

Contact



Dr. Richard S. Lapidus,
11th President of Fitchburg State University





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On the cover: Richard S. Lapidus at the Fitchburg State University presidential residence on Highland Avenue. Photography by Ed Collier.

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Building a better police force



Retired Fitchburg Police Chief Robert A. DeMoura was one of the drivers of the new police concentration.

Students with an interest in careers in public safety will be able to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as complete police academy training, within five years as part of a new concentration launching this fall.

"We're the only public institution in Massachusetts that has this," President Antonucci said when the concentration was announced. "It will make a good criminal justice program stronger."

The concentration is designed to serve students who enter the university with a clear goal of certification as police officers. Full-time students who follow the scheduled coursework will complete their bachelor's degrees within four years, followed by a one-year master's program that will also include a full-time academy certification from the Municipal Police Training Committee.

"Graduates of this program will emerge with the skills and credentials for a career in law enforcement," President Antonucci said. "They will be attractive candidates for the workforce, ready to be hired by police departments who will not have to pay for the time it takes to complete academy training."

Students who complete the concentration at the baccalaureate level will be offered admission to the master's program, where

upon completion they will be certified by the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) as a full-time police officer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"When they graduate, they're street-ready," said MPTC Executive Director Dan Zivkovich, who worked closely with Fitchburg State administrators on developing the program. The MPTC runs an 870-hour certification course that is required for all municipal police officers in the state. The university's criminal justice curriculum was mapped against the MPTC's own coursework to determine where content can be delivered in campus classrooms.

The skills component of the academy, including firearms, defensive tactics and emergency vehicle operations, will be taught by certified MPTC instructors including members of the university police department.

Graduates of the program will be ready to report for municipal police duty immediately.

"It's the perfect combination," Zivkovich said. "You will have an educated officer who's also a trained officer. You'll have someone who understands the theory behind the tactics. The smart police departments will be watching these students."

Fitchburg State Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Marcel Beausoleil will coordinate the new concentration.

"The Fitchburg State Police Certification Concentration program will give our students the skills and knowledge to be able to reach out to and engage the community in a positive way," Beausoleil said. "It is our goal to turn out professional, ethical police officers who are ready for community policing. Sir Robert Peel, the founder of modern policing, said that, 'The police are the public and the public are the police.' This program is designed to develop future police officers who live up to that statement."

Fitchburg State Associate Professor of Criminal Justice David P. Weiss was also active in developing the new concentration.

"This unique educational opportunity will give our students a distinct, competitive edge in the policing job market, while at the same time helping law enforcement agencies across the state to manage the expense of up-front training costs in a very tangible way," Weiss said.

The program originated with a suggestion from former Fitchburg Police Chief Robert A. DeMoura, who returned to campus for the announcement of its launch. Many police chiefs had been discussing the importance of collaborating with colleges and universities to meet departmental training needs.

"They will be knocking the doors down to come here," DeMoura said.



Professor Marcel Beausoleil will coordinate the new concentration.

Valdez shines among her peers



Professor Joshua Spero joined award-winner Alexandra Valdez at the Statehouse.

Alexandra Valdez '15 represented Fitchburg State as an outstanding graduating student when Gov. Charlie Baker and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education recognized "29 Who Shine" in May at the Statehouse.

"I want to congratulate Alexandra Valdez and all 29 of the outstanding Class of 2015 graduates for the recognition they have received and thank them for their substantial contributions to their local communities," said Gov. Baker. "Each of the 29 Who Shine honorees, in addition to being an accomplished student, is civically engaged in ways that improve the quality of life in Massachusetts."

"Each one of our 29 honorees is from Massachusetts and planning to remain in Massachusetts," noted Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner of Higher Education. "Through their dedicated scholarship and deep engagement in their local communities, these students are making good on the taxpayers' investment in their education."

The state has recognized a student from each of the 29 public higher education campuses since 2011.

Valdez was an engaged student leader since arriving at the Fitchburg State campus as a transfer student in 2013. A first-generation college student born in the Dominican Republic, Valdez is passionate about increasing opportunities for higher education. Her experience working as the Latino liaison for Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley has inspired an ongoing commitment to civic engagement in her community. At Fitchburg State, Valdez helped resuscitate the campus' Political Science Club and opened dialogue with city officials to empower students to be contributing members of the university's host community. She is a member of the Student Government Senate, chair of its Senior Committee, and works as an orientation leader and peer mentor on campus, as well as serving as an officer in her sorority.

Valdez is spending the summer in the nation's capital as an intern at the Washington Center. This fall she plans to return to Boston to continue her work as a Latino liaison.

The 29 Who Shine campaign asks each honoree to select a faculty or staff mentor to accompany them to the celebration in Boston. Valdez named Professor Joshua B. Spero, a member of the Economics, History and Political Science faculty.

"Prof. Spero has been a mentor throughout my time at Fitchburg State, teaching me the importance of persistence," Valdez said. "He inspires students to push themselves to the fullest and to believe that everything is possible. I thank him every day for everything he has taught me in the classroom and beyond."

A cross-section of campus constituencies spent the past year developing a five-year strategic plan designed to chart the university's course. The Board of Trustees approved the comprehensive plan this spring.

The 2015-2020 Strategic Plan emphasizes student success as its organizing principle, and focuses upon Fitchburg State students in all majors and in all divisions of the university, day or evening, and undergraduate or graduate. It outlines four goals, along with specific objectives and action steps to measure progress toward each:

- Strengthen academic programs. The university will work to make in-class and out-of-class experiences more challenging, intentional, international and integrated, seeking to foster in students a greater sense of responsibility for their own education and the trajectory of their lives beyond graduation.
- Promote student success by breaking down barriers. To accomplish this, the university will review, coordinate, develop and communicate initiatives to improve student retention and completion using data to guide the decision-making process.
- Build a university community that embraces civic and global responsibility. Building on the university's associations in the region and across the state, this effort will include utilizing the expertise of its partners to promote civic learning while serving the needs of the community.
- Grow and strategically align Fitchburg State's resources. This will include enrollment strategies, revenue enhancement efforts, marketing and budgeting to focus on the fiscal components of the strategic plan's implementation.

More detail, including the plan's full text, can be found on the university's website at fitchburgstate.edu/strategicplan.

An artful partnership blossoms



Fitchburg Art Museum Director Nick Capasso, left, and President Antonucci inked the institutional agreement this spring.

Cementing a productive partnership that has yielded dividends for both institutions, leaders of Fitchburg State University and the Fitchburg Art Museum signed a formal memorandum of agreement this spring.

Museum Director Nick Capasso noted the agreement grew out of a successful collaboration in which the museum hosted a mid-career exhibition of artist and Fitchburg State faculty member Jeffrey Warmouth. The exhibition was designed and branded by Fitchburg State students, and the institutions collaborated to install and support it.

The model has since been replicated several times at the museum, including this spring's Naturetech exhibit for which students produced an array of physical and digital collateral.

"Students have been able to work on real-world projects with a real-world, demanding client," said Capasso, who estimated the students have created the equivalent of \$30,000 worth of deliverables since the partnership began. "What the students get in return is deep, real-world experience. The quality of this student-produced work has been superb."

The productive relationship between the art museum and the university will benefit the entire city, President Antonucci said, adding the institutions strengthen the community by working together.

The opportunity for student enrichment created through the partnership continues through collaborations that produce exhibition catalogs, promotional videos and social media campaigns.

The agreement provides free admission to the museum for all Fitchburg State University students, faculty and staff; makes the

museum staff, exhibitions and collections available to university students, faculty, and adult learning programs; and formalizes a relationship with the McKay Arts Academy on the university campus. The pact also spells out collaboration between the institutions and other partners on community development programs, cultural festivals, creative economy initiatives, and broad-based education initiatives. These include the Upper Common Cultural District, the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, the redevelopment of the B.F. Brown building and adjoining properties, the Main Street Arts Project, the Big Read, and the annual Blacksmith Art and Music Festival, among others.

For the university's part, the agreement guarantees that museum personnel will have access to occasional administrative, development and information technology support; faculty and professional staff consultation on exhibition and program management; professional development for museum staff; and guaranteed university representation on the museum's board of trustees. The university also agrees to engage in collaborative programming, public relations and marketing with the museum.

Students go to work for Alternative Spring Break trip

Continuing a Fitchburg State tradition, two dozen students and staff members spent their spring break wielding tool belts and hard hats to work on projects for Habitat for Humanity. This year's trek took the Alternative Spring Break crew to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where they worked alongside delegations from other colleges and universities helping build five new homes along a tract of land. The Fitchburg State crew spent most of their time roofing the new houses, but also managed to squeeze in some sightseeing.

The ASB trip came after months of fundraising on campus, including holiday meals and flower sales. Another trip is already in the works for next March.



Universities, colleges make \$30K Commitment

Starting this fall, a new collaboration between Fitchburg State and its peer institutions of public higher education in Central Massachusetts – Mount Wachusett Community College, Quinsigamond Community College and Worcester State University – will guarantee qualifying students their associate’s and bachelor’s degrees in high demand programs for \$30,000 in four years.

The \$30K Commitment is a promise from the institutions to support the career goals of Massachusetts residents; prepare students for high-demand degrees; and outline clear paths for students to complete affordable associate’s and bachelor’s degrees in four years. Tuition and fees will be frozen for qualifying students.

According to the College Board, the average cost of one year of tuition and fees for a private, four-year college education is \$31,000—more than the cost of four years outlined in the \$30K Commitment. The average cost of in-state tuition and fees for

public institutions is \$9,139 a year. The \$30K Commitment reduces the cost of a four-year degree program to \$7,500 a year.

The commitment aligns degree programs and allows for seamless transfer between the two-year and four-year institutions for programs including business administration, computer science, early childhood education, biotechnology, criminal justice, biology and chemistry. Students who wish to continue their studies beyond the baccalaureate level will benefit from institutions’ articulation agreements with other schools. Those heading straight to their careers will be able to capitalize on internship opportunities and professional networks related to the fields of study included in the \$30K program.

Participating students will be expected to maintain good academic standing with full-time course loads each semester. In addition to easy transfer opportunities from the community colleges, students will be guaranteed admission to the state university programs outlined in the agreement.



Irving named to Board of Higher Education



Trustee Donald R. Irving '72, '79, left, was recently appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to represent the trustees of all nine state universities for the next five years.

Irving, president and founder of Data Guide Cable Corp. of Gardner, was selected by presidents of the state universities’ boards of trustees on Jan. 9 to succeed Bridgewater State University Trustee Louis Ricciardi on the statewide board.

“My job is to listen to the chairs of the boards of all the state universities, and all the presidents of the universities,” said Irving, who noted he looks forward to working with his peers and Gov. Charles Baker’s administration on issues affecting public higher education in Massachusetts. “As a trustee, business owner and graduate of the system, I look forward to advocating for our institutions, which play such a key role in the Commonwealth.”

Irving is a two-time alumnus of Fitchburg State, earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the institution. He has served on the university’s Board of Trustees since 2012. He has been trustee emeritus of Cushing Academy since 2013 after serving on that board from 1996 to 2013. He also served 10 years as a trustee at the

Applewild School in Fitchburg and chaired the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Committee from 1985 to 1988.

The Board of Higher Education is responsible for coordinating the commonwealth’s system of public higher education and its 29 campuses. Its core responsibilities are in the following areas: academic policy and program approval, financial aid, fiscal and capital planning, research and performance measurement, and workforce development.

At Fitchburg State, Irving recently chaired the presidential search committee that developed a slate of finalists from a national field of candidates to succeed President Antonucci.

PARTING WORDS



President Antonucci delivered the commencement address during the undergraduate ceremony on May 16, the final public event of his administration. The humorous and aspirational speech illustrated a simple theme: Go for it.

He reminded the thousands gathered on the main quadrangle that he had begun a tradition of welcoming back accomplished alumni to serve as speakers rather than politicians or celebrities.

“It was a way of showing our graduating class what they could be,” he said. “I stand before you today not as president of the university, but as an alumnus.”

He recalled growing up in Leominster the youngest of four sons, whose brothers were all more than a dozen years older than him. Their father emigrated from Italy at the age of 16, and imbued in his sons the value and privilege of public education.

Robert V. Antonucci was born on Aug. 15, 1945, the day World War II ended with the Japanese surrender.

“My middle name is Victory,” he said. “That really says a lot about my family.”

He was sharing the nursery with the woman who years later would become his wife. “I’m trying to get some sleep and she’s rattling my cage,” President Antonucci recalled to laughter. This summer they celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary.

Both Robert and Jeanne Antonucci earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Fitchburg State.

“We went for it,” he said. “What I learned from the faculty was to go for it. You can succeed. You can make that difference.”

Antonucci said he was often up for jobs against candidates with more illustrious educational pedigrees. “I always beat them out because I went for it,” he said. “I had faith in myself as an individual. Don’t ever accept advice you can’t do it. Be positive. Be upbeat. That’s what life is all about. Take that opportunity, and learn from it.”

Trustee Chairman Martin F. Connors Jr. presented Antonucci with the President Emeritus Award in recognition of his contributions to the institution.

“Counting today’s graduates, he has handed out more than 13,500 diplomas from this great institution, a university that he has helped transform during his tenure,” Connors said. “This era in Fitchburg State history will be remembered for unparalleled capital improvement, resulting in peerless facilities for teaching, learning and recreation. It has been a period of increased institutional pride and accomplishment, marveled at by its tens of thousands of alumni who return to campus with a profound sense of respect and admiration. President Antonucci has embraced his role as an ambassador and advocate for public higher education, fighting for a system that is preparing the next generation of Massachusetts’ workers and leaders. He remembers his roots as a first-generation college student, and has devoted his career to creating the types of opportunities for others that so changed his own life.”

EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT ANTONUCCI'S COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

My father was born in Italy and emigrated at the age of 16 with his brother. He initially settled in Pennsylvania, then moved on to Leominster where he worked in the plastics factories.

He was very proud of the United States of America. And when he received his citizenship, he said, "I believe in this country and I believe in what this country has to offer, and my children will always go to public schools and public universities."



You are primed to be leaders in your own field, teachers in your own right. We can learn from one another. You graduate today with an education that you should hold by your side forever. Look back on your experience at Fitchburg State as one of the best you ever had. It was for me, and it will be for you.



I was an unexpected blessing to my parents. My brothers were 13, 19 and 20 years older than me. Two of my brothers were serving in World War II, one in the Army and the other in the Navy. My brothers returned home from the war to find a new member of the family.

I was born on Aug. 15, 1945, also known as VJ Day for the victory over Japan. My mother and father were patriots and so proud what my brothers were doing in the service of their country. And so they named me Robert Victory Antonucci.

As I grew I felt so proud of what my name stood for, and what my parents' choice said about my family and its values. And as we're gathered here today, I embrace that word, Victory, because we have been victorious. We have worked hard and we achieved it. And that's the theme of this speech today, three simple words: Go for it.



I believed in myself as I want you to believe in yourselves. Don't ever accept advice that says you can't do it, because you can do it. You can go for it. You can do whatever you want to do.

Never did I think when I was sitting where you're sitting today that I would end up being the president of Fitchburg State University. I imagine if my father and mother could only be here and see me here today, how proud they would be, just as your mothers and fathers sitting in the audience today are so proud of you.

Take what you learned here at Fitchburg University and carry it with you forever.



I have had a wonderful time being your president. I love our students. I will never forget the hospitality and the warmth this community extended to Jeanne and me. I am forever grateful to the Board of Trustees for the faith they showed in selecting me as this institution's president.

When I came here in 2003, I said I wanted to leave this institution a better place than when I arrived, and we have succeeded. I also want you to welcome the new president, Dr. Richard Lapidus. I am certain he will do an outstanding job and take the hand-off to carry that ball to the goal line. I hope you will be as welcoming to him as you have been to me.

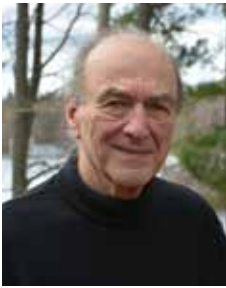
And to the faculty, keep up that great work you do in the classrooms. You make a difference. Why are students in Massachusetts schools number one in the country? Because of their teachers who graduated from our state universities. Why are the nurses who provide care in our hospitals so talented? Because they graduated from Fitchburg State University. Their success is a tribute to our faculty.

So to the faculty I say thank you. To the students I say thank you. To the parents in the audience, thank you for giving me the opportunity to help your children, your spouses, your family. This has been a wonderful run. I will never forget what has happened here.

I encourage all of you to stay energetic. Stay positive. Do your very best. Don't be negative. Be a leader. Be a teacher. Walk on water. And have some fun. Thank you very much.



Graduate Commencement



At the graduate commencement ceremony in May, Professor Emeritus **Dr. Harry Semerjian**, left, was given the Contributions to the Graduate

Program Award. Semerjian joined the Fitchburg State community as an instructor in 1960 and went on to an illustrious career that has continued long after his retirement in 1997. As the founder of the Fine Arts Director Summer Institute, Semerjian launched the first program of its kind in Massachusetts. Described as a lifelong champion of arts education, Semerjian has helped generations of students harness their creativity in the service of their professional goals.

“Semerjian also played a key role in the development of the university’s certificate of advanced graduate study in interdisciplinary studies, allowing students to chart their own course in a variety of disciplines in the service of their professional ambitions,” President Antonucci said.



Also recognized at the graduate ceremony was **Marc Dohan**, left, executive director of the Twin Cities Development Corporation. “Through his

efforts, neighborhoods have been revitalized, and communities strengthened,” said President Antonucci, who gave Dohan the President’s Medal in recognition of his community service.

During Dohan’s 13-year tenure at the Twin Cities CDC, areas of Fitchburg and Leominster have seen an increase in homeownership and a resulting rise in small business growth, thanks to his abilities to bring diverse collaborators together. These factors combine to reduce crime and increase opportunity.

“He has been a trusted ally of this university as we strive to build on our success rejuvenating the neighborhood surrounding campus,” President Antonucci said.



Robert Gosselin was presented the Graduate Student Leadership Award on May 14. Lauded by members of the English Studies Department for his assistance in research and group discussions, he also worked as a professional writing tutor in the Expanding Horizons Program. He is currently working on his first novel and plans to continue his education as a writer by attending a master of fine arts program this fall.

RAILTON, WARMOUTH EARN FACULTY AWARDS

The university’s major faculty recognitions—the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching and Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship—are also presented during the undergraduate commencement ceremony. The Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Benjamin Railton, a member of the English Studies faculty since 2005.

Railton is one of only five faculty members to win both the Mara and Research awards.

His colleagues praise his abilities, describing him as a model instructor and professor who values a conducive and enabling learning environment. Students share the same level of enthusiasm, stating that Railton is

passionate about teaching, and that his enthusiasm for course material is contagious. A former student of his said, “It would be hard for me to think of another professor during my time at Fitchburg State University who was more invested in their job.”

“Dr. Railton is described by former students as a versatile, enabling educator who commands respect from his students by first offering it himself,” President Antonucci said.

Warmouth, a member of the Communications Media faculty since 1997, complements his teaching with an eclectic career as an artist. Eschewing a single medium, he utilizes elements of video, sculpture, performance, and printing/publishing—whatever helps him to convey his specific ideas. His body of work has been met with acclaim in the forms of media he has

explored, and his desire to investigate the human condition in changing times has informed the rest of his career, from education to client collaboration. In 2014, his solo exhibition, Jeffu Warmouth: NO MORE FUNNY STUFF, was featured at the Fitchburg Art Museum. A mid-career retrospective examining the monotony and absurdity of our media savvy society, this multimedia exhibition compiled work completed during his tenure at Fitchburg State, and was hailed by the Boston Globe.

“Professor Warmouth’s research and scholarship has made valuable contributions to his field of study, and it has benefited his own students in our communications media department, who are inspired to reconsider the world around them,” President Antonucci said in presenting the award.

Undergraduate Ceremony



Trustee **Carol Vittorioso** (above, center, with President Antonucci and Trustee Martin F. Connors Jr.), who recently completed a four-year term as chairman of the board, was presented an honorary doctorate during the undergraduate ceremony on May 16. “During her four years as chairman, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to this university and its students,” President Antonucci said.

Under Vittorioso’s watch, the university completed significant capital projects that enhanced the teaching and learning that is central to this campus. Other building projects improved the quality of life for our students, faculty and staff.

Vittorioso also played a vital role in the search and selection for the institution’s next president.

In addition to her work with Fitchburg State, Vittorioso has been active in local government and schools, also running a successful law practice. She was recently appointed to the state’s Judicial Nominating Commission.



Graduating senior **Alexandra Valdez** (above), chair of the senior committee, addressed her classmates.

“As the first member of my family to graduate from college, I share this milestone with many people,” Valdez said. “And I know many of you who can relate to the same desire to dedicate your degree to those who stood by you, supported you, and laughed and cried with you during this journey.”

Valdez cited her pride at being a Fitchburg State Falcon, and encouraged her classmates to remember the spirit of teamwork, family and engagement that helped inspire them during their studies. She included a quote from Cesar Chavez: “There are many reasons for why a man does what he does. To be himself he must be able to give it his all. If a leader cannot give it his all, he cannot expect his people to give anything.”

“As we leave today,” Valdez concluded, “remember what success and giving it your all feels like.”



Nathan Gregoire was given the Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Student Leadership Award. During his career at Fitchburg State, Gregoire was student representative to the Board of Trustees as well as president of the Student Government Association. In his senior year he was selected to serve on the state Board of Higher Education to represent all students. He plans to pursue a career in criminal justice.



At the winter commencement ceremony in December, Fitchburg Public Schools Superintendent **Andre Ravenelle**, left, was presented with the President’s Medal. As

leader of the urban school district since 2005, Ravenelle was recognized for his tireless efforts to create opportunities for student success.

“You have engaged in innovative collaborations with community partners—including Fitchburg State University—with the goal of preserving, and expanding, a broad range of academic and extra-curricular programming,” President Antonucci said in presenting the award. “You have faced the considerable challenges of urban education with enthusiasm and creativity. Your vision has been widely recognized as you have been called upon to share Fitchburg’s success stories with peers from across the state and the nation.”

Fitchburg State and the Fitchburg Public Schools continue to enjoy a strong collaborative partnership, from housing a city school on campus (the McKay Arts Academy) through a robust dual enrollment program wherein Fitchburg High students can take Fitchburg State courses—for credit—on campus.



EDUCATION IS THE KEY

BY MATTHEW BRUUN

For Richard S. Lapidus, becoming the 11th president of Fitchburg State University is the culmination of a journey that began in his days as a student and continued through a career in business and higher education. Shaped by his experiences in public schools, and inspired by visionary leaders from across the country who believed in innovation and opportunity centered on the student experience, Lapidus begins his first presidency guided by a bedrock belief.

“Education is the great leveler,” he said. “You can come from a modest background, and you can reinvent yourself irrespective of what your childhood experiences were.”

Lapidus grew up in Chappaqua, N.Y., a bedroom community for many Manhattan executives who took the 55-minute train ride to New York City each day. Westchester County was also home to several high-profile corporate headquarters, like Alcoa and IBM.

“In the ‘70s, the IBMers were really recognizable,” he said, describing the ubiquitous white shirts, red ties and blue suits that filled his neighborhood. “That was the environment I grew up in.”

His father, a certified public accountant, worked as an auditor for New York City Mayor John Lindsay and several of his successors. Lapidus and his sister—who now works in the wine industry in California—joined their parents for frequent family trips to New York City, where they met the mayors for whom their father worked. “I got to know the city pretty well,” he recalled. Many of the family’s summers were spent on Cape Cod, in Wellfleet and Truro.

Lapidus attended Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, which he described as a very progressive institution. “It was a place that, if you were a mature kid—which I was not—you could have walked out of that school with a phenomenal knowledge base,” he recalled. “Virtually every kid went to college.”

While Lapidus may have lacked focus as a teenager, he nonetheless set his sights on higher education. Envisioning a career in business, he headed to Indiana University in Bloomington. “The Kelley School of Business has always been very highly ranked,” he said. “That was the attraction.”

Lapidus imagined himself climbing the corporate ladder, following in his father’s footsteps through a career in dollars and cents.

It was also the heyday of Indiana Hoosiers basketball and the reign of Coach Bobby Knight. Lapidus, who once found himself in a dorm room

Richard and Lisa Lapidus outside the presidential residence on Highland Avenue.



President Lapidus met with students this spring in the Falcon Hub.

with star player – and future NBA star – Isiah Thomas, appreciated the vitality of the campus. “It was a pretty great experience,” he said.

The campus *was* the community, town and gown were inextricably linked.

After graduating from Indiana in 1981, Lapidus returned to New York City to work for the Moore Corporation, a paper manufacturer that had, among other things, one of the innovators of the carbonless multi-copy form. It also produced computer paper, the green-and-white striped variety that was ubiquitous in the early days of desktop printing in the 1980s and 1990s. Lapidus spent several years in sales for the company and was looking to enter product management. To do that, however, would require a master’s degree, and that meant another relocation.

“I figured I’d see another part of the country,” said Lapidus. “I flipped to the West Coast.”

That was how he arrived at California State University, Long Beach, where Lapidus completed his Master of Science in marketing in 1986. He became close to members of the faculty there, who encouraged him to further his studies with a PhD without taking a break. “They essentially convinced me to make it seamless,” he said.

Lapidus’ studies of business and marketing inspired him to look deeper into consumer behavior and psychology as research topics. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, faculty member Robert A. Mittelstaedt was “the godfather” of that discipline, Lapidus recalled.

“The university had a very strong marketing department in the business school, and they were very paternal,” he said. “When I visited the campus, I stayed at (Mittelstaedt)’s house.”

He appreciated the personal attention he received during his four years in Lincoln. He also enjoyed the liberal

attitudes and how enmeshed the university was with the city.

For his dissertation, Lapidus sought to weigh the effect of verbal over visual cues as observers looked at advertising. “This was a study of right-brain and left-brain people,” he said, describing the psychological theory that envisions the brain having dominant halves that may be more artistic and intuitive (right) or logical and literal (left). “Knowing what their propensity was, we gave them a test.”

In the exercise, Lapidus found that artistically inclined viewers responded more positively to the visual messages in an ad, and verbal viewers preferred the print content. That was a valuable lesson for the prospective client, he said: “It is important to provide viewers with the type of information they feel comfortable processing, or the message will be lost.”

This field of study has exploded since his own doctoral days, with

“THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GREATLY DRIVEN BY THE PARTICIPATION OF PAST STUDENTS.”

major advertising agencies analyzing brainwaves and other scientific data to delve deeper into viewer responses to advertising messages. Such research would continue to be a topic of interest to Lapidus, who has written numerous articles and made frequent presentations in the field.

Lapidus completed his PhD in 1991 and then embarked on a career in academia, assuming his first teaching post as an assistant professor of marketing at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

“I got there and it was primarily a basketball school,” Lapidus recalled. But he arrived at a fortuitous time—the city was experiencing a population explosion. For more than a decade, the city was gaining an influx of thousands of families a month. During Lapidus’ time in Las Vegas, the population grew from approximately 500,000 to more than 3 million.

The growth of the city was complemented by the arrival of an ambitious president at UNLV. Carol C. Harter, who led the university from 1995 to 2006, had grand plans for the school and set about transforming it into a high-level research institution that would attract significant federal grant funding. Her focus on long-range planning and fundraising included the launch of more than 100 new degree programs, roughly 60 of which focused on graduate studies.

Harter was also student-centric, encouraging the development of programs that were responsive to student needs. She sought to create a top-tier urban university that would serve the community at large.

“She built it into a monster,” Lapidus admiringly recalled. Harter was able to attract lucrative research grants and top talent, which translated into more opportunities for all faculty. “Anything you wanted to do, they’d let you try.”

As a researcher and faculty member at UNLV, Lapidus explored topics like customer satisfaction, green advertising and customer attitudes toward pirated merchandise.

Lapidus’ impact at UNLV transcended the classroom, and he became chairman of the Marketing Department and served on committees related to academic affairs, assessment and technology. He spent five years as associate dean of administration for the College of Business and Economics. Off campus, Lapidus was president of the Marketing Educators’ Association and the Las Vegas Professional Chapter of the American Marketing Association.

The jump to administration brought personal satisfaction, Lapidus said, recalling that he enjoyed helping other professionals be successful.

It was also in Las Vegas where Lapidus met his wife, Lisa (Schuver) Lapidus. A native of St. Louis, Lisa Lapidus worked as a teacher in Las Vegas’ rapidly expanding school system. She maintains an interest in public education and assisting underserved populations. The couple has two children: Zachary, who will enroll this fall at Fitchburg State where he plans to study game design, and Hannah, who will be a student in a local high school.

Following his successful tenure at UNLV, Lapidus sought another challenge. The deanship at the College of Business Administration at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, followed in 2009. The institution and its students both appealed to him.

“The population of that school was predominantly first generation,” he said. “The polytech philosophy is very applied learning. Business schools have always been criticized for being silo-like in disciplines and not well integrated into the campus. It was nice to be involved in doing so much interdisciplinary work.”

Among his accomplishments at CalPoly were helping to expand its student success center and developing programs designed to help veterans make the transition from military to campus life. He also played a role in launching the institution’s “first-year

*“I’D LIKE TO THINK THAT WE’RE PRODUCING THOUGHT LEADERS
IN ALL DISCIPLINES, AND THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE
VITALITY OF THE REGION. THAT’S OUR JOB.”*

experience” and the creation of living/ learning communities that helped students adapt to college life and become part of the campus culture.

“The results were extremely successful,” he said. “Students saw their colleagues as peer mentors.”

Other challenges he was able to tackle at CalPoly were construction and fundraising. During his tenure in California, Lapidus played a major role in the development of a \$42 million business complex, as well as a major capital campaign. The university completed a successful \$161 million fundraising effort, of which his college raised more than \$21 million, exceeding its goals.

For his next professional challenge, Lapidus looked for an institution where he could build upon the experiences and insights he had gained through his varied career. The student body at Fitchburg State immediately appealed to him, with so many students who were the first in their families to pursue higher education.

“A lot of first-generation kids look at the university environment as a privilege, rather than an entitlement,” he said. “As a result, I find they work harder. They’re more respectful of the opportunity they’ve been given.”

At the same time, however, they have different needs. Increasing the university’s retention and graduation rates must be a priority for the next administration, he said. Research shows that students who don’t feel engaged tend to struggle. “The kids that spend more time on campus are the kids that graduate.”

As such, he’s interested in exploring the establishment of a first-year experience for students, along with investment in predictive tools and “intrusive advising” that will help faculty and staff intervene before students are too far off course. “Advising has become much more sophisticated,” he said. “Students oftentimes are unaware of career paths. They don’t know how to get from Point A to Point B.”

He wants students to know that he is open to being part of that navigation, describing an administrative culture where students will feel empowered to bring their concerns forward.

“The door is as open as I can make it without making it a revolving door,” he said. He is also a supporter of promoting student travel to regional competitions, which allows students to see that peers from bigger, more pedigreed institutions are no better than they are.

Acclimating to his new campus will be a gradual process, Lapidus continued. “I don’t see how anyone can make decisions without understanding the values and beliefs of the institution, and the various constituencies,” he said, adding that he anticipates lots of “listening tours” in his first months as president of Fitchburg State.

“I think communication builds trust,” Lapidus said. “I like to empower people to do the jobs they were hired for. I think that good ideas can come from anywhere.”

Lapidus also looks forward to building on the university’s strengthened commitment to working with its host community, where it is the largest employer and an integral community resource.

“My sense is the city’s looking for a way to reinvent itself,” he said. “There should be ample opportunities for us to help the city grow. I’d like to think that we’re producing thought leaders in all disciplines, and they can contribute to the vitality of the region. That’s our job.”

The presidential residence on Highland Avenue is also symbolic of the university’s commitment to the city, and Lapidus appreciates that link. “I think it’s important university presidents live on campus or near



Photo courtesy of Sentinel & Enterprise

Lapidus addressed several campus constituencies during his visit last fall.

campus,” he said. “That adds another level of richness to the campus, and this house provides an opportunity to open doors to the community.”

Lapidus also wants to open doors to alumni, whom he sees as critical to institutional success.

“It has always been my belief that the relationship you have with students doesn’t end when they graduate,” he said. “The success of the school is greatly driven by the participation of past students. It’s not just about asking alumni for stuff. It’s about asking them what they’re doing after they graduate.”

Engagement breeds involvement, he said. “It’s clear to me now that those who give all tell some version of the same story: they had an experience here that they remember. Ultimately, they were able to apply it, and they remember where they picked up that skill.”

In his brief time in Massachusetts, Lapidus has also learned about the financial challenges affecting public higher education. “I think presidents are increasingly becoming development officers,” he said. “Your great donors are very likely to be your alumni. That relationship begins the minute students set foot on this campus. They need to see the campus as a resource even after they graduate. If it’s done right, you won’t have to make the ask.”

He also sees sharing the success stories of alumni as important to encouraging engagement with current students. “Students gravitate to alumni,” he said. “They want to see there’s light at the end of the tunnel.”

Lapidus said he will be looking closely at the university’s recently established strategic plan as he charts his path forward, and believes Fitchburg State must maintain a strong liberal arts

component that emphasizes critical thinking and good judgment to give students the ability to reinvent themselves in response to the rapidly changing world.

Helping set Fitchburg State apart will mean exploring and investing in new and unique programs, he said.

As Lapidus sets about his work at Fitchburg State, he recalled a recent experience consulting for the National Football League. For that assignment, he was tasked with understanding “the fan experience” at the Super Bowl. He looked at public transportation to and from the stadium, food services, parking, and the host city’s readiness for the game.

“The NFL understood it wasn’t just about the game,” Lapidus said. “The campus works in the same way. All the pieces need to be integrated and work together for the common good.”



An Enduring Legacy: **PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT ANTONUCCI**

A grateful campus community bade an emotional farewell to President Antonucci this spring with multiple celebrations of a transformative era in the life of the institution. The festivities honored the contributions of both Robert and Jeanne Antonucci, acknowledging a partnership that will leave a lasting legacy.

The Fitchburg State University Foundation held a fundraiser on June 4 that endowed the Antonucci Family Scholarship, which will provide financial aid to first-generation college students from North Central Massachusetts. The proceeds were still being tallied at press time, but exceeded \$300,000.

While a commitment to students will stand as the Antonuccis' signature, the physical manifestations of his tenure include major capital improvements across the campus. None is more striking than the \$57 million science project that was dedicated as the Robert V. & Jeanne S. Antonucci Science Complex on May 7.

The emotional dedication ceremony capped an afternoon of celebration that began with a barbecue on the main quadrangle, where the campus community gathered to pay tribute to President Antonucci as he prepared to end his 12-year tenure at Fitchburg State.

"No student who goes to a public university should have second-rate facilities," President Antonucci said to thunderous applause. "When I say we're the number one state university, I mean it."



Professor Chris Picone recounted “The Age of Antonucci” in his remarks.



U.S. Rep. James McGovern described a commitment to educational excellence.

“WE ARE GOING TO OFFER AN IVY LEAGUE EDUCATION
WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN AFFORD ONE.”

—Professor Chris Picone

Jeanne Antonucci described their journey from being a young married couple in the 1960s, just after graduating from Fitchburg State, to returning to the campus in 2003.

“We were embraced by everyone on this campus,” she said, pledging the campus community would remain in their hearts forever.

The dedication ceremony included remarks by U.S. Rep. James McGovern and U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, each of whom described the commitment and leadership demonstrated by President and Mrs. Antonucci.

“I’ve watched in awe as this institution has grown over the years,” said Rep. McGovern, who noted many of his constituents have attended Fitchburg State. “This building is a critical investment in our future. (Antonucci’s) commitment to educational excellence is clear.”

Rep. Tsongas described the importance of the sciences to the region, and paid tribute

to the use of university resources to better the community.

“The university and the city are indelibly intertwined,” she said.

State Rep. Stephen DiNatale, an alumnus of Fitchburg State, described the era of construction that began with Antonucci’s arrival in 2003, likening the president to the pharaoh Rameses.

Fitchburg Mayor Lisa A. Wong also saluted the relationship between the campus and the host city.

“I have never met a harder worker than Bob Antonucci,” she said. “The secret to his hard work is having someone like Jeanne Antonucci by his side.”

Leominster Mayor Dean J. Mazzarella cited the Antonuccis’ roots in Leominster and their long commitment to the region.

“We’re very proud of what you’ve done as a team,” he said.

Interim Dean of Health and Natural Sciences Meg Hoey described her enthusiasm for the building, noting the complex was the result of many hours of hard work fueled by collaboration across disciplines.

Associate Professor Christopher Picone described “the Age of Antonucci” in his remarks as a golden era for the sciences at Fitchburg State. The number of full-time science faculty rose 70 percent during the past 12 years, he said, while the number of majors in the sciences rose by more than 3.5 times.

“This building sends a message about our values at Fitchburg State,” Picone said. “We are going to offer an Ivy League education whether or not you can afford one.”



Student Robert Pijewski, who graduated on May 16, described how the new facilities have enhanced his experiences studying biology and psychology. The science complex is outfitted with equipment that exceeds that found at other institutions, he said.

“I know that when I graduate, I will have skills that other students from other universities won’t have,” he said. “I know that these facilities are going to foster more involvement from the student body in research or pursuing science degrees.

“President Antonucci has had a great impact on this institution,” Pijewski continued. “Without him, we wouldn’t have the beautiful campus center or the renovated and updated classrooms across Fitchburg State. This science complex is a true testament to 12 years of devotion and hard work by President Antonucci, and is a new beginning for students who will study science at Fitchburg State for generations

to come. I can’t imagine spending the last six years of my life anywhere else than this close-knit community.

“The faculty, staff, administrators, students, and now the Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Science Complex, goes to show us why Fitchburg State is, as the president says and will continue to say, the number one state university.”

Trustee Carol Vittorioso introduced the Antonuccis by recounting the warmth and friendship that has been a hallmark of their tenure on the campus. That spirit is echoed in their creation of the Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Student Leadership Award, as well as the Antonucci Family Scholarship, launched to help a first-generation student from North Central Massachusetts attend college.

“They consider people skills as important as leadership skills,” Vittorioso said.

**“THIS SCIENCE COMPLEX
IS A TRUE TESTAMENT TO
12 YEARS OF DEVOTION
AND HARD WORK BY
PRESIDENT ANTONUCCI”**

—Robert Pijewski '15

ATHLETICS ROUNDUP 2014-15

BY JAMIE ROGERS

BASEBALL—The Fitchburg State baseball team captured the sixth seed in the MASCAC baseball tournament this past season. The team concluded its 2015 season with an overall record of 12-19, while finishing 5-9 within conference play.

Sophomore pitcher Kyle Cutler led the Falcons pitching staff, going 4-2 with a team leading 41 strikeout over 41.1 innings of work in six appearances. For his efforts, Kyle was named to both the MASCAC Baseball All-Conference First Team as well the All-Worcester Area First-Team. Joining him on both first teams were his brother, junior catcher Brandan Cutler as well as sophomore designated hitter Steven Drury Jr.

FOOTBALL—The Falcons finished this season with an overall record of 6-4 and a 4-4 clip in the MASCAC. Sophomore quarterback Garrett Dellechiaie continued his stellar play, entering the Falcons' record books as the program's all-time leader in touchdown passes with 51, while being named to All-Worcester Area First-Team before garnering MASCAC Football All-Conference Second-Team honors as well as collecting New England Writers' Association Gold Helmet Award for the week of Oct. 8. Senior wide receiver Phillip Saint-Juste concluded his career as the program's all-time leader with 19 TD receptions to collect MASCAC All-Conference Second Team honors as well as joining Dellechiaie on the All-Worcester Area First Team. Senior linebacker Talib Barksdale collected MASCAC Football and All-Worcester Area First Team honors, while also participating at Harvard's pro day in the spring.

MEN'S BASKETBALL—The Green and Gold collected the third seed in the MASCAC Men's Basketball post-season tournament as well as earning the third seed in the ECAC New England tournament, finishing the season with a record of 16-13 and a 6-6 mark with conference play.

Junior forward Kwame Lee led the Falcons offense, averaging 13.6 points per contest in conference play, while shooting 47.6% from the field in 27 games played. Kwame also recorded 188 rebounds, 32 blocks and total of 357 points to garner MASCAC Men's Basketball All-Conference First Team honors. Classmate Givaughn Jones was also strong for Fitchburg State, averaging 12.1 points per game in league action as well as 154 caroms, 86 assists and 72 steals. For his efforts, Jones was named to the MASCAC Men's Basketball All-Conference Second Team.

MEN'S SOCCER—The Fitchburg State men's soccer team claimed its first MASCAC men's soccer post-season tournament to earn its first trip into the NCAA DIII Men's Soccer Tournament since 1988. Senior defenseman Brett Smith was name the MASCAC Men's Soccer tournament MVP after registering the Falcons game-winning tally in the Green and Gold's 1-0 victory over the top seed Bears of Bridgewater State in the MASCAC championship game, while finishing the season with a record of 11-11 overall and 4-3 in conference play.

Senior forward Simon Vikoler lead the Falcons offensive charge, posting a team-leading 15 points on seven markers and one assist. For his efforts, Vikoler was named the MASCAC Men's Soccer Rookie of the Year as well as being named to the MASCAC Men's Soccer All-Conference Second Team. Joining Simon on the second was classmate Aidan Hanratty, who posted 126 saves with a minimal 0.99 goals against average as well as seven shutout in between the pipes.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL—Senior guard Laura Cote wrapped up her career, ranking in the top ten in several categories, including games played (100), points (1,057), field goals made (361), three point field goals made (80) and steals (235). Cote

became just the tenth Fitchburg State women's basketball player to reach the 1,000 point milestone, en-route to being named to the MASCAC Women's Basketball All-Conference Second-Team. The Falcons concluded their 2014-15 season with an overall record of 13-12 and a 4-8 clip in MASCAC play, while claiming the fifth seed in the MASCAC women's basketball post-season tournament.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE—The Green and Gold wrapped up the 2015 season with a record of 14-4 and a 5-2 mark in the conference. With the 14 wins, the Falcons set a new record for most wins in a season, while capturing the second seed in the MASCAC Women's Lacrosse post-season tournament, earning a first round bye in the process.

Freshman Carrie Long helped lead the Falcons offense, posting 33 points on 27 scored and six helpers to go along with 36 groundballs, 59 draw controls and a team-best 19 caused turnovers. For her efforts, Carrie was dubbed the Fitchburg State Female Rookie of the Year. Sophomore attacker Ali Laferriere, classmate Andrea Comeau, junior goalkeeper Liz Darrigo and freshman defenseman Lia Crutchfield were honored by the MASCAC, collecting MASCAC Women's Lacrosse All-Conference Second Team accolades.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK—The Fitchburg State men's indoor track team was represented once again in the NCAA Division III National Championships as freshman Ben Sattiewhite qualified for the National Championship Meet in the high jump with a mark of 2.08 meters with a second place finish at the 2015 DIII New England Championships, while placing tenth overall in the high jump at the NCAA DIII Championships with jump of 1.99m. For his efforts, he was named Fitchburg State Male Rookie of the Year.

THE BEST DEFENSE

Aidan Hanratty '15

BY TIMOTHY GARSKE



Aidan Hanratty completed his career at Fitchburg State this past season, but not before helping claim the schools first Massachusetts State Collegiate Conference (MASCAC) Men's Soccer Postseason Championship.

The East Bridgewater native credited the university's strong Exercise and Sports Science major as the main factor in choosing Fitchburg State.

"I was uncertain of a major when I was touring schools," Hanratty said. "But Fitchburg State's Exercise and Sports Science program caught my eye and felt like it was the right academic choice for me, along with the opportunity to continue playing soccer at the collegiate level."

As a Falcon, Hanratty ranks second all-time for goalies in games played (67), wins (22), and saves (429). This past year he led the team with a minimal 0.99 goals against average, an .869 save percentage, 126 saves and seven shutouts. For his effort this season, Hanratty was selected to the MASCAC men's soccer All-Conference second team.

Hanratty looks back fondly on his memorable final year representing Fitchburg State on the pitch.

"It was a surreal experience to say the least," says Hanratty about winning the conference championship and qualifying for the NCAA tournament. "I had a gut feeling the summer leading into the fall that we had an opportunity to fight for a championship. Playing at St. Lawrence in the NCAA tournament was a dream come true and was the pinnacle of my soccer career."

Hanratty credits his close relationship with his head coach Werner Thissen for his success over his four years.

"Coach T and I had a very close relationship over my four years at Fitchburg State," he said. "He was relentless from day one to turn around a struggling program into a winner, putting in many countless hours preparing us for success."

"Aidan has been one of the cornerstones of helping me turn around this program," said Thissen. "His records speak for themselves and put him in the top bracket of

"BETWEEN THE FACULTY, STAFF, COACHES, TEAMMATES AND FRIENDS I HAVE MADE MANY LONG-LASTING RELATIONSHIPS BECAUSE OF FITCHBURG STATE."

goalkeepers in all of NCAA DIII. He bought into what we were trying to accomplish and demonstrated leadership and passion throughout his four years both on and off the field."

Hanratty plans to apply to physician assistant school in the fall to continue his education in the exercise and sports science field.

"My time at Fitchburg State was more than I could have ever asked for," he said. "Between the faculty, staff, coaches, teammates and friends, I have made many long-lasting relationships because of Fitchburg State."

1,000 PERCENT

Laura Cote

BY JAMIE ROGERS

Laura Cote of Ashby concluded her stellar Falcon career this winter, but not before etching her name into the Fitchburg State women's basketball record books as a four-year member of the women's basketball team.

Cote attended St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School and attributes her decision to play at Fitchburg State to its proximity to her home and school. "Most students go away to college, but I chose to stay in the area and feel it made an impact on me and the program," she said.

Cote wasn't alone in that decision, as other local athletes—Fitchburg natives Rebecca Fluet and Gina Angelini, Megan Wodzinski from Littleton and Kristen Enright from Westminster—joined Cote on the hardwood throughout their careers.

"It was an advantage to come together and play as a close knit community," Cote said. "We may have been rivals in high school and played against one another, but to be able to play in front of our parents and hometown communities factored into the decision to play at Fitchburg State."

Cote wrapped up her senior season, ranking in the top 10 in several categories, in-

cluding ninth in games played (100), points scored (1,057) and three-pointers made (80), tenth in field goals made with 361, seventh in made free-throws with 255, sixth in assist (241) and fifth in steals with 235.

"It was a good achievement," she said. "I was able to accomplish the goals that I set out to make an impact on the program. Not everyone is able to make the transition from high school into college athletics and that in itself is an honor."

Looking back on her senior campaign, Cote said it was hard to pick a single highlight. "There were so many memorable moments, from the start of the season to the finish, just being able to spend time as well as playing together with the other eight seniors and the rest of the team as a whole."

The senior guard became just the 10th Fitchburg State women's basketball player to eclipse the 1,000-point milestone, which occurred on Feb. 12 in a 63-58 victory over Anna Maria in front of a home crowd. "The 1,000-point milestone was a secondary thought entering this season," Cote said. "We had things to do coming off a tough loss to end last season and had set new goals to accomplish to start off the 2014-15 season."

"NOT EVERYONE IS ABLE TO MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL INTO COLLEGE ATHLETICS AND THAT IN ITSELF IS AN HONOR."

In addition to joining the 1,000 point club, Cote finished the 2014-15 campaign, leading the team with 305 points, 105 rebounds, 70 assists, 94 steals and 15 blocks. For her efforts, Laura was named to the 2015 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) second team.

She credits first-year head women's basketball coach Brooke Freeburg as well. "Brooke came in and was able to connect with all of us," Cote said. "She cared about the little things as well as basketball and it brought the team together."

Cote recently graduated and plans to attend graduate school while also working full-time. But that's not all. "I would also love to coach at some point now that my collegiate career has concluded."

1960s

Carole P. (Taylor) Sokolowski '65 recently retired from Merrimack College in North Andover where she was a faculty member and co-chair of the department of Mathematics. Having earned a B.S. in secondary education at Fitchburg State, she spent the next 20 years tutoring

mathematics while raising her two sons. Shortly after earning her master's degree in 1986 from the University of Lowell, she accepted a position as an adjunct lecturer in the Mathematics Department at Merrimack College and started the Mathematics Center there in 1988 where she was director

for 15 years. In 2003 she became a tenure-track faculty member where she designed and taught mathematics courses for prospective elementary teachers. She attained her doctorate from Boston University.

1970s

David F. Reid '73, Montachusett Regional Technical High School's Athletic Director, has earned the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Distinguished Service Award. For 42 years, Reid has been a key figure at Monty Tech serving as a teacher, coach and athletic director.

Charles J. Corley '73, '78 was presented with the prestigious Technology/Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award by administrators at the Boston Museum of Science this May. He was recognized for his outstanding leadership role in the establishment of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) educational program. Corley's career as an educator spans over 35 years. He served as a teacher, mentor, curriculum developer



Hosted by **Louis Cornacchioli '67**, Mohawks from the classes of 1964 through 1966 enjoyed a wonderful July day last summer in Rutland for their seventh summer reunion. If you would like to receive notice of future Mohawk reunions, please contact **Ned Daniels '65** at nbdisme@gmail.com.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. D

Vincent DiSessa '49

Vincent "Vinnie" DiSessa first began work as a classroom teacher shortly after graduating from Fitchburg State in 1949. Nearly seven decades later, he is still at it.

DiSessa, a World War II combat veteran, officially "retired" in 1990 from Weymouth High School, where he had taught industrial arts since 1955. But he stayed on as an active substitute teacher, a role he continues to play 25 years later.

On the occasion of his 90th birthday in January, teachers and staff at the school paid tribute to the man they affectionately call "Mr. D" with a birthday party that included an enormous cake.

The party followed a school ceremony earlier in the week in which DiSessa was lauded for his dedication as a teacher and his service to his country. The event, attended by state and federal officials, included the presentation of a poster board signed by many students.

"I was overwhelmed. I was just so happy I was beside myself," DiSessa said of the many accolades.

While a high school classroom would seem an unusual place for an octogenarian, DiSessa said he feels at home.

"I really enjoy it," he said. "The kids are therapeutic. They keep my brain from getting rusty."

DiSessa was inspired to become a teacher by a wartime experience helping fellow

and department head before retiring from the McCall Middle School in Winchester in 2008. After his retirement he joined the Hudson Senior Center where he was appointed to the Council on Aging board.

Deborah W. (Welch) Wright '75, '86, '98, of Gardner, was named principal of St. Bernard's Elementary School in August 2014.

Edward Bergman '78 was 1 of 10 people recognized at the Leominster Rotary Club's 21st Annual Vocational Service Awards this March. Bergman, who started working at the Leominster Public Library as a high school page, became a full-time staff member once he graduated a semester early from Fitchburg State University. He became assistant director last fall and has brought new grants, collections, programs and services to the library, as well as having forged partnerships with local organizations.



Mark Coughlan '77 and fellow Mohawks reunited once again last December to celebrate their annual Mohawk Alumni Christmas Pasta Festival at The Chateau restaurant in Waltham. The fraternity alumni, spanning from the 1960s through the 1980s, have held an annual holiday reunion for more than 25 years.

soldiers repair a tank. He credits Fitchburg State—which he attended under the GI bill—with enabling him to achieve that goal. The school was then a teacher's college.

"I love Fitchburg State because they afforded me my career," DiSessa said. Long active as an alumnus, he continues to return to campus to attend the winter and spring commencement ceremonies.

Born and raised in Everett, DiSessa was drafted into the Army shortly after his high school graduation in 1944, beginning an eventful two-year military stint, much of it in the Pacific.

Some of the memorable moments included participating in a beach landing by Army troops in support of Marines battling entrenched Japanese forces on the island of Peleliu.

"We got hit pretty bad," he recalled. "If you saw the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, it was pretty similar to that. I was very, very lucky I survived."

After the war, he and four other returning soldiers from Everett enrolled together at Fitchburg State. From there, it was on to teaching, first at North Attleborough High School, then in Weymouth.

A widowed father of three and grandfather of three, DiSessa said he has no plans to leave teaching.

"I just enjoy it. Everybody in Weymouth says 'Hi Mr. D.' whenever they see me. Even people 70 and 80 years old, they call me 'Mr. D.' It's wonderful."

—John Laidler

This year the Mohawks honored their brother **John Churcher '87** (left) for the service he provides on a voluntary basis to war veterans and first responders around the New England area. **Dan Richard '88** (right) presented Churcher with the award.



1970s

Richard D. Lavoie '72, celebrated educator and consultant, was the featured presenter at the university's Distinguished Speaker Series on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Lavoie serves as a consultant on learning disabilities to several agencies and organizations including Public Broadcasting Service, The New York Times, the National Center for Learning Disabilities, Girl Scouts of America, Child Magazine and WETA. He is a member of the Professional Advisor Board of the Learning Disabilities Association.



HALL OF FAMER

David Celuzza '71

Slattery's Restaurant and longtime owner David Celuzza celebrated a milestone year in 2014. With Slattery's marking its 80th anniversary, Celuzza—in his 30th year as owner—fittingly earned induction into the Massachusetts Restaurant Association Hall of Fame.

The Fitchburg State alumnus began working as a bartender at Slattery's, then a neighborhood bar, in 1974. Under Celuzza's leadership, Slattery's has evolved into a successful independent restaurant with

a diverse menu, a loyal customer base, and several employees with more than 20 years of service—a rarity in the hospitality industry. Those efforts landed Celuzza on the MRA Board of Directors, which he chaired in 2004, and eventually resulted in his election to its hall of fame.

"I was taken aback by the fact that I was nominated by my peers," said Celuzza, whose fellow inductees included John Grady of 99 Restaurant & Pub and David Colella of The Colonnade Hotel. "I was fortunate to be the independent-restaurant nominee," he said, illustrating his reputation as an advocate of such establishments.

Also fitting is that Celuzza, a secondary education major who planned to teach history, carved out his unforeseen niche mere minutes from the Fitchburg State campus, where he was a student activist and built lasting friendships.

"It was a nurturing environment that flew under the radar," Celuzza said of Fitchburg State during the late '60s and early '70s, a period of social unrest. As sportswriter for The Cycle, a short-lived student newspaper known for its off-color content, Celuzza was thrust into a dispute over censorship and the right to free speech. With Fitchburg State students defeating school administration in U.S.

District Court, *Antonelli v. Hammond* set a groundbreaking precedent for the free-speech rights of student newspapers across the country.

Expressing pride for his role in a decidedly pivotal moment, Celuzza also credited Fitchburg State with providing the foundation for his own success and that of his newspaper colleagues, with whom he meets once a year. "When you keep in touch with eight or 10 people, and they all came out of Fitchburg, and they've all gone on to do great things in their own areas, you have to look back at the University."

Celuzza's appreciation for Fitchburg State remains unchanged, and over his 30 years the two entities have maintained a reciprocal relationship; Slattery's has long been a favorite destination of Fitchburg State staff and students, many of whom Celuzza gratefully employs. All told, Fitchburg State students comprise a small percentage of the thousands who have been employed at Slattery's.

"One of the more rewarding things is seeing the people," Celuzza said of his many employees, past and present. "Not every day has been a day at the beach, but it's really rewarding when people come back, and they've succeeded beyond anything they thought they would do."

—Cameron Woodcock '14



Another group of Fitchburg State Mohawks, from the 1970s, gathered on Cape Cod last August to enjoy the 30th year of the Harrington Family weekend, hosted by **Sue (D'Eon) Harrington '74, '06** and **John Harrington '74**. The festivities included a golf outing, barbeque cookout and a day at Scussett Beach followed by fine local seafood dining alongside the Cape Cod Canal. This event has evolved to include the grandkids, which helps to keep everyone young at heart. Very proudly, this group remains committed to one another and these get-togethers that have been occurring more than once a year since the 1970s. THANK YOU FITCHBURG STATE! (Front row, l-r: **Ron Berthiaume '72, Joe Kraemer '75, John Harrington '74, Mike Flaherty '74, Mark Leonard '73**. Back row, l-r, **Paul White '79, John Sodano '75, Mike Shields '72, TC Gaudette, and Richard Wolf '73**. Not shown are **Mike Kenney '73, and Mike Grenier '77**.)

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

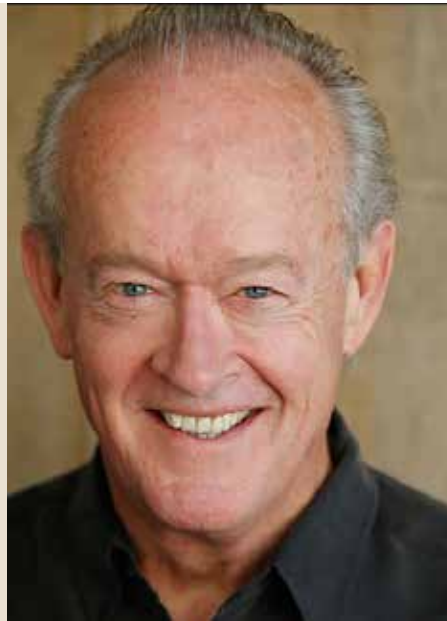
Paul Vincent O'Connor '72

Paul Vincent O'Connor loved words and anticipated a career in teaching, but a funny thing happened on his way to the classroom—he caught the acting bug.

Fitchburg State faculty member Eugene Casassa had run the successful High Tor summer theater company from his property off Rindge Road, and O'Connor found himself taken on board to help build sets. High Tor operated out of a large barn that Casassa had converted into an intimate and highly-respected theater.

"It came time to open the show, and I remember standing outside the barn. I could see the audience, and they were riveted," he said. The play was *The Potting Shed* by Graham Greene, a psychological drama about long-held family secrets. O'Connor saw that theater had the power to bring together a community to exchange ideas. "I was thinking, 'I'd like to learn more about this.' I never looked back."

O'Connor joined Casassa's company for a couple years, and briefly studied theater at Mt. Holyoke College. Soon he hit the road.



"Part of it was me following a girl, and part of it was me spreading my wings," O'Connor said. His travels brought him to theater festivals across the country and then Europe.

His success on the stage led to work in Hollywood, and O'Connor has amassed a sprawling resume during his decades in television and film. He's had roles in films like *Seabiscuit* and *Inherit the Wind*, and he's been on television classics like "The West Wing," "NYPD Blue" and "The X-Files," and has a role in the recent Amazon Prime series "Bosch." He recently closed a highly acclaimed production of

Conor McPherson's newest play, "The Night Alive" at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, and filmed an episode of the Showtime series "Ray Donovan" that is expected to air in the summer of 2015.

O'Connor returned to campus last fall to offer some advice and share some stories with the next generation of professionals. During his stay on campus he visited classrooms and conducted workshops. Among the pieces of advice for the would-be directors in his midst: "Kindness and encouragement go a long way."

He also told the students that the liberal arts education he received at Fitchburg State provided a valuable foundation for his career, recalling an encounter with legendary producer Steven Bochco on the set of "NYPD Blue." Bochco was trying to describe the attitude he saw for O'Connor's character – a man suspected of killing his wife – and cited Herman Melville's *Bartleby, the Scrivener*. O'Connor was able to quote from the text, one he had studied at Fitchburg.

Now decades into a still-thriving career, O'Connor was happy to share his insights at his alma mater.

"I'm a blessed man," he said. "I know it."

—MB

1980s

Patricia Johnson-Parks '80 earned her master's degree from Assumption College.

Mary Lynn (Fernandez) Levesque '80 serves as the Reading and Writing Specialist at the Hills Garrison School in Hudson, N.H. Levesque, who lives in Nashua, N.H., just welcomed her first grandchild. She reconnects annually with other members of the class of 1980.

Joseph Russo '80 has been living in the Philippines, which he refers to as a "best kept secret," since 2006, although he still keeps a home in the United States. After retiring from the Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe where he taught for 25 years, he continued teaching at universities in China, Bahrain, Saudi and Kuwait.



Francis Reidy '82, married to **Deborah (Lasek) Reidy '82**, is one of four NCAA Division II athletics directors to be recognized as a 2014-2015 Under Armour Athletics Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). Reidy, who is Saint Leo University's Director of Athletics, is being recognized for the second time during his career as an Under Armour AD of the Year; he previously received the award in June 2012.

Reidy first joined Saint Leo athletics in 1987 as the head men's soccer coach, producing five All-Americans, 14 All-Region, and 39 All-Conference players. He went on to serve as the school's sports information director, compliance officer, assistant athletics director and then associate athletics director, culminating in his appointment as athletics director in 1999. He served on the NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Committee from 1999 to 2002.

A native of Massachusetts, Reidy is a 1982 graduate of Fitchburg State with a double major in special education and elementary education. While in college, he lettered all four years in soccer, served as a team captain, and earned All-Conference honors. Reidy earned his Master of Business Administration degree from Saint Leo in 2002.

Brigadier General Paul "Greg" Smith '80 retired from the Massachusetts National Guard after 35 years of service. Since January 10, 2015, he has continued to serve the Commonwealth of Massachusetts when he took command of the state Defense Force, an auxiliary force to the National Guard. Smith is a citizen-soldier who also serves as the assistant principal at Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham. He and his wife Nora (Dougherty) Smith '80, have three grown children and a granddaughter. She is a special educator at the Elm Street School in Gardner.

Elizabeth (O'Connor) Zanelli '80 returned to her alma mater, completing her master's degree in Moderate Special Needs in 2013.

Cheri Ducharme '82, a Greenfield Community College nursing professor, has been appointed to the Jean Simmons Nursing Faculty Endowed Chair. The endowed faculty chair is named in honor of long-time GCC nurse educator, Jean Simmons, and is the first endowed faculty position at a community college in Massachusetts. Ducharme has been a full-time faculty member in GCC's Associate Degree Nursing Program for 17 years, teaching Fundamentals and Pediatrics and Skills Lab. She's worked in every role at the program, twice serving as program coordinator. Ducharme is currently professor of pediatrics and Clinical Simulation Lab coordinator. In addition to

her teaching background, Ducharme worked from 1976 to 2005 as a nurse in various settings in Franklin County, including Greenfield Pediatrics Associates, Greenfield Health Center, Farren Memorial Hospital, Franklin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and Pioneer Family Physicians. Ducharme holds a diploma from Burbank Hospital School of Nursing in Fitchburg, a B.S. in nursing from Fitchburg State, and a M.S. in nursing focused on gerontology/teaching from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Deb (Stevens) Marsolini '83 currently serves as a Geospatial Information Technologies Associate/Survey Analyst at Michael Baker International (formerly RBF Consulting).

Brigadier General Frederick A. Henry '84 retired from the U.S. Military in September 2014. He was honored with a full retirement ceremony at Summerall Field, Fort Myer, Va. Henry now serves as President and CEO at Barrow and Associates, LLC.

Denise-Leigh (Williams) Carleton '85, a project manager for Dunkin' Donuts, received the Dunkin' Brands 2014 Leadership Awards for the new Dunkin' Donuts loyalty program, "DD Perks."

Harold Charnley '85, of Concord, joined Mobee, a new Boston-based mystery shopper service, in 2014 as President and CEO. Hal is responsible for Mobee's strategic direction and day-to-day operations. He is a founding member of the High Growth CEO Forum, an

active member of the Boston CEO Club, a member of the Turnaround Management Association, a former adjunct graduate school professor, and a private company board member. He has been involved in numerous technology companies as an investor, board member, or advisor. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of business topics focused around entrepreneurship, change management, and business transitions.

Patrick Jordan '85 has joined the Lahey Hospital Medical Center as COO.

Jon Hogue '87 became the executive director of the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network on January 5, 2015. The MIHN provides homeless families with shelter and services.

Hogue, who lives in Lunenburg with his wife and son, has worked in various human-service agencies in Central and North Central Massachusetts during his 30-year career.

Sonia Colon-Rodriguez '89 is a retired educator having worked for the Marlborough public school system.

Annette Wylie '89, '92, of Worcester, was one of three finalists for the Red Sox last summer for "All-Star Teacher" recognition in a contest sponsored by Major League Baseball, People and Target. A teacher for 25 years, Wylie currently teaches kindergarten at Norrback Avenue School in Worcester. Raised in Puerto Rico, she championed Norrback's dual-language Spanish immersion program.



Lisa (Sawyer) Redmond '83, Deputy Chief of the Massachusetts Parole Board, was October's featured speaker for the university's year-long Community Read of *The New Jim Crow*. Lisa spoke on a range of topics such as changes to mandatory drug sentences as well as the CORI laws. Prior to the nine years she has served in her current role, Redmond worked in the Massachusetts Department of Corrections for 20 years.

1990s

Kristine (Carlson) Asselin '91, of Littleton, released her hockey-themed debut novel *Any Way You Slice It* this April with publisher Bloomsbury Spark. She is the author of 15 children's books for the elementary school library market.

Joseph Traverso '92 earned his Master of Science in Information Assurance from Capital Technical University in Laurel, Md.

Nicole (Fournier) Vassallo '94 has been appointed Branch Manager/Director of Consul-

tative Service for GFA Federal Credit Union. She brings more than a decade of industry experience. Vassallo's professional affiliations include Nationwide Mortgage and Licensing System and Registry, Association of Talent Development, Society for Human Resource Management and North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce.

James Monette '95 has been appointed to the position of senior vice president/chief innovator officer at GFA Federal Credit Union. He will oversee



The Scotsman by Andrea Wallace '92

Andrea Wallace '92 returned to campus on April 21 when she presented a CenterStage Wall Talk for the Fitchburg State community. Wallace's photographic interest is in intersections: child and adult, women and men, the dualities of living, success and failure. She is the Artistic Director of Photography and New Media at Anderson Ranch Art Center in Colorado. She received her M.F.A. from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She exhibits nationally and internationally with numerous shows throughout the Americas, Europe, China and the Middle East.

A Wall Talk is an exhibition where an artist is invited to campus to explain their work to the campus community in the lobby of Conlon Hall where a large, 6' by 10' digital HD video display is located. Creative work from students, faculty and alumni, as well as regional artists is showcased on this screen. The audience is invited to ask questions or simply sit and listen while enjoying complimentary refreshments

1990s

the retail branch operations, marketing, financial group and GFA Insurance Services LLC. Monette, who resides in Leominster, has been in the banking industry since 1996 and is an adjunct professor at Mount Wachusett Community College where he teaches both management and marketing. He married Christine Mumford on February 15, 2015.

Eric Selinga '96 shared with the Fitchburg community his Sports Emmy Award he received for his role in NBC's coverage of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Selinga's Emmy, which he received for video control as part of an outstanding remote technical team, was on display at the Fitchburg Public Library from August 18 to September 30, 2014. Selinga, who has been working for Avid Technology

for the past 18 years and living in Singapore for the last four years, graduated with a communications media degree with a concentration in film and television production in 1996. His career has concentrated on the technology used in creating films and television programs and has taken him to more than 20 countries around the world.

Keith Fredericks '99, of Mansfield, premiered his documentary film "Rookie Coach" at AMC Theaters in Braintree last October. The film was created to celebrate his work-obsessed father's career as a legendary Braintree High School baseball coach and longtime Braintree Forum Touching All Bases columnist who taught physical education in town for three decades.

2000s

Nathan Stowell '02, of Leominster, was promoted to Manager of the Training Resources of America, Inc. in the Quincy Office. Stowell has been employed by TRA since November 2006, previously serving as Instructor and Case Manager at both the TRA-Fitchburg and TRA-

Worcester offices. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Fitchburg State, from which he graduated Magna Cum Laude. Stowell also has a Certified Teachers License from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Last February the Mathematics Department hosted an alumni panel discussion for math, computer science and education majors that covered topics such as graduate school and math-related careers. The department invited back the following alumni: **Melanie (Gasbarro) Desmarais '95**, Business Analyst at NetCracker, a telecommunications software company; **Jeremy Roche '95**, Principal at Fitchburg High School; **Adam Gelinis '07**, Principal Software Engineer at Constant Contact; **Mark Maggio '09**, Pension Benefits Consultant at Towers Watson; and **Erin (Farrell) Denette '10**, graduate student of mathematics at University of Rhode Island.



BULLSEYE

Sean Callanan '92, '13

Inside every one of us is a story. For 1992 Fitchburg State graduate Sean Callanan, his story is one that has made a powerful impact on those around him and beyond.

Since childhood, Callanan has harbored a talent for archery, a passion that he said "fills my soul." His mother being from the Adirondack Mountains in New York, a world-famous location for the outdoors, the gifted archer was instilled with a love of nature and an endless drive to hone his skills. The talent has brought him incredible success, including multiple world championships.

But his journey to success hasn't been without obstacles. While pumping gas in 2012, Callanan was struck by an SUV and thrown 38 feet in the air – a life-changing accident

Karrie Bennett '03 earned a master's degree in public administration from Clark University in Worcester in May 2014.

Robert D. Austin '04 married Bethany Matos on November 16, 2013.

Katrina Esparza '04 joined the North Middlesex Regional School District in July 2014 as the new assistant principal at the high school. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Fitchburg State in 2004, she went on to receive her Master of Education degree in secondary education and curriculum development from Salem State College in 2008 and completed her doctoral program at Northeastern University in 2013. She had taught in the Haverhill Public Schools since 2006.

Zachary Waddicor '05 was named Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Falmouth Public Schools. Zachary resides in Somerset.

Corey Donnelly '06, '08, has been appointed as a patrolman for the Leominster Police Department. A resident of Fitchburg, he previously served on the Fitchburg Police Department.

Corey J. Hetherman '06 was hired as the defensive line coach for the University of Maine (Orono) football program. Hetherman went to UMaine after one season as the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Pace University. There, he developed the defensive game plan and kick-blocking schemes and handled the

recruiting for the defense. Before Pace, Hetherman was an assistant at Old Dominion University (ODU) under former Black Bears quarterback and associate head coach Bobby Wilder. He was the defensive run game coordinator and an assistant linebackers coach in addition to having recruiting duties. Hetherman previously coached outside linebackers at ODU after one season at Northeastern University in Boston. He was a graduate assistant at Springfield College from 2007-2009 and did a one-year stint with Germany's Wuerzburg Panthers. Hetherman was a three-year starter at quarterback and a senior captain at Fitchburg State, where he earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education and

is working on a master's in athletic administration. He played professionally in Austria and Germany.

Jessica Anderson '07, '11, was the first female to cross the finish line in the Harbour Restaurant Shamrock 5 Mile Shuffle in Winchendon, in March 2014. This road race marked the eighth consecutive first place finish for Jessica, a life skills teacher in the Gardner public schools.

Karl Murwin '08, of Leominster, announces his engagement to Carolyn Ciampa. He is an IT professional at Karl Storz. An October 2015 wedding is planned.

Kelly Stowell '08, of Townsend, received the New York Ensemble Studio Theater

that left him with severe brain and nerve damage along with a myriad of other injuries. But rather than choosing to feel defeated, he worked his way back to recovery with the unwavering support of his family, friends and sponsors, who he said have become some of his closest companions. "Those people carried me when I was down and out. That meant the most to me," said Callanan. He pays particular credit to his wife, Audra, who was by his side daily in the ICU.

An industrial arts major at Fitchburg State, Callanan attributes a part of his accomplishments in both archery and life to his time at the university, a place where he was taught to be creative, collect data, and solve problems.

"I used everything at Fitchburg to develop a blueprint of how to shoot," he said. "It allowed me to develop a very successful blueprint: When I made a good shot, I knew how to repeat it and when I made a bad shot, I could fix it. That made me unbeatable."

While he has fond memories of the information he learned, it was the spirit of his teachers that really brought this knowledge to life. "It's the personalities that drove that education into me," Callanan said. One standout memory is that of a professor who would answer student's questions with a question, encouraging them to go on a journey of discovering answers for themselves. "That journey still burns in me today. That is what I thrive off of," he continued. "All I did was apply a blueprint for different parts of my life. I'm just grateful for everything Fitchburg State taught me."

Looking back on who he was before the accident, a person he says was so focused on winning, he often found other important elements of his life such as family and friends cast by the wayside. As traumatic as the experience was, Callanan is grateful for all that he's learned from it. "It forced me to see how I would have been viewed; a lot of good came from it," he said.

Callanan is currently working on designs for outdoor archery products, as well as testing a new Thermacell bug repellent being developed in Bedford. He is also the department head for computer-aided drafting and design at Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School in Wakefield, a role he's held for 10 years (of a 24-year career in technical education).

Whether he's winning a world championship, working to regain normalcy in his daily life, or simply enjoying time with the ones he loves most, Callanan serves as a source of inspiration.

"There's a world champion in every one of us," he said. "I just learned how to get the champion out."

—Cillea Houghton '15

2000S

Intensives Fellowship this past summer (7 weeks) and had several of her short plays published in the NYTI Collective 2014. She also was accepted and received a graduate scholarship to the MFA Professional Actor Training at The Savannah School of Art in Georgia, which is aligned with CBS television.

Richard Martin '09, current principal of Franklin County Technical High School, will assume the role of FCTS superintendent in July 2015. He received his master's degree in special education assessment from Fitchburg State.

Jennifer A. Moon '09 has been named the United Regional Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Teacher of the Year in Wrentham. Jennifer is a sixth-grade teacher at the Roderick School in Wrentham and has taught there since 2005. She previously taught at the Norton Middle School. Jennifer also

serves as a volleyball clinic instructor at King Philip High School, also in Wrentham. As the recipient of this award, Jennifer will be nominated for the Massachusetts State Teacher of the Year.



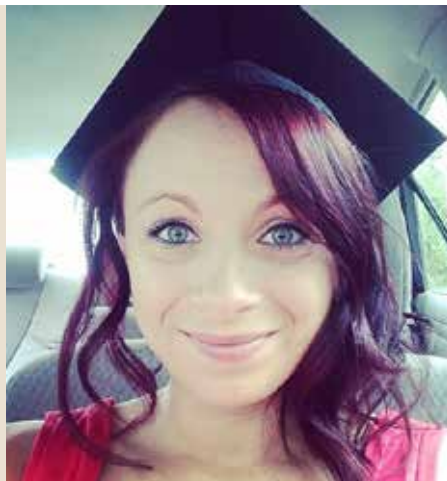
Scott D. Lehto '08 was invited back to campus in February by the Bio/Chem Club to speak with students about his "lessons learned from one graduate's tour through the working world." Scott was an Environmental Biology major who took the very first Geographic Information Systems (GIS) class at Fitchburg State with Dr. Jane Huang in 2006. At the time only one class in this field was offered, now there are many. It was through a granted research program with Professor Huang that Scott realized his passion for GIS and gravitated toward that as a career. He currently works as a GIS Systems Consultant for Kenerson Group. Scott lives in Fitchburg with his wife and two children.

THE GIFT OF LIFE

Kaitlin O'Connell '09

Kaitlin O'Connell, 29, a special education teacher at the Page Hilltop Elementary School in Ayer, donated one of her kidneys last fall to help the father of two students at her school. Without the transplant, Richard Finley was expected to die. O'Connell had previously tried to donate her liver to her father, who has Hepatitis and is in liver failure, but she wasn't a match. So when she heard about Finley, she couldn't pass up the opportunity to help.

Since the transplant in October 2014, O'Connell said she's been inundated with community support and media attention, including recent recognition from the American Red Cross. "It's definitely awkward at times," she said. "People tend to recognize me out in public. My home life had been very private and only my close friends knew about my dad and now everyone knows."



On the flip side, O'Connell said several people have told her they were inspired by her selflessness and have signed up to be an organ donor. When she agreed to go public with her story, O'Connell thought it would be worth it if just one person signed up. "But everything blew up," she said. "I didn't think it would be this big."

O'Connell has been working at Page Hilltop for the past several years, starting right after graduation as a paraprofessional. She later got her master's degree at Lesley College and became a classroom teacher.

O'Connell said she chose Fitchburg State for its size, education department and close location to her parents in Leominster, which allowed her to spend time with her father.

"I loved the size of the campus," she said. "I had looked at a few larger universities and I wasn't ready for that type of experience; I wanted something on a smaller scale. The class sizes were exactly what I needed. Teachers were willing to meet with me at any time. I needed substantial help in math and all of my professors were accommodating. Overall it was a fantastic experience."

And now that she's been out of school for a few years, she's ready for something different. O'Connell said she's looking for a new job some place with warmer temperatures and less snow.

"I spent the last 29 years of my life in Central Massachusetts and after everything that went on this year, it may be time for a change," she said.

—Jennifer Lefferts



Nathan J. McGarigal '09 returned to campus last December to participate in a CenterStage Wall Talk sharing with the Fitchburg State community his stunning photography from his travels across Argentina, South Africa, India, and Myanmar. Nathan is a freelance videographer in New York City with a passion for world travel and photography. This photo, taken by Nathan, depicts two other Fitchburg alumni, **Jon Liberis '10** on left, and **Christopher Bull '10** on right, with whom he traveled this year. They are on "Whakaari," aka White Island, 25 miles off the coast of New Zealand. The tiny island is just the very tip of an active volcano, inside of which is a bubbling acid lake that sits below sea level. Nathan reports, "if this picture was shot in smell-o-vision your computer would explode before it reached you."



In February **Paulo DeOliveira, Jr. '03, '07**, Vice President/Business Development at GFA Federal Credit Union, and **Christopher Seidlich '07, '11**, Vice President/Bank Investment Office at Rollstone Bank & Trust, shared their expertise with the university's Sterilite Scholars about financial planning and preparing for their futures beyond Fitchburg State.

2010S

Darryl Doiron '10, of Lowell, was chosen as new assistant principal for Hampstead Middle School in October. Doiron started teaching in Billerica, preparing students for MCAS testing. He taught middle school math and science in Lowell, and has worked as an engineering teacher and a math resource coach. He is also the co-developer of an engineering-based camp. Last year he completed the Leadership Development Program at Merrimack Leadership Academy.

Kristine Aznavoorian '11 works as a pediatric emergency nurse at Boston Children's Hospital and works part time as a Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (Pedi-SANE) for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at the Essex County Children's Advocacy Center, where she investigates sexual abuse cases.

Kendra (Burr) Kennedy '11 has written two children's books: "Why Wolf Has Big Feet" was released on May 5, 2015, and "French Toast: The Early Morning Adventure" on May 12, 2015.

Geri (Kinch) Marino '11 and **Michael Marino '10** were married on October 12, 2013. They met during their freshmen year at Fitchburg State University in 2006, began dating in 2008 and became engaged in May 2012. They reside in Clinton where they bought a home in October 2012. While pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of New England, she works full time as a case manager at Montachusett Home Care Corporation.

He is employed at Designer Hardwood as a carpenter installing and finishing hardwood floors.

Benjamin Proulx '11, of Nashua, New Hampshire, took home Best Film at the 2014 Long Beach International Film Festival in New York for the dramatic indie feature film he wrote and directed called "Visionary." "Visionary" was also an official selection of the 30th annual Boston Film Festival last September. Proulx was still attending Fitchburg State when he began shooting in 2010. Filming wrapped up in 2012.

Jamie Breedlove '12 is working in the field of Higher Education as the Visit Coordinator for the College of Saint Rose. She credits her past experiences as a Fitchburg State tour guide and office student assistant in the Admissions Office with giving her the skills she needed to land her new job.

Lindsay (McLaughlin) Broomfield '13 and **David Broomfield '13** were married in March 2014.

Louis Colombo '13, of Sandwich, currently serves as Director of Technical Studies at Cape Cod Regional Technical High School in Harwich. He credits the completion of his master's degree in Occupational Education at Fitchburg State for his transition from Plumbing teacher to his new position as director.

2010S

Renaë K. Lessard '10 and **Joseph S. Tornatore '10** were married on October 25, 2014. Living in Los Angeles, California, Lessard is a self-employed tutor and works at Your Neighborhood Studio and Tornatore works for entertainment marketing agency Create Advertising.

Amanda Landry '13, of Leominster, joined HealthAlliance Hospital as Community Outreach Specialist in January. Landry had previously served as public relations specialist and mentor recruiter for LUK Inc. in Fitchburg. Among her

community affiliations, she serves on the MWCC Alumni Association board, the LUK Mentoring Advisory board, and volunteers as a LUK mentor and for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. In February she was appointed to the Mount Wachusett Community College Board of Trustees.

Sean Sullivan '13, of Lexington, is lead vocalist, guitarist and synth player for an electronic dance band called Cougar Bait. Cougar Bait has a weekly residency at Wally's in Hampton Beach and has headlined numerous New

England music festivals. This past fall the band released its debut album titled "Through the Other Side." The band's music is influenced by artists such as Muse, Disclosure, Daft Punk, Pretty Lights, Dr. Dre, Kool and the Gang.

Walky J. Vibert '13, of East Taunton, launched a website this year called Be Your Own Dad, which is the self-inspiring brand that shares stories of individuals overcoming their struggles. The brand also stresses the importance of goal setting and striving for success.

Adam Hoeg '14 is now the Academic Advisor & First Year Experience Instructor at Kent State University, College of Applied Engineering.

Katherine R. Comeau '14 is currently pursuing her graduate degree at University of Notre Dame studying sociology.

Lum Marcelline '14 was admitted to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Worcester.



Catherine C. Brown '11 presented a CenterStage Wall Talk this spring. Her photography, including *North Light*, above, is inspired by where she grew up, surrounded by sandy beaches and salty ocean waters. She is a freelance photographer in her hometown in Rhode Island.

A SECOND HOME

Brenda Stoddard '07, '10

Fitchburg State University has become a second home for Brenda Stoddard.

Stoddard earned two degrees from Fitchburg State, teaches there and now works full-time as a kindergarten teacher at the McKay Arts Academy, which is located on the university campus.

“It is my home away from home,” said Stoddard, 51, who lives in Fitchburg with her husband, Kevin. She earned an undergraduate degree in 2007 and a graduate degree in 2010.

Stoddard was honored last November as one of eight outstanding K-12 educators who graduated from the system’s teacher preparation programs. The educators, representing eight of the nine campuses across the state system, received awards for their teaching excellence.

“I can’t believe how exciting and how flattering it was to receive that award,” Stoddard said. “Sometimes I think, wow, that’s me they were talking about.”

Stoddard stayed at home while raising her children and went back to work after they started school. She was working as a paraprofessional at McKay when the principal encouraged her to go to school and become a teacher. She took her advice, working days and going to school at nights.

In 2004, Stoddard joined a cohort of an Early Educator and Care grant called Building Careers in Early Childhood to Support Inclusive Programs and Curriculum. When she graduated in 2007, she was Fitchburg State’s first Building Careers grant cohort student to earn a degree and teaching license.

She’s worked in Lowell and Worcester but wanted to end up back at McKay.

Last year, 15 years after leaving McKay, she returned as a kindergarten teacher.



Brenda Stoddard, left, McKay Arts Academy Principal Lourdes Ramirez and Superintendent of Schools Andre Ravenelle at the award presentation in Boston.

Stoddard credited her mentor and “idol,” Dr. Laurie DeRosa, for encouraging her to find the right fit.

“Laurie DeRosa told me, when you’re looking for a job, think about where you really want to teach and you go for it,” she said. “Where I really wanted was to teach at McKay. That was my dream and now I’m living my dream and I’m quite pleased about that.”

She also teaches a graduate and continuing education course in early childhood education at Fitchburg State.

Her first college teaching assignment was a course that was offered through the Early Childhood and Care grant program - the same grant program from which she graduated.

Stoddard said her experience at Fitchburg State fully prepared her for her profession. In fact, she said she has found that she is often a step ahead of other educators who attended different schools.

“I 100 percent loved it,” said Stoddard, whose two children also attended Fitchburg State. “My experience at Fitchburg State was outstanding. I can’t say enough good about the school.”

While her entire experience at Fitchburg State was positive, the moment she’ll always remember is graduation day. “That feeling of walking and graduating and setting that example for my children and the feeling of accomplishment for myself,” Stoddard said, will always stay with her.

—Jennifer Lefferts



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.

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.

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.

Family Weekend

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 25–26, 2015

50th Reunion Reception (Class of '65)

Sept. 25, 6-8 PM
Thompson Hall Lobby & Porch

Gold Key Society Breakfast

Sept. 26, 9:30-11 AM
Main Lounge, Hammond Hall

Falcons Football Game

Sept. 26, 12 PM | Elliot Field

Philodemic Society Reunion

Sept. 26, 4-6 PM
President's Hall, Mazzaferro Center

50th Reunion Dinner (Class of '65)

Sept. 26, 5:30-8:30 PM
Main Lounge, Hammond Hall

25th Reunion Reception (Class of '90)

Sept. 26, 7-10 PM
Falcon Hub, Hammond Hall



TO REGISTER FOR ALUMNI EVENTS, CALL: 978-665-4555
OR VISIT: support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration

For the last three years the Alumni Association has made a summer visit to Cape Cod to reconnect with alumni and take in a couple of Cape Cod Baseball League games. Join us this year on July 22 & 23. (2014 Falcons at Cape Cod, l-r: Joe Kraemer '75, Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox Assistant Coach Roberto Mercado '03, and John Harrington '74.)



Above: Alumni Men's Soccer Game: Alumni pose with the current Falcons team at Elliott Field on August 23, 2014. This year's game is scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2015. Register online at support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration.



Left: Last August 85 alumni took in a Boston Red Sox game against the Houston Astros at Fenway Park. Get your tickets to this year's game on Saturday, August 22, 2015 at 7:10 PM, Red Sox vs. the Kansas City Royals: support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration.



Left: Alumni pose with Coach Jim Jellison '77 before the Jimmy Sheehan Alumni Cross-Country Invitational on September 6, 2014.

Right: Alumnae at the Alumnae Softball Game on October 18, 2014.



A group of former Resident Advisors got together last fall to begin planning an Alumni RA Reunion for the summer of 2016. If you were an RA during your time on campus, call or email the alumni office to update your contact record: (978) 665-4555 | alumni@fitchburgstate.edu. This will ensure that you don't miss any of the fun. Stay tuned for upcoming planning meetings.



During Family Weekend this year the Falcons football program celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the 2004 MASCAC Championship team as well as the 30th Anniversary of the men's Division 3 football program at Fitchburg State University. Football alumni from three decades came together to appreciate those who laid the foundation for what Falcon football is known for today. Pictured: Coach Dave Secino (1984-1990), center, was honored by his former teammates, Christopher Maloney '89 and Pat Malone '90.

ALUMNI NEWS — EVENTS



The Class of 1974 hosted a 40th Reunion & Friends reception on October 25, 2014. A range of alumni from the classes of 1969 to 1978 came back to campus for this event.



Alumnae pose with the current Falcons team after the Alumnae Field Hockey Game and Tailgate Lunch on October 25, 2014.



Fitchburg State University students and alumni pose prior to the 34th Annual Slattery's Turkey Trot 5 mile road race on November 23, 2014. SENTINEL&ENTERPRISE/ Jim Marabello



Alumnae at the Alumnae Lacrosse Game on October 25, 2014.



On December 6, 2014, over 100 alumni and their families attended the Annual Sigma Pi Holiday Reunion in the Hammond Hall, Falcon Hub.



In March the members of the alumni office visited the Sunshine State to host a series of Falcons in Florida events. First stop was Naples [Pictured l-r, 1st row: Mary Lynn Leary '85, Irene Hamel '65, and Mary-Ethel Flynn. 2nd row: Tim Leary '86, Ron Hamel, Emily Austin-Bruns (Director of Alumni Relations), Tricia Erwin '65, Christopher Hendry '92, '07 (VP of Institutional Advancement), and Tom Flynn '62].



Next stop, Englewood [l-r, 1st row: Robert '71 and Judi '70, '83 Seguin, Sonja '74 and Robert Shearer. 2nd row: Pat O'Connor, Elizabeth Maney '59, Mary Bourque '64, Mary Dennen '62, '76, and Emily Austin-Bruns. 3rd row: Dan O'Connor '53, Betsy Worthley, Elizabeth Burke '04, Rose Anne Addoriso '63, '67, Michael Bourque '71, Frank Worthley '60, '75, and Hal Dennen]. Last stop, Fort Myers, for a Red Sox spring training game.



Each year over 80 retired alumni educators return to campus to be celebrated at a luncheon held in grateful appreciation of their years of service to the educational system and students of the region. This year's Retired Educators Luncheon was held on June 18, 2015.



In March, the Office of Student Development organized the first ever LeadHERship Conference with the goal to empower an up-and-coming generation of female leaders to learn the skills and build the confidence needed to succeed in college and beyond. Forty female students were chosen to attend the event through an application process. U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-Lowell) and State Sen. Jennifer L. Flanagan (D-Leominster), as well as a handful of alumnae, were among the guest speakers. We appreciate the wisdom and expertise our alumnae contributed to the event's success. (l-r: Nancy Foss Yasko '11, '13; Caissie St. Onge '94; Joana Dos Santos '09; State Sen. Jen Flanagan '04; Jessica Murdoch '08, '14; and Kristin Creamer '09.)



The Alumni Association held its 2nd annual Brand Yourself Conference on April 9 for students who are on the threshold of the often-dreaded job search. This skill-building, career-preparation conference featured alumni with expertise in the fields of resume building, conducting interviews, social media branding, job searching and networking who led presentations on these topics. (2nd row, l-r: Eric Gregoire '11; Nicholas Smith '11; Nancy Foss Yasko '11, '13; Rachelle Lappinen '98, '14; Frank O'Donnell '93; First row, l-r: Dawn Morton '90; Brandy Sales '02; Justin Grocki '11; Missing: Bill Kavanaugh '58 and Marybarbara Hughes '72.)



VISIONS 2015, the juried exhibit of the Communications Media Department, opened Wednesday, April 29, including a panel discussion featuring Communications Media alumni, l-r: Marcos Bueno '09, Head of Production & Media Operations, Vox Media Inc.; Noah Dawson '14, Producing Artistic Director, Theater on Tap; David DiPinto '04, Senior Quality Assurance and Automation Engineer, 3D Systems; and Juliana McDonald '14, Marketing Coordinator, Drummey Rosane Anderson Inc.

ALUMNI NEWS — IN MEMORIAM

C. Blair MacLean '41, '48,
of Lunenburg, on October 23, 2014.

Gladys L. (Lavin) McKinnon '44,
of Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, on
March 24, 2014.

Russell R. Cook '48, '52,
of Greenville, New Hampshire, on January 4, 2013.

Lois E. Day '50,
of Leominster, on March 17, 2014.

Ralph S. Clough '51,
of Stoughton, on November 19, 2014.

Irene (Poitras) Lantry '51, '73,
of Lunenburg, on December 13, 2014.

Joan (Mazzaferro) Draudt '53,
of Saddle River, New Jersey, on March 9, 2015.

Robert L. Gallant '53,
of Pittsfield, on January 27, 2014.

Alice B. Jezak '53,
of Lowell, on July 18, 2014.

Ethel M. (McKellick) Smith '55,
of Carlisle, on July 10, 2014. She leaves her
husband, David H. Smith '56.

Gordon L. Erickson '56, '67,
of Fitchburg, on December 18, 2014.

Philip Moloney '57,
of Hull, on May 16, 2015.

Elfriede (Goetz) Cavanaugh '58, '63,
of Leominster, on July 3, 2014.

Janet M. (Mirijanjan) Cragin '58, '63,
of Lunenburg, on April 24, 2014.

Arthur J. Mulrain '58,
of Mashpee, on April 14, 2014.

Cornelia (Hayes) Bonner '60,
of Lunenburg, on June 2, 2014.

Eleanor M. (Keating) Gibbons '60,
of Scarborough, Maine, on December 15, 2011.

Shirley (Blanchard) Kent '60,
of Phoenix, Arizona, on November 28, 2014.

John Mulkeen '60,
of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, on June 19, 2014.

Agatha (Marabello) Wagg '60,
of Ashburnham, on January 26, 2015.

Thomas Walsh '60,
of Fitchburg, on May 5, 2015.

John H. Farrar, Jr. '61,
of Shirley, on February 18, 2015.

Mary M. Belliveau '62, '65,
of Fitchburg, on August 5, 2014.

Joseph J. Decarolis '62,
of Leominster, on April 27, 2014.

Mary B. (Hennessey) Wohn '62,
of Hull, on September 29, 2014.

John P. Anderson '63,
of Norwich, Connecticut, on June 28, 2014.

Mary Bodanza '63,
of Leominster, on April 15, 2015. Mary was one
of the founding members of the Center for
Italian Culture at Fitchburg State University.

Barbara (Zelck) Luciano '63,
of Rocky Neck, New York, on December 28, 2014.

Anthony J. Romano '64,
of Tewksbury, on October 10, 2014.

Thomas E. Furlong '65,
of Fitchburg, on December 10, 2014.

Samuel Pawlak '66, '76,
of Fitchburg, on May 12, 2015. Pawlak was
honored this past August, when close to
200 current and former Nashoba Regional
students, staff and administration turned
out to do a massive ALS Ice Bucket Chal-
lenge to support his long and courageous
battle with the disease. Pawlak served in
just about every capacity in the Nashoba
school district, including principal at the
high school from the late 1970s until 1993
and at Luther Burbank Middle School in
Lancaster, and as assistant principal at the
Florence Sawyer School in Bolton before
ending his career working in special educa-
tion at Oakmont Regional. Pawlak is well
known in Central Massachusetts basketball
circles, having served as a referee for the
better part of the last five decades.

Lawrence F. Wood '66,
from Townsend, on October 11, 2014.

Donald V. Loud '67,
of Lunenburg, on December 30, 2014.

Jean E. (Thomasian) Otis '67,
of Leominster, on January 30, 2015.

Sven Schedin '67,
of Ashburnham, on April 3, 2015.

Evan B. Hull '68,
of San Diego, California, on May 24, 2014.

George A. Hytinen '68,
of Leominster, on October 4, 2014.

Robert W. Krantz '68, '74,
of Clinton, on July 1, 2014.

George A. Rivett '68,
of Uxbridge, on June 16, 2014.

Sharon E. (Erickson) Wollner '68,
of Port St. Lucie, Florida, on March 25, 2015.

Michael Forgues '70,
of Elkhart, Indiana, on November 2, 2014.

Elma K. (Kangas) Cancellieri '71,
of Venice, Florida, on March 25, 2015.

Thomas P. Espie '71,
of Fitchburg, on February 8, 2015.

David L. McLaughlin '71, '75,
of Londonderry, New Hampshire, on July 31, 2014.

George Stathis '71,
of Fitchburg, on April 4, 2015.

Keith "Tommy" Stafford '72,
of Princeton, on April 13, 2015.

Dominic F. Erali '73,
of Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 20, 2014.

Barbara May '74,
of Leominster, on November 14, 2014.
Barbara earned her master's in Guidance
and Counseling at Fitchburg State in 1974.
She was a faculty member in the Depart-
ment of Nursing at Fitchburg State for over
30 years, and also a Professor Emerita of
Nursing.

Patsy S. Sbardelli '74, '76,
of Chestnut Hill, on November 11, 2012.

Joan M. Ford '75,
of Fitchburg, on March 17, 2015.

John I. Going '75, '92,
of Leominster, on January 6, 2015.

S. Arthur Lauro '75, '80,
of Canton, on January 11, 2015.

Valerie J. Carter '76,
of Ashburnham, on March 14, 2015.

Paul M. Gervais '77,
of Millbury, on May 2, 2013.

Andrew J. Donohue '78,
of Worcester, on May 22, 2014.

James E. Driscoll '78,
of West Boylston, on April 28, 2014.

Guy L. Rossi '78,
of Beverly, on June 27, 2014.

Shirley (Quastello) Vallis '78,
of Wall Township, New Jersey, on March 4, 2015.

Joan M. Carvalho-Harris '79,
of Bradford, Vermont, on December 18, 2014.

Alcide P. Belliveau '80,
of Leominster, on January 30, 2015.

Edward Buswick '80,
of Chelmsford, on June 29, 2014.

Melvin M. Shurmaster '80, '82,
of Medford, on September 4, 2013.

Sandra A. (Daggett) Alcott '81,
of Groton, on September 16, 2014.

Robert E. Cove '82,
of South Yarmouth, on March 8, 2014.

Charles R. Kingdon '83,
of Westfield, on June 17, 2014.

Nancy E. (White) Shepherd '83,
of Townsend, on June 22, 2014.

Judith A. (Caldow) Ollikkala '86,
of Worcester, on September 24, 2014.

Mary (Doyle) Wilson '88,
of Ayer, on May 4, 2015.

Kenneth V. DiRusso '92,
of Leominster, on January 22, 2015.

Glenn A. Roberts '92,
of Ashby, on August 12, 2013. He leaves his wife, Debra (Horton) Roberts '90, '94, '03.

Judith Desmond '94,
of Fitchburg, on January 14, 2015. Before retiring on May 3, 2014, Desmond worked for 32 years in Fitchburg State University's Print Services department.

Edward King '94,
of Braintree, on May 20, 2015. King was recipient of the Alumni Association Leadership Award in 2012. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during Desert Shield and, at the time of his passing, was a partner at the law firm Goodwin Procter.

Nicholas J. Halias '98,
of Pembroke, New Hampshire, on March 3, 2014.

Patricia A. Coulter '05, '11,
of Fitchburg, on April 2, 2013.

Stephen A. Lacilla '10,
of Holden, on January 29, 2014.

Kelly A. Arciprete '13,
of Lunenburg, on April 14, 2015.

David M. Kendrick '13,
of Melrose, on November 23, 2014.

LONGTIME ENGLISH PROFESSOR NANCY KELLY '80

Nancy R. Kelly '80, of Westminster, died Friday, July 4, 2014. She received her Bachelor of Philosophy degree Phi Beta Kappa from Wayne State University in 1973, her Master of Arts in Teaching (English) from Fitchburg State College in 1980, and her Doctorate of Philosophy in English from the University of Massachusetts in 1991. She was previously employed at Holy Name C.C. High School and St. Bernard's C.C. High School. She began teaching in the Fitchburg State English Department in 1982 as a visiting lecturer and became an instructor in 1990. In 1992, she joined the English Department as a full-time, tenure-track assistant professor. She was promoted to associate professor in 1997 and to professor in 2005.

During her more than 30 years of service to Fitchburg State, she was well known for her dedication and commitment to her students, many of whom are now teachers in the central Massachusetts area.

To honor her memory, family and colleagues combined efforts to create the Dr. Nancy Kelly Memorial Scholarship Fund in July 2014. It has raised nearly \$8,000 to date.

Friends of the University

Jeremiah E. Greene,

former librarian at Fitchburg State University, of Leominster, on March 6, 2014.

Helen R. (Ross) Russell,

of Jersey City, N.J., on November 7, 2014. Ross taught for many years at Fitchburg State, serving as a science professor, department head and later the university's first female dean. The Helen Ross-Russell residence hall is named in her honor.

Danny Schechter,

of New York, New York, on March 19, 2015. Schechter, an acclaimed journalist, author and documentary filmmaker whose contributions to the field of communications earned him accolades including an honorary degree from Fitchburg State in 1991. Schechter's media criticism became a staple of Boston radio and he went on to champion human rights as a prolific author, filmmaker and television producer.

Mark Snyder,

of Ashby, on May 29, 2015. Snyder taught physics and math at Fitchburg State University for 23 years. He completed his master's degree in physics at Columbia University and his PhD in mathematical physics at Yale University. Before arriving at Fitchburg State, Snyder taught at Wellesley College and Trinity College.

LONGTIME ATHLETIC DIRECTOR ELIZABETH "BETTY" KRUCZEK

Elizabeth "Betty" Kruczek, former athletic director at Fitchburg State University, of Auburn, died January 29, 2014. During her time at Fitchburg State, Kruczek worked as the Falcons' athletic director, administrator, faculty member and teacher in a career that spanned over 35 years, retiring in 1996. In 1994, she was inducted into the athletic department's Hall of Fame at the inaugural ceremony along with 12 other inductees, an honor she was a part of creating at the university. Kruczek's devotion to the university, the athletic program and its student athletes was unmatched.

Kruczek was also involved with the NCAA Executive Committee as well as the Executive Director for Marion's Camp for Girls and the Clara Barton Camp for diabetic girls for many years.

In 1995, she received the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) James J. Corbett Award, which is presented annually to the collegiate administrator who "through the years has most typified Corbett's devotion to intercollegiate athletics and worked unceasingly for its betterment." The award is the highest honor achievable in college athletics administration.

FORMER TRUSTEE JOHN GRADO JR.

John Grado Jr., former member of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees, died on December 13, 2014. Born in Bristol, Va. in 1927, Grado came to Massachusetts to work for George Wallace as First Chief Industrial Engineer of Fitchburg Paper Co. in 1956. At age 30, he became vice president of Fitchburg Paper and president of the Decotone Division, with plants in the U.S. and Belgium. Within one year of making productivity improvements at Decotone, Grado turned the previously unprofitable division into a six-figure profit center. Grado's significant impact was noticed by Mr. Wallace and the Board of Directors and – at age 35 – he became Executive Vice-President of Fitchburg Paper and President of Decotone. Four years later, he became President of Fitchburg Paper, which subsequently merged with Litton Industries, resulting in Grado being named Vice-President of Litton for the Paper, Printing, and Forms Group. In 1983, Grado bought the Litton Paper, Printing, and Forms Group and changed the name of the company to Technographics. In 1999, Technographics was sold, Grado retired. Taking care of his trusted employees was a hallmark of Grado's leadership.

Grado's accomplishments in the Fitchburg community were voluminous, and in 1984 he was chosen as the Businessman of the Year for Worcester Co. He served on the Board of Directors of the Fitchburg Gas and Electric Co., First Safety Fund National Bank, Fitchburg State College, American Red Cross, George Wallace Foundation (Boston), American Paper Institute, Gene Sarazen Foundation, United Fund, Oak Hill Country Club, Applewild School, Chamber of Commerce, The Young President Club (Boston), Massachusetts Taxpayers Association and several others. In 1990 Fitchburg State College also awarded him an honorary doctorate.

As a volunteer and a philanthropist, Grado gave unselfishly of his time and his funds. For more than a decade, he provided all materials and real estate for the construction of multiple Habitat for Humanity homes. At his alma mater, Virginia Tech, he provided several scholarships to student-athletes, and contributed to numerous other programs of the university.

He was also a United States Navy Veteran.



WHY WE GIVE

—Michael '71 and Pamela Fiorentino

For Michael and Pamela Fiorentino, Fitchburg State is a place that led to opportunities for scholarship, career success and lifelong relationships.

Michael Fiorentino grew up in Leominster and started his academic training at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

“One of the best decisions I made in my entire life was to transfer from UMass Amherst to Fitchburg State,” he recalled. After graduating from Fitchburg State with a degree of education in 1971, he joined its faculty in 1974. During the distinguished career that followed, he rose through the ranks into senior administration, ultimately becoming executive vice president and provost.

“It gave me an education and opportunity to go on to graduate school and to develop my professional skills,” he said. “It gave my wife a wonderful place to work and a place to really be engaged with colleagues and a place to grow.”

He left Fitchburg State in 2011 to assume the presidency of Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

Pamela Fiorentino was part of the campus community even longer – attending the sixth grade at the Edgerly School in what is now known as Edgerly Hall.

“I never thought that six years later I’d be back at Fitchburg State to begin my lifelong work,” she said, describing more than two decades of administrative support for the vice president for academic affairs.

**“EVERY DOLLAR WE GIVE
BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY
MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN
A STUDENT’S LIFE.”**

While the couple is enjoying Pennsylvania, they still feel a kinship with Fitchburg State. A generous donation to the Fitchburg State University Foundation led to the dedication this spring of the Fiorentino Foyer in the Condikey Wing of the Antonucci Science Complex.

For Pamela Fiorentino, the foyer’s location is special as she traversed that very hallway countless times a day during her career at Fitchburg State.

The Fiorentinos were greeted by a crowd of friends and former colleagues at the foyer’s dedication this spring. At the dedication ceremony, President Antonucci saluted the spirit of philanthropy the campus’ honored guests embodied. “Their contribution to the university is making sure this institution always provides affordability and access,” he said. “Mike Fiorentino and I grew up in Leominster, never thinking we’d be university presidents.”

“We all work hard, we all contribute on a day-to-day basis,” he said. “Every dollar we give back to the university makes a difference in a student’s life. Think about what you can do to give back.”

Joel A. Antolini '83—Outstanding Student-Athlete



Joel A. Antolini participated on the track and cross-country teams during his four years at

Fitchburg State University and was coached by the late Jim Sheehan of whom he has fond memories. In addition to being a member of several Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) team championships, Joel holds university records in numerous middle distance events and was crowned the New England Division III champion in the 1000 meters in 1982, recording a time of 2:28.32, a record which still stands.

“The combination of my academic and athletic experiences provided the foundation for my career as a teacher, coach, building and district administrator,” he said. “Fitchburg was the place where I was nurtured by the faculty and developed life-long friendships. I’m proud to be a Fitchburg State alumnus and am honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.”

A career educator for more than 30 years, Joel is a proud graduate of the class of 1983. While attending Fitchburg State, Antolini majored in industrial arts and education, earning the All-Around Student Award from the Industrial Arts Department.

Antolini’s career has included positions as an industrial arts teacher, high school assistant principal, middle/high school principal and assistant superintendent. His desire to be more involved with students has brought him to his current job as a Housemaster at Waltham High School. Throughout the years, Antolini has coached many individual and team league and state champions in high school cross-country and track.

Antolini continues to run with his college roommate, Greg DeMeo, and is happily married to Ann Marie, both of whom are members of the class of 1983. The couple has a 17-year-old daughter Rosalie and they have lived in Braintree for the past 20 years.

George A. Shevchuk '67—Outstanding Student-Athlete



George A. Shevchuk attended Fitchburg State University from 1963-1967 and graduated

with a Bachelor of Science in secondary education. Hailing from South Attleboro, Shevchuk played on the Falcons basketball team all four years. He was not only a regular top scorer with the Falcons but ranked nationally in scoring as well. He remains in the top ten leaders for career points in the history of Fitchburg State basketball. In 1997 the university honored Shevchuk for being a 1000-point scorer.

Shevchuk was versatile on the court. He was considered an ace rebounder and was very consistent in jump shots and high aver-

ages for free throws as a center and forward. He was known for his outstanding defensive game as well. Shevchuk was a very dedicated player and served as co-captain his last two years.

After graduation he moved to Florida and coached a boys’ varsity basketball team. In his first year the boys’ team won the championship. After only a few years he returned to South Attleboro and pursued his master’s degree in counseling psychology and did advanced graduate work at Northeastern University. He served as a counsellor in the Westwood public school system for more than 30 years. Shevchuk is now retired and lives in Rhode Island.



The 1960 Men’s Soccer Team, coached by Eugene Casassa, completed an undefeated season (10-0) and was the New England Teachers College Athletic Conference Champion (9-0) that year. They were then selected to represent New England at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics playoffs at Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania where they, unfortunately, lost in double overtime.

Among 14 players, the team scored 48 goals in their 10 season games. Their defense allowed only 3 goals to pass them by the entire season shutting out the other 7 games. A dominant team to say the least, but also one with the ideal combination of highly skilled players on both offense and defense.

(Pictured: Front row, l-r: President Robert V. Antonucci '67, '70, Robert Rzeznikiewicz '63, William Leuci '61, Athletic Director Sue Lauder, Louis Gizzi '62, Joan Gallivan (widow of Vincent Gallivan '61), David Erwin '65, Kenneth Rostedt '62. Back row, l-r: Pelino Masciangioli '62, Rick Hallsworth (on behalf of his father, Frederick Hallsworth '62), Edwin Page '61, William Walsh '61 (co-captain), Richard Threlfall '63, Robert Carter '63, Richard Berger '63, Thomas Flynn '62 (goalie), Armen Harootian '63, Emile Johnson '61 (co-captain), Dalton “Bud” Smart '63, Daniel Catalini (in memory of his father, John Catalini '63), Peter Stephens. Missing: Matthew Abbott '64, Philip Connors '63 (Manager), Ronald Gamache '63, Roy Lake '61, Richard Luoma '63, Frank Mammone '63, John McDonough '62, Emory Merrill '63, Jeffrey Peters '61. Deceased: Coach Eugene Casassa, David Aronson '62, Robert Banta '62, Abdelrahman Khangi '62, Joseph “Butch” Pare '65.)

Steven J. Lowney '95—Outstanding Student-Athlete



Steven J. Lowney played forward for the Fitchburg State University Men's Ice Hockey

Team where he was part of three Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship teams including being honored as the 1994 ECAC Player of the Year, the ECAC North Championship game MVP, and a two-time First Team ECAC All-Star. Lowney was a two-year team captain having been named the team's Most Valuable Player in 1993 and 1994. He was the team's leading scorer for three consecutive years and currently

is the third all-time career leader in power play goals, the second all-time career leader in hat tricks, in the top-ten for career goals, and holds the records for the most goals scored in any single game in the history of Fitchburg State Men's Ice Hockey.

Fitchburg State is an exceedingly special place for Lowney and he calls it the perfect fit for him at the time, providing an unmatched combination of an outstanding education and a championship driven hockey program. Fitchburg State is where he met his wife Coreen (Class of 1995), as well as life-long friend and mentor Coach Dean Fuller, who helped him peak athletically. Falcons athletics

provided him the opportunity to consistently compete for championships and opened the door for a rewarding career as educator and coach that he enjoys today.

A 1989 graduate of St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, Lowney earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fitchburg State in 1995 followed by a Master of Education in school counseling. Professionally he has been employed by the Fitchburg Public Schools for 15 years, serving as a guidance counselor the past 10. He holds dual certifications in School Guidance and Administration. Lowney is the head coach of the Fitchburg High School / Monty Tech cooperative

hockey team leading the team to three straight district championship games. Prior to accepting the coaching position at the high school Lowney was still connected to the university serving as assistant coach to Dean Fuller for 10 seasons, winning an ECAC championship in 1999.

Lowney resides in Dracut with his wife Coreen and daughters Keira, 8, and Talia, 5. Keira's diagnosis of type 1 diabetes in 2012 at four years old has led Lowney and his family to do extensive charity work for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund (JDRF) whose mission is to prevent, treat, and cure type 1 diabetes.

Christina M. (Charron) Lindsey '06—Outstanding Student-Athlete

Christina M. (Charron) Lindsey, a 2006 graduate of Fitchburg State University and Grafton native, was a member of the field hockey team for all four years as a student. She was an exceptional goal keeper still holding the all-time career record for games played as goaltender. She also holds the all-time career record for wins and is second for saves. She holds the all-time single season goaltender leader record for wins and is in the top ten for saves. She was team captain for two years and was recognized as the 2006 Student Government Association Female Athlete of the Year and 2006 Senior Scholar Athlete of the Year. She was also named to the National Field Hockey Coaches association all-academic team for three



years. She accomplished all this while being a type 1, insulin-dependent diabetic.

Her contributions to the university extended beyond her athletic abilities. While enrolled in the Leadership Academy and Honors Program, she worked hard to maintain her GPA while being a student athlete. She was involved in the Student Government Association and worked for the university's Athletic Office in the off-

season as the scoreboard operator. She spent her 2005 spring semester studying abroad in Granada, Spain.

Upon graduating from Fitchburg State, she landed a job at Big Brothers Big Sisters in Worcester where she worked as a math specialist and paired underprivileged children with a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister"—someone who could meet with the child on a regular basis and serve as a positive role model.

It was at this time that Lindsey realized she wanted to have a bigger role in the lives of children and went back to school to earn her teaching certificate. Since then she has been employed as a full-time English teacher at Northbridge High School and has been

recognized for her hard work as a classroom teacher. In May 2011, she obtained her Master's degree in secondary Education.

She lives in her hometown with her husband, James, and her beautiful one-year-old daughter, Emma.

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Fall Semester September 8 – December 16, 2015

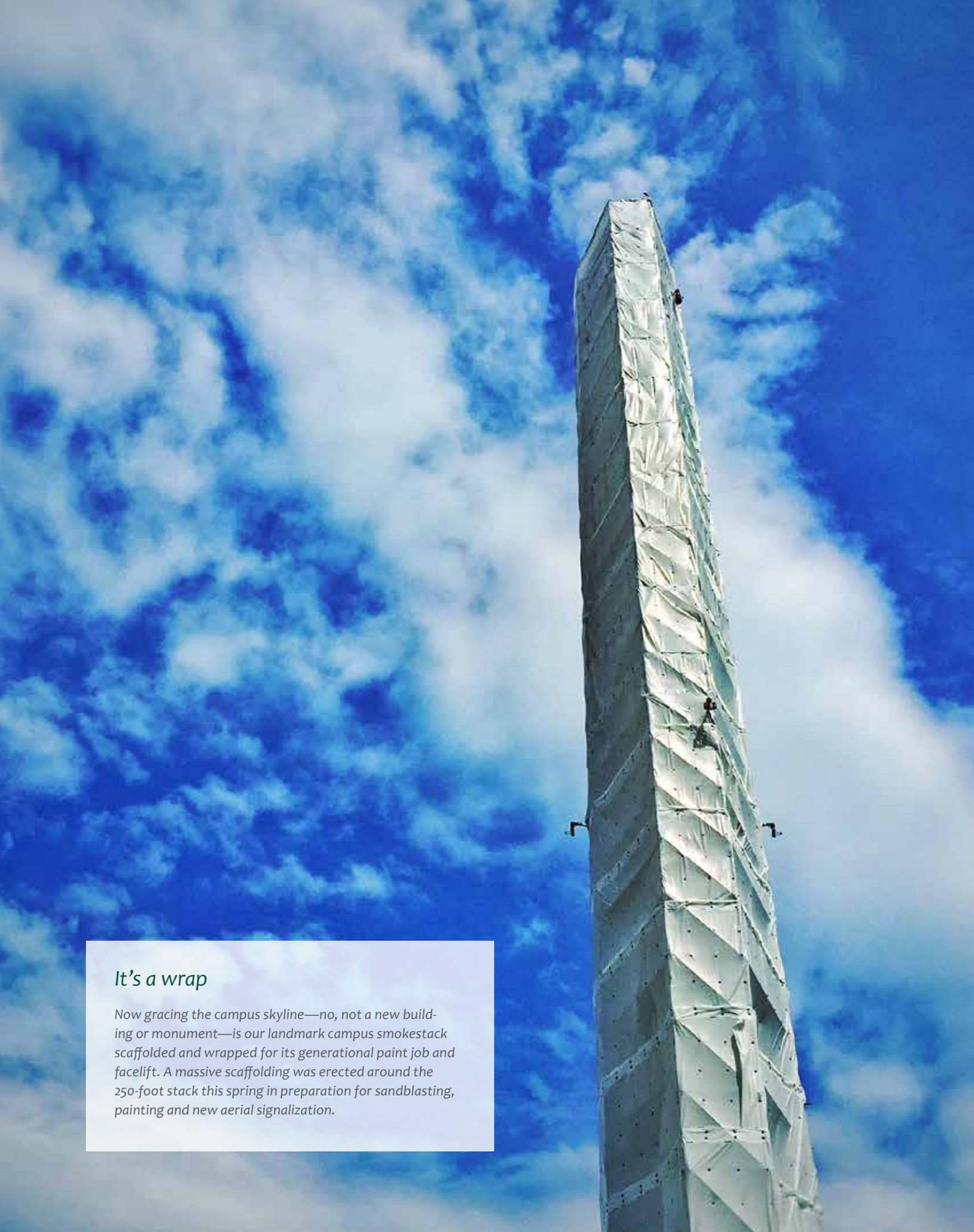
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It's a wrap

Now gracing the campus skyline—no, not a new building or monument—is our landmark campus smokestack scaffolded and wrapped for its generational paint job and facelift. A massive scaffolding was erected around the 250-foot stack this spring in preparation for sandblasting, painting and new aerial signalization.

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