

Contact

INSIDE:
Expanding Horizons
A scientific construct
Commencements



FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY / SUMMER 2013

“ There are nearly 1.8 million other individuals that will graduate as part of the Class of 2013— each trying to build their own brands, just like you. So if you know your strengths, quickly grasp on to them and work with what you’ve got. ”

—Excerpted from
Michael J. Deitemeyer’s
commencement address
(see page 21)



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From the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I was an undergraduate student here in the 1960s when the Condike Science Building opened. It was an impressive facility, no doubt encompassing technology sufficient for science education of the day.

The times, of course, have changed. And so it is with great pride the campus community has greeted the opening of our new science center on North Street, built on the site of the old Parkinson Gymnasium. The science center is simply stunning, as you will see in the pages that follow. And it is not merely a lovely building; it is the most technologically sophisticated facility of its type, presenting our students and faculty with unmatched opportunities for learning and research.

And there is no need to mourn the Condike Science Building; crews are now hard at work on a year-long renovation that will transform classrooms and offices inside Condike to ensure it has a bright future on the Fitchburg State campus.

It is not only our buildings that continue to get updated. This fall we welcome our first students in the university's new game design

major. This program, approved during the winter by the state Board of Higher Education, makes Fitchburg State the only public institution in Massachusetts to offer this major that feeds one of the state's most thriving, growing industries. You will learn more about the program in this issue of *Contact*.

The spirit of innovation embodied in our investment in facilities and programs is matched by our commitment to access. Our Expanding Horizons Program has for years helped first-generation, low-income college students navigate the transition from high school to college. When you read about these hard-working students and the dedicated professionals who are committed to their success, I am sure you will get a new appreciation for the deep pride we are all share in this institution.

That pride took center stage at this year's commencement ceremonies, where we welcomed back alumnus Michael J. Deitemeyer, now president of Omni Hotels & Resorts. His story of hard work and determination resonated strongly with the thousands gathered on the quad for the commencement address in May. We also welcomed back student activist-turned-award winning filmmaker John Antonelli for an honorary degree, transforming a turbulent chapter of university history into a brighter future.

In the coming pages I invite you to learn more about the robust year we have just enjoyed at Fitchburg State. From the university's robust partnership with the city's Cleghorn Neighborhood Center to the trial by fire of our nursing students and alumni who were on the frontlines of the Boston Marathon bombing, it has been a singularly eventful time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert V. Antonucci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert V. Antonucci
President

A scientific makeover

A new era at the university has begun with the opening of Fitchburg State's new, 55,000-square-foot science center. The space opened for business for the university's second summer session in July.

Three years and \$57 million in the making, the science center was erected adjacent to the Condike Science Building. That structure, built in 1963, is now getting its own year-long makeover. When complete, the new building and renovated space will create more than 100,000 square feet of peerless instructional space.

Bright, sunlit atriums will look out over the main quadrangle. The structure itself will become a physical bookend of the main campus, helping to define the boundaries of the university's core academic space. The modernized facility will also be another step in the university's pursuit of energy sustainability, designed and built to the maximum possible standards.



"Our students and faculty will be the beneficiaries of this building," President Antonucci said at the groundbreaking ceremony in 2010. "This state-of-the-art structure will provide our students and faculty with classrooms, laboratories, offices and support spaces that are second to none."

The new building will have laboratory space for biology and chemistry, while the geo-physical sciences will be housed—along with classrooms and offices—in the renovated Condike building.

Bruce Duncan, who chairs the Geo-Physical Sciences Department, said the new science space has been a long time coming. He recalled the charge given to him when he served on an earlier iteration of the building committee for the new structure: "Dream!" And the committee members did.

"This is our chance to get things the way we've always wanted them to be," he added. "We had to think not just for who is here now, but who's going to be here in 30 years. We need a space that's also flexible. I like to think we have planned for such a building."

New laboratory space will be better oriented to modern teaching and learning techniques, including peer instruction.

There will be room to display collections that for years have been hidden from view in closets. There will also be space for group presentations and exhibitions of student work, which is lacking now.

The addition will include shared science components that encourage collaboration among the disciplines explored within its walls. Hydrology, oceanography, vivarium and greenhouse space will be among the offerings in this modern facility.

"This building comes at the time of a perfect storm of activity," said Margaret Hoey, chair of the university's Biology/Chemistry department. "We have many new faculty who come with research momentum, ideas and interests in collaborating on professional activities. We have seen a recent surge in student interest in research projects. And just as these forces are emerging, we now have a space where that research can be carried out. We owe a huge thank you to the legislature, and especially the taxpayers, of Massachusetts."

Every student at the university will benefit from the new quarters, as each is required to take a laboratory science in order to graduate. And for those students majoring in the sciences, the space will be critical.

"These lab spaces will make students feel valued and professional," Hoey said.

"The opening of the new building is really exciting and I'm happy for my colleagues in chemistry and biology," Duncan said. "It makes me look forward to getting into our own space."



Nursing the next generation

Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland visited the campus this spring and congratulated the university for pioneering a first of its kind program that gives licensed practical nurses a pathway to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Fitchburg State faculty and administration collaborated with Worcester State University on developing the bridge program, now seen as a national model for nurse training. The nursing program at Fitchburg State is one of the university's greatest traditions, and the department celebrated its 50th anniversary last fall.

According to the National League for Nursing, there are more than 2.6 million registered nurses practicing in hospitals and other settings across the U.S.

Despite their large numbers, many more qualified nurses must be prepared in programs offered by community colleges and four-year institutions to meet the nation's growing demand for health care and to replace a large wave of nurses nearing retirement, according to the league.

By 2020, the national Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than 1.2 million additional RNs will be needed to work in acute care hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, nursing schools, and other settings. The bridge program is a way to meet that need by building upon an already knowledgeable workforce.

"We are extremely excited about this opportunity for LPNs to finally receive credit for their education, which we've never been able to do before," said Nursing Department Chair Linda McKay.

Freeland toured the university's nursing labs in Thompson Hall and visited with current nursing students as well as LPNs who are interested in enrolling in the program. He congratulated Fitchburg State for



Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland, left, discusses the LPN to BSN program with student Kia Her, right, as President Antonucci looks on.

recognizing that skills and knowledge accrued in the field by LPNs should be counted toward the higher degree.

Graduates of this program are prepared to meet societal healthcare needs in a variety of settings, and respect for diversity, social responsibility, and a commitment to excellence in nursing care are emphasized.

Freeland said that health care industry employers, especially hospitals, are demanding more and more nurses with higher training and commended the university and President Antonucci for being at the forefront in meeting this workforce development need.

The LPN to BSN program was founded with support from the state Department of Higher Education's Nursing and Allied Health Initiative, and the Fairlawn Foundation.



The university's moot court delegation at the presidential inauguration on Jan. 21 in Washington, D.C.

Inaugural courtship

Fitchburg State continued its tradition of exceptional performance at the American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Championship Tournament held at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. Students Angela Szymcik and Robert Sivazlian finished second overall in the nation in the brief-writing portion of the competition, while Matthew Costello and Haley Schilling finished fifth.

The Fitchburg State delegation, including Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Weizer, attended President Obama's inauguration during their journey.

The competition was bittersweet for Fitchburg State's heralded moot court teams, which did not advance to the second day of the tournament for the first time in its 13-year history. Fitchburg State had been the only institution in the nation to make that mark each year.

Research and recognition



The fourth annual Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice was held this spring. Students from every discipline shared their work, from oral reports and poster sessions to music and theater performances and artwork displays. The event was held the same day as the Honors Convocation, and classes were canceled to create a day-long celebration of student achievement.



A key note

Ambassador Adrian A. Basora—national security strategic and scenario planner, scholar and business leader—came to campus this spring to deliver the International Studies and Conflict Studies keynote address.

Basora discussed the challenges for post-communist democracies surviving a continued Euro-crisis and looked at how different nations within the European Union have adapted to fiscal and political upheavals since the fall of communism.

Among his diplomatic posts, Basora served as the U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic from 1992 to 1995, where he received the Presidential Performance Award for his overall achievements in Prague and he served as director of European Affairs for the National Security Council from 1989 to 1991. His presentation was supported by the Office of Academic Affairs and sponsored and hosted by the university's International Studies Minor. It is co-sponsored by the Department of Economics, History and Political Science, the Center for Conflict Studies, the Office of International Education, the Office of Career Services, and the Office of Student Development.

The talk was coordinated by Associate Professor Joshua B. Spero (Economics, History and Political Science).

The peace puzzle

The campus' Center for Conflict Studies hosted a semester-long exploration of violence this spring. Panel discussions, guest speakers and film screenings were used to probe the topic from multiple perspectives. Panelists from the campus asked whether violence in the media leads to mass shootings, with the consensus being there is no direct cause and effect but some arguing it deserves to be looked at as a piece of the puzzle. Other events in the series looked at gun violence and peace in the Middle East.

Digitizing history

Archives are the official documents of an institution, and Fitchburg State maintains its collection in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Ciro library. Items stored in the archives range from papers of the presidents and principals to Student Government Association committee minutes to photographs. During the past year, and thanks to a grant developed by former Reference & Special Collections Librarian Kathryn Wells, years' worth of yearbooks (1922-1999, 2004), course catalogs (1895-2011), student handbooks (1894-2011) and student newspapers (1916-2009) have been digitized and posted to the university's website. Go to <http://digitalarchives.fitchburgstate.edu/> to find your favorite year.

This project was federally funded with Library Services and Technology Act grant funds from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.



Helping hands



More than 20 students, including Samantha Kaplan, above, traveled to Florida for the campus' annual alternative spring break trip to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. Work crews helped repair and build homes during their week down south, and also had time to soak up a little sunshine.

Talking tips

Ethan Becker '93, president of The Speech Improvement Company, offered great advice for students during a spring workshop entitled "Interviewing with Confidence." The presentation drew an engaged crowd, who were advised to be mindful that attitude and bearing are as much a part of communication as the words we say.

Becker, a speech coach and trainer, is co-author of the best-selling book *Mastering Communication at Work*. He encouraged the students to get as much practice as possible interviewing. "Like anything with communication, you can't learn to swim by reading a book," he said.

The 1993 graduate of Fitchburg State delivered the commencement address at the undergraduate ceremony in May 2012 and was awarded an honorary doctorate.



Matthew W. Costello poses with Gov. Deval L. Patrick at the 29 Who Shine ceremony.

Costello among 29 who shine

Matthew W. Costello was recognized this spring at the Statehouse as one of Massachusetts' public higher education's 29 Who Shine. The award, initiated in 2011, is given to one representative from each of the state's 29 public campuses on the basis of academic achievements, student leadership and community service, and the promise of significant contributions to the civic and economic well-being of Massachusetts.

Costello, a native of Raynham, was an engaged student leader since his earliest days on the Fitchburg State campus. His academic accomplishments brought national recognition to the institution, such as winning brief-writing awards in his final two years participating in the American Collegiate Moot Court Association national tournament. His spirit of civic engagement helped strengthen the bonds between the university and the city of Fitchburg. He was elected president of his class as a freshman and went on to serve on the university's board of trustees and then served as president of the Student Government Association in his senior year.

Costello graduated in May 2013 with a bachelor of science in political science and interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in pre-law. This fall he will enroll at Suffolk University School of Law. He hopes to continue to give back to the community through a career in law and public service, putting his passions and knowledge gained through law school to serve as an advocate for those in need. He also envisions someday serving his peers through elective office.

Each of the campus honorees was invited to name a faculty mentor whose influence has been contributed to their studies. Costello selected Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Weizer.

"Since enrolling at Fitchburg State, Dr. Weizer has been someone I've admired and looked up to greatly, as a teacher, mentor, and friend," Costello said. "His guidance, expertise and willingness to help me succeed both in and out of the classroom have truly impacted my experience as a student for the better."

Costello was given the trophy by Gov. Deval Patrick, and joined Weizer for a luncheon celebrating the faculty mentors at the Statehouse.

Slam dunk



In tribute to a longtime public servant and champion of education, the university dedicated the gymnasium at the McKay Arts Academy to the memory of George J. Bourque. Bourque, who died at age 91 in 2011, left a remarkable legacy of public service that included four terms as mayor of Fitchburg and 11 terms as a representative in the state Legislature. Many members of Bourque's family came out for the dedication ceremony where President Antonucci saluted a man who was a champion of Fitchburg.

Trial run

A new play that examines "otherness" in America through the immigrant experience—and framed against the backdrop of the polarizing Sacco-Vanzetti trial of the 1920s—had its world premiere as Fitchburg State's spring theater production.

"(Sacco-Vanzetti) Vince, Al & Teddy," written by Bruce Robinson, was performed at the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex this spring before appreciative audiences including local school groups, whose trip was underwritten by the university's Center for Italian Culture. The cast included students Thomas Karner, John Ardini and McKegg Collins as well as faculty member Richard McElvain. Karner and McElvain are pictured at right.

The play was presented by the university's Communications Media and Industrial Technology departments, and directed by faculty member Kelly Morgan. The 2012-13 academic year marked the theater program's migration to the Communications Media Department.

Set in 1925, the two-act play uses the trial of Sacco-Vanzetti as a touchstone and an emblem. It testifies to a time not so long ago when Italians were marginalized—and were deported or executed because of their beliefs. It witnesses a complex family and a young man changing against a dynamic background—of course, all executed in a highly theatrical way. The cast and crew were nominated in performance and production categories for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and will compete next January in Hyannis for national awards and scholarships.



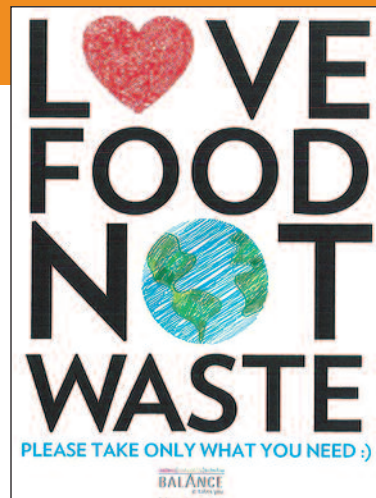
The CenterStage at Fitchburg State arts and culture series also brought world-class talent to the campus. Several former finalists from the television smash "American Idol" came to campus to perform Broadway favorites, and were joined on stage by singers from the student body and local high schools who had earlier competed for slots on the Weston Auditorium stage.

Local and international talent also met at Weston when CenterStage welcomed the celebrated Irish instrumental ensemble Lúnasa for a high-energy night of music. Students from the Fitchburg State dance club and the local Flying Irish Dance Studio complemented the band with their deft footwork.

Leading the way



Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis delivered the keynote address the third annual Next Generation Leadership Summit for Police Professionals this summer. Commissioner Davis discussed the tumultuous days following the Boston Marathon bombing as well as the evolution of law enforcement.



Garbage time

The university observed Earth Week with a focus on food waste. The campus's Sustainability Advisory Committee issued a food waste challenge in conjunction with Chartwells. Throughout the week, Chartwells weighed food waste generated each day at the dining hall. The 775-pound total logged the first day counted only food that people put on their plates but decided not to eat (kitchen scraps are sent to a local pig farm, but these "post-consumer" scraps go into the trash). Posters were set up in the Holmes Dining Commons all week urging visitors to take what they eat, and eat what they take. The message was heard and there was a net reduction of 233 pounds in food waste entered into the trash stream. Chartwells agreed to donate 233 pounds of food to Our Father's Table, a local food pantry. This is a sustainable effort to which all members of the campus community can contribute daily.

Visions, now and then



A highlight of the spring semester was the annual presentation of Visions, the juried exhibition representing the year's best work by Communications Media students. Student work lined the walls of the Gallery at Sanders into the summer, while Visions kicked off with an alumni panel discussion that featured Brittany Durgin, editor of *Worcester Magazine*; Jean Levasseur, project manager and developer at Spartan Systems; David Shilale, general manager and executive producer at Viewpoint Creative; and Erik Weikert, graphic and web designer for Pilot and EGW. The opening also featured an exhibition of theater performances of short film screenings before an enthusiastic crowd at Weston Auditorium.

Alumni are invited to return to campus when Visions returns on April 30, 2014. The day will open with an alumni panel talk at 3:30 p.m., a forum at 4:30 p.m., gallery opening and reception at 5:30 p.m., theater showcase at 7 p.m. and a film and video screening at 8 p.m. Following the screening, all alumni are invited to join communications media faculty for an after-hours event at Destare, 320 Main St., Fitchburg.

Next stop: Italy



The Center for Italian Culture presented scholarships earlier this year to help students spend part of their summer in Verona, Italy. CIC support has helped hundreds of students visit Italy to study its language and culture. Pictured, front row, from left: President Antonucci, CIC Scholarship Committee Chairwoman Anne Tardanico, CIC Chairwoman Anna Mazzaferro, and students Cillea Houghton, Courtney Brooks, Michelle Trilling, Alyssa Tenorio, Sarah Haley and Kayla Bridges; back row, from left: Grace Linstrom, Rachel Mays, Andrew Oughton, Joseph Pancenka, Kristin Enright, and Vice President for Alumni and Development Christopher P. Hendry.

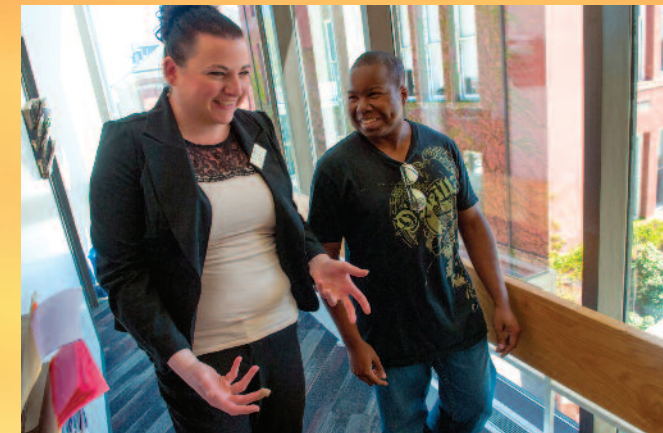
EXPANDING HORIZONS: Profiles in Courage

By Matthew Bruun

Ashley Tetreault doesn't mince words when discussing what the Expanding Horizons Program meant to her as an undergraduate at Fitchburg State.

"Expanding Horizons changed my life," she said. "I wouldn't have made it past my first semester here without them."

Tetreault described being overwhelmed in her earliest days at college, and found invaluable help from Expanding Horizons' peer mentor program. The office became a home away from home, and she found not only a path through her undergraduate degree but a career. Today Tetreault is the career and peer mentor coordinator for the program.



Ashley Tetreault with Sengin Holland

"It's been everything in my life for the past 10 years," said Tetreault, who went on to earn a master's degree in communications from Fitchburg State.

Expanding Horizons is a federal grant-funded student support services program designed to promote academic success for qualifying students. To be eligible, a student must qualify on the basis of income or be a first-generation college student, or have a diagnosed disability and demonstrate an academic need for the program.

Director Ammad Sheikh—who, like Tetreault, was part of a similar program during his own college career—said Fitchburg State's program supports 160 students each year. For first-generation college students, he said, navigating the road map of higher education is a daunting challenge.

"We become that support system that the average student has," Sheikh said. "We provide that family away from family. We play the role of cheerleaders."

Academic Advisor Sarah Sadowski said tasks include working with students on topics like time management, study skills and self-advocacy.

"We create a culture of success," Sadowski said. "We create an environment where students know they are worth the investment, and we provide the resources that facilitate that success. Once students experience success, they typically don't go back."



Ammad Sheikh

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Numbers back up that assertion. Participants in Expanding Horizons boast higher retention and graduation rates than the general student population, Sheikh said. And the program is endeavoring to broaden its reach on campus, opening up seminars on topics like study skills and time management to all students.

“We always want to get better, and I think the students see that,” Sadowski said. “They see us actively trying to self-reflect and improve. That cultural attitude pays off.”

Another payoff is the thrill of seeing EHP students cross the stage at commencement.

“It’s one of the best days of the year,” said Tetreault.

“We know what having a college degree is going to mean to these students,” Sadowski added. “This could be the difference between breaking the cycle of poverty and continuing it.”



Sarah Sadowski

Sheikh agreed.

“I see myself in them,” he said, recalling his own early collegiate struggles. “Somebody cared, and that made all the difference.”

To follow are some current stories from Expanding Horizons students.

Harrison Andrews

The beginning of one’s college career is a time of exploration. For Harrison Andrews of Chatham, that included a quick realization that his planned major wasn’t for him.

During the summer before he enrolled, Andrews, 19, learned his financial situation and his status as a first-generation college student qualified him for the Expanding Horizons program.

“It was definitely a great choice to join,” he said. “Sarah Sadowski is my advisor, and I don’t know if I’d still be here without her. She motivated me and helped me do my best.”

In his first semester, Andrews decided to leave the major he had planned to study.

“I switched to political science,” he said. “I like what I’m doing so far, so I’m here to stay.”

Explaining the switch, Andrews said he found himself absorbed in last year’s national elections and also enjoys arguing politics and religion with his friends.

“I just want to demystify it,” he said, describing politics. “I always liked debating growing up.”

He’ll put his argumentative skills to the test this fall when he’s part of the university’s lauded moot court team.

In the meantime, he’s found a trusted support network at Expanding Horizons. He’s improved his time management skills and is ready to take on new challenges to make the most of his education.

Andrews credits Sadowski with empowering him to advocate for himself and make himself known to his professors. It’s been an effective tactic, he said, recalling how one writing class went from a challenge to a pleasure.

“Writing is my toughest subject, and I really like it a lot now,” he said. “I think



Sarah and Expanding Horizons pushed me. It’s set me up to do well in the future.”

He’s got a full schedule lined up for the fall, including environmental science. He’s looking forward to his first class in the new science center, and is already considering a second major or a double minor to include the sciences.

In the long term, he’s interested in a career that would allow him to explore how public policy affects people. And he’s confident the skills and support he’s received at Expanding Horizons will help him get there.

“We don’t have a lot of kids failing who are part of Expanding Horizons,” he pointed out. “It’s nice to have a group of students who want to be together.”

Sengin Holland

Sengin Holland was looking for a fresh start after he graduated from high school in his hometown of Lynn. At Fitchburg State, he found it.

Now a junior majoring in communications media, Holland looked at several schools during his search. There was something about Fitchburg State that seemed to be a perfect fit.

“I went into orientation and I really fell in love with this place,” he said. “I was looking for a place I could fit in, where the class sizes weren’t too big. This really feels homey.”

He learned about Expanding Horizons early on, and noted its similarity to the Upward Bound program in which he took part in high school. One of the perks of being in the program was he got to move onto the campus before the rest of the freshman class.



“I was nervous on moving day,” he recalled. “My mom and brothers came. It was an emotional day.”

And, it turns out, a difficult transition. Always a hard worker, Holland said he was pushing himself too hard in too many directions, and his grades suffered. “I didn’t know how to balance my time,” he said.

At Expanding Horizons he found a valuable support system. Ashley Tetreault, the career and peer mentor advisor, immediately made him feel comfortable in the new surroundings.

“I’m not used to trusting new people, and she really helped,” Holland said. “She’s definitely made my experience here a lot better.”

Sarah Sadowski, the program’s academic advisor, helped him with his study habits, drafting him into a “boot camp” with sessions on time management and other skills. It paid off.

“I had a peer mentor and it helped me a lot,” said Holland.

The college experience has been a time of renewal and reinvention. “I wanted it to be different from high school,” Holland said. “I definitely wanted to seize the opportunities.”

An interest in acting in high school blossomed on campus, for example, as he proudly recalls a role in the university’s production of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. This spring he took a class on acting for the camera and wrote an original script that he was preparing to film.

“I never would have done that before,” Holland said. “It’s a confidence thing.”

He’s continuing that growth as a peer mentor himself. “It’s very rewarding,” he said. “I enjoy helping people. You’re seeing them achieve from where they were, and that gives you satisfaction.”

Holland, who plans to pursue a career in radio and broadcasting, has a message for prospective students.

“If you’re looking for a place to feel welcome and have a home away from home, come to Fitchburg State. It will work for you,” he said. “And once you join Expanding Horizons, you’re a member of Expanding Horizons, and you’ll never feel alone.”

Michelle Valentin-Moreno

When Michelle Valentin-Moreno was finishing her studies at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, she was ready to continue her education but did not know how.

“I remember being a senior and applying to different places,” she said.



making the transition to college life, and to make them feel comfortable in their new surroundings.

“They come to you for every situation that comes up,” she said, adding that the experience has bolstered her own career plans. “I hope to work with at-risk youth and the low socioeconomic community, to help them accomplish their dreams and goals.”

Valentin-Moreno embodies those values on the campus. She’s president of the campus Latin American Student Organization, a student ambassador for the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness and is active with the National Society for Leadership and Success, as well as the university’s commuter affairs office.

“I have no idea how it happened,” she said with a laugh, describing her full plate of extracurricular activities. “I’m on campus all day, every day. If it’s something you want to do, you should do it.”

Paola Veras

For first-generation college student Paola Veras, 20, furthering her education was a daunting challenge she was only too happy to tackle.

At Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School in Haverhill, the Lawrence native—born in the Dominican Republic—studied culinary arts. But she soon realized that wasn’t her career path.

“I knew I wanted to go to college,” Veras said. “My mom’s been working as a housekeeper for 11 years. I worked at

Wendy’s. I said, ‘This is not going to be my life.’”

Veras had a cousin at Fitchburg State so she knew the institution was an option. She still wasn’t sure it was for her, however, until she attended the annual president’s reception for accepted students.

“I met Jamie,” Veras said, smiling at the memory of meeting Jamie Cochran from the university’s Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness. “She got me more excited about this school.”

At Fitchburg State, Veras jumped in with both feet—working as a tour guide, joining the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), volunteering at the Autism Resource Center. Being active on campus made her feel a part of its fabric.

“I thought the school was so big the first time I came here,” she said. “Now it seems so small.”

The academic transition wasn’t so easy, however. Veras described a “mental breakdown” halfway through her first semester, as she tackled several challenging courses at once.



So Veras was relieved when a friend from LASO told her about Expanding Horizons. There she found valuable tutoring assistance. “That’s been the biggest help,” she said.

The extra assistance paid off. By semester’s end, Veras was on the Dean’s List. And her spring semester was going even better, she said. Through Expanding Horizons, she improved her study habits and test-taking skills. Daunting 10-page papers became easier to take on.

Veras envisions a career in human services, perhaps in social work or counseling.

“I know I want to help people,” she said. “When I went to Expanding Horizons, they got me to the Career Center and they showed me what I could do.”

Veras gives a lot of credit to Expanding Horizons, and she remains a fixture in its Hammond Hall office.

“I go every day,” she said. “Sometimes I go just to hang out. It seems like a family. They know you. I’m totally glad I came here.”

Kathryn Zimmerman

Kathryn Zimmerman may only be 19 years old, but she’s convinced she’s already found her life’s calling. The first-year college student first came onto the Fitchburg State campus with plans to study nursing, but soon switched gears to special education.

“This is what I want to do,” Zimmerman said. “It may not be where the money is, but it’s what I want to do. I just found my niche.”

Zimmerman credits the Expanding Horizons Program with helping her distill her career ambitions and keep on track with her academics.

Her certainty was reinforced when she volunteered at this spring’s Special Olympics games at Elliot Field, which brought 450 athletes from schools across North Central Massachusetts to campus. She smiles as she recalls the joyful expression on a special athlete’s face as he finished an event and declared to a volunteer, “This is awesome!”

Zimmerman’s spent a lot of time in public school classrooms already, volunteering at her cousin’s classroom each week in her native Leominster.

A first-generation college student, Zimmerman discovered Expanding Horizons during a pre-orientation program on campus.

“They’ve been such a great help,” she said, noting she’s availed herself of everything from the program’s printing resources to advice on which classes to take.

Zimmerman’s attended many of the program’s seminars during her first year, focusing on topics like dealing with stress and time management. That underlying sense of support and encouragement has been very meaningful as she begins her college career, she said.

That support transcends Expanding Horizons, she added, explaining that in

high school she’d been told to expect uncaring professors and to be just a face in the crowd. She was happily cured of that notion early on, and has only great things to say about her supportive professors.

A commuting student, Zimmerman has found several opportunities to embed herself in the fabric of campus life. She’s



in the Education Club, the Student Education Association of Massachusetts and is in the mentor program of Kappa Delta Pi, the education honor society.

She’s hoping to add Expanding Horizons peer mentor to her resume soon, too, even as she continues to avail herself of the program’s resources.

“As I progress through my college career I’m sure I’ll be using them more,” she said. “They’re all for getting every ounce of success out of us.” ■

Healing Wounds By Matthew Bruun

The Boston Marathon bombings of April 15 left three dead and hundreds injured. The death toll would likely have been much higher if not for the top-flight medical care the wounded received in the minutes, hours and days after the blast. Fitchburg State nursing students and alumni were among those treating the victims. Here are a few of their stories.

Medical Tent B

Dana Slamin jumped at the opportunity to join her mother, a seasoned emergency room nurse, as a volunteer at this year's Boston Marathon. The hours passed quickly in Tent B, where Slamin prepared bags of intravenous fluids for dehydrated runners and helped those suffering from muscle cramps.

"I was talking to people to get them through it," she recalled.

She was about a quarter of a mile from the finish line and stepped outside the tent with her mother for an M&M break when she heard an explosion. Then another.



Dana Slamin (2nd from right) just hours before the bombing

"It was terrifying," she said, describing a sound like pieces of heavy metal being dropped to the ground. "I remember looking at the TV and seeing the aerial shot. You could see all the blood on the sidewalk."

With patients still in the tent, Slamin had to try to keep them calm even as rumors quickly swirled about the scope of the tragedy. Her mother and others from their group of volunteers grabbed tourniquets and prepared to run closer to the finish line, but were ordered to stand by in case they needed their services for the as yet undetermined number of victims.

"It was pure shock," she said. "I've never been so terrified in my life. We were just waiting for something closer to blow up."

Boston Medical Center

Mary Lynn Correa also had nursing in her blood; her mother's a perioperative nurse at Boston Medical Center (BMC).

"I grew up listening to her war stories," Correa said.

Though Correa started her college career at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, she decided to switch gears and began her education anew at Fitchburg State.

On April 15, Correa was nearing the end of 200 hours of practicum work in BMC's emergency room.

"The elite runners had already come through, and we were waiting for the wave of less-conditioned runners," she said, describing an emergency room that was abuzz with activity but nothing atypical for such a high-profile day. The seasoned crews at BMC were prepared for large-scale needs, having treated a number of marathoners for heat-related issues in 2012. "Things were running smoothly."

Then, the unthinkable. Correa heard from another nurse there'd been an explosion at the marathon.

"Our nursing coordinator said, 'We're going to disaster mode,'" Correa recalled. "I had no idea what the scale would be."

In the coming hours, Correa would be in the emergency room as more than a dozen patients requiring major amputations came through the hospital doors.

"A lot of the people on the news were people we saw," she said.

"I expected to see this a few times in my career, going into the military, but I didn't expect to see it at home," Correa said.

Correa was recently commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army and plans to go to San



Mary Lynn Correa

Antonio, Texas, for her Basic Officer Leadership Course this summer. She started her path to the military by joining the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps, which she undertook in an effort to learn what her husband, an active U.S. Air Force Senior Airman, was experiencing.

Seeing the logistics of a major medical center's response to a crisis of such scope was a spectacle in itself, Correa said.

"It was just incredible the way they put aside everything else," she said. "Everyone was terrified, but everyone remained relatively collected and focused. There was a clear order of who was in charge. It was just amazing to watch them."

Because she was just a student, Correa's efforts were in support of nurses more than providing direct care—running to get equipment into the right hands, for example. But she was proud that she was able to perform under incredible pressure.

"It's a reassurance that this is what I want to do, knowing at the time what I was capable of," she said.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Craig Lashua was at his home in Fitchburg on April 15. When he learned of the bombings, he called in to Beth Israel—where he was working as a traveling nurse—to see if they needed help. So many nurses had spontaneously reported for duty that his presence wasn't needed that day, but Lashua knew the impact would be felt for days.

"It's amazing and how brave and courageous they are," he said, describing the patients who had experienced amputations and other kinds of lower extremity wounds.

Lashua served as a medic in the Army's 24th Infantry Division during the first Gulf War in 1991 and had seen traumatic injuries before. But seeing them in a Boston hospital was an altogether different experience.

What was also challenging for the nursing staff was caring for accused bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who was treated at Beth Israel before being transferred to the federal prison hospital at Devens.

"We treated his victims and then a few days later to treat him, it was quite a feeling," he said. "Being in the same area as him was challenging."

But the nurses had a job to do, and Lashua said he was struck by the collective professionalism he saw.

Lashua was just as impressed by the resolve and goodwill of the victims. There were many high-profile visitors to the hospital in the days after the blasts, including Academy Award-winning actor Kevin Spacey. Spacey spent hours with patients, later emerging at the nurses' station to tell them the patients had insisted he visit with the caregivers.

Epilogue

The stress of being so close to the tragedy took its toll, but has not shaken the future nurses in their resolve.

"If anything it's made me want to do it more," Slamin said. As frightening as the experience was, she explained, she took comfort from being around people who knew they had a job to do.

Slamin said it was a cousin who served in Iraq who offered her the best advice on how to cope with what she'd seen on April 15.

"This will never go away," she was told. "You're going to live with this for the rest of your life. You need to realize how fragile life is, and live every moment to the fullest." ■



Craig Lashua with Oscar winner Kevin Spacey

◀ *One of the several improvised memorials along the blocked Boylston Street in Boston, Massachusetts, USA on April 21, 2013*

Game on



Fitchburg State University this fall becomes the first public institution in New England to offer a bachelor's degree in game design, preparing students with immediately marketable skills in a fast-growing industry. Senior David Donahue of Falmouth wants to be first in line.

"I'm postponing my graduation so I can be part of it," said Donahue. "With the other multimedia concentrations that we have, I think game design is the perfect blend. For someone who's multi-talented, it's where you belong."

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approved the new major in December after a thorough review of the university's proposal. Fitchburg State's first new major in more than a decade, the bachelor of science in game design will be part of the university's heralded Communications Media Department. Members of that faculty designed the curriculum with input from colleagues in the university's computer science, English studies and art programs.

"The video game industry is well established in Massachusetts, with dozens of game studios operating in the

Commonwealth," President Antonucci said. "Even in the midst of economic difficulties, the video game industry, in New England and nationwide, continues to grow and to search for talented and well-prepared applicants. With this new major, Fitchburg State continues to move forward with a spirit of innovation and an emphasis on preparing students for rewarding careers."

According to the Entertainment Software Association, computer and video game companies directly and indirectly employ more than 120,000 people in 34 states.

Communications Media professors Jeffrey Warmouth and Samuel Tobin played a major role in developing the game design curriculum.

"It was clear to me that for students that really wanted to do game design, we needed to build a major," said Warmouth, adding the support from administration was key to success.

"It addresses a desire that's been there," added Tobin. "Students are already trying to do this, and this will allow them to do it."

Donahue agreed. He began his studies at Fitchburg State anticipating a concentration in film/video, and later added graphic design. Taking game design courses instilled a further passion.

"Sam and Jeff are definitely a great team," Donahue said. "As much as they're different personalities, it's great to see the two halves coming together. It's just like game design—you need creativity and planning."

Donahue said he is excited about the multidisciplinary opportunities in the new program. "It definitely turned my college career around."

The university's investment in the new major includes hiring additional faculty members, and space in the Conlon Industrial Technology Building is being renovated to accommodate the new labs its students will need.

Several courses already offered on campus will count toward the major. The on-campus appetite for game design was stoked by the popular GameCon event, which has brought hundreds of students together for a daylong game

"With this new major Fitchburg State continues to move forward with a spirit of innovation and an emphasis on preparing students for rewarding careers."
— President Antonucci

competition and discussion of the latest technology.

"People of all genders, ages and backgrounds are playing games more and more often, and the games they are playing are also increasingly diverse," Tobin said.

The major is designed as a multi-disciplinary program that will prepare students for employment in the state's thriving game design sector. Students will explore game design and development, art and visual design, computer programming, 3D modeling and animation, level design, creative writing,

and game studies. Other course topics include serious games, mobile platforms, history of games, and aesthetics. Like so many of Fitchburg State's programs of study, the game design major will prepare students for careers in the industry.



Communications Media professors Jeffrey Warmouth and Samuel Tobin played a major role in developing the game design curriculum.

A unique feature of Fitchburg State's game design program is a required one-semester 12-credit-hour internship. The internship has been a hallmark of the university's communications media program for years, providing practical experience often cited by students—and employers—as one of the key distinguishing elements of a Fitchburg State education. ■

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The University Project: *Building a Stronger Community*

By Cillea Houghton

Building a strong community is the goal of many cities and towns. Thankfully, for the Cleghorn Neighborhood in Fitchburg, this is no exception. The Cleghorn Neighborhood Center is defined as an effort to “strengthen the Latino and Latino immigrant community in Fitchburg.” It is for exactly this reason that Fitchburg State University partnered with Cleghorn as a way to incorporate the Latino population into the university while building a stronger community in the process.

Executive Director of the center, Joana Dos Santos, graduated with her bachelor’s degree from Fitchburg State in 2009 and is currently enrolled in its graduate program. Dos Santos describes the center as a safe haven that provides various services for Latinos in the community.

“We are driven by the community,” she said. “People tell us what they want and we look for the resources to make that happen.” Such resources include a food pantry, GED courses, and help with job applications.

The University Project began when Dos Santos met with Fitchburg State faculty member John Chetro-Szivos, who is also director of the university’s Douglas and Isabelle Crocker Center for Civic Engagement. The two discussed the desire for the university to have a greater outreach to the Latino community in Fitchburg. Dos Santos describes the project is “a collaboration between the university and center to put the resources of the university into the community, offering all sorts of opportunities to students and faculty who want to help in the community.”

One of the main aspects of the project is the involvement of university staff and students at the center. Student volunteers help with homework and lead afterschool programs.

Professors and other faculty lead courses like industrial technology and architecture, and provide programs such as woman in science and nursing, among many others. Chetro-Szivos believes that the student involvement has been beneficial for both the center and the students.



Brianna Lynn Williams, center, works with Arianna Green, left, at the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center under the watchful eye of Americorps worker Cassandra McMartin. Fitchburg State donated 30 desktop computers to the center as part of the University Project.

“The students who have gone there have really enjoyed it,” he said. “I think the students are finding it pretty rewarding.”

While establishing a more stable community is the overall goal of the project, Chetro-Szivos also explained its other objectives: Building a better relationship with people of color and building a better city.

“The goal is to change the lives of the people at the center and make the center stronger,” he said. “We want to start working much more closely with students at Cleghorn to help them find their way here. We want to make them feel welcome on the college campus.”

Surprisingly, many of the center’s residents were initially unaware that Fitchburg is home to a college campus. When they did learn about the presence of Fitchburg State, the stereotype that the school is catered to? “rich, white kids” immediately became attached. However, thanks to the University Project, the center’s youth now know that was a false stereotype and are

“excited” about the prospects of attending the university.

“Being local is a reassuring factor,” said Dos Santos. “The kids can go to college and have that college experience, but still be close to the family.”

When all is said and done, both Dos Santos and Chetro-Szivos hope to continue a relationship between the university and the center and feel that the partnership was a success.

“On behalf of the center, this has been an amazing experience. The professors and students’ work has really allowed us to run programs in an effective way. The university has really allowed us to focus on our work. I’m very grateful,” said Dos Santos.

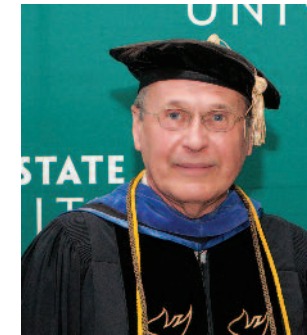
“One of the priorities of the university is to build relationships in the community,” Chetro-Szivos said, adding that volunteers have put in thousands of hours at the center. “We’re meeting our mission and our mission is to build a better community.” ■

117th Commencement Exercises

Spring Commencement

More than 700 graduate and undergraduate degrees were awarded during the university’s spring commencement ceremonies, which also included honorary degrees to commencement speaker Michael J. Deitemeyer ’86 (see sidebar) and acclaimed filmmaker John M. Antonelli (see sidebar).

At the graduate commencement ceremony, the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award was presented to **Richard J. Spencer**. Spencer began a long and illustrious career at Fitchburg State in 1972, when he was appointed assistant professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department. His awards and honors include three merit awards, two distinguished service awards, two academic performance awards, an outstanding post-tenure review, and appointment to *emeritus professor* status. He continues to serve as an



Richard J. Spencer



Lauren E. Viola, right, is awarded by President Antonucci.

adjunct faculty member and played key roles in accreditation of university programs by outside evaluators.

Also at the graduate ceremony, the Graduate Student Leadership Award was presented to **Lauren E. Viola**, a teacher at Leominster High School. In her coursework at Fitchburg State, Viola helped develop a professional development course for teachers that has become an annual fixture at Leominster High.

The undergraduate ceremony included the presenta-

tion of the Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Leadership Award to **Matthew W. Costello**. Costello was recognized for his numerous contributions as a class officer, student representative to the university’s Board of Trustees and, in



Matthew W. Costello ▶

his senior year, as president of the Student Government Association.

Faculty Awards

Associate Professor **Michael B. Hoberman** (English Studies) was presented the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship. A faculty member since 2001, Hoberman maintains a strong record of scholarly activity with yearly journal publications and a number of invited presentations at national and local venues. A colleague noted that Hoberman displays an easy mastery of early American cultures and an ability to make the material accessible to various readers and audiences. In all of his writing, he seeks to reach specialized and general audiences who share his enthusiasm for early American history, Jewish studies and ethnography. His research also contributes to and shapes his teaching. He was a Fulbright Senior Professor of American Studies at Utrecht University in the Netherlands during the first half of 2010.



Professor Joshua B. Spero

Associate Professor **Joshua B. Spero** (Economics, History and Political Science) was presented the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching. In nominating Spero for this accolade, a former student described the professor’s appreciation and understanding that students are individuals, and pushed to acquire learning habits and skills that will help throughout their academic and professional careers. As an advisor and mentor, Spero helps students

build a series of successes, promoting confidence in their accomplishments and abilities. His teaching reminds students of their roles as citizens locally, nationally and globally. He consistently encourages his students to gain experiences that will complement their academic strengths on campus and beyond. Spero has been a member of the Fitchburg State faculty since 2003.



Professor Michael Hoberman, center, receives his award from President Antonucci, left, and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robin E. Bowen, right.

Winter Commencement



David Celuzza, right, receives his award from President Antonucci, left, and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robin E. Bowen, center.

Fitchburg State’s 117th commencement exercises began with the winter ceremony in January. In addition to the hundreds of undergraduate and graduate degrees presented, the night featured the presentation of the President’s Medal to restaurateur and philanthropist **David Celuzza**.

Celuzza, the owner of Slattery’s Restaurant in Fitchburg, has been an engaged citizen and entrepreneur for decades, devoting his talent and energy to countless organizations and community

projects. He managed Slattery’s for 12 years before taking ownership in 1984 and transforming the local pub into a full-service restaurant. The establishment, which employs 70 people, has been named one of the top 500 independent restaurants in the United States by “Restaurant & Institutions” magazine.

Celuzza’s philanthropic pursuits include the annual Slattery’s Turkey Trot, which has generated more than \$180,000 for local scholarships.

“I’m absolutely thrilled to be honored by this university that I love,” Celuzza told the crowd. “I’m so happy for you and I know you’ve made incredible friendships here. I know they’ll last a lifetime.”

He also encouraged the graduates to give back to the university and create opportunities for future students to realize their dreams.

In his commencement address, President Antonucci congratulated the graduates and their families while reflecting on the 10-year milestone of his administration.

“The center of what we do on each and every day is the student that we serve,” President Antonucci said. He also described his feelings watching President Obama’s second inauguration the week before, and the opportunity it provided for the world to see a diverse nation united in a solemn and peaceful observance of the transfer of power.

“We saw America at its best last Monday, and tonight we see Fitchburg State at its best.”

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FROM BROOMS TO BOARDROOMS

The importance of a strong work ethic and the ability to learn from bad bosses as well as the good were among the insights shared with graduates this spring by **Michael J. Deitemeyer ’86**, president of Omni Hotels & Resorts. The company is a recognized leader in luxury hotels, and Deitemeyer described how every graduate crossing the stage that sunny May morning had their own brands to build.

“Your brand, literally being you—an individual, a professional—contributing to yourself, your family, and the global community,” Deitemeyer said. “While it may not sound so glamorous in those terms, when it comes down to it, that’s your challenge. The trick is to do all this while remaining true to yourself and finding the balance that will ultimately define you.”

Deitemeyer, who now lives in Texas with his wife and two daughters, said it was an internship as a senior studying business administration that set him on a successful career path.

“I had three internship options: an accounting job in a grocery store, spending the day in a room that smelled of produce and the meat counter; or a bank basement, where I would work with a manager to rewrite corporate procedures; or the third and most attractive choice presented: working in accounting at the Marriott Hotel in Worcester,” Deitemeyer said. “Having rarely ventured outside of New England, the grand appeal of this hotel—new at the time—was what really opened me to a whole new world.”

Deitemeyer described his humble origins as the child of divorced parents and the first in his family to go to college. His family vacations were rarely more exotic than camping.

“This hotel was a far cry from camp grounds, tents and sleeping bags,” he said. “It had a restaurant and high end nightclub which was popular back then, and also was the nicest hotel I’d ever seen at that stage in my life.”

He was accepted for the Marriott internship and his path had begun.

“Although I was working in a room one step above the bank basement, I found I was pretty comfortable managing inventory and number crunching,” he said, describing it as a step up from the job he’d taken to support himself through college working in a factory with no air conditioning making straw brooms.



Michael J. Deitemeyer, center, is presented his honorary degree by President Antonucci, left, and Board of Trustees Chairman Carol Vittorioso, right.

“My internship eventually turned into a salaried position and as I juggled this job with my senior year workload, I quickly realized that being part of this large organization provided me with an open door to discovery where I could try to learn what I was passionate about,” he said. “Sometimes, you just fall into it.”

What he brought with him was a tireless work ethic.

“During that first year with Marriott, I watched and listened,” he said. “I worked late nights, weekends and holidays—which you can expect to do a lot of should you decide to work in hospitality. My girlfriend at the time, Sherri, now my wife, listened to me second-guess my career choice many times. I ultimately made a decision to try to master certain things at work, even if I hated them. If you learn this early, these experiences will help you to become a stronger and more compassionate manager later.

“Today, some of you have jobs or internships in hand, and some of you will take time off before you begin the process,” he continued. “The truth is, very few of you will go into your first job making what you think you deserve, work the hours you’d choose, or do the types of things that you’ve dreamed your education would allow you. The reality is you’re just a paid student at the beginning. You start at what may feel like the bottom. As an entry-level employee, despite the industry,

autonomy or salary level, you must put in your time, tolerate the grunt work and earn the respect and trust of those around you.”

He urged the graduates to find a balance in work and life that allows them to achieve the personal enrichment that maximizes your individual potential.

“In simple terms, create a foundation for success that works for you and what you want to accomplish,” he said. “It’s easy to be recognized if you excel at what you do. So build your brand, understand what makes you unique. There are nearly 1.8 million other individuals that will graduate as part of the Class of 2013—each trying to build their own brands, just like you. So if you know your strengths, quickly grasp on to them and work with what you’ve got.

“Understand that you’re going to have great managers and bad managers—people are successful because of certain skills they have and your job is to take the best of this and learn from it,” he continued. “There is as much value and opportunity to learn in working for a bad manager as there is for a good one. Embrace both.”

He also urged the graduates to work hard and demonstrate their commitment to the task at hand.

“Now, as president of a national luxury hotel brand, I, like most employers, look for a few things when we recruit recent college graduates: attitude, presentation and relevant work experience,” he said. “But what I really tell my team is to look beyond the person with the highest GPA, and rather to that person who overcame obstacles to achieve an education.”

The graduates have been given a foundation upon which to build.

“You have an excellent education,” Deitemeyer said. “You create, evolve and reinforce your brand everyday on both a personal and professional level. Be cognizant in understanding how your identity, attitude and approach affect the many opportunities available to you. I still have a lot of hard work ahead of me, as do all of you.

“Remember one thing: You always have the ability to do more, reach for more—and you will be rewarded for it. With that, you can achieve almost anything.”

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A DEGREE OF SURREALISM

Among the honorees at the undergraduate commencement ceremony was acclaimed documentary filmmaker **John Antonelli**, who learned to challenge authority during his undergraduate studies at Fitchburg State.

As a student journalist, he made national headlines in a precedent-setting free speech lawsuit that pitted students against then-college President James J. Hammond. And he has used the same sense of exploration and inquiry in his filmmaking career, tackling provocative subjects and asking tough questions (See *Contact*, summer 2012).

The producer-director-writer has overseen celebrated projects including his 2010 documentary “Sam Cooke: Crossing Over,” which was broadcast on PBS’ “American Masters” series and nominated for a primetime Emmy Award for outstanding non-fiction series.

Antonelli did not finish his degree at Fitchburg State but has recently renewed ties with the university. He reunited with several of his fellow plaintiffs from the 1969 free speech case for a panel talk in 2011 and was on campus last year for a screening and discussion of his celebrated documentary about author Jack Kerouac.

“I have to tell you how surreal this has all been the past two years,” Antonelli told the crowd gathered for the annual Alumni Breakfast that preceded the commencement ceremony. The passage of time has given him a greater appreciation for Hammond’s actions in 1969, he said, describing the deep-seated principles he saw in the former president.

“We came to question ourselves because of (Hammond’s) emotional honesty,” Antonelli said. “We kept asking ourselves, ‘why is this essay important for us to publish?’ Looking back from all this time, I really have a great amount of respect for him and his forthrightness. We all believed very strongly in what we were doing. Looking back, we were both right.”

The students won the lawsuit—filed when Hammond refused to allow what he described as obscene matter to be published—while Hammond presided over an institution that continues to thrive.

For his willingness to share his talents and experience with the campus community, Antonelli was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

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John Antonelli, right, collects his honorary degree from President Antonucci.



Kelly '84, Linda (Mathieu) '85, and Julie Barrows '13

A Family of Falcons

In May, Kelly and Linda Barrows along with their daughter Julie proudly represented the Fitchburg State Alumni Association by participating in the spring commencement ceremony. This momentous occasion marked the first commencement they celebrated together as family members and alumni.

Kelly and Linda became friends when they were teenagers working at the Capital retail store in Fitchburg. Before long they started dating, and soon after, Kelly was attending Fitchburg State where Linda enrolled the following year.

Kelly and Linda continued to date throughout college and in 1986 were married. Turn the clock forward 27 years, and you’ll find them happily residing in Westminster with their four children. Kelly, a computer science major, works as a test systems engineer at Raytheon and Linda, an accounting major, works as a bookkeeper for Saint Edward’s Parish in Westminster. Newly-minted alumna Julie was recently hired by VHS Collaborative in Maynard.

The success of this Fitchburg State family is proof that falcons really do soar.



Would you and your family of Falcons like to march at commencement? Do you have a relative graduating? All alumni are invited to march with the alumni association at commencement and will be provided a front-row seat for the ceremony.

Contact the alumni office for more information.

Winter Commencement: Dec. 20, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Graduate Commencement: May 15, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Annual Alumni Breakfast and Undergraduate Commencement: May 17, 2014, 8 a.m.

Talking about global health

When the World Health Organization (WHO) was looking for ways to improve interventions in public health crises, they reached out to academia. Fitchburg State Professor John Chetro-Szivos (Communications Media) was one of the experts they called.

“Communication has taken center stage in health care,” Chetro-Szivos said. And so it was that last fall Chetro-Szivos found himself in Hammamet, Tunisia, working with 30-40 health officials in search of better techniques for risk communication.

The international scholars who traveled to Tunisia last September were focusing on the WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean Region.

At issue is improving communication to help contain and prevent health crises, Chetro-Szivos said. The WHO estimates outbreaks between 1990 and 2003—including “mad cow” disease in the United Kingdom, SARS in Asia and cholera in Tanzania—had a \$90 billion economic impact, to say nothing of lives lost. Better communication can prevent such steep costs, he said.

The communication scholars helped WHO field workers and ministries of health get beyond the simplistic view of the transmission model of sender and receiver. There is great value in seeing communication as the creation of dialogue, he said, and there is evidence that communication plays a role in the ongoing construction of our brains.



Paul Beaudoin’s (Humanities) online course “From Woodstock to the iPod” was recognized this spring as a course of distinction by the Massachusetts Colleges Online consortium.

The course of distinction award recognizes faculty from throughout the state who have developed and teach innovative and exciting online and

blended courses. These courses are representative of the best uses of eLearning instructional tools to enhance student success.

Beaudoin’s course was recognized for its exploration of the American popular musical landscape in 11 topical modules. The organization said Beaudoin had created media-rich video lectures, designed quality assessments, created engaging discussion boards, and incorporated insightful primary source material that augment his fully online course to give each student a contextual appreciation of the subject.

“This is a fairly new course written for the undergraduate non-major who wishes to understand more about the intersections of popular music with social, political and economic trends and is not a survey of ‘greatest hits,’” Beaudoin said.



“As communications scholars we’ve been saying this, but now there’s proof positive,” Chetro-Szivos said, describing the concept of neuroplasticity (which indicates the brain’s

structural connections are modified throughout life based upon the kinds of conversations and experiences we share).

The SARS outbreak represented a paradigm shift in this regard, as it was the first public health outbreak of the Internet era, Chetro-Szivos explained. Daily web updates became hugely important, and allowed for a great deal of rumor control and fact checking. Information could come from reliable WHO sources, and not suspect government agencies, he said. Major media outlets also shared the WHO information.

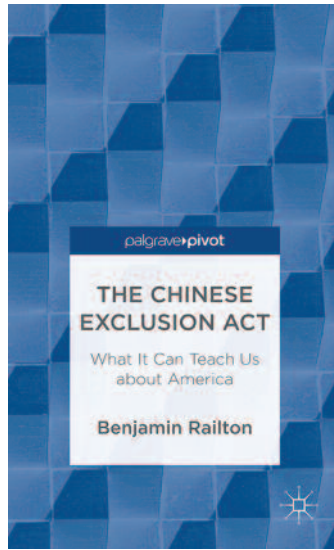
Creating dialogue is important because effective communication recognizes the importance of empathy, trust and rapport between parties.

“The big thing that WHO learned is communication is one of the best public health tools at their disposal,” said Chetro-Szivos, who added that he has discussed additional travel with the WHO. “We’re going to each area and doing this kind of training because each region represents different communication issues.”

Beaudoin also presented “iTunes, YouTube and Me: Augmenting Your Classroom with Web-based Media” in April at the Sharjah Higher College of Technology in the United Arab Emirates. The paper describes the strategies and techniques he has developed for teaching several popular music and art classes. In addition, he participated in a plenary session that addressed how technology is redefining education. The paper was to be included in a book slated for publication in August called *Redefining Education*.

Laurie DeRosa (Education) has been elected vice president of the Kappa Delta Pi Executive Council. Kappa Delta Pi is the international honor society in education, supporting the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization has more than 600 chapters and an active membership of 43,000 worldwide.

DeRosa has been an active educator at Fitchburg State for 23 years and is currently a professor in the education department. Her interests include researching the integration of the arts into the curriculum and development of interdisciplinary curriculums. She accepted the nomination to serve on the Executive Council for the 2012-2014 term, along with other elected officers of that KDP legislative body, to help guide the strategic vision and initiatives for the international association and oversee its financial resources.



Benjamin Raitlon (English) saw his book *The Chinese Exclusion Act: What It Can Teach Us About America* published. The book highlights how remembering the CEA can help us connect to histories of legal/illegal immigration, American diversity, and inspiring American stories that would all significantly shift our understanding of American identity and communities, past and present.

Walter Jeffko (Humanities) will have the third edition of his book *Contemporary Ethical*

Issues: A Personalist Perspective published by Humanity Books (an imprint of Prometheus Books). In addition to its numerous revisions and updates, the book has a new chapter on the moral treatment of civilians in war, which is an expanded version of his Harrod Lecture delivered in October 2010.

María Mercedes Jaramillo (Humanities) presented a paper about Afro-Colombian theatre at the XXXI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in San Francisco. Also, she presented a paper about Afro-Colombian writers at the X Jornadas Andinas de Literatura Latinoamericana (JALLA) held at Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia. During her trip to Colombia she was invited by Universidad Autónoma de Cali to present *Hijas del Muntu: biografías críticas de mujeres afrodescendientes de América Latina*, a book she co-edited with Dr. Lucía Ortiz. Jaramillo's paper "El teatro como terapia colectiva" was published in *Teatro contra el olvido*, a book edited by Dr. Laurietz Seda (*Lima: Universidad Científica del Sur*, 2012).

Robin Dinda's (Humanities) composition "Casey at the Bat" for organ and narrator won the Kotschmar Centennial Competition for organ demonstrators. The Kotschmar organ in the City Hall of Portland, Maine, is one of the last two municipal pipe organs in the U.S. that still has an official municipal organist. In honor of the centennial celebrations of the organ, the Friends of the Kotschmar Organ held a national competition for a composition written for organ and narrator. Dinda's winning composition uses the famous 1888 poem and is also a set of variations on the 1908 popular song "Take Me out to the Ball Game." The composition was premiered in front of several hundred middle school students and was performed again during the centennial week. Wayne Leupold Editions published the work.

John Paul (Humanities) attended a two-day symposium on "How Bodies Matter: The Intersection of Science, Religion, and the Humanities in the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean World," Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University. Paul also reviewed a monograph, "Towards a Critical Medical Practice: Reflections on the Dilemmas of Medical Culture Today," edited by Anand Zachariah, R. Srivatsan and Susie Tharu (New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2010) for the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (2012).

Charles H. Sides (Communications Media), the executive editor of the *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*, was presented an Award of Merit by the Society for Technical Communication, Washington, D.C. Los Alamos National Laboratories and Westinghouse Electric Company were among other recipients of this distinction at the 2012-2013 Summit Competition. The award is the second presented to the journal in the past five years.



Michael Hoberman (English) will have several essays published in the coming months. "The Confidence placed in you is of the Greatest Magnitude: Representations of paternal authority in early Jewish American Letters" has been accepted for inclusion in the spring 2014 edition of *Studies in American Jewish Literature*. "Preppies" and "Boarding Schools," essay entries in *The Encyclopedia of Youth Cultures in*

America, edited by Simon Bronner, Mary Napoli, and Cindy Dell Clark, will be published by M.E. Sharpe in 2014.

Hoberman is also the author of additional essays that will be published this fall by the Springfield Republican newspaper on the Jews of Western Massachusetts. The working title for the book is *Taking Courage: the Jews of Western Massachusetts*.

Jane Fiske (Humanities) coordinated a visit from the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association when the group presented its 45th annual Bay State Competition at the university for the ninth consecutive year. More than 200 piano, string, and voice students, ranging in age from 5 to 18 from all around the state, competed for trophies and the chance to be named the best in the state.

Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) had his new volume on the struggle for peace in the Middle East—*Conflicted are the Peacemakers: Israeli and Palestinian Moderates and the Death of Oslo*—published by Continuum, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing. The 1993 Oslo Accords were a key attempt to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, whose failure was largely attributed to extremists on both sides. Budd's book challenges this conventional wisdom by examining the role of Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers themselves in derailing the peace process.

"The current conflict over the Gaza Strip shows how far apart the two sides remain," said Budd. "As the Oslo Peace Process has bogged down, the extremists have been empowered. With the moderates too conflicted to make peace, the extremists don't need to sabotage the peace process because the moderates have already done that for them, so the cycle of violence continues."



Looking at the role of moderates before and after Oslo, the different agreements and peace proposals they negotiated, and their rhetoric, the book shows that these peacemakers retained an inherent ambivalence toward the peace process and one another. This prevented them and their constituents from committing to the process and achieving a lasting peace.

This unique survey shows how the people who drive the peace process can not only undermine it, but also prevent its successful conclusion. By dealing with such an important aspect of negotiation, the book will foster a better understanding of the role of moderates and why peace processes may falter.

Budd, one of the founders of the university's Center for Conflict Studies, is the author of *Democratization, Development and the Patrimonial State in the Age of Globalization* (Lexington Books, 2003) as well as many articles and book reviews.

Budd also attended the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association in Boston. He was the chair/discussant for a panel on the Arab Spring, participated in a panel of former presidents of the association on the 2012 elections, and attended the executive committee's meeting. Budd is now the president emeritus of the association.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTERSTAGE

Fahrenheit 451 / SEPT. 24 at 10:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.
Bold and inventive. Accessible and engaging. Using multimedia, nationally-renown Aquila Theatre ignites Ray Bradbury's world where firemen burn books and refugees secretly memorize them.

Holiday Extravaganza!
Thayer Symphony, the Greater Gardner Community Choir & Fitchburg State Chamber Singers / DEC. 14 at 7:30 P.M.
Two local ensembles gather with Fitchburg State students for one glorious performance. This concert is filled with orchestral and vocal holiday chestnuts—and will sell out quickly!

Tierney Sutton Band: the Joni Mitchell project / FEB. 7 at 8 P.M.
After spending years immersed in the many hues of Joni's music, Tierney Sutton's Joni Mitchell project aspires to "paint a little 'Blue' portrait." The evening will be as intimate as a 1960's coffeehouse.

Steep Canyon Rangers with Della Mae / MARCH 29 at 8 P.M.
Steep Canyon Rangers are today's rising American roots music stars and 2013 Grammy Award winners for Best Bluegrass Album with their Nobody Knows You CD. This progressive bluegrass quintet is on fire! Opening for SCR, is another hot bluegrass sensation—Della Mae—who commands a powerful collective chemistry with vocal, instrumental, and songwriting talent to spare.

Scan with your smart phone to visit our website:
www.fitchburgstate.edu/cultural
 (978) 665-3347 • TH-F 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Falcons soar to NCAA Tournament



Fitchburg State's Mike Ingram-Rubin drives to the hoop during Saturday's NCAA Division III tournament game against the University of Rochester. (University of Rochester photo)

The Falcons made history in 2013 when the men's basketball team earned its first-ever berth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

The team was fifth-seeded in the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC) and won a trip to the NCAA Division III tournament with a thrilling 80-72 victory over the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in February.

From there the Falcons headed to the University of Rochester for the opening round of the NCAA Division III tournament. They hung tough throughout the contest before a jam-packed crowd inside the Louis Alexander Palestra athletic center. It was the 14th trip to the Big Dance for the Yellowjackets.

In addition to facing the No. 18 team in the country and playing on the road in a hostile environment, the Falcons had to overcome first-half foul troubles as starters **Mike Ingram-Rubin** and **Brandon Selby** each had three fouls heading into halftime.

Despite those difficulties, Fitchburg State still held a 67-66 lead with 10:25 remaining as senior **Tom Henneberry** scored a career-high 33 points on 11-of-21 shooting.

Henneberry, Ingram-Rubin (16 points) and junior **Zach Valliere** (16 points, 11 rebounds) did everything they could to help the Falcons (16-11) try to pull off the upset. Ultimately, it took a career performance from Rochester's (22-4) John DiBartolomeo to deny Fitchburg State its first

NCAA tournament win. The Falcons were sent home after DiBartolomeo, the two-time University Athletic Association Player of the Year, scored a career-high 42 points, including 25 in the second half. The final score was 91-86.

"I'm proud of this team beyond words," seventh-year Fitchburg State head coach Derek Shell told the *Sentinel & Enterprise* after the game. "This one is going to sting for a while, but I think when we get some separation from this, we'll realize what we accomplished and I couldn't be prouder of a group of guys."

Track & Field



Zach Desrochers

Zach Desrochers competed at the 2013 Men's Indoor Track & Field Championships hosted by North Central College in Naperville, Ill. this spring.

Desrochers entered the NCAA Division III Championships ranked fifth in the nation after witnessing a huge week at the DIII New England Championships in mid-February. He set his NCAA qualifying mark in the weight throw with a

toss of 19.03 meters, placing first overall in the event.

At the 2013 Championships, Desrochers collected his first career All-American honor, earning top seven honors in the weight throw. The senior thrower posted a mark of 18.69 meters (61 feet, 4 inches).

Desrochers also competed at the 2013 Men's Outdoor Track & Field Championships hosted by the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He entered the NCAA Division III Championships ranked 12th in the nation after witnessing a stellar week at the MASCAC/Alliance Championships in late April. He set his NCAA qualifying mark in the discus with a MASCAC/Alliance record throw of 51.02 meters, earning an Alliance Championship in the process.

At the 2013 Championships, the senior thrower put forth a strong effort, posting a 17th place finish with a toss of 47.14 meters (154 feet, 7 inches).

For his efforts, Desrochers was named Fitchburg State's Paul K. Waring Co-Male Athlete of the Year. Desrochers graduated in May.

Softball



Tori Cyrus

The Fitchburg State softball team earned the fourth seed in the 2013 MASCAC Tournament, and defeated fifth-seeded Salem State, 3-1 to advance to the semifinal round hosted by Bridgewater State. In the semifinals, Fitchburg State lost to top-seeded Bridgewater State, before defeating Worcester State, 1-0. The Falcons were eventually ousted by Bridgewater State, falling 6-2.

In addition, the Fitchburg State softball team named two players to the 2013 MASCAC All-Conference teams.

Freshman **Tori Cyrus** led all honorees, being named the MASCAC's Softball Co-Rookie of the Year, while junior second baseman **Ashley Forgues** was selected to the MASCAC All-Conference first team. Sophomore outfielder **Colleen Flaherty** rounded out the honorees for Fitchburg State, with a second team All-Conference selection.

Cyrus collected her first post-season accolade after witnessing a stellar rookie campaign for the Falcons softball team. The freshman third baseman batted .361 with a team leading 44 hits including 10 doubles, 23 runs scored, four triples, a homerun and 20 RBI in 38 games for Fitchburg State.

Forgues earned her first MASCAC All-Conference selection after registering a solid junior campaign. The second year Falcon finished third on the squad, with a .302 batting average (38-for-126) while leading both the team and conference in stolen bases with 22.

Flaherty also collected her first MASCAC All-Conference selection after posting a team-best .365 batting average with 31 hits including four doubles, one triple, and 12 runs scored, while currently tied for the team lead in RBI with 20.

Ice Hockey

Senior forward **Joseph Caveney** was crowned the NCAA Division III statistical champion in three categories after concluding his senior season by leading the nation among all

division three schools in points per contest (1.74), assists per game (1.11) and power play goals (9).

This year, Caveney witnessed a breakout season for the Fitchburg State ice hockey squad, leading both the team and league in scoring with 47 points on 17 markers and 30 assists. The second year Falcon capped his career by being selected as the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Player of Year, while also being selected to the USCHO East All-American second team.

Over his 42-game career, Caveney totaled 68 points on 26 markers and 42 assists, while also posting 14 power-play tallies and three game-winning goals. For his efforts, he was named Fitchburg State's Paul K. Waring Co-Male Athlete of the Year. Caveney graduated in May.



Joseph Caveney

Field Hockey

The Fitchburg State field hockey team earned All-Conference honors as senior **Jamie Kelley** was named to the Little East Conference (LEC) All-Conference first team.

The senior captain notched her third career nomination after posting a record-breaking season over the 2012 campaign with a LEC All-Conference first team selection. The senior forward etched her name into the record books, ranking first all-time with 33 career assists and second all-time in goals (41) and points scored (115).

This season, Kelley led the Fitchburg State offense, totaling a team-best 49 points on 21 scores and seven dishes. The veteran forward was just as dominant among conference opponents, registering 32 points with 15 goals and two assists.

The Fitchburg State field hockey team wrapped up its 2012 campaign with an overall record of 7-11 and a 3-8 mark in the LEC.



Jamie Kelley

Meet the Institutional Advancement Team

The Office of Alumni and Development is headquartered in the Aldo and Anna Guglielmi Mazzaferro Center at 291 Highland Ave. The office supports the university by raising private philanthropic support for student scholarships and also provides programming and services for 35,000 alumni.

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs, also located in the Mazzaferro Center, supports the university by attracting and applying for federal and state support as well as private grants.

Together, these offices make up the Institutional Advancement Team and provide a wide array of support for the university.

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Christopher P. Hendry '91, '07

Michael Kushmerek '08, '13 is director of annual giving.

Emily Austin-Bruns is director of alumni relations.

Kelly Sylvia '03, '11 is assistant director of donor relations.

Carolyn Garrahan is administrative assistant for institutional advancement.

Karen Frank Mays is director of grants and sponsored programs.

Jaclyn Sutcivini is a grant writer.

Brenda Coleman is programs assistant in the grant center.



Pictured, clockwise from bottom right: Christopher P. Hendry; Karen Frank Mays; Brenda Coleman; Carolyn Garrahan; Emily Austin-Bruns; Michael Kushmerek; Jacklyn Sutcivini; and Kelly Sylvia.

Met & Married



George "Tim" '56 & Alice "Sally" (Kingston) Bauman '57 "We met at the Campus Spa in October of 1953. Our first date was to the Halloween Dance at Saima Hall where we discovered our shared love of dancing. We have danced through 56 hilarious and eventful years, produced four glorious children, and eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Completing advanced degrees, thanks to the confidence created at Fitchburg State

Teachers College and Burbank Hospital School of Nursing, we pursued our professional careers at West Springfield High School, and Pioneer Valley Pediatrics in Longmeadow.

We are totally loving our retirement and our return to Grampa Bauman's farm in Ashby. Here we jumped right into town volunteer service: Sally as Chairman of the Capital Campaign for a Library addition, and Tim as Chairman of the Ashby Conservation Commission.

Our service on the Alumni Board of Directors has helped to maintain our connections with friends and classmates and we continue to be amazed and proud of the ongoing growth and evolution of Fitchburg State University."—*Tim & Sal*

Armen '63 & Pauline (Pappas) Harootian '63 "We met in September 1959, during Freshman Initiation at the Freshman Tug of War. Pauline remembers him because he had on a bright red sweat suit and was the first guy on the rope. After becoming president and vice president of their class, their class advisor, Rene Thomas, surreptitiously encouraged them to date. We remember sharing coffee and toast for 25 cents

at Friendly's and walking to our first real date at the Oyster Bar in Fitchburg. Later we were voted king and queen of the Carnival Ball and we started dating thereafter. We married in 1965; nearly 50 wonderful years later we have three children, and five grandchildren that fill our lives with joy."—*Armen & Pauline*



Dalton "Bud" '63 & Mary Jane (O'Malley) Smart '63 "We met our freshman year at Fitchburg and became good friends immediately. Bud played soccer and Jane was a cheerleader. We spent many snowy nights walking down to Friendly's, or the brand new fast food restaurant called McDonald's. We went to Sadie Hawkins' dances, formals, and plays on campus while developing a wonderful circle of lifelong friends. Following graduation, we were married, completed doctoral programs, and devoted our professional lives to education. We are now retired snowbirds migrating between Florida and Connecticut enjoying golf, travel, friends, four children, their spouses and 18 grandchildren."—*Bud & Jane*



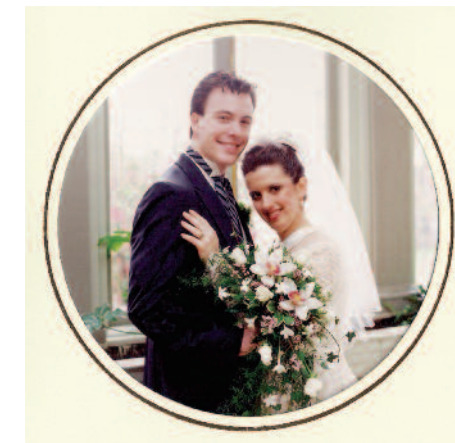
James '79 & Bonnie (Dyer) Lamondia '79 "It was my junior year at FSC, and I was taking a Physics Class with Dr. Norman Fredette. I was assigned a freshman as a lab partner, and he obviously was over his head and didn't have a clue. I couldn't believe how unlucky I was! This was going to be a tough class! After the first lab, my partner realized that he had made a mistake, and dropped the class. Everybody else was all paired up, and now I was on my own. Dr. Fredette told me to pick another lab group to work with, and I wasted no time picking the pair of girls that included the cutest girl in the

class. I couldn't believe how lucky I was! This was going to be a great class. I was a biology major and she was a medical technology major. By the end of the semester, we had started going out. It took a while before she got to like me, but eventually she liked me enough that she agreed to marry me! I started graduate school at Cornell in Plant Pathology in June, and we were married in August 1979 after she finished her hospital internship. We have been inseparable for 33 years, have two great sons, and I still can't believe how lucky I was in physics!"—*Jim*

James '82 & Karen (Gradzewicz) Hayden '82 "Karen and I met in 1980. At first, we hated each other, but then we began working together as coeditors of the Rhetoric. Soon after, we started dating and got married in 1985. Two kids and two grandkids later...we're still in love."—*Jim*

Gary '86 & Deborah (Tor) Clark '85 "I met Deborah at a party at my apartment in college. We've been married 25 years, and now our oldest is a senior at Fitchburg State."—*Gary*

Joel '87 & Kelly (Fitzsimmons) Wetherell '88 "Met my husband at Fitchburg State in 1984. We married in 1988 and we have three kids, one fighting owl and one river hawk. With 1 still in high school there is hope for one more Falcon in the family!"—*Kelly*



Kevin Simoneau '93 & Gina Cuccovia-Simoneau '92 "We met in the fall of 1991 in Townhouse 103. I noticed 'the cute guy across the hall' and I thought he was new on campus but learned he had been hiding out in the 'New Halls' (aka Mara) for the past three years. I asked Kevin out on our first date to see Treasure Island at Weston Auditorium on September 14, 1991, and it's been true love ever since. Married on May 11, 1996. Three kids and 17 years later, we're still loving every minute!"—*Gina*

Michael '91 & Lisa (Angiuoni) Ippolito '93 "I met my husband in 1989 at Fitchburg State and we have been together ever since with 2 beautiful boys and a very happy life!"—*Lisa*

Daniel '93 & Jean (Arsenault) McDermott '93 "I met Jean while attending Fitchburg State and after graduating in 1993, we got married and are very happy!"—*Dan*

Anthony '95 & Tanya (Hoos) Crowley "I dated Prof. Gunther Hoos's daughter, Tanya, briefly in 1994. We lost track after I graduated in 1995. In 2000, we passed each other on opposite escalators in a Washington, DC, metro station. Soon after, we started dating again and got married in 2002. We eventually moved back to Massachusetts and now live a block from campus with our son, Aiden."—*Tony*

Christopher '96 & Paula (Ferazzi) Swift '95 "Chris and I met in college in 1992 through our fraternity and sororities, the Esoteric Society and the Tokalon Society. We started dating in 1993. In 1998, Chris proposed to me while on a trip to Chicago while riding in a horse and buggy through the downtown, on our 5th anniversary. On June 12, 1999 we were married and now have three sons who are 5, 7, and 9 years old. We both run our own businesses in Framingham. Chris owns NoblePay Merchant Services and I own a photography studio Paula Swift Photography, Inc."—*Paula*

Brandy Sales '02 & Lynne Fitzgerald-Sales '03 "We met in the fall of 1999. I was a junior and an RA in Aubuchon and she was a Freshman in Herlihy. We met through an ex-girlfriend and started dating after six days of knowing each other. Got engaged May 14, 2004, on the Fitchburg State University quad and got married, in Fitchburg, on September 24, 2005. We have two kids now and can't wait to bring them to Fitchburg State to tell them our story."—*Brandy*

Michael Poirier '97 & AnnMarie Donahue '02 "I met my wonderful husband Michael in the spring of 1999. Michael came to The Point office to look for a friend, but found me working alone. We had a conversation, then he left and I thought nothing of it. A few days later, I received a five page letter from him. After telling my family about this 'weirdo stalker,' and agreeing with my father that I should steer clear of him, I immediately changed my mind and we began dating. We were married six years later. Together we've gone back to Fitchburg State and earned master's degrees, and both work as teachers. Michael is the best friend I could ever ask for; he's a confidant, and a world class taco-chef. Good job Fitchburg!"—*AnnMarie*

David '98 & Tara (Piccini) Manzello '03 "We met in the fall of 1999 and started dating in August, 2000. We have been married for 9 1/2 years and we have twins who are almost 4!" —Tara



Thomas '03 & Caitlin (Egan) Leary '06 "A fellow alumna, Amanda (Rouleau) Bastien '05 introduced us to each other four wonderful years ago. I married the love of my life on August 11, 2012." —Tom

Dan Isola '05 & Ibelis Melendez '04 "We met in 2001. We both lived in Mara 6! This summer we will be getting married!! It's been a wonderful 12 years!" —Ibelis

Sean '06 & Amanda (Lacouture) Matthews '06 "We met freshman year, lived on the same floor in Herlihy Hall through junior year and then in the same Townhouse building but didn't start dating until the end of senior year! She was class president and I was SGA President. We have been married for four years and have a beautiful two year old daughter." —Sean

Craig '07 & Ashley (Murphy) Leger '07 "It all began with long walks to class at McKay and an epic summer working in the Student Activities office while sporting our kiddie pool in the Townhouse Quad with the most amazing 'Summer Crew' ever to grace the Townhouses for the hot months. Almost eight years later, we have been married for more than four years with two kids, numerous life-long friends from our days on campus, and endless memories. The Legers will always have fond memories of our time at Fitchburg State." —Craig

Dan Seaman '07 & Kerry Kazanjian '08 "Dan and I met in the fall of 2004 through mutual acquaintances in the halls of Herlihy. Up through graduation we never had much contact other than a passing hello as Facebook friends. Five years later in 2009 on a whim Kerry saw on Facebook that Dan was going to a Celtics game that she was going to and messaged him asking if he wanted to meet up for a drink (which looking back was kind of odd since we never really talked when we were in school together). Fast-forward three happy years later and we are planning our fall 2013 wedding. Both of us agree that if you had told us back in 2004 we would be getting married, we would have said you were crazy!" —Kerry

Mike Kushmerek '08 & Carissa Scottfenton '11 "I first met my future husband at a party in 2008 shortly after what his friends call his public declaration of freedom—when he, a

senior, openly proclaimed that he was planning on moving straight to Washington, D.C. after graduation with no intention of 'settling down.' The moment I first saw him, I had this instinctual feeling that we belonged together and I immediately pursued him. I remember standing still across the street from his apartment on Highland Avenue before our first date with hesitation getting the best of me. I thought to myself, 'This one choice could be the start of the rest of your entire life' and bravely marched to his front door. I'm so thankful that I made that choice and I'm just as thankful that I chose to attend Fitchburg State. He decided to settle down with this 'Fitchburg local' and proposed to me at the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Dec. 11, 2012! We're in the process of planning our wedding and the rest of our lives together." —Carissa

Kiel Szivos '09 & Jessica Outerson '10 "I met Jessica Outerson at Fitchburg State in 2009, we're now engaged and will be married in 2013!" —Kiel

Daniel Quin '11 & Sara (Valeri) Quin '11 "I met my college sweetheart in 2007 after a mutual friend introduced us because we both drove Jeep Wranglers. We said 'hi' now and then, but that was about it. It wasn't until the spring of 2009 that I got a chance to really meet Sara as I sat behind her in Professor Walter Jeffko's Logic class. We started spending time together after I offered to help her study for tests (even though she understood it better than me). We were pretty much inseparable that summer, and to this day. I asked Sara to marry me in January 2011 in front of Cinderella's castle in Walt Disney World. We got married on August 4, 2012, before driving off in OUR Jeep. Fitchburg State will always be a special place for us, because it is where our story began." —Daniel



Brendan McVickar '11 & Serena Rose Ciccarello '11 "I have been with Brendan McVickar for three and a half years. We met through being RAs together in Aubuchon Hall & graduated in 2011!" —Serena



Matthew Marchetti '12 & Stephanie Fielding '07 were married on July 20, 2013, in a small ceremony at the new Fitchburg State University Highland Plaza gazebo. The couple met on campus five years ago and now owns a home in Fitchburg. Stephanie works as an academic advisor at Mount Wachusett Community College and Matthew is an English teacher at the Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology. —Matthew & Stephanie

Are you a graduate of Fitchburg State University who wants to get married on the Fitchburg State University campus? Contact the alumni office for details at (978) 665-3025.

1950s

Thomas Convery '50, of Medford, was awarded a lifetime achievement award from the Medford Historical Society, on June 1, 2012, at a ceremony held at the Medford Public Library. A great friend of local history in Medford, Convery chaired the city's bicentennial committee in 1976, started the Mustang Hall of Fame at Medford High School where he taught Civics, published seven books on local history donating the full \$37,000 in proceeds to charity, and was instrumental in getting a new hitching post dedicated in Medford Square to commemorate Paul Revere's ride.

1960s

Andreana (Valois) Wisniewski '62 resides in Tavares, Fla. In June 2004, Wisniewski retired from The King's Academy where she served as dean of students for 21 years.

Deanne (Suzor) Noiseux '67 was Scituate Arts Association's selection for the September 2012 "Meet the Artist" demonstration. Noiseux, a resident of Scituate and artist at the Front Street Gallery, has been creating art for more than 25 years.

Brian Wazlaw '69 is a Democratic member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, representing Rockingham 29 since December 2012.

1970s

James Gemborys '71 was named 2012 Grand Champion in the Bread Class at the Leavenworth County Fair in Tonganoxie, KS.

Joann (Trzcinski) Marion '71 retired after 35 years in the field of education from the Jefferson County School District in Colorado in May 2012. Her husband **John Marion '69** retired after 42 years in education.

Hosted by **Tony '64 & Nancy (Lambert) Romano '65**, Mohawks from the classes of 1964-66 enjoyed a beautiful July 2012 day on Cape Cod for their fifth summer reunion. If you would like to receive notice of future Mohawk reunions, please contact Ned Daniels '65 at nbdisme@gmail.com.



Front row: Veronica (Sullivan) Carroll '66, Chris Lamey, Kathy Lowney, Cheri (Renda) Driscoll '66, Ingre DeFusco, Ginny (Corbett) Noiles '65, Linda (Ulm) Flahive '65, Nancy (Lambert) Romano '67, Tony Romano '64, Fran Molla '66. **Second row:** Tim Carroll '65, Jack DeFusco '64, Pat Lowney '65, Peter Gill '65, Maureen Gill, Joanne Ralston '69, Paul Ralston '65, Jim Noiles '65. **Back row:** Lou Cornacchioli '66, Tom Lamey '65, Fred Sullivan '63, Dickie Freedman '66, Paul Flahive '65, Jerry Driscoll '65, Fred Gillis '66, Billy Brodeur, Sam Pawlak '66, Denise Carroll, Jim Carroll '65, Ned Daniels '65.



Mark Coughlan '77 and fellow Mohawks reunited in December 2012 to celebrate their annual Mohawk Alumni Christmas Pasta Festival. The fraternity alumni, spanning from the 1960s through the 1980s, have held an annual holiday reunion for more than 25 years.

Elaine (Barry) Francis '72 was recently awarded a grant for promising teacher-training programs to improve classroom instruction for English learners.

Clyde Hedges '72 has published five books since graduating from Fitchburg State with a degree in education. *Frisky Fairy Tales I and II* are satires of the old fairy tales. *The Boys of Chattanooga* is a novel concerning the little known yet remarkable American Civil War battle, the Battle of Chattanooga, fought in 1863. *Coyote* is a young adult science fiction/adventure story, and *Virtual Christmas*, a modern retelling of *A Christmas Carol*.

Kevin McShane '73, of New Sharon, Maine, is a special education teacher who has created several board games. His most recent board game gives special education students practice in counting money. As a cartoonist, he created the character "Smiling Sam," and uses the character as the basis of the game.

Mark Leonard '73, of Lunenburg, is the northeast regional sales manager for Technology Education Concepts, Inc., located in Concord, NH.

Helen (Cote) Deloge '74 serves as a State Representative in New Hampshire representing wards 5, 6 and 7 in District 12. Deloge

lives in Concord, NH, with her husband Ken.

Anthony Gasbarro '74 has been appointed to the position of interim superintendent of the Wachusett Regional School District. Prior to this appointment he served as principal at Rutland's Glenwood School. Gasbarro, who resides in Leominster, is a doctoral candidate at Lesley University in educational studies. He earned his master's in school leadership and management from Fitchburg State in 1979. His long career in education includes two terms as principal of Johnny Appleseed School in Leominster and Meetinghouse School and Westminster Elementary School in Westminster.

Daniel Novak '75 is retiring from his post as director of the Gardner Senior Citizens' Center after a 35-year career. Novak graduated from Fitchburg State in 1975 and began at the senior center in 1976. Following a brief hiatus teaching science at Gardner High School, Novak returned to the senior center at the urging of local officials. He helped facilitate the move of the senior center to a new location after a fire, upgraded the building with new amenities, and helped expand its programming.

Thomas Allingham '77 is the director of critical care at the Cumberland Medical Center in Crossville, TN.

Dwaine Chilcot '77, of Plymouth, teaches Technical Education at East Bridgewater High School.

David Lantry '79, of Fitchburg, teaches Technical Education for Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham.

Patricia (Warpula) Bollinger-Blanc '79 is director of clinical operations at the Natick Visiting Nurse Association. Bollinger-Blanc, who lives in Douglas, previously served as director of operations at Amedisys Home Health Home Health in Providence, RI, and as director of patient services/regional director of operations at Masonicare Home Health and Hospice in Connecticut.

1980s

Mary (Connolly) Marotta '81 has worked as an adjunct faculty member at Fitchburg State for nearly ten years and also teaches as an adjunct professor at colleges in the Boston area.

Donna (Camber) Ferreira '81 was inducted as an American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN) Fellow in April 2012 at the national conference in Nashville, TN. Donna resides in Shirley with her husband, Michal Ferriera '83 and their daughters.

Dawn Michaud '81 retired as a Colonel from the U.S. Army after 32 years of service. Michaud now serves as special education director of services for Knox and Warren counties in Illinois where she supervises special education and budgeting for seven rural school districts.

Joyce Pelrine '81, of Kingston, NH, teaches Technical Education at the McKelvie Intermediate School in Bedford, NH.

Peter Demers '82 is the manager of reporting and analytics for Alliance Healthcare Services.

Salvatore Emma, Jr. '82 was recently appointed to serve as

A higher calling—James J. Fleming '82

It's been three decades since Father James J. Fleming '82 graduated from Fitchburg State, but the recently named president of Wheeling Jesuit University says he recalls the exact moment when his career came into focus.

The Lowell native was a junior just skating by when a respected professor stopped him one day and simply said, "Jim, when are you going to take this seriously?"

Fleming, now 53, said he looked up to Rosemarie Giovino, and was embarrassed by the comment.

Fleming said she didn't yell or tell him what to do. A light flicked on and from that moment forward, Fleming said buckled down and took his studies in special education seriously.

"It was one of those moments," Fleming said. "She stuck the hook in me and reeled me in. It's kind of embarrassing but it's true. It made me wake up."

In fact, Fleming said it's a technique he has employed quite often with his students.

Fleming said he's still in touch with Giovino, who even attended his ordination as a Catholic priest.

"She was a great influence in my life," Fleming said.

All the best educational practices he learned at Fitchburg State have carried through no matter where he was or what he was doing, he said.

"Obviously, as a president of a university, you know the importance of a college education," Fleming said.

Fleming went on to graduate from Fitchburg State in 1983 with a degree in special education, and started his new position as the 10th president of Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia on July 1.

Fleming first joined the university as the institution's first vice president for mission and identity in 2010 and was named executive vice president in 2012. He previously served as director of mission planning and assessment for Boston College and was a member of the faculty from 2000 to 2010.

He has a master's degree from Boston College and a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley. He is priest with the New England Province of the Society of Jesus.

Jennifer Lefferts



Arrhythmia Research Technology Inc.'s President and Chief Executive Officer.

Kathleen (Anderson) Faur '82 has been promoted to branch manager of the main office of Rollstone Bank & Trust in Fitchburg. Faur has been with Rollstone Bank for 15 years and has progressed through the retail division.

Peter Hazel '83 has joined the Gardner-based Fidelity Bank commercial team as a senior vice president/business banking officer. He previously worked at GFA Federal Credit Union in Gardner as vice president of business development and senior commercial lender, where he was awarded U.S.

Small Business Administration Preferred Lender Status.

Denise Garlick '84, of Needham, has served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as State Representative since January 2011. Her district includes Needham, Dover and parts of Medfield. Prior to her election, Garlick served as a Needham Selectman for two years. A registered nurse, Garlick was a past chairwoman of the Needham Board of Health and a past president of the Massachusetts Nurses Association and Needham Opportunities, Inc.

Katherine (Farrell) Swanson '84, of Walpole, teaches health, family and child studies at Canton High

School. Swanson, an educator for more than 30 years is also the coordinator for the school district's wellness department.

Kathryn (McCarragher) Beldan '85 is the critical care educator at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston where, in October 2012, she facilitated the annual orthopedic nursing conference.

Nancy (Provencal) Seguin '85, Assistant Vice President and Human Resources Manager at Worker's Credit Union in Fitchburg, has been recognized as a 2012 Credit Union Hero by Banker & Tradesman, a Boston-based publisher of banking and real estate data. The award

This group of alumni—including graduates, spouses, and sometimes children—have been getting together annually since graduation. 2012 marked the 30th year of their reunions. Three of their children have earned degrees from Fitchburg State University: Jennifer Finerty '12 works for Granite Telecommunications Co.; Haley King '12 is a 6th grade teacher at the Pawtucket Memorial School in Lowell; and Ashley Normandin '13 graduated this past spring.



Back row (left to right): Gerry Finerty '83, Jack Donovan '83, Patrick Connolly '83, Christine Ryan '84 **Front Row (left to right):** Kerry (Glynn) Drinkwater '85, Vicki (Gonsalves) Donovan '82, Sharon (McBride) King '82, Susan (McCafferty) Normandin '82

recognizes credit union professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the industry and the community, giving freely of their time, energy and resources for volunteerism, community service and charity. Nancy, who has been with Worker's since 2006, has served as an employee team captain for the United Way of North Central Massachusetts and the Greater Gardner Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society.

Jacquelyn (Giusti) Nally '86, of Foxboro, was recognized for her admirable work as a registered nurse with an extensive and distinguished background in emergency and disaster nursing. She works at two leading hospitals in Greater Boston, Massachusetts General Hospital and Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She most recently helped out with aiding those who were victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

David Sontag '86, of Fitchburg, has purchased and joined the accounting firm of Richard Letarte, CPA of Leominster. The new name of the firm will be Sontag and Associates, CPAs PC.

Keith Thibault '87 currently serves as both director of Fall River Community Television and as director of television services at Bristol Community College. A communications media major, Thibault also hosted a sports radio show on WXPL, Fitchburg State's radio station. After graduation he worked at WNHB radio in New Bedford where, in 1994, he landed a job at the city's local cable access station. He began his current position with FRCTV in 2000.

Rhonda (Morse) Forand '88, of Boxborough, has earned recognition in the exclusive network of prominent professionals in Stanford Who's Who. Forand has worked at Emerson Hospital in Concord for more than 23 years. Her most recent role with the hospital was serving as Nurse Director of Obstetrical Services for more than a decade. Forand is a member of the Organization of Nurse Leaders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses.

Christine Brodien-Jones '89 a children's author who lives in

Gloucester with her husband Peter, will publish her third middle-grade novel, *The Glass Puzzle* with Random House/Delacorte Press in July 2013. Her previous two books, *The Owl Keeper* (2010) and *The Scorpions of Zahir* (2012), are also fantasy based adventures for ages 10 and up.

1990s

Ruth Hinde-Moura '90 is a certified school nurse at the Reeds Ferry Elementary School in Merrimack, NH. Hinde-Moura lives in Hollis, NH, with her husband and three children.

Robert Salvatore '91 was honored at the Thayer Memorial Library in Lancaster, with the Chandler Reward of Merit award for authors of young adult and children's literature. Salvatore, who resides in Leominster, has sold more than 15 million books in the U.S., most of which are fantasy and involve themes of good and evil, and social issues.

Daniel Kenney '91, of Quincy, teaches technical education at Duxbury Middle School.

Edward Olson '91, of South Berwick, ME, teaches pre-engineering and robotics at Somersworth High School Career and Technology Center in Somersworth, NH.

Eric Tracy '91 has served as principal of Wilmington High School since 2004. Eric's career in education began as a technology and science teacher, and he has previously worked as an assistant principal in Peabody and Salem. After receiving his bachelor's degree in industrial science at Fitchburg State, he earned a master's in education from Cambridge College.



Kimberly E. Lewis '96, of Canton, GA, represented Fitchburg State University at the University of North Georgia as the campus celebrated the inauguration of President Bonita C. Jacobs with an installation ceremony and reception on April 26, 2013.

If you would like to serve as a representative at installation ceremonies in your area, contact the alumni office at (978) 665-3025.



Nearly thirty NEASYLONS spanning four decades, organized by Bridget (Brohel) Koetsch '97 and Doris (Gaibl) Kraemer '78, reunited in Falmouth, on October 27, 2012.

Gary Salter '92 is Vice President of DMAR Environmental, a full-service diesel fuel testing and remediation company in Clinton.

Christine Rosati-Dalton '92 has been promoted to patient education coordinator for Women's Health at Hartford Hospital.

Kathryn (Berry) Poulin '93 has been selected as a VIP member of the Covington Who's Who Executive and Professional Registry. Kathryn, a special needs educator at Apponequet Regional High School, holds a master's of Education Degree in Occupational Education from Fitchburg State University. The selection recognizes her commitment to excellence in education.

Jennifer Wisniewski '93 is a registered nurse at the Children's Hospital in Denver, CO, where she has worked in the children's cardiac intensive care unit and recovery room.

Melody Gallant '94, treasurer collector for Westminster, has been elected president of the Worcester County Treasurer Collector Association for a second term. Gallant, a lifelong Westminster resident, first assumed office in 1993. Her term will expire in spring 2014. She is certified as both a treasurer and collector with the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association.

Jorge Pazos '95, of Chelsea, is the chief information officer for Melrose. In addition, Pazos is a featured blogger for *Forbes* magazine, writing about the city's regional IT initiative, which provides computer services for the town of Essex.

Bridget (Brohel) Koetsch '97, of Gardner, teaches kindergarten at the Petersham Center School.

Andy Bayiates '97 created the play "44 Plays for 44 Presidents," which ran from October 27th to November 11th at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Bradley Brooks '97, of Nashua, NH, is currently serving as the student services director for the Chelmsford school system. Prior to this position he served as the program director of the Merrimack Special Education Collaborative in Billerica. In addition to the bachelor's degree he earned in 1997, Brooks earned his master's degree from Fitchburg State in 2000.

Annette Aberdale-Kendra '98 has written a book on eating disorders and body image issues. *Group: Voices Within the Journey of Eating Disorder Recovery* tells the stories of five young women (ages 16-22) with eating disorders as they embark on their journeys to recovery. The book is based on Aberdale-Kendra's experience of co-facilitating psychoeducational

eating disorder support groups for young women.

Scott Kellett '99 has been appointed headmaster of the Dover-Sherborn Middle School. Kellett taught mathematics at the school for a number of years prior to accepting a position as assistant principal in Sharon. He advanced to the position of middle school headmaster in Middleborough before returning to the Dover-Sherborn Middle School as assistant headmaster nearly three years ago. After earning his bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire, Scott received his master's degree from Fitchburg State in 1999.

Katherine Brace '99 anchors the weekend evening newscasts and reports during the week for CBS

Atlanta where she has worked since the fall of 2009. Prior to joining CBS in Atlanta, Brace spent four years as an anchor and reporter at WPTV in West Palm Beach, Fla., where she helped uncover a potential cancer cluster in Palm Beach County. She received an Emmy nomination for those ongoing reports. Before appearing in front of the camera, Katie worked at WBZ NewsRadio and the Boston Athletic Association (famous for the Boston Marathon.)

Margaret Rwamba '99 was the recipient of the 2011 Gerard D. Downing Advocate of the Year Award, presented by the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association. Rwamba works for the Worcester District Attorney's office as the director of the victim/witness assistance program.

Sarah Leonard '00—The drive to heal

Dr. Sarah Leonard '00, D.O., encourages prospective medical students to take long, hard look at the road they could face to earning an advanced degree.

"Think about why you want to be a doctor," she said. "You can't say it's because your parents wanted you to."

Dr. Leonard recently visited the Fitchburg State campus to speak to the university's biology club about the road from Fitchburg State to being a practicing physician.

Leonard described the process of medical school admission to students, and also covered the philosophical questions they should consider before embarking on the long, expensive and difficult road to a career in medicine.

"It's not a hobby," she said. "You really have to want to do it. It's a lot more studying than you thought was possible. There's a really high burnout rate."

Leonard described studying in the shower and while brushing her teeth as examples of the regimen she had to maintain to get through medical school.

And while physicians tend to be well paid, studies have shown that a plumber may make more money in the course of their lifetime than a physician, when factoring in the number of hours worked and the debt incurred along the way to employment. Leonard noted she'll be paying more than \$1,000 a month for the next 30 years to pay off her loans.

At the same time, the learning process for medical professionals never ends.

"You never master medicine," she said. "It's lifelong learning."

But the result of that hard work is a rewarding career making a profound, positive impact on people's lives, she said.

"It's good for your ego to be a doctor," she said.

Describing her own specialty, Leonard said being a doctor of osteopathy is not that different from being a medical doctor. Some consider the D.O. approach

more holistic, she said.

"I'm a real doctor," she emphasized. "It just says D.O. after my name."

Leonard is board-certified in family medicine and practices in Gardner.



MB

2000s

Marc Moschella '00 was named senior project manager at JM Coull Inc., a Maynard-based construction-management and design-build firm. Moschella has been with JM Coull for 10 years managing projects in the health-care, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and microelectronics divisions.

Robert Monteiro '01 has been unanimously approved by the Swansea School Committee to serve as superintendent of the Swansea Public School system. Monteiro had previously served as assistant superintendent since 2010. He earned his master's degree in educational leadership and management from Fitchburg State University.

Derek Swenson '02 is currently serving as the director of curriculum and grants for the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District. Swenson, who resides in Raynham, received his master's degree in Education and Educational leadership from Fitchburg State University. Prior to his new position, he served as Principal of the Bridgewater Middle School for three years.

Tara (Piccini) Manzello '03 completed two marathons in 2012: the Boston Marathon in April and the Jimmy Fund Marathon in September. A resident of Leominster, Manzello serves as assistant director of Graduate, International & Undergraduate Evening Admissions at Fitchburg State University.

Jami Anderson '03 has been promoted to project manager at Maynard-based JM Coull, Inc. Anderson had previously served as an assistant project manager for five years.

Jason Polonsky '03 was elected to a three-year term as Councilor-at-Large for the town of Palmer in June 2012.

Allison Biggs '03, owner of Allison Biggs Graphic Design,

And the winner is...Evelyn Howe '06

It was probably a good omen when working actress Evelyn Garcia Howe had an unusually smooth audition to star in the SpeakEasy production of "The Motherf---er with the Hat" last fall in Boston.

"They ended up casting me from the first read, which is very unusual," she said. "Once I came in, they said, 'This is the one.'"

The play, by Stephen Adly Guirgis, tells the tale of ex-con Jackie, who comes home from prison to find a man's hat in the apartment of his drug-abusing girlfriend, Veronica (whom Howe played). The play is a comedy but still carries a lot of raw emotion.

Veronica was a great part, Howe said, laughing at what a far cry the role is from her own personality. "It's a lot of swearing, a lot of emotion. She's crass, alcoholic, drug-using – the farthest stretch you can imagine from me."

Howe nailed the part, winning the Elliot Norton Award for outstanding actress this May from the Boston Theater Critics Association. The SpeakEasy Stage Company also won the award for outstanding production.

Even getting nominated was a thrill, Howe said, but winning the award has opened doors. She now finds herself being invited to

audition for parts, where before she was hustling to get through the door.

Howe found her passion at Fitchburg State, where she enrolled with plans to stay no more than a year before transferring to another institution. Then she met professors Richard McElvain and Kelly Morgan.

"I stayed because of Richard and Kelly," she said. "Just from class one, I fell in love with it. They

gave me wonderful opportunities and encourage me to do my best work."

She was challenged in the theater program to play a variety of roles, including old men and Shakespeare's Hamlet.

The Norton Award is affirmation for Howe—who supports herself as a mortgage underwriter—that she can start focusing on a professional acting career.

"I'm getting paid to do something I love."

MB



started her company in 2007. Allison, who resides in West Springfield, began her graphic design career as an intern with FirstLight Communication and Design in Feeding Hills.

Adam Keyes '04, of Medford, serves as the assistant director of housing at Boston University.

Ken Yankee '04 was nominated for a 2012 Emmy award in the category of outstanding picture editing for short form segments and variety specials for his work on "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition—Rise and Honor, A Veterans Day Special," for ABC. This was the third Emmy nomination for Yankee. A native of Shrewsbury, Yankee also earned an American Cinematic Editors

Award in 2011, along with fellow Fitchburg State alumnus, **Paul Coyne '05**, for an episode of "If You Really Knew Me," an MTV series about high school cliques.

Brenda Theriault-Regan '04 was selected to serve as principal of Tewksbury Memorial High School in June 2012. Prior to that, Theriault-Regan was the assistant principal at the John Ryan Middle School in Tewksbury.

Zachary Waddicor '05 became principal of the Wilbur School in Somerset in December 2012. The Wilbur School has students from kindergarten through grade five. Waddicor had previously served as associate principal and Title I director for the Carver Elementary School.

Wendy Bell '05, of North Grafton, was appointed as the next principal of the Walter J Paton School. Bell is completing her 13th year of teaching the third and fourth grade at the Paton School, where she has helped the school achieve among the strongest student performance results in the state. She was nominated and selected to receive the 2012 John P. Collins Award for Teaching Excellence.

Paul Coyne '05 was nominated in 2012 for an Emmy award in the category of outstanding picture editing for nonfiction programming for his work on the A&E documentary series "Beyond Scared Straight," the series for which he serves as the executive producer. Coyne also earned an

Pedal to the medal—Luciano Pavan '09

Luciano Pavan has long had a passion for cycling, with 10 years of competition under his belt. Earlier this spring, Pavan competed in the 80-mile Sterling Classic Road Race. His first-place finish earned him a spot in the Nature Valley Grand Prix pro stage bike race in Minnesota.

"It was a good experience," said Pavan, who graduated in 2009 with a degree in economics. "The competition was insane. I've done other stuff that included professional (cyclists), but not to this extent."

Pavan finished in the middle of the pack, but said he was proud of his performance and grateful for the opportunity to compete.

Pavan, 30, works as senior buyer for G&F Industries, a custom injection-molding plastics business in Sturbridge. Cycling is a passion, he said, but it won't become his profession.

"I'm too old," he says, though he is competing among elite amateur cyclists.

And he's not slowing down. Within weeks of his trip to Minnesota, Pavan was competing in races in Connecticut and New Hampshire

and the Longsjo Classic back in his adopted hometown of Fitchburg. Pavan has enjoyed prior success at the Longsjo—named for Fitchburg-born Olympic medalist Arthur Longsjo—and was glad the race had returned after a hiccup in its half-century of existence.

Pavan—an Italian citizen—grew up in Uruguay and then moved to Fitchburg at age 19 with his father, from whom he inherited a passion for cycling. Before seeking his college degree Pavan was working as a carpenter, and ended up doing a job for hockey coach Dean Fuller, who encouraged Pavan to pursue an education.

"The rest is history,"

he said, noting he finished his studies and 2009 and remains friendly with Fuller.

At Fitchburg State, Pavan taught a spin class at the Athletics and Recreation Center while maintaining a strong academic record (graduating with a 3.94 grade point average).

Pavan enjoyed his recent trip to the Midwest, a part of the country he'd never seen. "It was different," he said. "A lot of open fields. It was quite a change in landscape."

MB



American Cinematic Editors Award in 2011 (along with fellow Fitchburg State alumni **Ken Yankee '04**) for an episode of "If You Really Knew Me," an MTV series about high school cliques. A native of Milford, Coyne attended Fitchburg State University in the 1980s and returned to graduate in 2005 when he was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Corey Donnelly '06, of Fitchburg, been appointed to be a student police officer. He will attend the Reading Police Academy before returning to Fitchburg for three months of on-site training.

Meaghan Kampersal '06 and Josh Robshaw were married on August 10, 2012. The couple resides in Holliston.

David McKenna '06 has been appointed vice president, claims finance, metrics and strategic projects at Selective Insurance Group. McKenna joined Selective in September 2010 as assistant vice president of claims metrics. Previously, he worked at Homesite Insurance in Boston where he was the manager of claims project services.

Courtney Currie '07 and Jamie Brousseau were married August 25, 2012.

Kyle Causey '07 is an air traffic controller assigned to the 49th Operations Support Squadron, U.S. Air Force at White Sands Missile Range, NM. With a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Fitchburg State, Causey started Air Force basic training in 2007, graduating in 2008. Causey then completed three months of technical training, receiving orders to WSMR, followed by an additional year of advanced training before becoming a certified traffic controller in 2009.

Jack Crory '07, who has produced and directed productions for theatre companies in Boston, has launched his own troupe, the

Fitchburg Theatre Group, a diverse company that incorporates people of all ages. Their first production, "Love's Labour's Lost," which will be performed at Coolidge Park in Fitchburg, includes 23 actors, designers and musicians who make up the cast and crew.

Kristen Ricardi '07 has been promoted to a clinical coordinator at Behavioral Concepts, Inc. in Worcester, a company of behavioral clinicians specializing in the care of children with autism in Central Massachusetts. Ricardi has worked for BCI in several full and part time roles since 2006, most recently in the Shrewsbury Public School system as a paraprofessional, teaching in a pre-school program for children with autism. In her new role, Kristen will write programs for skills development, counseling and other developmental services for more than a dozen BCI clients in Central Massachusetts who are living with autism.

Krystn Cinelli '07 opened Miss Krystn's Dance Studio in September 2011, in Wakefield. Cinelli received a bachelor's in Exercise Sport Science with a minor in Theatre. While at Fitchburg she was on the dance team and is currently pursuing her Dance Masters of America Certification.

Sieh Samura '07 recently directed a film, called "Block Reportin' 101," which deals with issues in urban communities around the city and nation. Samura plans to engage a wider audience as well, submitting "Block Reportin' 101" to local film festivals.

Stephen Berdos '08 and Kathryn Zeigler were married on April 28, 2012.

Andrew Pottel '09 graduated from the UMass School of Law in 2012. Following his admission to the bar, Pottel was hired as the Director of Vessel Registration for the

Commonwealth of Dominica's Maritime Administration.

Rhiannon (Tyack) Blake '09, married Tyler Blake and works as a nanny while caring for their baby daughter.

Karen Warinsky '09 has two poems that will appear in the book, *Joy Interrupted*, an anthology about motherhood. She earned a master's degree in English from Fitchburg State.

Marissa Torres '09 is the marketing and communications coordinator at Heywood Hospital in Gardner.

Steven Schinnerer '09 is the president and owner of Paper Fortress Films, a cinematography and post-production company based in Somerville.

Nicholas Carbone '09 recently earned his J.D. at the Massachusetts

School of Law. Carbone currently serves as a Fitchburg city councilor.

Joana Dos Santos '09 has been recently appointed to the Board of Trustees at Mount Wachusett Community College by Gov. Deval Patrick. Dos Santos is the executive director of United Neighbors of Fitchburg/Cleghorn Neighborhood Center.

Eric Luongo '09, of Lynn, works for Shire as a quality control technician.

Christopher McKillop '08, **Lauren McDonald '10** and **Timothy Graham '11**, organized the 4th annual Fitchburg State University Alumni Pub Tour on June 1, 2013. The event was attended by more than 120 alumni and friends of the university, raising more than \$1,000 for student scholarship support.



Events

VISIONS 2014

Wednesday April 30, 2014
 3:30 – Alumni Panel
 4:30 – Visions Forum
 5:30 – Gallery Opening and Reception
 7:00 – Theater Showcase
 8:00 – Film and Video Screening

Following the screening, all alumni are invited to join communications media faculty for an afterhours event at Destare, located at 320 Main Street, Fitchburg.

2010s

James '10 & Rebecca (Foden) McNamara '10 were married on September 18, 2010.

Michelle Spriggs '10, CPA, has been promoted to managing director at CBIZ Tofias. A member of the not-for-profit and education audit practice, Spriggs works out of both the Boston and Providence offices. She received her MBA from Fitchburg State in 2010.

Adam Houge '10, of Lowell, joined the Danvers office of the MetLife Financial Group of Massachusetts as a financial services representative. Houge holds an MBA from Fitchburg State University. He also served as a captain in the U.S. Army.

Dayna Green '10 & Alan Archibald, Jr. '09 were married on August 25, 2012, at Saint Bridget's church in Framingham.

Danielle Schaefer '11, of Saugus, is a case manager at Greater Lynn Senior Services. Schaefer recently returned to the United States after serving almost two years in Cambodia with the PeaceCorps.

Daniel Dembkowski '11 has been hired as a criminal analyst at the Department of Justice, for INTERPOL, in Washington, D.C.

Eric Gregoire '11, a native of Ludlow, was selected by Amesbury Mayor Thatcher Kezer as his chief of staff. After graduating from Fitchburg State University, Gregoire earned a master's degree in policy, planning and administration from Boston University. Recently, Gregoire served a national committee on the development of new regulations for evaluating teacher-preparation programs. Gregoire was appointed to the federal negotiated rulemaking committee to help represent the interests of university and college students from across the country.

Christopher Custodie '11 was sworn in as a police officer of the

Wayland Police Department on December 10, 2012. Custodie, a member of the U.S. Marines Reserves from 2003 until 2009, served in Iraq in 2004. He plans to pursue a master's degree in criminal justice.

Carissa Scottfenton '11, of Fitchburg, works as a case manager at Montachusett Home Care.

Ashley Beauregard '12, of Hubbardston, was recently hired to work at Nonotuck Resource Associates' Auburn office in the adult family care program. Beauregard, a graduate of the nursing department, has experience in delivering holistic care through the use of nursing skills, assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention and evaluation.

Joseph Venditto-Vedovelli '13 was awarded the PwC LLP Scholarship by the Massachusetts Society of CPAs. Venditto-Vedovelli received the scholarship at the MSCPA's annual meeting and recognition reception on May 16, 2013 in Boston. He graduated from Fitchburg State University in 2013 and is pursuing a master's degree in accounting from Northeastern University.

Share your story! You can submit news, updates and photos to us by email at contact@fitchburgstate.edu or mail them to Fitchburg State University, Alumni Office, 160 Pearl Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.



Men's Alumni Soccer Game – On August 25, 2012, more than 25 men's soccer alumni returned to campus to face-off against the current Falcon team in the fifth annual Men's Alumni Soccer Game. The 6th annual 2013 game was scheduled for August 24. For more information contact: alumni@fitchburgstate.edu

In Memoriam

Gladys (Peterson) Oneto '30
of Southbury, Conn., on May 10, 2011.

Alta (Sherman) Berry '31
of Athol, on August 28, 2011.

Vera (Kenney) Frey '40
of Dennis, on November 6, 2012.

T. Richard Kelliher '42
of Orleans, on June 10, 2012.

John Sobol '42
of Memphis, Tenn., on July 20, 2012.

John Hoyer '43
of West Palm Beach, Fla.
on January 8, 2013.

Rene Thomas '43
of Fitchburg, on August 19, 2012.

Stanley Potts '46
of North Truro, on December 29, 2012.

Barbara (Thompson) Fiske '47
of Athol, on February 2, 2013.

Lawrence Walsh '51
of Canton, on February 13, 2013.

Claudette (Houle) Finck '53
of South Hadley, on July 6, 2012.

Claire A. Bloomfield '53
of Amherst, NH, on September 2, 2009.

Robert T. Duncan '53
of Gardner, on February 7, 2012.

Eleanor (Vesperi) Johnson '55
of Milford, on February 8, 2012.

John Junkala '56
of Framingham, on November 8, 2012.

Arthur Tarolli '57
of Athol, on January 20, 2013.

Arlene (Barent) Rosen '58
of Swampscott, on March 2, 2013.

Richard Tourigney '58
of Gardner, on December 14, 2011.

Donald Bateman '64
of Kennebunkport, Maine
on November 7, 2012.

Joseph Pare '65
of West Boylston, on November 25, 2012.

Marilyn (O'Donnell) Fratturelli '66
of Leominster, on October 20, 2012.

David Dik '67
of Dryden, NY, on November 7, 2012.

Edward Popoli '70
of Westfield, on August 7, 2012.

Linda Krawczyk '70
of Westminster, on November 7, 2012.

Paul E. Parker '70
of McAllen, TX, on July 25, 2010.

Frederick Hodnett '76
of New Orleans, LA, on August 1, 2012.

Gerald H. Maurice '77
of Northborough, on August 8, 2008.

Martha (Gundersen) McCune '77
of Bolton, on June 20, 2012.

Lester Raymond '77
of Somerset, on March 19, 2010.

George Vetter '81
of Reading, on April 10, 2011.

George Sutherland '81
of Bellingham, on May 17, 2012.

J. Christopher Davis '82
of Leicester, on July 3, 2012.

William Hafker III '80
of Donnelly, MN, on September 25, 2012.

Carol (Riddle) Hurley '82
of Tewksbury, on November 17, 2012.

Richard Nichols '84
of Brentwood, NH, on September 27, 2012.

Kimberly Forsyth '85
of Dracut, on November 13, 2011.

Michael Stewart '87
of Wakefield, on August 13, 2012.

Anne F. Beauchemin '89
of Fitchburg, on May 6, 2012.

Lisa J. (Brown) Doherty '90
of Conway, NH, on April 7, 2012.

Adeline Heimberg '91
of Lunenburg, on December 4, 2012.

Cara (LeBlanc) Kelly '98
of Leominster, on August 18, 2012.

Friends of the University:

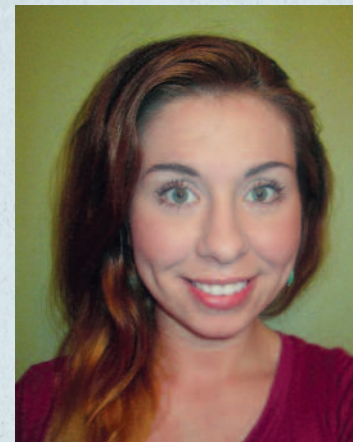
Eleanor Voorhies,
former Dean of Nursing at Fitchburg State
of Bedford, on January 10, 2013.



William Fitzgibbons '49
of Columbia, MO, on December 17, 2012.
William, before retiring from Fitchburg State in 1986, was an associate professor of communications media and served as dean of students for seven years.



William Lary



Samantha Glaze-Corcoran

For more information about the Sterilite Scholars Program, please contact Fitchburg State Admissions at 978-665-3144.

STERILITE SCHOLARS PROGRAM: Easing the financial burden for deserving college students

By Kathryn Mahoney

Financing a college education can be a daunting task, especially if you're largely responsible for paying a majority of the bills like many students are today. Fortunately, businesses like the Sterilite Corporation of Townsend recognize the gap between academic excellence and the ability to afford an education and are stepping up to help out.

In 2011, a million-dollar gift from Sterilite allowed Fitchburg State to launch the Sterilite Scholars Program. The money rewards students' academic success by removing the financial barriers that stand between them and a college degree.

In order to be considered for this scholarship, selected recipients must have a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. They must also submit an essay explaining why they are a good candidate for the scholarship. If accepted, they are provided personalized support and a \$5,000 scholarship, renewable annually.

Among the seven Fitchburg State students who were awarded the scholarship in 2013 was William Lary of Winchendon.

"Not only did it help me out financially, but I liked the fact that I would be working together with other Sterilite Scholars to give back to the campus and the community," Lary said. "We put together a lot of successful programs, including a seminar focused on interviewing techniques given by Ethan Becker (former Fitchburg State graduate and international speech coach). It went over pretty well and I was proud to be a part of it."

Samantha Glaze-Corcoran, originally from Ohio, moved to Massachusetts and decided to come to Fitchburg State to pursue a degree in environmental biology with a minor in chemistry. A Sterilite Scholarship helped her on the way.

"It was vindication that I was doing the right thing and was on the right path," Glaze-Corcoran said. "That felt really good."

It also provided her with the finances she needed to reduce her debt upon graduation so she could more easily pursue a master's degree and, eventually, a Ph.D. in sustainable agriculture.

Other 2013 Sterilite Scholars have equally impressive academic records, school involvement, and promising futures. These scholars include Elizabeth S. Brittany Hogan of Harvard, Christopher L. Gambaccini of Lunenburg, Nicholas Gulbrandsen of Bradford, Meghan Mahoney of East Longmeadow and Kathleen Taylor of Maynard.

Announcing ...



Gunther Hoos then...



...and now

The Gunther Hoos Communications Media Internship Fund

Gunther Hoos was among the founders of the Communications Media department and was instrumental in developing the film and video programs at Fitchburg State. As a faculty member, Gunther focused his passion towards encouraging students to pursue challenging and rewarding internship experiences that would lead to fulfilling and meaningful careers in the communications industry.

The Communications Media faculty has come together, soliciting the help of alumni, to honor Gunther Hoos by pursuing an endowed scholarship fund that will provide financial assistance to students pursuing internship opportunities.



Colin E. Bourn

The Colin E. Bourn '63 English Scholarship

Colin Bourn was professor of English at Fitchburg State for more than 30 years. A specialist in English literature, he encouraged students to apply their learning beyond the classroom and explore life through the lens of literature.

Randy Robertshaw '00 created an endowed scholarship fund to honor Colin's legacy, both in and out of the classroom. In 2012, the Colin E. Bourn '63 English Scholarship was awarded for the first time to an English major with financial need.

Gifts in honor of and in memory of:

Endowing a scholarship is a legacy that you can create at any time. Whether you are honoring a retired faculty member, as in the cases above, or memorializing a family member or friend, a gift in any amount can have an immediate impact on the lives of Fitchburg State University students.

For more information on how to make a gift in honor of or in memory of those who have changed your life, contact the Office of Alumni and Development at (978) 665-4555.



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FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

FAMILY WEEKEND 2013

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, 2013

• **Alternative Spring Break Silent Auction** Noon to 5 p.m., Street Level, Hammond Hall

• **Mentalist Craig Karges, Experience the Extraordinary** 7 p.m., Weston Auditorium, free

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

• **ASB Silent Auction continues** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Elliot Field/Gaetz Arena

• **Falcons Men's Soccer vs. Maine Maritime** 10 a.m., Elliot Field

• **Forge In: 8th Annual Blacksmith Festival** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Riverfront Park, Boulder Drive, Downtown Fitchburg

• **Family Fun Fair** Noon to 3:30 p.m., Elliot Field (rain location is Wallace Civic Center)

• **Falcons Football vs. Bridgewater State** 1:30 p.m., Elliot Field

• **Family Skate and Movie: Monsters University** 2 p.m., Gaetz Arena and Wallace Civic Center

• **Autumn Buffet** 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Holmes Dining Commons

• **Women's Field Hockey vs. Bridgewater State** 6 p.m., Elliot Field

• **80's Cover Band: Rubix Kube** 8 p.m., Athletics and Recreation Center, North Street, \$20 for the public, \$10 for faculty, staff, alumni and families and \$5 for Fitchburg State students and children under 10

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29

• **Family Brunch** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Holmes Dining Commons

For more information, including ticket prices, visit
www.fitchburgstate.edu/osd/familyweekend

