of March marked our annual **Falcons in Florida** trek, holding two new events in **Palm Harbor** and **Naples**. The musical talents of alumnus **Mickey Lorden '82**, pictured top left with guitar, entertained alumni at a reception at Ozona Blue Grilling Co. in Palm Harbor.

FIND OUT MORE

At fitchburgstate.edu/alumni, and keep an eye on your inbox and mailbox for invitations to these and other activities. *If your workplace employs a lot of Fitchburg State alumni, let us know, and we will come and throw an appreciation event for you!



The other Falcons in Florida event was held at FISH Restaurant in Naples, where we reunited 20 alumni over lunch.



Another successful **Men's Basketball Reunion and Reverse Raffle** was held this February, raising \$20,000 for the Men's Basketball Endowment Fund. Former Fitchburg State and NBA basketball coach **Jim Todd '76, '81** also held a golf tournament June 24 in support of this effort.

HOW DID FITCHBURG STATE CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

Why did you choose Fitchburg State?
WHY DO YOU BLEED GREEN? WE WANT TO KNOW!

SEND US YOUR STORY AT: alumni@fitchburgstate.edu

EVENTS



On June 19, the Morrissey family dedicated a bench at the corner of Myrtle and Pearl Streets in memory of John and Mary Morrissey, who raised nine children in a three-decker home located at this site, and the many friends who shared their lives there. The parcel is now owned by the university, and the Morrisseys hope the spot will become an extension of the campus. From left, seated, are siblings Kathleen Coulson-McCarthy '67 of Ashburnham; Jane Hammond '73 of Massachusetts; Gini Morrissey of New Hampshire; Paddy Noble '67 of Maine; and Betty Rich of Vermont; standing, Jack Morrissey of New York; Bill Morrissey of Florida, Dr. Michael Morrissey of Oregon; and Dr. Thomas Morrissey '82 of California.



MISSING campus?

Like us on Facebook for campus photos, updates, and upcoming events.

@FitchburgStateAlumni



ARE YOU A LEADER?

JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD.

We are looking for passionate, service-oriented alumni willing to commit their time and expertise to serve on the Alumni Association Board! Contact alumni@fitchburgstate.edu for more information or to nominate someone. Nominations may be submitted at any time, but the deadline for July 2020 consideration is March 1, 2020.

OFFICERS

- Nicholas Smith '11, President
- Jim Walsh '75, President-Elect
- Dawn Morton '90, Treasurer
- Ian James '09, Secretary

DIRECTORS

- Argyro Armstrong '13
- Seferine Baez '18
- Allison Bunnell '03, '07
- Rose Cardarelli '81
- Rob Comeau '93
- Micaela Crowley '11
- David Demosthenes '17
- Beverly Farias '52
- John Garten '89
- Eric Gregoire '11
- Stephen Hogue '16
- Amanda Kelly '07
- Bill Mahoney '65
- Stephanie Marchetti '07, '10
- Jennifer Melanson '18
- Tuan Nguyen, A.L.M. '91
- Frank O'Donnell '93 (alumni trustee)
- Daniel Seaman '07



WELCOME home!



Join us for celebration, nostalgia — and fun!

Alumni Cook-Out • Campus Tours
Alumni Association Awards Ceremony • Class of 1969 50th Reunion
Gold Key Breakfast • Fireworks, Bonfire, Pep Rally, and more!

HOMECOMING & Alumni Weekend

OCTOBER 25-27, 2019

fitchburgstate.edu/homecoming

Plan early! Discounted group rate at local hotel is guaranteed through **SEPTEMBER 9.**



FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association
160 Pearl Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Change Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 8
North Reading MA

