

# Contact

WINTER 2017



FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY



## A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

President Richard S. Lapidus is installed as Fitchburg State's 11th leader,  
and announces a bold investment in Main Street.

President Lapidus takes the oath of office, administered by Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos Santiago.





# Contact



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*This has been an eventful year for Fitchburg State University, marking the start of major new initiatives and the continued commitment to our institutional values and mission.*

*As you will see in the pages ahead, the university continues to embrace its role as a vital contributor to our host community of Fitchburg. We recently completed the purchase of the Fitchburg Theater Block on Main Street and will begin comprehensive renovations this spring. This project will make a huge impact on the life of the university and also stands to be a major source of renewal for the entire city.*

*This theme of stewardship was one of the pillars I described in my inaugural address in the fall, when I had the great honor of being formally installed as Fitchburg State's 11th president. The celebration was not just a personal milestone, but an opportunity to invite the wider community to experience the richness of this institution, its history and its future. The events we hosted were enlightening and entertaining, and you will see a sampling in this issue of Contact.*

*As we chart the university's next chapter, we will be guided by our core principle of putting students first with a focus on teaching and learning. We continue to explore new programs and delivery methods that will help us serve the evolving needs of our students and our commonwealth. We are finding success in recruiting a more diverse body of students, faculty and administrators, and strengthening the fabric of this institution in the process. Our forward motion is also guided by the principle that we must keep higher education within reach for our students. Maintaining affordability will be another driving force in the years to come.*

*In short, Fitchburg State is in excellent shape. I hope you will renew your ties and witness firsthand the positive evolution at our shared home.*

  
Richard S. Lapidus

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

One of the largest private grants ever received by Fitchburg State will allow faculty and students to collaborate over the next three years on intensive research projects focusing on personal fitness and the health of the Nashua River.

The university was awarded a three-year, \$240,000 grant from the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee for the collaborative research efforts. It is the third-largest private grant the university has ever received.

“This generous grant from the Balfour Foundation will increase student interest in pursuing research careers and strengthen our campus research culture through hands-on field and laboratory work, personal and professional development, and collaboration between students, their peers, and faculty,” President Lapidus said. “We are grateful for the demonstration of support for this important scholarly experience.”

The first project will bring together faculty and students from the Business Administration, Earth and Geographic Science, Communications Media and Exercise and Sports Science departments to explore the relationship between health and physical activity. Students from those departments will look at issues of access and physical activity habits, and how those intersect with the healthcare economics for local businesses. Faculty members Renee Scapparone (Business Administration), Jane Huang (Earth and Geographic Science), Viera Lorencova (Communications Media) and Danielle Wigmore (Exercise and Sports Science) will lead the project.

The second project, bringing together the Biology and Chemistry and Earth and Geographic Science departments, will look at the health and community impact of the Nashua River. Historical data and current perceptions will be compiled and compared. Faculty members Daniel Welsh (Biology and Chemistry), Elizabeth Gordon (Earth and Geographic Science), Aisling O’Connor (Biology and Chemistry) and Jane Huang (Earth and Geographic Science) will lead the project.

The Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, established in 1973, supports a variety of educational organizations.

Its funding is generally focused on organizations or programs that provide support for underserved or under-represented populations to prepare for, access, and succeed in higher education, including at two-year and four-year institutions.

Fitchburg State sought the grant to provide a high-impact interdisciplinary eight-week research experience that will lead to increases in retention, graduate school attendance, and career preparedness for 15 to 20 students each summer. This project will produce data vital to the pursuit of future research grants, further enhancing our research culture and providing additional opportunities for students and faculty to conduct research that will have broader impacts for the community as well.





Mayor Stephen DiNatale addresses students at the McKay Arts Academy library.

## FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

The library at the McKay Arts Academy underwent a comprehensive renovation and restructuring thanks to months of effort from the staff of the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

The McKay Arts Academy is a pre-K-8 school on the Fitchburg State campus, serving approximately 700 students. The renovated library had a grand opening earlier this month, with speakers including President Lapidus, Superintendent of Schools Andre Ravenelle, Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale, interim Dean of the Library and Academic Support Centers Sean C. Goodlett and McKay Principal/Associate Dean Lourdes Ramirez.

Staff members from the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library spent the summer cataloging McKay's holdings and organizing the renovated space into a workable lending library. The library space was also redesigned with new carpeting and replacement furniture.

"McKay is an important component of Fitchburg State University, a unique resource for our teacher candidates and a source of great pride for the school," said Lapidus. "This collaboration builds on a strong

foundation connecting the university with the wider community."

"Fitchburg State is a tremendous partner, and this project is emblematic of the collaborative spirit between the campus and the Fitchburg Public Schools," said Ravenelle. "On behalf of all our students, I'm grateful for the university's ongoing assistance and resourcefulness."

Goodlett said the project involved moving more than 5,000 books from McKay to the main campus for review. Outdated or damaged materials were replaced, and thousands of newly cataloged books were brought back to the school and properly categorized and then shelved.

All of the McKay items were also folded into a new online public access catalog that is linked to the university's computer system, Goodlett added.

Goodlett credited the work of library staff members Patricia Langevin and Nancy Turnbull, among many others, as well as Doug Thomas and Heidi Messing from the university's Office of Capital Planning and Maintenance, for the hundreds of hours of effort involved in rebuilding the McKay library.

## A SIZABLE OPPORTUNITY

Representatives from Fitchburg State and the Sizer School signed a memorandum of understanding this fall that continues its early college high school pathway focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Now in its third year, the program offers Sizer's eleventh- and twelfth-grade students the opportunity to earn up to 15 college credits while still in high school.

Sizer School, located in Fitchburg, is a free public charter school serving approximately 350 students in grades 7-12 from 30 communities.

The agreement to extend this program for another year was signed by President Lapidus and Sizer School Executive Director Courtney Harter. The program is supported by a Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Program grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, which has increased dual enrollment opportunities for students from Leominster High School.

The university also has an agreement with Fitchburg High School allowing students in that school's honors academy to enroll in Fitchburg State courses as early as ninth grade. The first cohort of Fitchburg High honors academy students will graduate in June, and several are bound for Fitchburg State in the fall.

Regarding the Sizer pact, Lapidus said the program will give students access to a high-quality collegiate experience while helping the state meet its needs for skilled workers in STEM fields.

"Sizer is thankful for our partnership with Fitchburg State University," said Harter. "The collaboration, coordination, and communication necessary to develop and sustain an Early College High School (ECHS)



President Lapidus and Sizer School Executive Director Courtney Harter sign the memorandum of understanding.

initiative is substantial; without great dedication this would not have happened."

The program, referred to as STEM ECHS, is designed to increase the rate of college-going for students currently underrepresented in higher education and to build an accelerated route linking secondary education with postsecondary educational opportunities. It is the hope of both parties that the successful implementation of this program will lead to improvements in student achievement in STEM subjects and increased enrollment in STEM college majors, especially for low-income, female, underrepresented minority and first-generation college students.

Now in its third year, the model combines rigorous high school academic standards, college readiness standards, a variety of academic supports, community service opportunities in the STEM field, and the opportunity to earn up to 15 college credits while in high school. Upon successful completion of the STEM ECHS program, students would be accepted into the Industrial Technology or biology programs at Fitchburg State if all other university admissions criteria are met. Six of the eight current seniors plan to pursue a STEM major and career, and several have applied to Fitchburg State.

# COMMENCEMENT

## *Scenes from the 120th winter ceremonies*



The Graduate Leadership Award was presented to Shea Pugh.

The university held the winter ceremony of its 120th commencement exercises in December, awarding more than 425 undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Undergraduate valedictorian Alexander Filippi, who graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, expressed gratitude to the professors and administrators whose wisdom had guided him along the way.

Graduate Student Leadership Award winner Shea Pugh, who left her home outside Seattle, Wash., to attend Fitchburg State, encouraged her fellow graduates to consider making similar leaps of faith as they embark on new adventures.

In his commencement address, President Lapidus highlighted three members of the Class of 2016 and their embodiment of the university's values. Those remarks are excerpted on the following pages.



Valedictorian Alexander Filippi



## JOSH AYANTOLA '16

*a storyteller*



Ever since his days as a high school student in Torrington, Connecticut, he's had a video camera in his hand. Yet when his collegiate career began, he heeded his family's wishes and pursued a degree in counseling.

Josh was a good counselor, a studious listener who enjoyed helping his clients grapple with what challenged them. But his love of video storytelling was unabated. He went back to school to pursue another degree, this time in Communications Media, here at Fitchburg State.

It was, he said, the best decision he ever made. His studies gave him an edge over his self-trained industry peers, endowing him with the technical expertise others had to acquire through sometimes costly trial and error. While still a student he began his own business in Worcester, working professionally with clients, shooting weddings and corporate videos. Those projects paid the bills, and allowed him

the freedom to fund his passion, documentary films.

A filmmaker must be a good listener as well as a good storyteller. For one of Josh's school projects, he turned his attention to his own family. His Nigerian-born parents were rendered deaf by meningitis as children. They met at a school run by a missionary from Alabama who taught them American Sign Language, and later they emigrated to the U.S. to continue their education and start a family. For Josh and his brothers, all of whom can hear, sign language was how they first learned to communicate. Josh's father recently retired from teaching at the college level.

What Josh did not know until doing his documentary was that his father was illiterate until the age of 10, shunned from school because he was deaf. As a child, he would take his hearing brother to school and wait in a nearby tree until school recessed for lunch. He would have lunch with his brother, then return

to the tree until the day's lessons were completed, and he could walk his brother home.

Josh asked his father why he never told him that story. Because, his father said, you never asked.

Now, Josh asks those probing questions in his films. In addition to a well-received portrait of a Worcester boxer who is using the ring to escape the dangers and temptations of the street, he has begun a series of short documentary films he is calling "Hear My Story," profiling local men and women, and documenting their struggles and successes.

Josh's own story is about to come full circle. Soon he will be making a journey to Africa, where his father is opening a facility to create housing and jobs for deaf adults. Josh will use his talents to bring that story to the wider world, inviting others to support the establishment of his father's dream. See Josh's work online at [www.ayan5.com](http://www.ayan5.com).

## **SARAH POOLE '16** *the adrenalin of the emergency room*



Sarah Poole has always been drawn to the adrenalin of the emergency room. Working as an emergency and sexual assault nurse in her native Canada, she shines brightest when the stakes are highest. Patients in the midst of trauma need people who can respond coolly and calmly, analyzing the steps needed to stabilize a situation. Sarah is one of

those people.

A few years ago, Sarah was looking to bring her career to the next level. Her nursing shifts complemented a growing career teaching fellow nurses as an instructor at her local college in Canada. To continue that work, however, she would need a master's degree.

Surveying her options, she found Fitchburg State's online master's in forensic nursing. The online format was ideally suited to her schedule. She could balance her teaching and nursing shifts with the demands of being a parent, with her husband, Kevin, to their two children: 3-year-old Molly and 17-month-old Scarlett, both of whom were born while she was in the master's program.

She was surprised by the richness of the dialogue between her instructors and peers in the online arena. Even without occupying the same physical space, the students and faculty were bound by deep familiarity with one another over the course of their studies.

With the master's degree in forensic nursing she completes tonight, Sarah will be able to grow her teaching career. Before tonight, she said, she could fight a fire with a watering can. Now, she's got an actual fire hose. And she's not turning her back on her clinical gifts, either, vowing to continue working shifts for years to come.

Sarah embodies the principle that education can come in many forms, and that's because the graduation ceremony marked the first time Sarah ever set foot on the Fitchburg State campus.

## ELIJAH TUCKER '16

### *breaking stereotypes*

Elijah Tucker believes in breaking stereotypes and lives his life reminding people not to make assumptions.

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a child, Elijah has faced many obstacles to get where he is tonight. But he possesses great determination and is driven to achieve his goals—including becoming an Eagle Scout.

When Elijah was looking to continue his education after high school, he was nervous about finding a school where he would be able to survive and thrive. He wanted to know there would be supports in place for his needs. He found those supports on this campus, and so much more.

When he arrived at Fitchburg State four and a half years ago, Elijah was, in his words, closed off in his own little bubble. When he found our Expanding Horizons Program, however, that bubble burst.

It was there that Elijah discovered an army of boosters and allies, a support group that nourished him throughout his time on campus. The program is designed to facilitate the adjustment to college, but for Elijah and many others, it became a second home.

Elijah also took advantage of the Tutor Center, and soon found himself not only receiving help

but giving it, working as a tutor himself for his fellow students in the disciplines of computer science and mathematics. His own academic performance improved through the work of helping his peers, and he is grateful for the experience.

He has embraced the fullness of campus life, serving on the boards of several clubs and organizations, including the American Sign Language Club, which he helped create.

He has worked to advocate on issues related to disabilities during his time here, presenting a well-received talk on “able-ism” at the university’s Undergraduate Research Conference in April. He is an excellent ambassador for his message, which is not to judge someone who may look, sound or otherwise seem different. Take a moment to see who the person is, because looks can be deceiving.

Elijah graduated with honors with a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a minor in mathematics, and greets the next chapter of his story with enthusiasm and excitement.





# THE INAUGURATION

## President Richard S. Lapidus



The inauguration and homecoming week celebrations invited the campus and wider communities to reflect on Fitchburg State's history and to imagine its future through a series of entertaining and informative programs, inspired and presented by students, faculty, staff and the public.

Economist James K. Galbraith described inequality as the economic issue of our age. Professor Reid Parsons from the Earth and Geographic Sciences Department told of his NASA-funded research on the climate of Mars. And a panel of student veterans discussed the challenges of transitioning from military service to the college campus.

Students and visiting scholars explored themes and issues raised



### A TRADITION OF LEADERSHIP

Fitchburg State's leaders have shepherded the institution from a small school with a narrow focus on teacher preparation to the comprehensive, innovative university it is today.



#### 1895-1920 JOHN G. THOMPSON

Principal Thompson envisioned robust activities beyond the classroom. He brought a rotation of guest lecturers, artists and performers to campus and installed the earliest sports programs—men's and women's basketball—as a way of making us into a desirable destination.

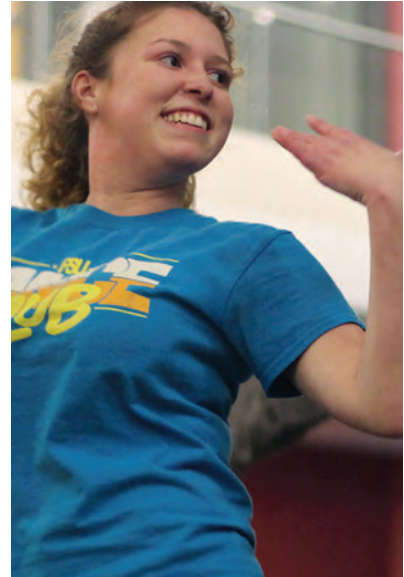
#### 1920-1927 WILLIAM D. PARKINSON

Principal Parkinson evolved our institution through the support of several new initiatives, including our first four-year degree program. He secured additional land in an effort to support our growing spectrum of campus activities, including hiking, basketball, crew, tennis and bowling.

#### 1927-1945 CHARLES D. HERLIHY

In 1932, Principal Herlihy became our first chief executive to go from "principal" to "president". He prompted a cooperative nursing education program with nearby Burbank Hospital that enabled students to earn their degrees in five academic years.

by the works of renowned local author Robert Cormier, whose papers are stored in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. The cultural richness of the region was celebrated with an evening of Latin dance lessons and exotic cuisine. And pivotal chapters in the university's history were shared, with a look back at a landmark federal free speech case and a celebration of 25 years' of women's studies at Fitchburg State.



(Below) The International March of Flags celebrated the university's diverse population.



#### A TRADITION OF LEADERSHIP



**1945-1950**  
**WILLIAM J. SANDERS**

President Sanders provided comfortable and affordable housing for our increased veteran population following World War II. He progressed our liberal arts programs, allowing students to receive a well-rounded education in arts, sciences and humanities in order to promote intellectual development.

**1950-1953**  
**ELLIS F. WHITE**

President White initiated a public relations program that explained our needs and goals to the general public in a way he believed would benefit all statewide teachers colleges. He sought faculty input on matters that would determine future strategies, chief among them being regional accreditation.

**1953-1962**  
**RALPH F. WESTON**

President Weston achieved accreditation for our nursing program and secured funding for additional faculty to be added to that area. He recognized that rising enrollment numbers strained existing facilities and obtained approval for the construction of the Sanders Administration Building.

**1962-1975**  
**JAMES J. HAMMOND**

President Hammond's tenure resulted in many of today's campus landmarks: The construction of Conlon Hall, the expansion of Holmes Dining Commons over North Street, and the construction of the dormitory later named Russell Towers and the library and campus center that today bears his name.

President Lapidus was administered the formal oath of office by Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos E. Santiago. Honored guests included U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, Massachusetts Secretary of Education James C. Peyser along with the presidents of several other state universities and delegates from more than 20 institutions of higher education from across the country. President Lapidus' longtime friend Andrew Feinstein, currently provost at San Jose State University, introduced the inaugural address. President Emeritus Robert V. Antonucci also took part in the celebration, presenting his successor with the ceremonial medal.



**1976-1995  
VINCENT J. MARA**

President Mara strengthened curricula via new programs and extended accreditations. New buildings and renovations enriched campus life, while he sought to increase alumni participation and faculty involvement with the surrounding community.

**1995-2002  
MICHAEL P. RICCARDS**

President Riccards oversaw the implementation of our first campus-wide Internet network. As our campus continued its modernization, he oversaw several improvements to the North Street corridor through a close working relationship with the city.

**2003-2015  
ROBERT V. ANTONUCCI**

President Antonucci's tenure included the construction of a new science complex as well as the conversion of our outdoor athletic facilities into a professional-level stadium. He also embarked on an ambitious series of technology initiatives, such as the establishment of our "wireless" campus

**2015-  
RICHARD S. LAPIDUS**

President Lapidus arrived at Fitchburg State after six years as dean of the College of Business Administration at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Here, he has opened a center for veterans and launched initiatives to grow diversity on campus. He is also active in civic affairs in the university's host community.

# THE SHOW WILL GO ON

## *An investment in the heart of the city*

By Matt Bruun

*“The university does not, and should not, operate in a vacuum. Surrounding this beautiful campus is an important part of our history, character and success: the city of Fitchburg. Public universities are inextricably linked with the communities that surround them and possess a unique opportunity to both serve them and benefit from them. We understand that we cannot be a great university without a strong and lasting connection to the city and region that we serve.”*

From President Lapidus’  
Inaugural Address

The Fitchburg Theater Block shown at right, will be transformed by the university’s investment. On the opposite page, a rendering of how the site may look once the renovations are complete.

The university made a bold investment in the heart of its host city’s downtown with the purchase of the Fitchburg Theater Block on Main Street. The 29,000-square-foot building stands to make a transformative impact on the university and the city in the years to come.

The complex, across the street from Fitchburg City Hall and near the Upper Common with its iconic boulder, includes seven street-level storefronts, more than 7,000 square feet of office space on the second floor, and a century-old theater that has been idle for nearly 30 years.

The university’s investment, inspiring hopes of a broader economic revitalization for the downtown corridor, was greeted with cheers from the campus and the wider community.

“It’s just a huge opportunity for us,” said Fitchburg Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale. “It will improve upon an already wonderful relationship between the city and the university.”

DiNatale said the theater project enhances other downtown revitalization efforts such as the planned renovation of a shuttered elementary school into artist housing near the Fitchburg Art Museum, another major institution with which the university closely collaborates.





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## WICKED

December 12 | 7:30 PM

December 19 | 7:30 PM

[fsutheatertickets.com](http://fsutheatertickets.com)

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“It will tie everything we’re working on together,” DiNatale said. “This will create an explosion of interest and bring more foot traffic downtown.”

For President Lapidus, the purchase was the progression of a pledge he made in his inaugural address that the campus and the city would work together to improve Fitchburg’s future.

Speaking after the theater block’s purchase late in the fall, President Lapidus said the building serves the university’s needs as well as the larger community’s.

“We are fairly built out on the main campus,” he said. “In looking to create new programmatic space, we found an opportunity that could be transformative.”

Specifically, the university’s massively popular game design program is growing and needs additional space. An offering of the Communications Media Department, the game design major is intended to include a capstone internship that gives students intensive practical experience. To create more options for students, university leaders looked at how to build such opportunities close to campus.

At the same time, a recurring theme that emerged during President Lapidus’s first-year listening tour of campus was the desire for an entrepreneurship program at the university. This program would encourage collaboration across disciplines,

breaking down traditional academic silos to stoke the creativity of students and faculty. The creation of such a space was another prime candidate for off-campus expansion.

An investment in downtown Fitchburg made sense. Like many post-industrial cities, Fitchburg is still reinventing itself. Following the relocation of major downtown industrial and commercial tenants, the city center is ripe for renewal. The university saw an opportunity to build on this promise and decided to plant the flag on Main Street, about a mile from the main campus.

Professor Jeffrey Warmouth, center, said the Main Street game studio will replicate industry best practices.



## PHASE ONE

The university bought the property for \$350,000 and will be seeking external partners to help bring the restoration to fruition. The first phase of renovations will focus on the second floor of the building, which will be converted into a game design studio and adjacent entrepreneurship/business incubation space.

Professor Jeffrey Warmouth from the Communications Media Department was one of the founders of the game design major. Communications Media has long included a semester-long, full-time internship component for its students, but replicating that experience for approximately 40 game design students each year has proven difficult.

The solution was the new game studio capstone course, Warmouth said, and it's a project ideally suited to the downtown space. A prototype was run on the main campus with four students last summer within the existing game design laboratories in Conlon Hall, but there isn't room to run such a course within the main campus footprint.

"It needs to be a professional space, not an academic space," he explained. "The students need to feel they're at work in a proactive, high-tech environment. If we have game company representatives coming to visit, it models a professional studio."

The game studio capstone is based on practices recommended by the International Game Developers

Association and the Digital Games Research Association and reflects other courses from around the country. It creates a professional experience for the students in-house, in which they work together to design, develop, test and publish a game during the semester, while also honing their professional portfolios.

"Part of being on a professional team is learning how to self-manage," Warmouth said. "They have to plan their semester, and we provide a mechanism and structure for them to do so. They're entering a different space, and as such they have a different role."

The students will work under the supervision of faculty members who will make periodic visits to the studio space, acting as proxy employers/clients. Warmouth said the university is also in discussion with professional game developers who may also consult the students, with the possibility that student-designed games would be picked up by the private firms.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

Adjacent to the game studio will be the ideas lab space, designed to foster intensive and interactive collaboration between students, faculty and community members. The space is envisioned as an area for the development of innovative solutions to social issues, as well as the creation of new approaches to art, culture and business. Teams of students and faculty members

will be able to help entrepreneurs develop strategies and plans.

"This space will create true interdisciplinary learning," President Lapidus said.

The ideas lab was born out of a forum held in the fall that brought together faculty from the arts, humanities, business and the health and natural sciences. The forum generated a set of diverse ideas for the idea space that emphasized innovation, entrepreneurial thinking and creative processes. The space will also support the objective of showing students how to operate as a members of an interdisciplinary team.

"The faculty forum was a genuine brainstorming session in which the creative juices flowed," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alberto Cardelle. "It was amazing to listen to faculty and staff from across the campus describe with great excitement how this center would help them provide students with hands-on experiential learning opportunities that would also provide the community with needed services and opportunities."

Cardelle said the ideas lab would meld the university's high quality classroom experiences with a setting in which students can work with community members to apply their knowledge and skills.

## PHASE TWO

From there, the next phase of the theater block project will involve the restoration of more than 7,000 square feet of street-level commercial

storefronts. These spaces may be rented by entrepreneurs from the second floor looking to carry out their plans, or perhaps other commercial tenants. The timeline for the second phase is still being drafted.

The university is joined in this work by partners committed to the renaissance of Main Street, including the Montachusett Opportunity Council, NewVue Communities and the Federal Reserve Bank. The project has also attracted private philanthropic support, including a \$100,000 award from the George I. Alden Trust of Worcester.

The Alden Trust was established in 1912 and supports charitable enterprises with a particular interest in higher education.

Trustees backed the project because it supported the university's academic needs while also benefiting its host community. Students will also experience expanded programmatic opportunities because of the theater project, the trustees

agreed.

The award is the trust's second investment in Fitchburg State University. A state-of-the-art microscope suite in the Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Science Complex was also outfitted with generous support from the organization.

### THE SHOW WILL GO ON

Resuscitating the theater itself will mark the largest phase of the Main Street project. The grand theater opened in 1929, showing movies as well as vaudeville acts. It was one of 44 theaters in the nation to have a Wurlitzer organ, and local children and families would visit the theater to catch up on newsreels and the latest Hollywood offerings.

Over the decades the theater was renovated and updated, and by the 1970s it attracted top musical talent like Merle Haggard and Dolly Parton.

By the time the curtain fell in 1987, the theater had been divided

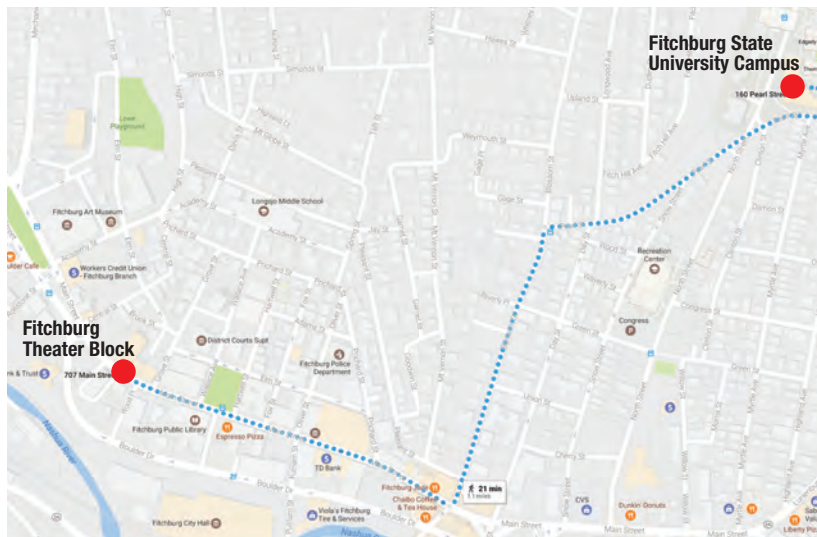
into a three-screen cinema complex. The last movie to unspool was the Australian hit "Crocodile Dundee."

In the ensuing 30 years, discussions of how to revive the theater have been frequent. The city upgraded the marquee on Main Street several years ago, but the theater itself fell into disrepair.

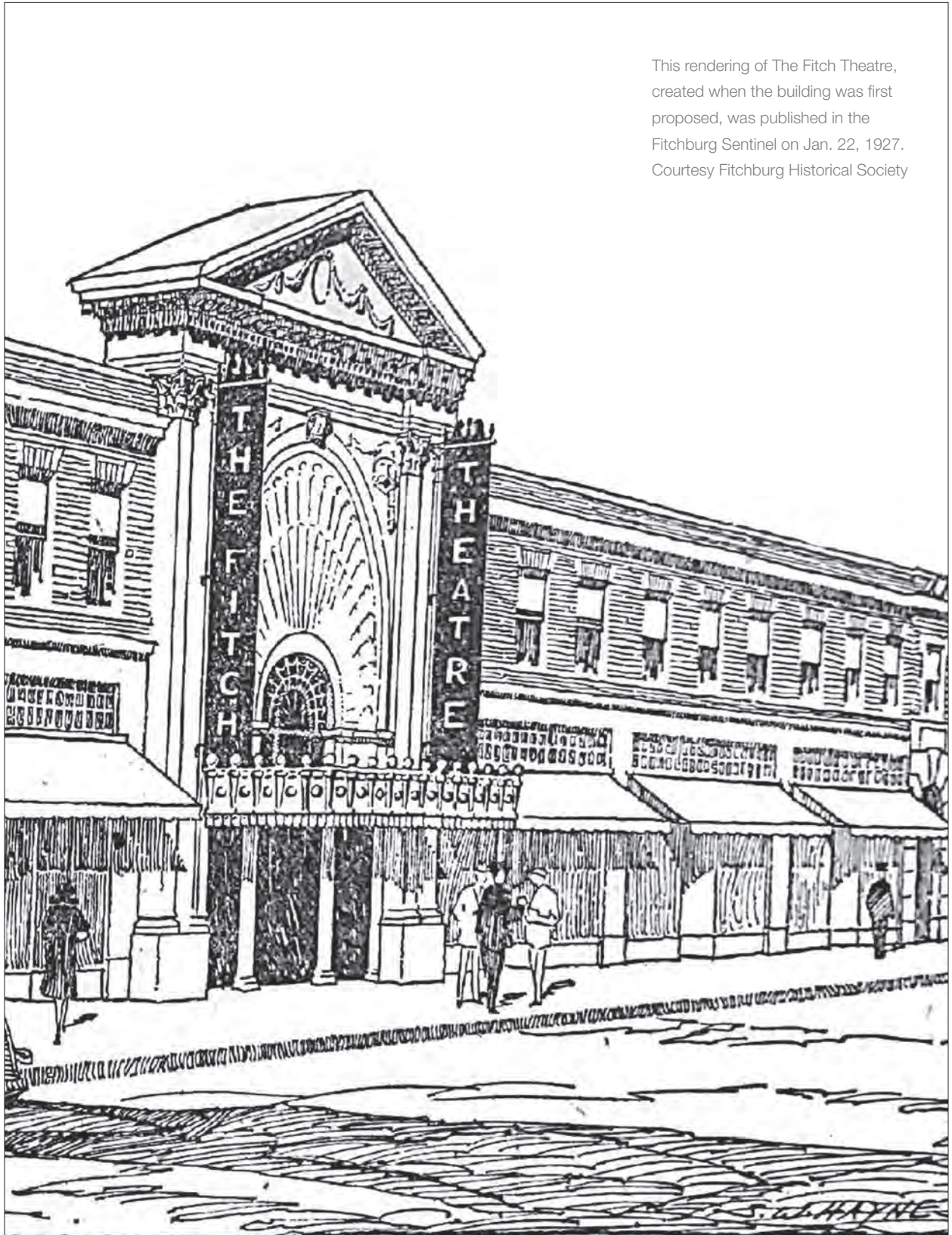
President Lapidus said restoring the theater to its former glory will create numerous academic and cultural opportunities. The university's technical theater program, for example, would have a peerless facility for students to practice their skills. The university's theater program can mount several successful productions a year at the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, but the size of the Main Street theater will open up countless other options.

Beyond campus-based performances, there are hopes the theater can be rented by outside troupes or civic organizations looking to mount large-scale productions.

Additional campus forums will be held to determine the most appropriate future use for the theater itself. "The options are limitless," President Lapidus said. "It's going to be an exciting opportunity."



This rendering of The Fitch Theatre, created when the building was first proposed, was published in the Fitchburg Sentinel on Jan. 22, 1927. Courtesy Fitchburg Historical Society



# ATHLETICS

## KRIKORIAN A CHANGE MAKER ON SOCCER FIELD

By Kyle Prudhomme '17

Since he was a child, Fitchburg State freshman Matthew Krikorian has dreamt of following in his father's footsteps as a police officer. Attracted to the university's criminal justice program, he is moving toward that life goal. Meanwhile, Krikorian is causing trouble for his opponents on the soccer field.

In his freshman season, the Groton native posted a team-high 24 points on 11 goals and two assists to earn both Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference and Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year awards.

These accolades are the most recent of a mantel's worth accrued over nine years of playing, including a Central Massachusetts Player of



the Year award, All-State soccer selection, and Division I state championship at Groton-Dunstable in 2015.

"Going from high school to college, I thought it would be a huge change," Krikorian said. "Once the chemistry kicked in come October, I had 10 goals. All it took for me to get comfortable is to hit that stride and I felt like I was back in high school."

While the on-field transition was smooth for the acclaimed athlete, adapting to college life was not so easy.

"One time at practice I actually broke down," he said. "I'm an only child and close with my parents, so being away from home was tough for me. Coach (Werner Thissen) pulled me aside and cheered me up. It kind of clicked for me then: 'I'm here now so I should get used to it.'"

Soon he was distinguishing himself among all the divisional rookies. During the team's final eight games, he shone in a new offensive formation, scoring eight goals and an assist to help jolt the five-win Falcons toward the playoffs.

"Coach changed the formation to put me up top alone," he said. "I knew I had to be clinical whenever I got the ball. For me, once I get one goal something goes in my mind and tells me 'I can do this, I can do this.'"

The freshman forward continued his reign in the postseason, footing an assist in the 1-0 opening round

victory at Framingham State.

In the conference semifinals, Krikorian scored the opening goal against Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The Falcons went on to earn a 2-1 upset victory and a trip to the MASCAC championship. During the championship game against Worcester State, Krikorian scored in his third straight playoff game.

The Falcons eventually fell to the Lancers 4-2, but Krikorian has three years left to chase a conference championship. In hopes of getting there, the 140-pound freshman looks to increase his workout regime to be able to battle for the ball against bigger, stronger defenders.

Krikorian hopes to forge an institutional legacy in his remaining years of play at the university. "I'm really excited to see what kind of numbers I can put up in the next three years," he said. "That's what I've always wanted to do, especially back in high school; I wanted to leave my name behind in some sort of record books."

Krikorian said he appreciated the guidance of Thissen, whose tenure at Fitchburg State includes a MASCAC championship in 2012.

"He's honestly one of my best friends even after just one season," Krikorian said. "He's one of those coaches that cares about his players, cares about what's going on in their life, and he's always looking over us. It's a strong bond."

## REDEMPTIVE FINAL SEASON FUELS MORRISSEY'S AMBITIONS

By Kyle Prudhomme '17

After suffering season-ending injuries as a field hockey player in both high school and college, Fitchburg State senior forward Erin Morrissey has learned how to endure and overcome setbacks.

Morrissey—a multi-sport standout at Quabbin Regional High School—experienced the first major injury of her career during the fall of 2011 when she suffered a tear to the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee.

As the grueling rehab process went on, the soon-to-be college freshman found comfort with the professionals in physical therapy facilities, and gained new interest in a career field that she would wind up studying for five years at Fitchburg State: exercise science.

“I tore my ACL so I wasn’t going to go to school to play field hockey,” recalled Morrissey. “I became close with the staff at all the rehab places I went too so I thought maybe I could be a physical therapist.”

After her recovery, she was drawn back to her passion. Morrissey was walk-on to the field hockey program in fall 2012. She started 17 of the team’s 18 games, finishing second on the team with 12 points off five goals and a pair of assists.

Morrissey was a key contributor over the next two seasons, playing 29 games and scoring four goals. In 2015, she was named co-captain and hoped to help guide an experienced group of Falcons toward a Little East

Conference playoff berth.

Her season came to an abrupt end, however, when she suffered a torn hamstring during the fifth game in a conference battle with Keene State.

In the months following, Morrissey had doubts about continuing her schooling or her athletic career. She decided to persevere in both despite concerns over returning to the field after a second major injury.

“At first it was surreal,” she said. “I thought, I have another year of field hockey and of college. If I played one more game, I wouldn’t have got that redshirt. I was very lucky. Being given the fifth year made me work a lot harder (in physical therapy) because now I had that set goal.”

After a summer full of rehabilitation and strengthening her right leg, the resilient Morrissey returned to Elliot Field in the fall and embarked on her redshirt season as a second-year captain of the team. Starting in all 19 games in 2016, she put up career highs in goals scored (7), assists (6), and points (20) for the Falcons while earning LEC third-team honors.

Morrissey was grateful to finish the season strong and free of injury. With her field hockey career at Fitchburg State now complete, she’s focusing on the completion of her undergraduate career with an internship in the Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Department at Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield.

“If the school did not push me to get this internship I would not have my foot in the door,” she said. “As I grew through my five years at Fitchburg State, the experiences I’ve had hopefully get me where I want to be in the medical field someday. I couldn’t ask for a better experience. It was really special for me to finish these five years and I’m glad I did five instead of just four.”



# ALUMNI news

## CLASS NOTES

### 1960s

#### PAUL '65 AND JOANNE '86

**RALSTON** opened their summer home in Monson for the 9th Annual Mohawk and Friends gathering on July 16. Several alumni from the '60s attended, including the farthest, from Juneau, Alaska, **JIM '65** and **DENISE CARROLL**.

**RICHARD A. HUOT '66** currently serves as interim financial director at The Wilton Public School District in CT. Huot came to Wilton from the Hebron Public School District in Tolland County, where he was finance and operations director for a little more than two years. Throughout his school finance career, Huot served a number of CT school districts, including those in Watertown, East Hartford, Wethersfield, Manchester, Bridgeport and Darien, where he worked until he retired in 2013.

### 1970s

#### JANET F. (BRADFORD)

**ODENWELDER '75** was promoted to vice president, mortgage originator at Haverhill Bank, where she started as a marketing officer in 1985. She joined the mortgage department in 2002. Odenwelder serves on the board of Career Resources Corporation and is a member of the Haverhill Exchange Club and the Greater Haverhill and Merrimack Valley Chambers of Commerce. She previously served on the boards of Haverhill's Brightside and Pentucket Arts Center.

#### JOHN W. MORRISON '79, '90

was one of among 200 Aramark Higher Education employees worldwide selected to receive the 2016 Ring of Stars award for

outstanding service provided for Aramark clients.

### 1980s

#### JOANNE "JO" M. CHAREST

**'80** joined Total Engagement Solutions, an UbiCare company, as a client success manager. Charest spent six months in the U.S. Army Reserve followed by six years in the Texas National Guard's Medical Corps before transitioning to health care software. She is currently completing a Capstone project for a master's degree in management, Healthcare Administration.

**ROBERT A. HALL '80** published his 12th book, *The Old Jarheads'* *Scabag*, a collection of short fiction and essays. Hall, a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, represented Fitchburg in the Massachusetts Senate from his first election in 1972 until he retired undefeated in 1982.

**MICHAEL J. MACIAK '80** and wife, Maria, recently celebrated the birth of their fourth grandchild, Mathew Jr.

**SIOBHAN M. BOHNSON '81** joined GFA Federal Credit Union last summer as its new vice president of member engagement. She oversees all nine GFA branches. She previously served as president and chief executive officer for the Milford Area Chamber of Commerce and held positions in retail banking at other financial institutions. Bohnsen is also a selectman in West Boylston.

**GUY R. ANGERS '82**, a Marlborough native, is the new men's varsity hockey coach at Framingham State University,

a position he first held from 1990-96, when his record was 80-64-8. Back then he led the Rams to four ECAC tournaments and one year was named New England Hockey Writers Coach of the year. Angers also played hockey at Framingham before transferring to Fitchburg State. Angers coached hockey at Worcester Academy the last two years before being tabbed for Framingham.

#### RICHARD K. DEYERMOND '82

joined the senior leadership team at VirMedica, the leader in providing e-access and specialty pharmacy technology solutions designed to expedite patient access to biopharmaceutical products. He will serve as vice president of client services and will lead teams engaged in the delivery of VirMedica's technology solutions.

**NOEL P. PIXLEY '82** retired last year from the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District after a successful career in education. He taught industrial arts at Gardner High School, J.F. Kennedy Middle School in Enfield, Conn., and the Thornton Burgess Middle School in his hometown of Hampden. He served as assistant principal in Southwick before becoming principal of the Thornton Burgess Middle School, where he served in the position for 17 years. Most recently, Pixley was the principal of Wilbraham Middle School. In 2001, Pixley was awarded the Edmund Fanning State Principal of the Year award. During his career, Pixley was actively involved in the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association, and was president

during the 2007/2008 school year.

#### CHRISTINA M. (SMALL) BOHABOY

**'84**, of Dudley, was hired as an admissions clinician liaison at Oriol Health Care of Holden. Bohaboy has several years' experience in the Worcester/Boston health care and marketing industry. She has worked as a senior fitness adviser, clinical liaison and community health and fitness director for independent living.

#### MARIANN L. CASTELLI-HIER '84

retired from her position as Worcester's city treasurer/tax collector on October 1, 2016. Before coming to Worcester City Hall in 2010, she was director of development and special projects at Fitchburg State, and she previously served as its director of financial planning and investments, director of business operations, and director of financial and treasury operations.



#### ARTHUR J. STEFFENBERG '86

was appointed vice president, worldwide customer support at ChyronHego, a global leader in products, services, and solutions for the broadcast and sports industries, specializing in live television, news, and sports production. He joins the company from Avid Technology,



where he led direct and indirect global training and prior to that ran North American support. Steffenberg also served as a critical situation manager for IBM's software group, in charge of resolving complex, high-risk support issues involving Fortune 100 customers.

**MICHAEL E. CHARTRAND '88** was promoted to head ice hockey coach at Becker College. Chartrand has been a Becker assistant since the 2011-12 season.

**CHRIS A. MONTEIRO '88** was appointed chief communications officer for KPMG US. Prior to joining KPMG, he was the chief communications and digital marketing officer for MasterCard's Worldwide Communications Department. Monteiro worked at the company for more than 18 years, and was its CCO and DMO since 2011. Monteiro's earlier roles include that of vice president for public relations at the Sherry Group, between 1994 and 1998; senior account manager for public relations at Wirz & Associates, between 1991 and 1993; athletic communications assistant at the University of Connecticut, between 1990 and 1991; and public relations associate at Mintz & Hoke Communications Group, where he started his career in 1988.

**1990s**

**TODD A. LAJOIE '90**, a professional photographer, was recognized by Baystate Children's Hospital on social media earlier this year for going above and beyond for a 5-year old leukemia patient who was extremely disappointed to have missed both her school photo day and make-up day because of treatment. LaJoie surprised the girl with a full private photo shoot, including a digitally inserted castle and unicorn backdrop.



**DEBRA J. (HAMILTON) DONOVAN '92**, of Woburn, was appointed vice president

of sales and marketing at Wingate Healthcare, supporting its marketing and admissions teams in eastern Massachusetts. Donovan is returning to Wingate, where she previously worked as regional marketing director for 18 years until 2013.

**JOANNE M. MCKENNA '92**, Ward 1 city councillor in Revere, received an award for Excellence in Art Education from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design for art educators from Massachusetts who have shown a lifetime achievement in serving the public. McKenna is a 1981 graduate of the college. McKenna was an educator in the Revere Public Schools for 32 years at the K-8 and high school levels. While at RHS she was also co-director of student activities, advisor for Weapons not Words and the Multicultural Teen Awareness Programs and counselor for the Transitional Summer Program, which works to transition at-risk youths into high school. McKenna has committed years of service to the City of Revere. She founded the Revere Beautification Committee and the Beachmont Improvement Committee. She has also received awards from the city, including Educator of the Year 2016 and Citizen of the Year 2014. McKenna received her master's degree in psychology from Lesley University, a master's in education from Fitchburg State, and a degree in licensure in school administration from Merrimack College.

**ALFRED W. YOUNG JR. '92** joined Walter Investment Management Corp. in Tampa, FL, as chief risk and compliance

officer based in Fort Washington, Pa. Young most recently served as director of risk analytics with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's Supervision Risk Management division. Before that, he held leadership positions in the OCC's Large Bank Supervision unit. From 1993 to 2008, Young held various compliance- and risk-related roles at midsize and large national banks, including Star Bank, Provident Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Commerce Bank and Toronto Dominion.

**ANNMARY I. CONNOR '93**, of Amesbury, was named director of elder services in Andover this past September. Connor is the former director of the Council on Aging in Amesbury and the former director of social services for Lynn's Abbott House Skilled Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center. Her adjunct faculty positions are with Salem State University and Northern Essex Community College. She is a member of the Massachusetts Council on Aging Advisory Board and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.

**KATHRYN M. (DROLET) SLOAN '93**, of Rutland, self-published a novel titled *In Laguna* in June.

**SARAH A. (GALVIN) PLAZA '94**, of Winchendon, was named senior vice president, business banking officer at Fidelity Bank. Galvin, formerly senior loan officer with Barre Savings Bank until the merger with Fidelity in April, was a vice president at Enterprise Bank & Trust Company until 2011 and then previously with Clinton Savings Bank. Galvin chairs the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce and is treasurer of RCAP Solutions in Gardner, a nonprofit that helps individuals, families, communities and small-business owners with a wide range of housing and real estate services.

**WENDY J. (GODIN) HAMM '95** currently serves on the board

of trustees at the Villa del Rio Condominium Trust.

**JORGE PAZOS '95** was hired as Wayland's new information technology director after serving 15 years as chief information officer for the city of Melrose. Pazos is a leader in the area of shared IT services and systems and established the first regional IT services agreements in the commonwealth.

**PAULA (FERAZZI) SWIFT '95**, at Paula Swift Photography, is excited to announce her new book coming out in February titled *Storytelling Portrait Photography: How to Document the Lives of Children and Families*.



**ANDREW J. BAIATES '97**, saw his play, "45 Plays for 45 Presidents," picked up by the Merrimack Repertory Theater this fall. The play is an original collaboration with the Chicago-based theater troupe The Neo-Futurists, which gained a lot of attention from National Public Radio and PBS. Over 20 theaters around the country will produce it in 2016-2017.

**CAROL J. SIMONE '97** retired this June after 46 years serving as a teacher, religious education program director and as principal, since 2004, at St. Joseph School of All Saints Parish in Lowell.

**ROBIN (GUPTILL) BENOIT '98** has been named as the associate

principal at the Bromfield School in Harvard. Benoit held an interim position as the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) coordinator for the Nashoba Regional School District for the past year. She taught in that district since 2009. Prior to that she taught for nine years at the Concord Middle School and three years at the Parker Charter School in Devens.

**WILLIAM J. LOVELL '99** joined Dole Packaged Foods, LLC as Northeast regional sales manager. Before joining Dole, Lovell worked for Bunge Oils for nine years, rising from regional manager to director of regional sales East/Midwest. He gained prior distribution experience as a distribution manager for Pepsi Corporation.

**2000s**

**MICHAEL R. FLANAGAN '00** was named superintendent of the Tyngsborough School District. Flanagan, who started in the Tyngsborough schools 17 years ago as a social studies teacher, has spent the past four years as assistant superintendent.



**PAULO N. DEOLIVEIRA JR. '03, '07** was named assistant vice president and branch manager of

UniBank's Worcester branch. He is an adjunct faculty member at Fitchburg State, teaching undergraduate business courses, and a member of its Business Advisory Board. He is also a Mount Wachusett Community College Alumni Ambassador.



**HEATHER N. (WRIGHT) STORME '03,** of Worcester, was appointed as commercial lender, assistant vice president at Enterprise Bank

in the Leominster branch. She brings more than 16 years of banking and finance industry experience to her new role, including five as a commercial lender.



**MATTHEW R. GERMAIN '04** came in first in last year's Canal Diggers 5K, finishing

the race in 15 minutes and 40 seconds. Germain has been a runner since the age of 15 and was a member of the cross-country and track teams while at Fitchburg State. He is also the founder of the SISU project, a New England-based running team.

**MICHAEL M. PARISI '06,** of Amherst, N.H., has joined the senior management team of Ledyard National Bank as senior vice president and retail banking officer. Parisi worked at Citizens Bank for the past 10 years as a branch manager, regional manager, and market administration manager.



**TIMOTHY J. SUOKKO '06** was promoted to police chief in the town of Dublin, N.H. He has worked for the department for the last four and a half years, and was promoted to the role of sergeant this past spring. Suokko worked as a patrolman since 2006, having previously worked for the towns of New Ipswich, N.H., and Princeton. He also worked as a patrolman for Fitchburg State's campus police.

**D'YANA C. DELPERO '07** was inducted into the Peabody High School Hall of Fame this fall,

shortly after her induction into the Fitchburg State University Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend. Delpero was a 1,000-point scorer in basketball for both Peabody and Fitchburg State.



**VICTORIA F. HALL '07** is proud to announce the start of her own small company called WORKINGURL, which manufactures designer hands bags for women. After a 30-day campaign on Kickstarter, WORKINGURL received the first round of funding needed to start production on the first line of prototypes with a design consultant. Hall was accepted into the first EForAll Accelerator on the Southcoast and won second place in the pitch contest. The company was selected as a prize winner for EForAll's Southcoast Quarterly Review. WORKINGURL was also selected as the "Crowd Favorite" at the Women in Innovation, Mass Innovation Nights #88.

**ALEXIS A. BOSWORTH '08** was selected as the new assistant director of special education in the Tewksbury School District. Prior to this promotion, Bosworth worked as a case manager for grades K-2 at the Dewing School.



**JESSICA L. (GUINEY) GLOVER '08,** international program specialist at NASA headquarters, spoke this fall to an audience of faculty, alumni and students interested in her views on what space has to do with international studies. She oversees NASA's bilateral relationships with countries in the Middle East and provides executive support and analysis to the agency's senior leadership on strategic engagement in the region. Glover was awarded NASA's Civil Service Team Award for work on international missions.

**CARL A. INDRIAGO '08,** now working as a producer in Los Angeles, was recently recognized by Adweek for producing a PSA about the dangers of driving and texting. The piece also got a write-up in Teen Vogue.

**TRACY K. RENAULT '08** completed the Triple Crown of Hiking, which informally refers to the three major U.S. long-distance hiking trails. She hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2014, the Pacific Crest Trail in 2015, and the Continental Divide Trail in 2016.

**PATRICK V. MCCABE '09** was hired this summer by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to assist in finance and human resources.

## CALL FOR ALUMNI AWARDS

Do you know alumni whose accomplishments deserve to be recognized?

Please take a few minutes and tell us about him or her. We will be accepting nominations for the 2017 Alumni Awards through March 1.

Nominations may be submitted online, or you may contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:alumni@fitchburgstate.edu) or (978) 665-4555 to request a hard copy.

Current employees of the university and Alumni Association board members are not eligible, and self-nominations will not be considered.



**BRIAN S. RIORDAN '09** has been named assistant principal for the Qualters Middle School in Mansfield. Riordan was previously an assistant principal at the Bridgewater Middle School for four years. Prior to that he was a middle-school teacher in Scituate for 11 years.

### 2010s

**RICHARD M. BASTIEN '10**, of Gardner, has been the director of MA Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries since January 2016. A Navy veteran, he served in active duty from 1993 to 1995 and as a member of the Navy Reserve from 1995 through 2001. He served as state representative for the 2nd Worcester District from 2011 to 2013.

### JESSICA G. (CROWELL)

**JARMULOWICZ '10** launched Nanny Match Me, a fully insured agency licensed by the state recruitment service, to support families by matching their needs to a local caregiver. The business started in January 2016, and Jarmulowicz hopes to expand Nanny Match Me statewide and eventually nationwide.

**ROBERTA "BOBBIE" A. PARKER '10** has been named senior vice president of retail lending at Rollstone Bank & Trust. Parker joined RB&T in 2004 and has held a number of roles in the lending division, including credit analyst, commercial loan officer and mortgage officer. Parker is active in the community. She is a member of the board of directors at Montachusett Opportunity Council, having previously served on the executive committee, and has spent the past 16 years volunteering with the United Way. She is also a current member of the North Central MA CRA Coalition.

**BRIAN D. SCHELL '10** was named Coach of the Year by the Wilmington Town Crier for putting together a dynamic

season for the Wilmington Wildcats Girls Track Team this year, finishing 5-0, including winning the program's first ever league championship, and taking the Middlesex League Freedom Division title. This is Schell's third season as head cross-country and track coach at Wilmington High School. Schell currently works in Woburn for a manufacturing company.

**ROBERT P. BOLEY '11, '15** was hired as branch manager for Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union's Westford office.

**DANIEL P. DEMBKOWSKI '11** has been living and working in the District of Columbia for the past four years. He is engaged to be married to his partner, who is also from MA, and is proud to be taking her last name in October. This past January, they purchased a home in northeast DC.

**TIMOTHY F. FINN '11** began teaching biology and science at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School this fall. Finn most recently taught in middle school in the Andover Public Schools.

**KATRINA L. HENDRICKS '11** and Michael J. Riley were married in June. She is employed as a teacher by the Ashburnham School District. He is employed as an expeditor by L3 Communications.



**LOGAN M. JOHNSON '11, '13** started his second full season as a Harvard University defensive line

coach and full-time assistant coach for Crimson football.

**KENDRA M. (BURR) KENNEDY '11** is the author of the middle-grade children's stories *French Toast: Friends in the Front Yard*, *Why Wolf is Waterproof*, *The Tale of the Comet Named Hiccup*, *Little Paul Pine*, and *Why Wolf has Big Feet*.

**HANNAH T. BEACHAM '12** and **PAUL R. GARON '13** married on October 9, 2016, at the Shenandoah Crossing Resort in Gordonsville, VA.

**WILLIAM J. CALDWELL '12** won the Board of Selectmen seat in his hometown of Athol. Caldwell teaches history at Athol High School, from which he graduated in 2008.

**TRACY A. CROWLEY '12** took over as principal of South Elementary School in Andover in August. The last three years she served as assistant principal at Doherty Middle School. Prior to joining Andover Public Schools, Crowley was assistant principal of the Tilton Innovation Elementary School in Haverhill; principal designee of South Row Elementary School in Chelmsford; health, physical education, family consumer science curriculum coordinator for Chelmsford Public Schools; and wellness coordinator for Dracut Public Schools.

**PATRICK T. HARPER '12**, of Southwick, was sworn in as a patrol officer for the Northborough Police Department this fall, three days after graduating from the State Police Municipal Academy. Harper served on Fitchburg State's police force prior to his entry into the academy.

**CHRISTOPHER M. KIBLER '12, '15** has been named head coach of the men's and women's cross-country and track and field teams at Keystone College in La Plume, Pa.

**ANDREW MARCIELLO '12**, of Pepperell, opened an independent bookstore named Valley Wild Books this fall in a space looking out onto the Littleton Common. As owner and manager, Marciello wants to direct his passion for literature toward his community, a passion he fostered while a student at Fitchburg State.

**NICOLE M. PACENKA '12** was promoted to assistant director of residence life at Norwich University in Northfield, VT. While a student at Fitchburg State, Pacenka was resident assistant for the fourth floor of Aubuchon Hall.

**JAMIE L. (BREEDLOVE) PARKER '12** was recently married and resides in Delmar, N.Y.

**COLLEEN M. CANTY '13**, of Ayer, was recently named as the director of Behavioral Concepts' new location in Fitchburg.

**ANNMARIE E. (FISHER) KONAN '13** has been promoted to assistant branch manager of the Monument Square, Leominster branch of Rollstone Bank, where she has served since 2014.

**ZACHARY P. VALLIERE '13**, who played in the NBL Canada for two different teams, now looks forward to playing with the New England Anchors, one of the newest American Basketball Association teams in MA, based in Worcester.

**MANUEL T. DEBETTENCOURT '15** is employed by Granite Telecommunications in Fitchburg as a network operations analyst.



**ERIC N. BERGQUIST '16**, founder and past president of the Fitchburg State SMPTE Chapter, and two other past club members, **JOSHUA J. PIOCCONE '15** and **DUSTIN J. BRAGGA '16**, attended the 100 Year Anniversary event of the national SMPTE organization in Los Angeles, CA, in November and had the fortunate opportunity to chat and pose with world-renowned director James Cameron.

**ZACH LEVENSON '16's** film "The Toymaker," which explores the bond between a Jewish toymaker and the son of a Nazi commander, was named an official selection of the Boston International and SENE film festivals this summer.

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.

**PHOTOS**

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.

The alumni office makes its best effort to notify alumni of upcoming events through its Contact magazine, monthly e-newsletters, e-mails, postcards and personal invitations. If you want to ensure that you are receiving the most current information on events, call or email the alumni office to update your contact record: (978) 665-4555 | alumni@fitchburgstate.edu.

**Athletics**  
HALL OF FAME  
INDUCTEES

Fitchburg State recently inducted five outstanding student athletes to its Athletic Hall of Fame, recognizing significant contributions to the Falcons. A new class is inducted every two years.



**D'YANA C. DELPERO '07**

D'Yana C. Delpero set standards for achievements on the basketball court and in the classroom at Fitchburg State that will undoubtedly stand the test of time. Heavily recruited from her stellar career at Peabody High School, she brought her considerable skills to Fitchburg. Delpero was a major factor in the program's .720 winning percentage during her collegiate career.

Coach Walter Paschal called her "one of the backbones of the 2007 team that went 26-3, was ranked number 24 in the country, won the school's first women's basketball MASCAC championship and advanced to the round of 32 in the NCAA tournament." She scored over 1,400 points and still holds numerous program records.

She was a team captain in her senior year, when she was the leading scorer in MASCAC and named the MASCAC Player of the Year and also received Fitchburg State's Paul Waring '38 Female Athlete of the Year award.

Delpero was just as successful academically. She graduated cum laude as a nursing major and for 10 years has worked as a registered nurse in the Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Boston Children's Hospital. In 2015 Delpero ran the Chicago Marathon to raise money to send children with cancer to summer camp. She credits her success to the support from her parents, Rich and Maureen, and her brother, Ryan.



**DANIEL J. GENATOSSIO '98**

Brockton native Daniel J. Genatossio rewrote the Fitchburg State hockey record books during his collegiate career. Arriving in 1994, Coach Dean Fuller described Genatossio as “instant offense,” and a key figure in two championship runs that wouldn’t have happened without him.

He played in 12 playoff games and scored 14 goals, two of them game winners. The team won the ECAC North/South/Central championship twice and had a .750 winning percentage. Genatossio is among the program record holders in season goals, season assists, season points, career goals, career points, career assists, career game-winning goals, career power play goals and career games played.

During his sophomore year he was named to the MASCAC All-Conference, All-ECAC North and New England Hockey Writers All-Star teams. Serving as team captain his senior year, he was named ECAC North Player of the Year, MASCAC Player of the Year, MASCAC All-Star and a New England Hockey Writers All-Star and was selected to play in the ECAC East-West All-Star game, the first selection for a Fitchburg State player.

Genatossio graduated with a degree in sociology and started his career working for the Department of Youth Services. He has worked for the city of Brockton School Department for 22 years, most recently as the chief supervisor of attendance.



**JOSEPH P. HANNON '59**

Joseph P. Hannon has excelled on and off the track. At Fitchburg High School he won state and New England titles at the Boston Garden and a gold medal at the national championship at Madison Square Garden. Upon arriving at Fitchburg State in 1955, Hannon helped establish a track team and was hired as head track coach at Fitchburg High.

The Fitchburg State team wasted no time establishing itself, with championships in 1957 and 1958 fueled by Hannon’s on-field contributions.

Off the field, Hannon was the president of the Class of 1959 and gave the graduation address. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1978.

Hannon has had a distinguished career in the Chicago area. He was assistant superintendent and general superintendent of schools for Chicago, president of the Chicago Convention and Visitors Bureau, managing director of McCormick Place, vice president for operations of the World Trade Center Chicago Association, executive director of the Illinois Development Authority, senior vice president of human resources, security and administration for the Chicago Stock Exchange, executive vice president and director of education of EVEREN Securities, a member of the Abraham Lincoln Executive Committee, managing director of the Illinois Trade Office and the director of the Illinois Department of Commerce.



**JASON P. MALONE '93**

Jason P. Malone arrived at Fitchburg State in 1988 fresh off a state soccer championship at Plymouth Carver High School. In his first year he helped the Falcons win the MASCAC championship and advance to the NCAA tournament. He was the team’s leading scorer and was named to the MASCAC All-Conference first team for three years, and was selected the MASCAC Soccer Player of the Week 15 times. Malone was also selected to the All-New England team three times and nominated to the All American team twice.

Coach Malcolm MacPherson called him the most naturally gifted goal scorer he saw in 30 years of coaching. Malone still holds several Fitchburg State men’s soccer records, including goals, assists and points in a season, career goals and career points. During his career he scored 14 game-winning goals. As a senior Malone led the country in scoring goals. One of the most memorable moments of that season was scoring the game-winning goal in the third overtime of the ECAC quarterfinal game.

Malone went on to coach high school soccer and also played for the Taunton Eagles of the semi-professional Lasa Soccer League. He has worked as an executive laboratory recruiter for Healthcare Connections in Florida for more than 20 years.



**LEANNE J. (LEHTINEN) ROY '01**

Leanne J. (Lehtinen) Roy made an immediate impact on Fitchburg State field hockey, capturing accolades from her freshman year onward. As a senior she was selected MASCAC Player of the Year and named to the MASCAC All-Conference first team, the Little East All-Conference first team and the National Field Hockey Coaches’ Association Division III All Star team. Roy was named the Fitchburg State Female Athlete of the Year in 2001 and received the Paul Waring ’38 Female Athlete of the Year Award.

Coach Beth Bacher recounted her drive and called her a “tenacious defensive player who played every game with self-confidence and determination.” Roy credits her coaches and her teammates for her success. She also recognizes the support of her parents, Helene and Bruce, who never missed one of the 67 collegiate field hockey games she played.

A teacher and coach at Oakmont Regional High School since 2002, Roy’s field hockey team has won three district championships and seven league titles. In 2012 Roy received the Central Massachusetts Field Hockey Coaches Association Coach of the Year award. She was also inducted into the Oakmont Regional High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010.

Roy and her husband, Thomas, live in Ashburnham with their three children: daughter Addison, 9, and sons Silas, 7, and Landon, 2.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**1940s**

**HELEN (DEVECIS) DiNATALE '40**, of Fitchburg, on October 28, 2016.

**1950s**

**LEONARD C. HARLOW '50**, of Dover, Del., on October 31, 2016.

**CARL G. POHLMAN '51**, of Newton, on October 19, 2016.

**JUNE H. (HODGKINS) POHLMAN '53**, of Newton, on December 12, 2016.

**MARILYN J. CORMIER '55**, of Leominster, on June 11, 2016.

**HOWARD M. FAULKNER '57**, of Gorham, Maine, on August 18, 2016.

**GILBERT P. TREMBLAY '57**, of Leominster, on December 17, 2016.

**1960s**

**SAMUEL R. MASCITTI '63**, of Leominster, on August 12, 2016.

**JAMES J. POLLARD '63, '71**, of Tewksbury, on May 24, 2016.

**DIANE C. (KIRKBRIDGE) TOTTY '64**, of Baton Rouge, L.A., on August 19, 2016.

**EDWARD H. ROBERTS '65**, of Concord, N.H., on July 5, 2016.

**JOYCE B. MERRILL '68**, of Saco, Maine, on June 20, 2016.

**JOAN E. (GALLAGHER) CARLSON '69**, of Fitchburg, on July 22, 2016.

**1970s**

**DANTE J. LEPORE '72**, of Leominster, on November 16, 2016.

**FRANCIS L. RABOIN '74**, of Lakeland, Fla., on September 2, 2016.

**GERALD M. CACI '75**, of Fitchburg, on June 2, 2016.

**TIMOTHY J. JOSTI '77**, of Spencer, on May 19, 2016.

**LAUREN M. (GIACCINO) SHAUGHNESSY '77**, of Billerica, on August 10, 2016.

**CATHERINE E. HUMPHREYS '79**, of Fitchburg, on July 25, 2016. Humphreys was a faculty member in the Nursing Department from 1980-1993.

**1980s**



**JAMES S. HAYDEN '82**, of Methuen, on October 7, 2016. Jim was a member of the Fitchburg State University Alumni Board of Directors for five years, serving as president from 2008-2010. He was director of advancement at Lawrence Catholic Academy and was previously employed by the Minuteman National Park, The Concord Museum, The Thoreau Society, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and the Boy Scouts of America-Yankee Clipper Council. He was also known for his role as the beloved "Sergeant Jim" of the End Zone Militia, which fired muskets to celebrate scores at New England Patriots football and New England Revolution soccer games. He is survived by his wife, **KAREN L. (GRADZEWICZ) HAYDEN '82**.

**ALAN D. AHO '82**, of Jewett City, Conn., on November 8, 2016.

**CLIFFORD A. GILBERT '82**, of Lunenburg, on November 9, 2016.

**STEPHEN G. BLANCHARD '84**, of Pelham, N.H., on August 18, 2016.

**CHARLES T. O'BRIEN '86**, of Lynn, on August 9, 2016.

**JAMES E. JOHNSON '87**, of Templeton, on August 4, 2016.

**SUSAN B. LINDBERG '87**, of Lunenburg, on August 1, 2016.

**JOHN P. CONSOLO '88**, of Rutland, on October 19, 2016.

**1990s**

**FRANCIS E. BERGERON '90**, of Lunenburg, on September 18, 2016.

**DONNA K. KIELINEN '94**, of Westminster, on October 27, 2016.

**2000s**

**SCOTT R. VALLEE '00**, of Gardner, on November 5, 2016.

**JOHN T. LESPERANCE '02**, of Gardner, on November 10, 2016.

**NICOLA M. MAZZAFERRO '04**, of Leominster, on August 8, 2016.

**ADAM C. PROIA '08**, of Boston, on October 5, 2016.

**2010s**

**BRIAN T. DURRANCE '13**, of Lunenburg, on September 14, 2016.

**JAMES J. LONG '13**, of Leominster, on September 30, 2016.

**FACULTY / FRIENDS**

**JOHN E. HOWARD**, of Leominster, on June 24, 2016. Howard served two terms on the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees from 1983 to 1987, and again from 1991 to 2002. He was a founding member of the Fitchburg State University Foundation Board, serving as its treasurer for more than two decades. In 2002, he was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree by Fitchburg State in recognition of his extensive community leadership and service to the university.

**ARE YOU A LEADER?**

**JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD**

We're looking for a few good alumni to join the Alumni Association Board! Contact [alumni@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:alumni@fitchburgstate.edu) for more information or to nominate someone. Nominations may be submitted at any time, but the deadline for July consideration is March 1

**OFFICERS**

Eric Gregoire '11, President  
Nicholas Smith '11, President-Elect  
Jim Walsh '75, Treasurer  
Nancy Foss Yasko '11, '13, Secretary

**DIRECTORS**

Alexandra Cardinale '07, '12  
John Caron '65  
Rob Comeau '93  
Eric Commodore '90  
Wendy Coutu '96  
Monica Cuccovia '12  
Mary Dennen '62, '76  
Carolynn DeWitt '17, (student representative)  
Beverly Farias '52  
John Garten '89  
Judith Haseltine '76  
Marybarbara Hughes '72  
Ian James '09  
Donna May '04, '09  
Serena-Rose McVickar '11  
Mark Monahan '10  
Dawn Morton '90  
Frank O'Donnell '93 (alumni trustee)  
Robert "Bliff" Quinn '81



**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

# MARCH 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## FALCONS IN FLORIDA

**MARCH 9** Ft. Myers  
Red Sox Game

**MARCH 11** Naples  
St. Patrick's Day Parade



**MARCH 29** Washington D.C.  
Happy Hour on the Hill

## HAPPY HOUR ON THE HILL



## FALCONS AT FOXWOODS

Coming in **APRIL 2017**

# JULY 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20		
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29



## FALCONS AT CAPE COD



Register online today at [support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration](http://support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration).  
For questions, call 978-665-4555.



**ALUMNI EVENTS**

**1. Fenwick 50th Anniversary Reunion**

In May, 125 alumni came together on campus to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Fenwick Society, 1966-2016. At the time of the event the Fenwicks completed their goal to endow a scholarship in their name. They have raised over \$25,000 and the first

scholarship was awarded in the fall. Pictured is the 16th pledge class, including event organizer, **Robert "Biff" Quinn '81**, 3rd from the right.

**2. Falcons in Cape Cod**

We had another fantastic time visiting Cape Cod in July. We had alumni representation from every decade from the 1950's to the present on the Sesuit Harbor Sunset Dinner

Cruise in Dennis. We had a great turnout at the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox Game. **Beth Deneen '85** (pictured) threw out the first pitch at the game, making her alma mater proud.

**3. Alumni Men's Soccer Game**

**4. Alumni Red Sox Game**  
Sally '57 and Tim '56 Bauman (far right) represent the Fitchburg

State Alumni Association on the field before the game, standing with Wally the Green Monster.

**5. The Athletics Hall of Fame**

**6. The Annual Gold Key Breakfast**  
Inducting the 50th Reunion Class of 1966.

**7. Class of 1963 Scholarship Luncheon**  
Pictured is Dalton "Bud"

**Smart '63 with Danielle Loynd '18**, the class' first scholarship recipient, after she expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Class of 1963.

**8. Alumnae Field Hockey Game**

**9. Alumnae Softball Game**

**10. Alumnae Lacrosse Game**





**11. Alumni Baseball Game**

**12. Alumni Patio**

Over 100 graduates from the 70's-90's were reunited on campus this fall with the help of alumni coordinator, Robert "Biff" Quinn '81. Unveiled at this event was the Alumni Patio, installed in October 2015, on Highland Avenue behind the old Newman Center

(now called the Aldo & Anna Guglielmi Mazzaferro Center). The Alumni Patio incorporates the memorial bricks removed from the walkway between Miller and Hammond Halls and new pavers in honor of the National Greek organizations on campus and the 8 former local clubs/societies. Also included are 2 wrought iron benches, replacements

for a gift from the Class of 1995 and a memorial given by the Esoteric Society in memory of their fallen brother and Vietnam veteran, Theodore "Ted" A. Thompson, Jr. '66 (9-11-1942 to 9-8-1968).

**13. Slattery's Turkey Trot**

**14. Big Apple Bus Trip**

**15. Mohawk Christmas Pasta Fest**

Throughout the year a dedicated group of Mohawks put together a number of reunions drawing brothers from far and wide. The annual Mohawk Christmas Pasta Fest is no exception, hosted by Mark Coughlan '77 with the help of good friends Ralph DiBona '73, Paul White '79, Joe Kraemer '75, '81,

Dave Coughlan and Steve Finer '73, '77. Nearly 50 alumni attended.

**16. Alumni Ski Trip at Wachusett Mountain**

# AUGMENTED REALITY

## used to enrich alumni mailings

You may have noticed you didn't get a phone call from us this fall. Instead, you might have received a mailing with a picture of senior biology major Marney Shattuck on the cover. Did you know her picture can talk? And if you open up the mailer you can also hear directly from sophomore Jonathan Guzman. His picture talks too. Thanks to Justin Pallis '91 and his team at DS Graphics, Marney and Jonathan were able to speak directly to our alumni through the use of a technology called augmented reality. Simply download the free Layar app on your smartphone, scan the image, and Marney's and Jonathan's pictures will start talking to you. It is a bit like being in a Harry Potter movie where the pictures speak. You can't help but think "This is so cool!"

We have received a lot of positive feedback from alumni ranging from "thank you for not calling," to "this is a very clever outreach effort." This effort has also translated into a 12.5 percent increase in the average gift size over this time last year.

We look forward to using this technology in future university communications, not just fundraising, so keep an eye out ... you never know when a picture could start talking.

This mail piece also gave us the opportunity to highlight our Communications Media department. The videos were shot and produced by Film/Video students Derek Fortuna '17, Colby Todisco '18 and Carly Waters '18, while the photos were taken by student photographer, Madeline Mitchell '18. Fitchburg State prides itself on providing students with hands-on learning opportunities and real world work experience like these.

Visit [get.layar.com](http://get.layar.com) on your smartphone to download the free Layar app and scan Marney and Jonathan's pictures to hear their stories. \*

Layar may not be compatible with all smartphones.



*Since I was a child, I have always wanted to become a veterinarian and Fitchburg State has put me on the right path. Thank you for helping first generation students like me.*

—Jonathan Guzman '18

When you make a gift to the Annual Fund, your support has an immediate impact on students by helping fund scholarships, academic programs, student clubs and organizations and athletics.

*My picture can talk!  
See below how you can  
hear my story.*



These pictures can talk! Download the Layar app and hear directly from our students!

Videos produced by Communications Media students Derek Fortuna '17, Colby Todisco '18 and Carly Waters '18.



Visit [get.layar.com](http://get.layar.com) on your smartphone to download the free Layar app



Scan Jonathan & Marney's panels to hear their stories.

\*Layar may not be compatible with all smartphones



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Having trouble using this app?  
Please call us at 978-665-3441.



**Hello, this is Marney from Fitchburg State.**  
*I won't be calling you this fall...*

Your past support has made it possible for me to work towards my goal of becoming a physician assistant.

—Marney Shattuck '17



My picture can talk!  
See inside how you can hear my story.





# FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

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