

Contact

WINTER 2016



FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY



STEM

The gender gap is narrowing in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.





Contact

2 **CAMPUS NEWS**

6 **WOMEN IN STEM**

The university has seen significant growth in the number of women studying – and teaching – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

14 **ATHLETICS**

16 **ALUMNI NEWS**

Class Notes
Hall of Fame Induction
Alumni & Development

EXECUTIVE EDITOR	Michael Shanley
EDITOR & SENIOR WRITER	Matthew Bruun G'14
VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT	Christopher Hendry '91, '07
DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING	Michael Kushmerek '08, '13
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS	Emily Austin-Bruns
DESIGN	Michele Italiano Perla
PRINTING	Puritan Capital
PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY	Ed Collier Robert J. Carlin '00 Brandon Nogueira '16 Anna Gagnon-Burch '19

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A HOME FOR VETS

As part of its expanding commitment to serving U.S. military veterans, Fitchburg State formally opened its Veterans Center in Thompson Hall in the fall and was formally designated a military friendly school.

“We gather today to demonstrate this institution’s commitment to the men and women who have served this nation with honor, and look now to broaden their own horizons through higher education,” President Richard S. Lapidus said. “The Veterans Center is symbolic of a larger and ongoing effort at the university. I am proud of this institution’s efforts to welcome returning veterans, and I’m honored we have created a space on this campus for these men and women to gather, collaborate, reflect and learn.”

Russell Jones helped start the Student Veterans Organization on Fitchburg State’s campus. A 2000 graduate of Fitchburg High School, Jones enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served for four years. He was among the first wave of Marines to cross the border in the Iraq war in 2003.

“A lot of my family members served,” he said. “I just felt like it was the right thing to do. It made me who I am. I learned so much and made so many friends.”

Jones entered the workforce after completing his tour of duty and later decided to pursue a college education. He received an associate’s degree from Mount Wachusett Community College and enrolled at Fitchburg State in 2013. He graduated in December with a degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing.

The Student Veterans Organization will not only help student veterans to meet and socialize, but will serve as vital assistance for many veterans as they make the difficult transition from military life into college.

“It will become a safe haven for returning war vets with PTSD that without it would not be able to attend college in person,” Jones said at the dedication ceremony. “This center will provide critical support for that mission. The Student Veterans Organization will become an example to other colleges that do not yet have veterans programs of their own. It will become a training ground for success, and in turn its members will make the university proud. On behalf of all the student veterans here, and many to come, I thank you.”

The Student Veterans Organization has a slate of officers and faculty advisers James Noonan (business administration) and George Bohrer (communications media), both of whom served in the Armed Forces.

Also speaking at the dedication ceremony was Massachusetts Department of Veterans’ Services Secretary Francisco A. Ureña, a former Marine who received a Purple Heart in recognition of injuries sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ureña followed his enlistment with a degree in history and legal studies from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. “It was a turning point,” he said, describing higher education’s transition to serving a population of returning veterans. “How do we make sure that veterans are being taken care of?”

He said dedicated space like the Veterans Center was a critical step.

“I really congratulate Fitchburg State and the leadership here for initiating this great space to allow vets to gather,” Ureña said.

“We are honored to earn this designation in recognition of our ongoing institutional efforts to serve this most deserving population,” President Lapidus said.

The university is also launching a bridge program for military-trained LPNs to receive their bachelor of science degrees in nursing. Respect for diversity, social responsibility, and a commitment to excellence in nursing care are emphasized. More information on the bridge program can be found at fitchburgstate.edu/militarylpn.



HONORING THE IRVINGS



The campus celebrated the naming of the Irving Wing of the Antonucci Science Complex in the fall, recognizing the commitment of Donald R. '72, '79 and Karen

A. Irving '90 to enhancing public higher education and Fitchburg State. Donald Irving is a member of the university's Board of Trustees and also serves on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.

In 2012, the Irvings created the Pay It Forward Scholarship, which has provided renewable support for 14 students since its inception. Recipients of the \$5,000 scholarships are encouraged to give back to the institution in the future. Another eight Pay It Forward scholars will be named this year.

"Don and Karen Irving represent Fitchburg State's highest ideals," said President Lapidus. "They have been extremely generous with their resources and talents, creating opportunities for future generations of students. It is a fitting tribute to their legacy that we dedicate this state of the art facility in their name."

The Irving Wing of the science complex spans 55,000 square feet and houses the university's chemistry and biology laboratories along with other research and instructional space.

"This is an incredible honor," said Donald Irving, whose roots at Fitchburg State go deep: His father enrolled after returning from service in World War II, and the young family lived in a barracks that was erected to serve returning veterans. That barracks, Irving said, was situated on the spot where the laboratory wing that bears the family name now stands.

Irving taught for six years before going into business, and later wanted to start his own company. He recalled telling his wife they would need to mortgage their home and accrue substantial debt to make it a reality. Karen Irving agreed, and they were off. The company, Data Guide Cable Systems, thrived.

Karen Irving recalled leaving her studies at Fitchburg State in 1969 with just two semesters left, vowing to return soon to complete her degree. Life intervened, and as her family grew she decided to finish what she had

started. She completed her degree in early childhood education in 1990. In recognition of the challenges facing mothers in pursuit of their degrees, several of the Pay It Forward Scholarships are designated for working moms.

U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas also spoke at the ceremony and described the importance of philanthropic giving.

"The public sector cannot do it by itself," Tsongas said. "You need a philanthropic base of people who have benefited, done well, remain engaged and understand they have an important role to play."

During the ceremony, President Lapidus read a letter from Adam S. Hoeg, a 2014 Fitchburg State graduate and one of the first Pay It Forward scholars. Hoeg is finishing a master's degree and plans to pursue a career in admissions and academic services.

"It is likely I would not have made it this far without the help of the Irvings," Hoeg wrote. "Their generosity has created an impact that is now allowing me to help change the lives of students from all over the country. They have created a domino effect, which I plan to spend the rest of my life making sure is still going strong."

Addressing the Irvings, Hoeg wrote, "I look forward to the day when I am able to give back to the university, in even a fraction of the way that you have. You aren't just giving scholarships; you're giving us access to our dreams. The two of you are beyond deserving of this recognition and dedication, and I hope that it is something that stays with you forever."

CELEBRATING CORMIER'S LEGACY



Scholars and community members from campus and beyond gathered at the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library for a symposium inspired by the works and experiences of celebrated local author Robert Cormier, whose

papers are housed in the university archives. At the symposium, faculty members Daniel Sarefield and Laura Baker shared historical perspectives on censorship, from attempts in ancient Rome to quash thought by destroying texts to efforts in the 1960s to control the discourse on the Fitchburg State campus. Librarians Asher Jackson and Coco Zephir and retired Director Robert Foley were among the speakers. Faculty member Elise Takehana and Annamary Consalvo from the University of Texas at Tyler assembled novel typescripts, essay drafts, letters, speeches, photographs, student artifacts, and historical news coverage of Cormier's work as it pertains to censorship and the importance to young adults of reading. Particular attention has been paid to his three most often taught novels: "The Chocolate War," "I Am the Cheese" and "Fade."

"A" IS FOR ART

For four weeks last summer, the front page of the Sentinel & Enterprise newspaper was transformed into a public art project that drew international attention. And Fitchburg State students and faculty were major contributors to its success.

"The Alphabet" was the brainchild of New Orleans-based artist Anna Schuleit Haber, a veteran creator of public art installations. With the support of a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant, the Fitchburg Art Museum recruited Haber to develop a local project.

"For the Fitchburg project I envisioned a piece that would be a limited-edition, daily experiment exploring visual language systems, the transport of text, and the shaping and meaning of news, both local and non-local," Haber said.

Museum Director Nick Capasso and Haber worked with Sentinel & Enterprise Editor Charles St. Amand to

get the project onto the front page.

Each day's installment was accompanied by text written on a theme inspired by a letter. English Professor Elise Takehana contributed many essays to the project.

"Public art and relational aesthetics was already a tangential research interest of mine, so being able to contribute to such a project sounded fun," Takehana said. "As someone not from or familiar with Massachusetts history, I took great pleasure in researching Leominster and Fitchburg's place in the American economy."

Faculty member Stephen Goldstein also contributed to the project, creating the letter V. Inspired by graffiti he saw on a train ride to New York City, Goldstein visualized his entry in three dimensions.

Haber said the faculty assistance was invaluable. "Their dedicated involvement in the project over several months was crucial to the unfolding of the project," she said.

Student Shannon Gugarty was among the interns who worked on the Alphabet. She learned of the project through Takehana and grew interested in the historic perspective it offered. "While I don't live in Fitchburg anymore, I've always considered Fitchburg home," Gugarty said.

Gugarty got into the newspaper groove, meeting daily deadlines for writing and editing. She enjoyed seeing the fruits of her labor each morning and sharing them with her family. "There was something really exciting about seeing my parents' reactions to each letter, and reading more about the history of Fitchburg," she said. "Each piece brought new light, new history to people's eyes, and they could see this town for what it really is."

Other Fitchburg State interns included Anna Farwell, Ariana Garcia, Jonathan Jena, Justin Keohane and Jared Nelson.

"It was breathtaking," Haber said, recalling the high-pressure environment of producing the work each day. "I hope that each of my interns took the taste of this challenge, the very real aspects of this work, back with them into their student lives. Some of them discovered their love for news making. Others learned that the daily deadlines were not for them. But all of them contributed greatly and lastingly."



FRINGE BENEFITS

Fitchburg State theater students brought an original work to the international stage over the summer, when alumna Samantha deManbey's play "Fausted" debuted to strong reviews — and was featured in a broadcast by the BBC — at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland. Two dozen Fitchburg State students made up the company, which performed the piece under the direction of Professor Richard McElvain.

"Fausted" is a tragicomedy that explores humanity's inaction on climate change. Characters in the production include Al Gore, Barack Obama, the pope, and the Seven Deadly Sins. "Fausted" asks what our responsibility is toward the world and what we are willing to sacrifice for it.

Fitchburg State has sent performers to the Fringe for years, taking part in what's described as the largest arts festival in the world. The Fringe lasts several weeks, bringing thousands of performers from dozens of countries before a global audience. After this year's performances, the Fitchburg State contingent enjoyed hiking in the Scottish highlands before returning to the U.S.

"It was an amazing experience," said Stephen Hogue, a senior industrial technology student concentrating in technical theater. "All the cast and crews were very supportive of each other's work."

Hogue said it would have been more traditional to bring an established play with name recognition to the Fringe, but he liked the chance that Fitchburg State took in sharing an original production.

The playwright DeManbey, originally from Sandisfield, graduated from Fitchburg State in 2013 with a double major in communications media and English.

"For a long time I've wanted to write a play about climate change," deManbey said. "It is the most important issue of our time, but is not is not easily dramatized because it is so massive an issue. But I wanted to write something that wasn't just information, and that instead offered solutions and incorporated humor."

Her inspiration to use the German Faust legend as her basis came from a Fitchburg State discussion of playwright Christopher Marlowe's "Doctor Faustus."

"Students started arguing that people who sold their souls would only do selfish things. I disagreed," she said. "I could imagine a lot of very good people 'selling



their souls' if they thought they could help others or the planet in a significant way.

The play was three years and six drafts in the making, and deManbey expects to adjust it over the years to keep it fresh with the times.

Sarah Morin, a senior majoring in communications media with double concentrations in theater and professional communications, played Mephistopheles in the play and was part of the company that traveled to Scotland.

"My experience in Fitchburg State's theater program has taken a childhood dream and turned it into a functioning and professional reality," Morin said. "I've always had a passion for theater, but going into college I didn't think it was practical. Finding the theater program was already a concentration within my major was a blessing. The trip to Scotland really solidified how lucky I am to be at this school. Now I can't wait to get out into the professional theater world and use what I have learned here."

The play had been performed in Fitchburg just once before it was presented at the Fringe festival. DeManbey called the international premiere simultaneously exciting and nerve-wracking.

"I was worried that a lot of the political humor might not register with a non-American audience," she explained. "The play is very critical of the United States' inaction, but a lot of people did find that funny and understood criticisms of other political figures and world powers."

DeManbey hopes one day to bring "Fausted" to Boston, along with mounting other productions of her work. "I love political theater and want to continue writing plays that make audiences think critically about the issues of our time."

WHAT GENDER GAP?

No Shortage of Women in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

“It may be subconscious, but it’s important. The faculty need to take an active role in encouraging young women with these aptitudes.”

—Margaret Hoey, Interim Dean of Health & Natural Sciences

by Matt Bruun



Diane Flanagan remembers feeling out of place when she was considering studying the sciences in high school.

Though in her free time she studied botany and was fascinated by microorganisms in soil, none of her science teachers were women. “I was afraid I didn’t have a place in the community,” she said. “I didn’t believe I could do it.

So after high school she studied cosmetology, and worked for 10 years as a hair stylist. “I wasn’t fulfilled,” she said.

Fascinated by chemistry, and excelling at her courses at a community college, Flanagan felt she was on the right track. Her path eventually led her to Fitchburg State, where she is a senior majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. At 34, the single mother is older than many of her peers, but she’s found a sense of belonging and community that had been missing.

“It’s pretty incredible for me,” she said, describing an academic climate where she gets to work closely with knowledgeable and approachable professors. “At an undergraduate level I’m doing research that will be presented to the scientific community. This has been an awesome experience.”

INTEREST AND CONFIDENCE

Flanagan’s early resistance to STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — is far from unique. According to the National Girls Collaborative Project — created by the National Science

Foundation to help create gender equity in STEM fields — girls and boys do not significantly differ in their abilities in math and science, but do differ in their interest and confidence in STEM subjects. Male students are over three times more likely than female students to be interested in STEM majors and careers. And women also remain underrepresented in the science and engineering workforce, with the greatest disparities in engineering and computer sciences.

Young women interested in STEM careers have many more role models at Fitchburg State these days. A recent recruitment of new faculty members has resulted in half the university’s STEM faculty being women, and interim Dean of Health & Natural Sciences Margaret Hoey is proud of the milestone.

“We always want to hire the most qualified candidate and the best fit,” Hoey said. “Over the last 10 years, there have been more women that fit.”

Hoey, who joined the Fitchburg State biology faculty in 1993, said she has seen a culture change at the university wherein mentorship of colleagues – and students – has grown. For young women interested in STEM fields, having women to look up to is important.

“It may be subconscious, but it’s important,” she said. “The faculty need to take an active role in encouraging young women with these aptitudes.”

The numbers demonstrate the approach is working. Over the past 10 years, the number of women



Diane Flanagan

enrolled in STEM fields at Fitchburg State — that is, studying biology, chemistry, computer information systems, computer science, exercise and sports science, geography, construction technology, industrial technology, mathematics and nursing — has steadily risen. In 2006, there were 430 women in STEM programs on the Fitchburg State campus, representing about 14 percent of the female student body. By 2015, there were more than 850 women in STEM programs, or more than 26 percent.

Cristina Loureiro, majoring in computer information systems, developed a love for technology in high school. She's aware that women are underrepresented in her field even now, but does not let it discourage her.

"I find it empowering, and encourage other women to study STEM," she said. "I put more pressure on myself to be as good as the guys, even when I knew I was at a disadvantage coming from a

small high school with no coding or computer classes. I definitely got the best support and encouragement to do what I love."

She chose Fitchburg State because of its breadth of computer information systems and computer science offerings, and hopes to put her degree to work as a chief information officer or a senior administrator for information technology.

"I was always taught that you can do whatever you want to do," Loureiro said. "It doesn't matter if it's a so-called man's job, if you want it then go for it."

TEACHERS ARE KEY

For many of the women in STEM at Fitchburg State, both students and faculty, an aptitude for math or science was evident in childhood and nurtured by good teachers.

Among the recent arrivals to the faculty is Emma Downs, who joined the Biology and Chemistry Department last fall.

"When I was a kid I liked to conduct little experiments," she said. "I always wanted to see what would happen when I mixed things together in the kitchen or elsewhere. My mom likes to tell the story of the time I poured water over a lit lightbulb to see what would happen. The lightbulb was hot so it cracked. It was a very satisfying result."

She also had excellent teachers in the Lowell Public Schools who encouraged her curiosity and provided extra activities to nurture it.

In her undergraduate studies, Downs found an environment that was pretty evenly split between males and females. The numbers skewed male in graduate school, but Downs said a support network of women in graduate studies helped. Still, she noticed a lack of female faculty.

"There were plenty of other female students, but not that many professors," Downs said. "I think this made it harder to imagine becoming a professor myself. This is definitely an issue facing all STEM fields right now. There are plenty of women getting PhDs, but a lot fewer becoming professors."

Mathangi Krishnamurthy, who joined the Biology and Chemistry Department in 2011, was also surprised by the gender disparity when she came to the U.S. after completing her undergraduate studies in her native India.

"I was lucky to have lot of interested women along with me when I was an undergraduate student," she said. "When I came to the United States to pursue graduate



Cristina Loureiro



Professor Jane Huang

Quotable



My advice to young women interested in STEM would be “Why not?” There’s no reason you shouldn’t pursue your interests, especially if you’re concerned about being the only woman. If you’re one of very few women, that makes you special, and your success will be that much more satisfying to know you’re helping normalize the presence of women in your field.

—Jenna Reis, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

studies, I was surprised to see not a single woman on the faculty of my department. I observed a similar trend when I worked as a postdoc at Massachusetts General Hospital. There were a lot of female graduate students and postdocs but hardly any female faculty members.”

Jenna Reis joined the mathematics faculty in fall 2015.

“Like a lot of people, it took me a while to admit I liked math. For some reason it’s not cool,” she said. “I started college undeclared and thought I’d end up in political science. I was even used to being a little behind in math after switching school systems, but by the end of high school I’d taken an especially good calculus course and caught up.”

Her freshman calculus course was a game-changer: An encouraging professor showed her that she had not only caught up, but was excelling. Reis is now part of a department where the majority of faculty are women, and she looks forward to helping grow its new applied-mathematics major.

That department is chaired by Mary Ann Barbato, who hadn’t originally planned on a career in the college classroom. “I went to undergraduate school to teach high school math, and realized after student teaching that it was not for me,” she said. “I wanted more math. I still loved teaching, so I went to graduate school with the goal of getting my PhD so I could teach college. Now I have my dream job.”

Barbato may have been one of the few females in her department, but that never fazed her. “I didn’t really

think about it, nor did I care,” she said.

She was hired at Fitchburg State in 2001 even before completing her dissertation, though the job offer included a time frame to finish the coursework. She succeeded.

“I did not doubt myself at that point,” she said. “I knew that this is what I wanted to do and nothing was going to stop me from making it a reality.”

FINDING PASSION

Jennifer Berg identified her passion along the way. A member of the mathematics faculty since 2008, Berg focused on law early in her student career. “I liked arguing with people and thought the idea of getting paid to think up arguments was grand,” she said. “I started undergrad as a math major because I knew that math students got the highest scores on the LSAT, and I was hopeful that I could get a scholarship for law school.”

In her sophomore year, working on linear algebra homework, she was asked by a classmate if she could imagine going a day without thinking about math. “I realized I couldn’t,” she recalled. “I had fallen in love.”

Berg credits good female mentors with helping her pursue her studies at the undergraduate level, acknowledging there was more of a gender skewing at the graduate level. “Most of my peers were male and there was a competitive aspect to the whole thing,” she said. “I ended up teaching at Fitchburg State because I wanted to work

somewhere where teaching well was valued.”

Students have also noticed the diversity of faculty here. “We have a great diversity of professors who teach my courses and, generally, my STEM courses have a pretty even amount of men and women,” said Shantel McGrade, who is majoring in math. “Actually, my probability and statistics course this semester has more women than men.”

McGrade said she had an interest in math since youth. “Math has always been my best subject, so I figured why not choose a field that I am already advanced in.”

She also knows her studies will open a variety of doors after she completes her degree. “I know I want to do something with math, but whether it’s teaching, economics related, or even business related, I am not sure. I’ll address that when I get there.”

Hannah Mason can trace her interest in mathematics to the fourth grade. “I had a math teacher who I loved and I just understood math. It came to me easily, unlike English and history,” she said, explaining she was more comfortable crunching numbers than writing research papers. I loved physics in high school as well, but math just was my best subject. Calculus, algebra, geometry, and stats - I knew I was getting an A.”

Mason hopes to pay her success forward by becoming a math teacher herself, and from there complete a master’s degree and become a school administrator.

One of the rewards of studying

STEM is grasping a new concept, she continued. “The content is so deep and can go so abstract that even I get lost,” Mason said. “But when I understand it, it’s the best feeling and I know I did the right thing in becoming a mathematics major.”

COURSE CORRECTION

For Jane Huang, a member of the Earth and Geographic Sciences Department faculty since 2006, her field of study was itself a discovery.

“I didn’t start my higher education career in a STEM field,” she said. “The study of geospatial technology came to me fairly late, during my PhD years. I was deeply attracted by this new and exciting discipline. Although changing fields was difficult, I was glad I did it. I’ve been enjoying it since day one.”

Huang, who emigrated to the U.S. from China, said she was fortunate to have some female mentors as she completed her studies. Her research interests are focused on community-based applications of geospatial technologies, such as GPS, GIS, and Google Earth. For example, she led a project mapping public health concerns about lead poisoning in Fitchburg that was funded by the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts. Her work has created additional research opportunities for undergraduates.

“In the past nine years, dozens of my students have had opportunities of getting involved in community-based geospatial technology projects under my supervision,” Huang

Quotable



Always keep your goals in mind. Pursue your interests even if others say they don't believe you can achieve them. Keep believing in yourself. Even if you face many challenges and fall behind, keep going and don't get discouraged. There are many paths you can take and different ways to pursue your passion in life. There isn't just one way to do something.

—Rachel Schultz,
senior biology major

Quotable



The advice I would give to young women is to keep STEM as an option, and then do what you want. Knowing that you can do something is a great pillar of you—it makes you proud when you do it well, and when times get stressful or uncertain and you don't know what is going to happen in the future you can always take comfort that you can do things that people find valuable. My advice would be to work hard while young to keep as many doors open for you in the future so that you can create a life for yourself that you want to live.

—Jennifer Berg, Professor of Mathematics

said. Those opportunities transcend gender. “If STEM interests you, go ahead and pursue it,” she advises. “STEM is not just for boys and men. Work hard and have fun.”

In the fall, faculty member Erin MacNeal Rehrig’s plant biology class spent several lecture periods at nearby Hollis Hills Farms. The sprawling farm affords dazzling views of Fitchburg State and the forested hills surrounding it, with Wachusett Mountain on the near horizon.

For the students, the site was also a laboratory for exploring photosynthesis, leaf damage and the types of insects that make their homes in apple orchards.

“This is a capstone course, very research-based,” Rehrig said. “I want the students to learn how to use the equipment so they can design good experiments later in the semester.”

Rehrig, who came to Fitchburg State in 2011, said she’s seen a lot of growth in the number of women exploring STEM fields.

“The stigma, at least in biology, is gone,” she said. “It’s the norm now. Most of my students are women.”

Among them is Yanarilita Rosario, a senior biology major from Leominster. Rosario liked the sciences in high school, but discovered her calling through college coursework. During the lab sessions at Hollis Hills, Rosario liked the hands-on nature of her studies, and also developed a love for honey crisp apples.

“I like learning about the human body, about diseases,” she said, describing her decision to concentrate on health sciences. Considering a career in pediatrics, Rosario plans to continue her studies after graduation.

Biology major Rachel Schultz was also in the class that conducted research at Hollis Hills Farm. For her, science has always been a welcoming field.

“I want to say it started in middle school,” she said. “The projects that really piqued my interest included



Professor Mary Ann Barbato

looking at the direction of the wind and measuring rainfall. I even remember being assigned a project that had us keep a journal of the cycle of the moon by month. My interests increased in high school, especially when I studied a trade at Monty Tech (in Fitchburg)."

Schultz feels part of a welcoming community of women at Fitchburg State, where she has seen an increase in female STEM participants. "Several of my professors are female and have been working in their respective fields for years. It gives a feeling of belonging," she said, adding she appreciates the high quality of her educational experience. "The expectations from the students are also high. This school has really improved in recent years in terms of the buildings themselves and the opportunities for students."

COLLABORATION IS KEY

Kayla Kress spent her summer vacation on Mars. The budding interplanetary scientist, a junior majoring in Earth Systems Science, worked under the guidance of faculty member Reid Parsons on his NASA-funded geospatial technology project analyzing topography data and satellite images of the red planet.

The project involved determining the size and shape of ice deposits on Mars in order to explore how changes in the past climate resulted in their formation.

Kress enjoyed her summer of analyzing reams of data. "I got to fly around Mars all day," Kress said. "It's

been an experience. I feel like I've gained a lot of information on how scientific projects are run. And I got paid."

Kress said she is interested in exploring career options with NASA or the U.S. Geological Survey after she finishes her degree. "As long as it has to do with science, I'm good."

A sense of belonging has also helped Julie McCormack, a self-described non-traditional student pursuing a degree in computer information systems. "I've never been ignored or slighted by a teacher. My advice to any young student is to find some confidence and find your voice. Sometimes a teacher gets no responses, and if just one student speaks up, it encourages others to speak up."

Flanagan, who had worked as a hairdresser before returning to college, plans to work in industry but perhaps, one day, return to the classroom as a professor. She's grateful she can be a role model to her teenaged son, who sees his mother working hard in pursuit of a goal that brings her joy.

"He sees me studying my passion, and hopefully that translates to him," she said. "You find what you love, and that's not work."

It's a lesson she hopes more young women will take to heart.

"That's one of my goals, to encourage young girls," she said. "It takes passion and work, but we can do it. If someone had stepped in for me, I might have done it a lot sooner."

Quotable



I think the best advice I can give is to seek out mentorship in whatever field you are interested in, especially if it is a STEM field. Find someone who does what you think you want to do and ask them how they got there, and what exactly it is they do, and what advice they have to give. Also know that there are more, and more varied, jobs out there than you think. It's not just teaching or working in a lab, there are countless applications for a science degree.

—Emma Downs,
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

ATHLETICS

MOLLY RICHARD: A FIRST-YEAR FORCE

Molly Richard made her presence known pretty quickly after arriving at Fitchburg State and joining the Falcons' field hockey team.

The Leominster native played field hockey at St. Bernard's High School and also for the Northeast Elite club team.

College beckoned. "I talked to

a couple of Division II schools, but they weren't the right fit," she said, recalling larger programs that were interested in her talents. She did find that fit at Fitchburg State — where Richard's parents met as undergraduates. She also liked Coach Beth Bacher, who had talked to her about the school and showed

off the facilities even before she'd turned in her application.

"She's very organized and she's always positive," Richard said of her coach. "Playing for her was a really positive experience for me."

"Molly is a very talented player with great game sense and skills," Coach Bacher said. "She always puts forth her strongest efforts to doing whatever is necessary to help the team succeed. The second half of the season she really started to hit her stride and became a key offensive player."

Now in the middle of her first year studying business administration, Richard has already made a mark. In November she was selected Little East Conference Field Hockey Rookie of the Week.

Richard's first semester as a Falcon included 12 goals and five assists compiled over the course of a winning season. It was a great capper to a memorable year that began at training camp in August, weeks before the start of the semester. The work helped pave the way for the home-opening win, and foretold the strong year ahead.

"Over the course of the season Molly achieved the highest goal count for the team," Bacher said, adding that Richard's tally included five game-winning goals. "We are looking forward to many more outstanding achievements from Molly in the future."



GARRETT DELLECHIAIE: PASSING ALL OTHERS

Garrett Dellechiaie is coming off a record-setting season as quarterback for the Falcons football team, but he's quick to share the credit with talented teammates and an inspiring coach.

Dellechiaie came to Fitchburg State after leading Leominster High School to two Division I Central Massachusetts Super Bowl championships. As he approached his college career, Dellechiaie wasn't sure if he wanted to venture farther from home, but was won over by the campus and, especially, football Coach Patrick Haverty.

"When I met him, I wanted to play for him," Dellechiaie said. "I just felt at home here. You can see his will to win just by talking to him."

Not that the transition to college was easy.

"My first year was really tough," recalled Dellechiaie, who is majoring in business administration. "My

second semester I picked it up. You definitely have to manage your time."

Dellechiaie has figured out how to do so, and in the process has set new individual records for Fitchburg State while leading the program to its first post-season bowl berth in years. Even before a nail-biting 11-10 loss to Alfred University in the 2015 ECAC Robert M. "Scotty" Whitelaw Championship Bowl in late November, Dellechiaie had set new school records for pass completions (218) and career touchdown passes (58). Throwing for 294 yards against Worcester State in early October gave him the school record for all-time passing yards, and he still has another year of eligibility.

"I feel like the hard work has paid off," he said. "But I'm not done."

Coach Haverty agreed. "Garrett has achieved a lot of records, and he'll be the first to tell you that they don't matter to him," he said. "He

just wants to win games. He's a winner, he works very hard and he cares very deeply for his team."

The coach described his quarterback as selfless, driven to constantly improve. "He's proud of Fitchburg State and wants to represent it well."

Football is a demand on Dellechiaie's time year-round, from conditioning in the off-season to the 15 practices across the spring semester. The athletes are also among the first students back on campus each fall, with training camp in August starting weeks before classes resume.

"The off-season will be the big test for this team," Haverty said, explaining the players can't rest on this year's accomplishments. Dellechiaie already has that message.

"We're going to have a pretty experienced team next year," Dellechiaie said. "We definitely have expectations."



ALUMNI news

REUNION OF MOHAWKS FROM THE CLASSES OF 1963-68.

Hosted by Jack DeFusco '64, Mohawks from the classes of 1963 through 1968 enjoyed their eighth summer reunion last August at White's Restaurant in Westport. If you would like to receive notice of future Mohawk reunions, contact Ned Daniels '65 at nbdisme@gmail.com. (Front row, from left: Fred Sullivan '64; Veronica (Sullivan) Carroll '67; Joanne Ralston '86; Pauline (Pappas) Harootian '63; Denise Carroll; Inge DeFusco; Nancy Gillis; Jean Waters; and Virginia (Corbett) Noiles '65. Back row, from left: Ned Daniels '65; Tim Carroll '65; Paul Ralston '65; Armen Harootian '63; James Carroll '65; Jack DeFusco '64; Fred Gillis '66; David Waters '63; Jim Noiles '65; Eric Alitalo '63; and Peter Gill '65.)



CLASS NOTES

1950s

BRUCE G. GREALEY '57, a 2012 Fitchburg State Hall of Fame inductee, was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame on August 8, 2015. While his athletic record at Fitchburg State was taken into consideration, it was Grealey's high school and college coaching career that deemed him worthy of induction. He taught biology at Framingham South High School for 40 years and coached basketball there until 1973.

In his 11 years coaching at Framingham State, the Rams qualified for three NCAA and four ECAC tournaments. Grealey was 184-123 at Framingham State. He splits his retirement years between Florida and the Cape.

1960s

BARBARA J. (SOVA) MCGUIRK '69, '97 and her husband, **THOMAS MCGUIRK '70**, of Fitchburg, are the 2015 recipients of the prestigious Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for their outstanding work on behalf of Catholic education in North Worcester County. Bishop Robert J. McManus presented the award on November 12, 2015 at a dinner at the DoubleTree Hotel in Leominster. After graduating from Fitchburg State University with a bachelor's degree in education, Barbara began her teaching career in 1969. She subsequently earned her master's degree in secondary education at Fitchburg State. For 44 years she taught English and served as chair of the English Department at Saint Bernard's High School. For several years she served as

the secretary for the Diocesan Educators Lay Teachers Association. She was honored as Student Council Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2000 and 2009, and received the Robert H. Fouhy Distinguished Teacher Award for the Diocese of Worcester and the Fitchburg Rotary Teacher of the Year in 2000.

ROBERT A. SALVATELLI G'69 stepped down after 16 years on the Leominster City Council.

1970s

MICHAEL BALTIER '73, G'80 was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the DCU Center in Worcester on August 8, 2015. Baltier has coached basketball for almost four decades in Fitchburg, where he led the now-defunct B.F. Brown Middle School boys' basketball team through 408 wins. He also served as a basketball coach for five years in Leominster. After earning his undergraduate degree in special education, he returned to Fitchburg State to complete his master's in education in 1980.

MARTHA (KOVAL) BEDARD '78 was recently appointed the vice provost for University of Connecticut Libraries. She was dean of university libraries at the University of New Mexico, a position she had held since 2007. Prior to New Mexico, Bedard held positions at Texas A&M University and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

MICHAEL J. DONAHUE '78 joined the Greater Lowell Technical

High School in Tyngsborough as a new teacher for the 2015-2016 academic year, as a painting and decorating instructor. Before holding this position, he worked at Assabet Valley Technical High School in Marlborough. He has twice worked on houses for ABC's "Extreme Home Makeover."



PHILIP M. PAPOOJIAN '78

was welcomed back to campus in October by

the Biology-Chemistry Club and Business Society for a talk on "Opportunities and Experiences in the Chemical Industry." Papoojian, who graduated from Fitchburg State with a degree in chemistry, is currently head of mergers and acquisitions for Protex International, a French company that specializes in a wide variety of markets including agriculture, fine chemicals, electronics, paper, perfumes and water treatment. Until recently, Papoojian was president and chief operating officer of Mereco Technologies Group Companies, which he sold to Protex International in 2014.

RONALD M. PENCZAK '78, of Salem, New Hampshire, published his first suspense novel with Brighton Publishing, titled *Of Mixed Blood*.

1980s



DIANA M. (FRABOTTA) MOLLOY '81

is a new member of the Falmouth Board of Health. A certified

nurse, she is the associate director of Bayada Home Health Care's site in Falmouth. She has worked in nursing on Cape Cod for over 20 years.

GEORGE L. SYKES '83 was interviewed in the Cape Cod Times in September in an article about the success of Corner

Cycle, his bicycle shops in Falmouth and Osterville. After graduating from Fitchburg State, Sykes taught eighth-, ninth- and 10th-grade industrial arts in Plymouth before opening the Falmouth store in 1986. Originally he sold about 100 bicycles a year, but today that number has grown to 1,000. An authorized Trek dealer, Corner Cycle services and sells bikes costing from just over \$300 up to more than \$10,000, along with parts, helmets, jerseys and accessories. A passionate cyclist, Sykes also sponsors race teams.

BRIAN R. TATA '83, G'91

was named director of the Winchendon Beals Memorial Public Library in May 2015. He received a master's degree in business from Fitchburg State in 1991 and a master's degree in library and information sciences from the University of Wisconsin in 2002.

DAVID M. KANGAS '84 ran the Navy-Air Force half marathon in Washington, D.C., on September 20, 2015.



CHRISTOPHER P. CALLAHAN '86

has been named adjutant general of Rhode Island and commanding

general for the Rhode Island National Guard. Col. Callahan, who has 25 years of experience with the Rhode Island Army National Guard, is commander of the 56th Troop Command at Camp Fogarty, where he leads, trains and supports the activities of six military units representing 900 soldiers. He also served as the director of aviation and safety at Quonset from 2006 to 2011 and as a battalion commander in Balad, Iraq. He lives in North Kingston, Rhode Island.

CATHERINE L. COCKS '88, director of community standards at the University of Connecticut, led a presentation



Catherine Cocks

on the topic of Title IX in higher education during Fitchburg State University's observance of Constitution Day in September. Cocks is responsible for the coordination of individual and student group-based discipline, development of creative responses to student conduct issues, and the implementation of a comprehensive education process for helping community members fully understand their rights and responsibilities.

MICHELE A. (BABINEAU) NUTTLE '88

joined the editing team at the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript. Nuttle has several years of newsroom experience, including nine years at the Sentinel & Enterprise in Fitchburg and at the Boston Globe and the Christian Science Monitor in Boston. She has also worked as an editor for Robb Report magazine. She has taught English at the high school and middle school levels, most recently at St. Patrick School in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

ARTHUR J. CAPELLO '89 took over as the new town administrator in Farmington, Maine on July 20, 2015.

JEANNETTE TIBBETTS VAN HORN '89 received the 2014 Outstanding School Psychologist Award from the California Association of School Psychologists.

1990s

SHEILA A. (HIGHSMITH) WARD '90 was the recipient of the inaugural Extended Learning

Opportunity Coordinator of the Year Award, at the 22nd annual New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards on June 6, 2015. Ward received nominations from administrators and staff at Pittsfield Middle High School, where she is employed, as well as letters of recommendation from parents, community partners and statewide organizations. Before working for the Pittsfield school district, Ward was employed in the Newfound Area School District in New Hampshire, where she started a program that is still in place today. She also worked as a special education aide in the Somerset Public Schools.

Christopher P. Hendry '91, G'07 of Leominster is a new member of the supervisory committee of IC Federal Credit Union's board of directors.

DENISE M. (COSTELLO) PORCELLO '91

has been a teacher for more than 20 years. She lives in Massachusetts with her husband, two daughters, and a retired greyhound. She was inspired to write "Dinogirl: The Story of a Girl and a Dinosaur" after meeting young Clarissa Koos at the DIG Field School for teachers in Hell Creek, Montana, in 2014. She hopes this book inspires all young scientists, especially girls, to follow their hearts.

JOSEPH P. TRAVERSO '92

received his master of science degree in information assurance/cybersecurity from Capitol Technology University in Laurel, Maryland, in May 2015. His parents, wife and three children attended the commencement ceremony. He is pursuing certified information systems security professional certification.

WENDY R. WIIKS '93, grants administrator for the city of Leominster, was named one of the city's Citizens of the Year on June 13, 2015. Wiiks has

worked for the city for more than two decades, currently working to find state and federal grants. Since she began her current duties in 2008, she has secured millions of dollars for the city's parks and infrastructure.

NOREEN J. (WEINER) MEANY '94 is a self-employed recovery specialist, having worked in the addiction field for 10 years. Prior to this, she worked for the North Central Correctional Institution in Gardner at the corrections recovery academy as a drug counselor.



ROSEMARY "BETSY" GUERCIO SAWYER '97 was given Fitchburg State's Joel D. Miller Award for excellence in teaching in recognition of service to her students and the ongoing success of her Big Book Pages of Peace project. Sawyer is an 18-year veteran of education and has taught fifth-grade English and social studies at the Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School for the past 12 years. The award was presented at the university's annual retired educators luncheon, which brought more than 100 alumni to campus. The Big Book Pages for Peace Project chronicles students' stories, letters, poetry, artwork, pictures and songs. Her students have also reached out across the globe for testimonials from more than 3,000 people, including Nobel Prize winners like President Jimmy Carter,

Nelson Mandela, Dr. Helen Caldicott and the Dalai Lama. When complete, the Big Book will measure 12 feet tall by 10 feet wide and weigh more than one ton.

SCOTT A. HEMLIN '97 has been named co-principal for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School in Orange. Hemlin had been a dean for Mahar since 2007 and served as interim principal for the school during the 2010-2011 school year. Before joining Mahar, Hemlin taught biology at Gardner High School and served in the United States Marine Corps.

GARY S. REESE G'98 was named Amesbury's interim school superintendent. Since 2009 he served as assistant superintendent of curriculum for the Woburn Public Schools. He was director of curriculum for the Millbury Public Schools from 2002 to 2009. Before that he was a principal in Woburn and an assistant principal in Gloucester. A resident of Chelmsford, Reese earned a doctorate in education administration from Boston College and a master's degree in special education from Fitchburg State University. He also has a bachelor's degree in education from Norwich University.

CHRISTOPHER CHEW G'99 was cast as Henry Higgins in the Lyric Stage (Boston) performance of "My Fair Lady." He returned to the Lyric Stage after having appeared in "Sweeney Todd," "Working," "Man of La Mancha," "Urinetown: The Musical," "Shakespeare in Hollywood," "A Little Night Music" (IRNE Award, Best Actor), "Sunday in the Park with George," "It's All True," "Side Show" and "The Spitfire Grill." Other Boston-area credits include productions at SpeakEasy Stage, Wheelock Family Theater, Hanover Theater, Stoneham Theater, Worcester Foothills Theater, The American Stage Festival,

North Shore Music Theater, The Huntington Theater, CentaStage, and the Village Theater Project, of which he was a founding member. Chew earned his bachelor of fine arts in drama from Carnegie Mellon University, a master of arts in teaching degree in English from Fitchburg State, and a doctor of education degree from Northeastern University. Chew has been principal at Stony Brook School for two years.



JEFFREY C. TURCOTTE '99, G'15 was promoted to vice president of commercial

lending for Workers' Credit Union in Fitchburg. His responsibilities will include overseeing the development and expansion of the construction lending products for commercial borrowers. He joined the credit union in 2011 as an assistant vice president. Turcotte, who also serves on the board of the Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce, holds a bachelor's degree and a master's in business administration. He resides in Fitchburg.

2000s

KELLY A. WILLIAMSON '01 took over as principal of Dawson Elementary School in Holden on July 1, 2015.

HEIDI J. LETENDRE G'02 was appointed principal at the Mitchell Elementary School in Bridgewater. She had been the assistant principal at Mitchell until being appointed principal of the Merrill Elementary School in Raynham in 2012. Prior to that she was the assistant principal at the Mary K. Goode School in Middleborough for five years and a third-grade teacher in East Bridgewater for five years. She received her master's degree in education from Fitchburg State University.

COELYNN E. MCININCH '02 is a Fitchburg artist who contributes her talents to community projects. She earned her undergraduate degree in communications media /photography, and now works at Fitchburg State University as a media specialist, one of the technicians for communications media students. McIninch has volunteered on community projects since 2009, including service on the Civic Days Committee and active participation in Fitchburg Pride, the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance and the Fitchburg Cultural Council. She also curated a show for the Revival Gallery. McIninch works in multiple media and shows her work in Boston and New York as well as Fitchburg.

HOLLY A. (WELDON) WASHBURN '02 returned to North Middlesex Community College for a second associate's degree in deaf studies after graduating from Fitchburg State University with a bachelor's degree in special education and English in 2002. Learning about deaf culture and American Sign Language has helped her serve a small deaf community in Lawrence. In March 2015, she enrolled in a graduate program to study applied behavior analysis at Bay Path University with plans to begin a new career as a board certified behavioral analyst.

PAULO N. DEOLIVEIRA '03, G'07 has been appointed as vice president of business development at GFA Federal Credit Union in Leominster. Deoliveira brings more than a decade of industry experience to GFA, having served as assistant vice president/business consultant at another local financial institution. Deoliveira has also held previous banking positions that include assistant vice president/branch manager, community banking assistant manager, senior financial

relationship specialist and loan officer. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Fitchburg State University, where he teaches undergraduate business courses in the areas of investments and basic finance.

GAVIN P. MONAGLE '03CAGS has taken over as head football coach at Masconomet High School in Boxford, where he served for seven years coaching the offensive and defensive lines.



JENNIFER A. (SULLIVAN) PERRY '04 married Timothy Perry on September 12, 2015. Fitchburg State University alumna **HELENA (SAFRAN) PLANTES '04** served as a bridesmaid while **AMY LASHUA '04** gave a reading. The Perrys, who reside in Waltham, spent their honeymoon in the Berkshires, and plan to travel to the Caribbean in the spring.

RONALD J. DROUIN G'04, of Methuen, was appointed as the Tewksbury Memorial High School's athletic director and facility manager this past October. Drouin had been filling in as the interim AD and becomes the fifth athletic director in the school's history. Drouin has been employed with Tewksbury Public Schools since 1999 as a physical education teacher at the Ryan Elementary School and has been the varsity baseball coach for 21 years.

KAREN E. (RAYMOND) DUGUAY '06, talent management

supervisor at IC Federal Credit Union in Fitchburg, was a panelist for Fitchburg State's Expanding Horizons "Business vs. Business Casual" workshop on November 18, 2015. Duguay shared her expertise in human resources with students preparing for internships and employment upon graduation.

ALEXANDRA D. (DINATALE) CARDINALE '07, G'12 and Michael Cardinale were married on June 13, 2015. Alexandra is assistant director of admissions at Fitchburg State University, where she completed a bachelor's degree in communications media with a concentration in film in 2007. She also finished her master's degree in communications media in 2012 while simultaneously occupying seats on the board of directors of Fitchburg Access Television and the Fitchburg State University Alumni Association. The Cardinales reside in Leominster.



ANNE-MARIE E. KELLEY '08 serves as vice president of finance and human resources at Murray Brothers Construction in Leominster. She was named a "40 Under Forty" honoree by the Worcester Business Journal.

DEVAN MCCONNELL '08 was hired by UMass Lowell as an adjunct faculty member in sports science.



RICHARD M. BRANCALEONE '09 married **KATHLEEN A. (FILLION) BRANCALEONE '11** on August 15, 2015. Alumnus Shane Franzen G'99 officiated. The photo

includes more than 20 Fitchburg State alumni and staff who attended the wedding.

2010s

KERRY A. CROTEAU '11 joined the Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsborough as a new teacher in the career and technical readiness department. Prior to holding this position, she worked in the Electronics Department at Shawsheen Valley Technical School in Billerica. Croteau, who resides in Haverhill, received her bachelor's degree in occupational education from Fitchburg State University.

SARAH F. (DURFEE) MACKOS '11 married **CHRISTOPHER M. MACKOS '11** in October 2012. Sarah is employed as a social worker with the Department of Children and Families in Leominster. Chris was promoted to production manager and director of photography at an Acton-based visual production company, DigiNovations, where he began as a freelancer shortly after graduation before being hired full time and receiving promotions. The couple resides with their two dogs in Templeton in the home they purchased in 2014.

ELIZABETH B. MARCOTTE G'11, who received her master's degree in English literature at Fitchburg State University in 2011, became Bedford's program administrator for English, grades 6 through 12, beginning in the fall of 2015. She had taught English for nearly a decade at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, serving as an assistant English Department leader for two years.

AMY Y. SALTER '11 of Winchendon was named senior trust and estate accountant at the office of Robert C. Alario, CPA, P.C. She was with Fletcher Tilton, PC, Worcester, and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fitchburg State University.

MELISSA R. TASCA G'11 was named Leominster's small business coordinator in September. Tasca spent eight years working at Fitchburg State as a residential director.

MICHELLE M. WALSH G'11 has been named Vassar College's new athletic director. Walsh went to Vassar from SUNY Geneseo, where she served as associate director of athletics since 2012, supervising 11 of the university's intercollegiate sports, in addition to its athletic training and communication staffs. She also served as the deputy Title IX coordinator for equity in athletics at Geneseo. In 2006 she was an interim golf coach and assistant basketball coach at William Smith College. She went on to become the women's basketball coach at Lawrence University. Walsh also served as the senior woman administrator of compliance and student-athlete welfare at Fitchburg State University. The Wakefield native received her engineering degree in 1998 from Swarthmore College, where she played field hockey, basketball and softball. She later earned a master of science in exercise and sport studies from Smith College, and a master of business administration from Fitchburg State University.

NICOLE A. GILFORD '12 joined the Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsborough as a new teacher for the 2015-2016 academic year. Gilford came from the Pioneer Charter School of Science in Everett, where she taught since graduating from Fitchburg State University in 2012.

JOSEPH E. CAVENEY '13 returned to the Pensacola Ice Flyers for the 2015-16 season of the Southern Professional Hockey League. He signed a one-year deal with the Ice Flyers, where he has spent most of his professional career. Caveney

spent the 2013-14 season with Pensacola with three separate stints in the ECHL. He also saw time with the ECHL's Cincinnati Cyclones, Idaho Steelheads and Florida Everblades.



Joseph Cavaney

LAUREN E. COTE '13 received a master of arts in English from Salem State University in May 2015.

JAMES C. FLETCHER '13 is pursuing a career in genealogy and history. While at Fitchburg State University, he completed a bachelor's degree in history and was recognized as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar for completing two independent theses in his senior year. Fletcher's professional and volunteer experiences include time spent at the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the National Archives at Boston and Plymouth Plantation. His expertise lies in researching families from North America and the British Isles, while his interests extend to ancestors around the globe. Readers can follow him and research his blog, *Travelogues of a Genealogist*, at <http://fletcherfamilytree.wordpress.com>.

CHRISTOPHER A. AGUILAR '14 has been named staff accountant at the office of Robert C. Alario, CPA, P.C. Aguilar, who resides in Fitchburg, holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fitchburg State University.



DYLAN C. HICKS '14, above, currently serves as a police officer for the Rochester Police Department. He earned a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from Fitchburg State University. He served in the Massachusetts Army National Guard for four years and interned with the Fitchburg Police Department, also graduating from the part-time state police academy in June 2014. Hicks is from New Bedford.

TYLER-ANNE ADORNO '15 of Worcester has been named staff accountant at the office of Robert C. Alario, CPA, P.C. Prior to this she worked for Bank of America. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fitchburg State University as well as certification in accounting technology from Valencia College.

IN MEMORIAM

LEO V. GITTZUS '40, of Wilmington, on July 8, 2015.

TRUDY (MULCAHY) HOWARD '44, of Cambridge, on September 1, 2014.

MARGARET (BLOOD) BUJNICKI '46, G'55, of Gardner, on September 9, 2015.

WILLIAM R. TRACEY '46, of South Yarmouth, on September 8, 2015.

FRANCIS A. GARIEPY '48, of Leominster, on August 12, 2015.

IRMA (ANTONANGELI) FLORIO '50, of Concord, on April 12, 2015.

MARTHA (MANNION) HOWARTH '53, of Fall River, on February 20, 2014.

ROBERT K. THARALDSON '58, of Easthampton, on July 23, 2015.

WALTER KOROSKI '59, of Exeter, New Hampshire, on June 24, 2015.

JOSEPH P. NOTARO SR. '59, of Clinton, on July 3, 2015.

PATSYANN M. (MAITLAND) GENTSCH '60, of Englewood, Florida, on August 7, 2015.

RICHARD C. MANNIX '60, G'64, of Plymouth, on April 18, 2014.

ROGER E. WILDER '60, of Millbury, on April 22, 2015.

THOMAS G. WILSON '62, of Bradenton, Florida, on August 27, 2015.

DONALD C. RIVERS '63, of Orange, on July 10, 2015.

CAROL A. RYAN-TARKA '64, G'67, of Leominster, on September 21, 2015.

RICHARD P. LAWRENCE '66, of Bridgewater, on April 30, 2015.

WALTER D. EYLES '70, of Westminster, on August 26, 2015.

STEPHANIE A. SMITH '70, of Sterling, on September 21, 2015.

RICHARD J. RUSSELL '71, '75G, of Dracut, on May 22, 2015.

PETER E. POLLOCK '72, '75G, of Ashland, on August 2, 2015.

CLIFFORD G. TYLER '72, of Scituate, on January 3, 2012.

JOSEPH D. SOLOMITO '73, of Fitchburg, on June 13, 2015.

RICHARD F. FLETCHER '75, of Fitchburg, on August 9, 2015.

ROBIN A. (LITTLE) BENERE '76, of North Yarmouth, Maine, on October 9, 2015.

ELEANOR M. (GILMORE) BROWNE '76, of Doral, Florida, on July 31, 2014.

ANTONIO B. PERROTTA '76, G'79, of Winchester, on June 25, 2014.

LYNNWOOD P. RUMLEY '76, of Fitchburg, on September 13, 2015.

WAYNE J. W. AHO '77, of Leominster, on May 29, 2015.

MARY A. (WALSH) KRAPP '79, of Ashby, on September 7, 2015.

BARBARA R. (BOUDREAU) BREWER '80, of Leominster, on July 7, 2015.

MICHAEL E. RIGNEY '81, of Marlborough, on September 11, 2015.

KATHY M. CEFALO '82, of Fitchburg, on November 15, 2014.

RICHARD R. GREGOIRE '82, of Ashburnham, on September 11, 2015.

TIMOTHY F. SMITH '89, of Ayer, on September 5, 2015.

GEORGE D. ACKROYD '90, of Milford, New Hampshire, on December 9, 2013.

JAMES E. SUTTON '96, of Tucson, Arizona, on July 12, 2015.

CHERYL A. (SELINGA) LEGER '97, of Leominster, on July 23, 2015.

ROBERT F. POLLOCK '03, G'09, of Erving, on June 23, 2015.

TIMOTHY P. GRAHAM '11, of Arlington, on May 13, 2015. A scholarship has been created in his memory.

IN MEMORIAM: FACULTY / FRIENDS

LOUIS LORENZEN, of Leominster, on September 24, 2015. Lorenzen was a retired professor of fine arts at Fitchburg State University, where he taught for 33 years. He received the President's Medal from Fitchburg State and was a two-time recipient of the school's Distinguished Service Award. Before his retirement in 1998, Lorenzen was for decades a highly visible presence on campus. His sons Anthony and Nicholas and his daughter-in-law Tina are graduates who have been active with the Alumni Association.

Lorenzen attended Ohio State University before leaving to serve in the U.S. Marines and was a decorated veteran of the Korean War. He received a B.S. in art education from Bowling Green University and earned a master of education degree from Bridgewater State University as well as additional master's degrees from Assumption College and Syracuse University.

He spent most of his life as an educator and artist, specializing in watercolors. Some of his artwork is in the permanent collections of Fitchburg State University. He was also the first president for the Fitchburg State University Athletic Hall of Fame, serving three terms. Lorenzen loved connecting with students and those he coached and sharing his knowledge and sharing in their lives.

MARK SNYDER, of Ashby, on May 29, 2015. Snyder taught mathematics and physics at Fitchburg State University for 23 years. Before his tenure at Fitchburg State, he taught physics at Wellesley College and Trinity College.

A graduate of Pennsbury High School, Dr. Snyder earned his B.S. in mathematics and physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also held an M.A. in physics from Columbia University, and he completed his Ph.D. in mathematical physics at Yale University.

AARON LAZARE, of Newton, on July 14, 2015. Dr. Lazare was awarded an honorary degree (Doctor of Humane Letters) from Fitchburg State University in 1999. He served as chancellor and dean of the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester for more than 16 years. His research and leadership expanded understanding of apologies and adoption. He taught at Yale School of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Massachusetts General Hospital before moving to UMass Medical School in 1982 to chair the psychiatry department. He was named interim dean in 1989 and interim chancellor the following year, and assumed both posts on a permanent basis in 1991.

A pioneering scholar, Dr. Lazare developed an expertise in apologies from the private to the exceedingly public, including those offered by politicians such as President Nixon. In 2004, Dr. Lazare published the book "On Apology."

In 1995, Governor William F. Weld appointed Dr. Lazare to chair the Citizens Task Force on Adoption. Among its recommendations was that UMass establish the Center for Adoption Research and Policy, which Dr. Lazare founded. Dr. Lazare received the university's Distinguished Professional Public Service Award in 1988. The Worcester Children's Friend Society honored his commitment to adoption with its Children's Friend Award, and in 2001, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute presented Dr. Lazare and his wife with an Angel in Adoption award. The medical school named the Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building in his honor when it opened in 2002.

ALUMNI EVENTS

In August, 170 alumni and friends took over the Cumberland Farms Roof Deck at Fenway Park to catch the Boston Red Sox battling the Kansas City Royals. For information on this year's Alumni Red Sox game, see the notice on page 22.



President Lapidus meets Wally the Green Monster at Fenway Park.

ALUMNI EVENTS CONTINUED

SUMMER

2015 marked the Alumni Association's fourth year visiting Cape Cod to reconnect with alumni and



take in a couple of Cape Cod League baseball games. (Photo: 2015 Falcons at Cape Cod, Scott P. Steber '86 and his adorable future falcon stop by the alumni tent in Yarmouth for some freebies.) Join us again this July for more fun and games.



Alumni pose with Coach Werner Thissen for the eighth annual Alumni Men's Soccer Game at Elliott Field in August.

CALLING ALL FALCON RESIDENT ASSISTANTS & ORIENTATION LEADERS —come back to the nest you once ruled!



Watch for more details in upcoming e-newsletters.

ALUMNI RA & OL REUNION (Overnight!)
SAVE THE DATE: **Saturday, July 16 – Sunday, July 17, 2016**

SCORE YOUR TICKETS to the **Falcons at Fenway**

Red Sox Game

Sat., Aug. 27 | 7:10 PM

Boston Red Sox vs. the 2015 World Series Champs, Kansas City Royals

The Red Sox have retooled and are poised to contend for another World Series. There are limited tickets available, so hurry and purchase yours today before they are all gone!

\$60 for seats (maximum 4 tickets per alumni)

\$40 for standing room

support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration





The Class of 1990 held their 25th Reunion on September 26, 2015 in the old student center pub, now called the Falcon Hub.

**ARE YOU A LEADER?
JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD.**

We're looking for members to fill upcoming vacancies. Email alumni@fitchburgstate.edu for more information or to nominate someone.

**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 Athletics Hall of Fame until March 1, 2016, and for the 2017 Alumni Awards through March 1, 2017. Nominations may be submitted online, or you may contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 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.

The alumni office makes its best effort to notify alumni of coming 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 at (978) 665-4555 or alumni@fitchburgstate.edu.

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS
PRESENTED IN SEPTEMBER**

ALUMNI BOOSTER AWARD THE ESOTERIC SOCIETY

In 1947, eight students joined to form the Esoteric Society, which became the college's third men's social club. The World War II veterans were busy transitioning to civilian life. They brought with them a strong camaraderie, forged by wartime experiences. They may not have realized that this organization would endure and thrive for the next five decades, with a current roster of 375 active alumni.

The carefully preserved records of those early years reflect the essence of the membership, which stressed support for the college's academic, athletic and social activities as well as intellectual curiosity. Its first faculty sponsor was the venerable Dr. Roger F. Holmes, who instilled a sense of service. This spirit and camaraderie became an integral part of the organization's character.

Most recently, members established an endowed scholarship at Fitchburg State, the second annual award of which was made this past spring. It will help deserving students for years to come.

The organization is also planning an alumni memorial that will include a veterans' section, replacing that established by the group in 1969 in honor of member Theodore A. "Ted" Thompson Jr. '66, who was killed in action in Vietnam. The original memorial was removed to accommodate campus expansion several years ago.



John Malloy '69, right, accepts the Alumni Booster Award from President Lapidus on behalf of the Esoteric Society.

**SCOTT LEHTO '08 –
YOUNG ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARD**

Upon graduating from Fitchburg State University in 2008, Scott Lehto received a contract position at Fort Devens through Colorado State University. There he was responsible for vegetation and land management as well as spearheading a geographic information system (GIS) program on the base, two efforts that had been removed when Fort Devens downsized in the 1990s. The following year Lehto was granted the Patriot Award for Outstanding Civilian Service for leading projects that enhanced training objectives. By 2010, the program was budgeting and supervising land management projects and reinvigorating the GIS program on base.

Lehto later worked as a GIS consultant for The Kenerson Group, a consulting firm in Western Massachusetts. In his current role as GIS manager, he spends a lot of time teaching communities the benefits of using spatial data to make better decisions in managing their natural resources.

Lehto takes pride in helping other people and helping the community. His enthusiasm for Fitchburg State University and its community led him and his wife to buy a home and raise their family in Fitchburg. He was one of the first students engaged in GIS at the university, before it even became a major. Through former faculty he has been engaged with students and recent graduates, offering advice about attaining internships, skills, and careers in the field. He is happy to be giving back to his alma mater, which allows him to share his lifestyle of simply being kind and helping people.



Scott Lehto '08, with his family.

**NICHOLAS J. CARBONE '09 –
YOUNG ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARD**

Nicholas J. Carbone, a 2009 graduate of Fitchburg State University with a bachelor's degree in political science, grew up in Fitchburg the oldest of five children born to Joseph and Anita Carbone. Carbone was involved in intramural sports, Moot Court, Model United Nations and the Political Science Club and was a lifeguard at the recreation center. Competing on the Moot Court team was his most memorable and exciting experience on campus and solidified his decision to go to law school. He not only liked to debate, but he genuinely wanted to be a voice for the voiceless.

While attending law school, Carbone ran a campaign for Fitchburg City Council. He won and served as the councilor for Ward 5 for two years. After passing the Massachusetts bar exam, he did a lot of volunteer lawyering until he was hired as an attorney at a small law firm in Worcester that focused on family law and bankruptcy. In Worcester, Carbone and a good friend from law school began making plans to form their own law firm, and in 2014 Boyle & Carbone, P.C., opened at 625 Main St. in downtown Fitchburg. Currently, Carbone is focusing on public and private criminal defense, but he is honing his skills in other areas as well. He stays connected to his alma mater by coaching the Mock Trial Team along with Professor Elizabeth Walsh and instructor Rob Bowen.

Carbone lives in Fitchburg with his younger brother. He enjoys working out, listening to and playing music, cooking and spending time at his family's lake house.



Nicholas Carbone, center, celebrates with his family.

**MARY (ANGELINI) DENNEN '62, '76 –
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD**

Mary Dennen graduated from Fitchburg State in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in special education and received a master's in 1976. She later earned a certificate of advanced graduate study in counseling/school psychology from Anna Maria College.

Dennen retired from full-time teaching in 2000 after more than 30 years in the field, including teaching at the McKay Campus School as well as undergraduate special education courses at the university and workshops for teachers.

Until recently, Dennen was a visiting professor at Fitchburg State, where her duties included supervising graduate students pursuing degrees in special education.

She has been involved with alumni activities for more than 15 years. She co-chaired her 50th class reunion and regularly participates in the alumni procession at commencement ceremonies. She served on the Alumni Association board of directors for nine years before taking a brief hiatus last year.

She continues to sit on various Alumni Association committees, including the Awards Committee, and is co-chair of the Alumni Engagement Committee. She is especially proud of helping establish the annual retired alumni educators' luncheon, first held in 2011 and growing each year. This fall she begins a new term on the Alumni Association Board as well as serving her second year as a board member for the university's Center for Italian Culture.



Mary Dennen, far left, celebrates the service award.

**PAUL VINCENT O'CONNOR '72 –
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Paul Vincent O'Connor is a 1972 Fitchburg State graduate with more than 30 years of experience in film, television and theater. The Fitchburg native completed his bachelor's degree in English education at Fitchburg State. He was bitten by the theater bug when he volunteered building sets one summer for a local theater company run by Fitchburg State faculty member Eugene Casassa. After two years, O'Connor received his actor training at Mount Holyoke College and The Drama Studio London-at-Berkeley, where he was the Sir John Gielgud Fellow.

His travels brought him to theater festivals across the U.S. Europe. On stage he has performed in "August: Osage County," "The Cripple of Inishmaan," "The Iceman Cometh" and "Henry IV (Parts 1 and 2)" and was a 16-year member of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He has received several Drama-Logue Awards and has appeared on the cover of American Theatre and Shakespeare Quarterly.

His stage success led to work in Hollywood, and O'Connor has amassed a sprawling resume. He's had roles in films such as the Oscar-nominated "Seabiscuit" and "Inherit the Wind" with Jack Lemmon and George C. Scott. He's been on television shows such as "The West Wing," "NYPD Blue" and "The X-Files," and recently closed a highly acclaimed production of Conor McPherson's play, "The Night Alive" at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, and filmed an episode of the Showtime series "Ray Donovan" that aired in August.



Paul O'Connor, left, with Kathy and Mark O'Connor.

BRIG. GEN. PAUL GREGORY SMITH '80 – ALUMNI LEADERSHIP AWARD

Greg Smith arrived at Fitchburg State in 1975 unsure of his future. While pursuing the goal of becoming a special education teacher, he signed up for the Army ROTC. In February 1979 he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army while student teaching at Oakmont Regional High School. Upon completing his bachelor's degree in 1980, he began his career at Oakmont while continuing his military service in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

At Fitchburg State he met the woman who would steal his heart, Nora Dougherty, and they were married in September 1981. A fellow special education teacher, she taught at residential schools until deciding to stay home to raise their three children. Smith started the vocational special education program at Wachusett Regional High School where he taught for 12 years before becoming an administrator. He completed a master's degree in counseling psychology at Anna Maria College.

Smith moved up through the ranks of the National Guard, earning the ranks of captain then major. He led emergency responses and trained young men and women to survive in future wars they hoped would never come. He started to write seriously and published articles in magazines including *Country Living*, *Military History*, *Career World* and *Canada's History*.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Smith was assistant principal at Lunenburg High School. His battalion was quickly assigned to provide armed security at the Wachusett Reservoir to safeguard Boston's water supply. He was

later ordered to a tour of active duty as a public affairs officer during the Hurricane Katrina relief effort and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Army selected him for the United States Army War College where he earned a master of strategic studies degree in 2005. Command of a brigade and a promotion to colonel followed.

He returned to Oakmont as assistant principal in 2007. In 2010 he was selected to be a brigadier general and was soon commander of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. He directed emergency responses to the Central Massachusetts ice storm, Springfield tornado, Hurricane Irene and other major emergencies. His duties included the development of peacekeeping forces in Paraguay, border security operations in Arizona, development of soldier support programs (particularly regarding suicide prevention), serving as the Massachusetts commissioner to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, and serving on the National Guard Joint Diversity Executive Council.

Smith was performing routine military duties for route security at the Boston Marathon in 2013 when he received word of the Boylston Street explosions. He promptly took command of military forces responding to the attack and provided leadership for soldiers and airmen.

His military awards and honors include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Army Commendation Medal (four awards), Air Force Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal. He was presented with the Medalla de Honor del CECOPAZ in Asuncion, Paraguay for his work there. The United States Army Quartermaster Regiment named him a Distinguished Member of the Regiment and inducted him into the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin.

He retired from military duties after 35 years and continues to serve as the assistant principal at Oakmont and as a visiting instructor at the United States Army War College. More importantly, he tries to be a loving husband, a devoted father, a doting grandfather, and a good citizen.



Brig. Gen. Smith enjoys the ceremony with his family.



More than 100 alumni and friends gathered for the Gold Key Society Breakfast in September. This annual event is held to recognize the collective achievements of all graduates who have celebrated 50th reunions and to induct the newest class of alumni, the Class of 1965.



Eighty alumni and their guests attended the Class of 1965's 50th Reunion in September. The reunion committee, made up of Frank Bianco, John Caron, Nancy (Massoni) Goudreau, Bruce Goyette, Irene (Czekanski) Hamel, Walter Kondig, Bill Mahoney, and Maureen (Molloy) Quinn, put on a fantastic event filled with laughter, memories, and a recounting of the great Thompson statue caper.



For the first time in almost 20 years the sisters of the Philodemic Society came together at a reunion held in September.

WE NEED YOUR HELP DECIDING
**Where in the world
 to go first?**

Alumni

TRAVEL PROGRAM

The Alumni Association is launching a travel program in 2017 for alumni interested in exploring the world with us. So far, Europe, Australia and North America are your most preferred destinations.

Help us come even closer to selecting that dream location by taking this brief travel survey
fitchburgstate.edu/travel-program

**FALCONS at
 Foxwoods**
Saturday, April 9
\$25 per person
 (maximum 4 seats per graduate)

Hop on a coach bus with fellow alumni that leaves the Fitchburg State Recreation Center at 11 a.m. and returns at approximately 9 p.m.

Price includes round-trip bus ride, certificate for FREE buffet (or \$10 off any of the casino restaurants) and a \$10 credit Wampum slots card.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT BEFORE MARCH 1
support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration
 Contact the alumni office for more information.



Alumnae pose with Coach Beth Bacher the year's sixth annual alumnae field hockey game at Elliot Field in October.



Members of the Class of 1965 and current students mingle at the Family Weekend Fun Fair in September.



Alumnae pose with Coach Merry MacDonald at the third annual Alumnae softball game at the Donna-Lee Withington Memorial Field, Coolidge Park in October.



Alumnae pose with Coach Rick Terrio at the fourth annual alumnae lacrosse game at Elliot Field in October.



This year the Alumni Association joined in celebrating the 35th Slattery's Turkey Trot in November. Ninety alumni runners and spectators stopped by the alumni tent for a gift and to be entered into the free raffle.



Thirteen Fitchburg State faculty, staff and alumni ran in the Smuttynose Rockfest Half Marathon & 5K, in Hampton, New Hampshire, in October.

WHY THEY GIVE

Five years ago, a group of alumni, brothers from a former student fraternity known as the Fenwick Society, came together for a reunion. Though they had celebrated reunions for decades, this time they had a desire to recognize their time on campus and their continuing impact on the university. With nearly 250 alumni spanning 30 years of the institution's history, the brothers wanted to preserve the Fenwick's proud legacy on campus.

Robert "Biff" Quinn '81, unofficial president of the Fenwicks, realized that their legacy and collective impact on the university could continue far beyond their time as students and alumni. After approaching several brothers with the idea, Quinn announced at an annual May reunion that the brothers would pursue a \$25,000 endowed scholarship. "The scholarship became an instant hit with the brothers."

By the time they had reached their goal in October, more than 90 members had contributed to the fund's success. In doing so, they become just the second former student organization, joining the Esoteric Society, to achieve a scholarship endowment. The 49-year-old Fenwick Society, which celebrates its 50th reunion this May, will see the first recipient awarded this spring. "It's an exciting time to know that our efforts are going to help many future generations of Fitchburg State University students," said Jim Walsh '75.

"An important part of the Fenwick mission has always been to enhance the quality of student life on campus," Quinn said. "By creating this scholarship, we're staying true to our core purpose."

The fundraising effort helped the brothers get to know Fitchburg State and its students better, Quinn said. "I'm hoping that other organizations follow our lead and see how they can come together to positively impact Fitchburg State students."

"I give back to the scholarship fund because the Fenwicks were a big part of my college life. I developed close friendships and lifelong bonds with my brothers. The great memories and experiences that I have are worth supporting."

—Paul Gagliarducci '70



FALCONS IN *Florida*

Fort Myers | Thursday, March 10

Boston Red Sox Spring Training Game and Barbecue

Naples | Saturday, March 12

St. Patrick's Day Parade – Ride on the Fitchburg State Trolley

Palm Beach | Sunday, March 13

East Coast Alumni Event



REGISTER TODAY: support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL (978) 665-4555