

Contact

INSIDE:
Recalling Antonelli v. Hammond
A challenge met
Commencements

\$12,154,000

THE CAMPAIGN FOR FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

...A HISTORIC SUCCESS

Right: Interior construction is well underway on the university's new Science Center. The building, due to be completed next fall, has taken shape and now represents a striking new presence on North Street as well as the main quadrangle.



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This spring, Fitchburg State University wrapped up its first-ever comprehensive capital campaign.

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From the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

The renaissance of the Fitchburg State University campus continues, with the new Science Center rapidly taking shape and on target for its opening in the fall of 2013. It is gratifying to see the renderings and blueprints that have inspired our vision for the future of this institution take physical form. At the same time, the Hammond Campus Center is undergoing its own reinvention, with substantial completion of the first phase of renovation expected by summer's end. The result will be a much more welcoming gateway to the campus.

We are also continuing our investment in the faculty, with the hiring of 11 new faculty members and six more positions we are seeking to fill.

It wouldn't have been possible without the help of our thousands of alumni and friends, who have recognized that Fitchburg State University is a worthwhile investment. In the pages that follow you will read about the milestones we have achieved as we completed our first-ever comprehensive capital campaign. It was an unqualified success that will create countless opportunities for our students and faculty, who expect and deserve the highest caliber of educational offerings and facilities.

As we look forward to a bright future for Fitchburg State, in this issue of *Contact* we are also taking a look back. In the pages that follow you will be transported to a tumultuous chapter of American history as it played out on our campus. The raging Vietnam war and concerns over the draft inspired a generation of political activism, which led to a federal free speech battle centered right here. We recently welcomed back many of the participants in what became a high-profile court case, and here you will learn their compelling stories. The article is complemented by glimpses of where the participants are now, as well as a reflection on the legacy of President James J. Hammond Sr., who presided over an era of incredible growth and expansion of this institution. His legacy cannot be overstated.

I hope you will enjoy learning more about the accomplishments, celebrations and transitions that have occurred this year at Fitchburg State.

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

HONORING OUR PAST CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

This year, the university marked the end of its first-ever comprehensive capital campaign, **Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Future**. The campaign's stated goal was \$10 million. Thanks to thousands of gifts from philanthropic foundations, corporations, alumni and friends, President Antonucci announced in May that \$12,154,000 had been raised. This support will have a direct and ongoing impact on the quality of teaching and learning available at Fitchburg State University. Here, a few of the stories of giving:



A grant from the **The Fairlawn Foundation Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation** was designed to create and train a highly educated and well-diversified nursing and health care workforce in Central Massachusetts. As a direct result of the funding from the Fairlawn Foundation, the online enrollment in the RN to BSN program increased from three students to 108 since 2010. By the end of May, 19 of these students had graduated.



A software package provided by **Cadence Designs Systems, Inc.** allows the university to provide students with the real life application of industrial practices. This particular software package is used across all spectrums of industry and technology, and it is rare for universities to have access to such resources.

Fitchburg State's students are given an advantage through this unprecedented access to industry practices.



A gift from the **Sterilite Corporation** in 2011 inspired the Sterilite Scholars program, supporting 10 students each year who have maintained a 3.75 GPA or higher with renewable scholarships of \$5,000, as well as programming and activities to augment their academic experience. Private philanthropic donations of this nature help to remove financial barriers and provide personalized support for students.



Corporate support provides the impetus to create new opportunities at the university. **Rollstone Bank & Trust** has been a tremendous partner in numerous efforts on campus, leading in the community by example. Their support launched the Regional Economic Development Institute on campus, provided scholarship assistance through their sponsorship of the Fitchburg State University Foundation's annual golf tournament, and helped to enrich the community through partnerships with CenterStage, the university's arts and culture series.

New members sworn in to Board of Trustees

The university welcomed two new members to its board of trustees this spring.

Dr. Robert A. Babineau Jr., a family physician who has practiced in Fitchburg since 1976, fills the vacancy left by the completion of former chairman Gregg P. Lisciotti.



Dr. Robert A. Babineau Jr.

A city resident since 1950, Babineau graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1969 and earned his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1973. He graduated from UCLA's family-practice residency program in 1976.

He is a former chairman of the Department of Family Practice at UMass Memorial HealthAlliance, a member

of the board of trustees at UMass HealthAlliance and a member of the board of directors of Central Massachusetts Association of Physicians. He is also an assistant professor of family and community medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Dr. Babineau's term will expire in 2016.

Frank M. O'Donnell of Swampscott, a 1993 graduate of Fitchburg State, will serve as the alumni representative to the board.



Frank O'Donnell

O'Donnell is a highly accomplished national security executive who currently serves as vice president for mission support at CSMI, a defense contractor based in Lawrence. He earned a bachelor's degree from Fitchburg State in history and later completed his law degree from Suffolk University Law School while simultaneously earning a master's in public administration from the Sawyer School of Management at Suffolk.

Prior to working at CSMI, O'Donnell was a principal for another small defense contractor, SM Consulting, which he helped grow to a \$100 million per year organization. In 2008, SM Consulting was sold to SAIC—a Fortune 500 company and one of the world's largest defense contractors. O'Donnell became a vice president in SAIC's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Division, which he left in 2011 to join CSMI.

O'Donnell was selected by the Alumni Association as representative to the Board of Trustees. The alumni representative is one of two spots on the board reserved for elected members, the other being the student trustee.

O'Donnell served as a member of Fitchburg State's Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1999 to 2012.

A strong foundation

Students from Fitchburg State shone among rivals from across the U.S. at this winter's National Association of Home Builders' Residential Construction Management Competition in Orlando, Fla., finishing in ninth place in a field of 36 four-year institutions.

The university has sent students from its Industrial Technology program to the competition for years, but this was the highest finish yet logged by a Fitchburg State team, according to advisor and Fitchburg State professor Matt McGee.

"Our students compete and perform at the national level because of their strong work ethic and talent, and the support of an excellent faculty and staff," explained President Antonucci. "The Industrial Technology program has been part of Fitchburg State for over 100 years, and success like this is testimony to its strength."

"I'm really proud of this group," McGee said after the tournament. "It's probably the most rewarding experience of my teaching career."

The competition required teams of students to represent a home-building organization seeking to develop a 22-acre tract of property. To



secure financing, the teams prepared a construction estimate and budget, schedule, cash flow projections, project management plans, marketing strategies, risk analysis, land development and green building initiatives.

The Fitchburg State delegation formed a company they dubbed Falcon Construction Inc., and developed an investment proposal for Silver Maple Estates, a multiunit housing complex offering two different building designs and six individual unit layouts.

Fitchburg State theater takes a bow with new works and a voyage to Scotland

A new play from Pulitzer Prize finalist Dava Sobel about the revolutionary astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was performed as a staged reading on campus this spring, one of many events that cast the university in an extraordinary light.

“And the Sun Stood Still” was being presented in partnership with the Catalyst Collaborative@MIT, performed by award-winning Fitchburg State theater students and faculty member Richard McElvain with Debra Wise, the artistic director of the Underground Railway Theater (URT) and the artistic co-director of Catalyst Collaborative@MIT. The play was presented days earlier in Cambridge before an audience that included two Nobel Prize winners.



From left, Richard McElvain, Dava Sobel and Owen Gingerich speak after "And the Sun Stood Still."

Sobel led a lively post-performance discussion in Percival Auditorium with Owen Gingerich, professor emeritus of astronomy and of the history of science at Harvard University, and a senior astronomer emeritus at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Gingerich chaired Harvard’s History of Science Department in 1992-93.

Describing the origins of the play, Sobel said, “I got the idea for the play about Copernicus years ago, when I first learned his story, how he had shelved his heliocentric universe for fear he’d be ridiculed, until a brilliant young mathematician paid him a surprise visit and talked him

into promulgating the theory. Although these two men were different in almost every way, especially regarding religion — Copernicus worked as a canon of the Catholic Church in Poland, while his visitor was a Protestant from Luther’s own university in Germany — their meeting led directly to the publication of

De Revolutionibus.” She added, “And, of course, no one knows what they said to each other.”

McElvain has taught acting, directing, world drama, modern drama and many other theater courses in the English Department at Fitchburg State University since 1997. He played the role of Galileo for CC@MIT at the Central Square Theater in 2009, and has been involved with other projects for the URT.

The cast also included Fitchburg State theater students Brian Hennessey, Ian Vincent, Tyler Welsh and McKegg Collins, who also joined in the post-performance discussion.

McElvain and some of his castmates from “And the Sun Stood Still” will be headed to Scotland this summer to take part in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to stage a 90-minute adaptation of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet.” The classic tale of star-crossed lovers played to packed houses on the Fitchburg State campus last fall.

The adaptation being prepared for the Fringe Festival pares the play down to its essence, exploring its humor and bawdiness, angst and pathos. Twenty-five students will perform under McElvain’s direction.

Fitchburg State’s theater program has brought four other productions to the Fringe: “The Tempest” in 2000, “The Call of the Wild” in 2003, “The Laramie Project” in 2006 and “Pullman Car Hiawatha” in 2009.



Brian Hennessey, left, and Ian Vincent perform in "And the Sun Stood Still."

Student shines at Statehouse event

Courtney B. Gustafson, who crossed the commencement stage in May, was a standout scholar since her arrival at Fitchburg State in 2008. Her cumulative GPA heading toward graduation was an astounding 3.99. Gustafson was among the honorees recognized when the state of Massachusetts celebrated some of its most notable students with the second annual 29 Who Shine awards at the Statehouse in May. The program, overseen by the state Department of Higher Education, honors an outstanding graduate from each community college, state university and UMass campus for his or her academic achievement and community service.

Among this year's honorees are five veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the first female African American firefighter in the city of Holyoke's history, and an aspiring physician who designed and opened a free medical clinic for African immigrants in Worcester.

For Gustafson, a commuting student who was raised in Fitchburg, the journey to Fitchburg State began as one of access; this was a college education she could afford. But it became much more as she realized the opportunities and experiences that were available to a motivated student.

Gustafson balanced a demanding class schedule with work in Fitchburg State's Office of Student Development, where she quickly rose to a managerial position. She also held a second off-campus job. She has been a member of the English honor society, wrote for the student newspaper and was selected for leadership development programs offered by the university. This spring, Gustafson has added an internship at the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* to her already full workload.

She has also endeavored to make a difference on campus. With fully half of the undergraduate population commuting to the university, Gustafson decided the group needed a voice. She founded the Commuter Club in her second year and oversaw the development of programs catering to this population. The club continues to thrive.

Gustafson's advocacy and curiosity transcend the campus, however. She volunteered at the Shirley State Prison, teaching a writing course to inmates. With another student, under the direction of Professor Ian Williams (English), Gustafson designed a syllabus and curriculum for the course and put together lesson plans and assignments for 17 men in the prison.

Gustafson has been accepted into an MA/PhD program in English rhetoric and composition at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she has also been offered a teaching assistantship and a fellowship to cover her fees. She plans to continue teaching writing after earning her advanced degree.

For the ceremony in Boston, Gustafson was accompanied by a delegation from the campus including President Antonucci, Professor Williams and proud members of the Campus Center staff.



Courtney Gustafson, right, accepts her award from Gov. Deval L. Patrick.



Matthew Costello, left, and Sydney Kirsch pose with their trophy.

Center court, once again

Fitchburg State students Sydney Kirsch and Matthew Costello finished first in the nation in the brief-writing contest held last winter at the American Collegiate Moot Court Association's National Championship at Chapman University School of Law in Orange County, Calif.

Kirsch, of Lunenburg, and Costello, of Raynham, helped Fitchburg State maintain its standing as the only school in the nation to have teams advance to day two of every national tournament for 12 consecutive years. Both students advanced to the national tournament in all three years they competed, part of teams that won 17 of 18 preliminary rounds and made it to the second day of all three national tournaments.

Kirsch graduated in January and Costello is expected to return for one more season.

"The continued success of our moot court teams is a great source of pride for this institution," President Antonucci said. "I congratulate the students, faculty and staff who have worked so hard to achieve this distinction."

The national competition featured students engaging in written and oral arguments concerning a hypothetical Supreme Court case. This year's exercise involved threats against the president made in an online chat room. The questions for the litigants in the moot court program concerned whether the federal government had the right to order an Internet service provider to provide a subscriber's chat room dialogue and whether the chat room administrator had the rights to facilitate such a discussion under the First Amendment.

Students had to prepare arguments for both sides of the issue.

"Sydney and Matt are among the best teams that Fitchburg has ever fielded," said Paul Weizer, the Moot Court team's longtime advisor and the new associate vice president for academic affairs. "The competition gets tougher every year. This year had both the largest field ever and the highest scores were needed just to get in. Yet Sydney and Matt demonstrated that they were the best in the nation. To have success in both written and oral advocacy shows just how special they are."

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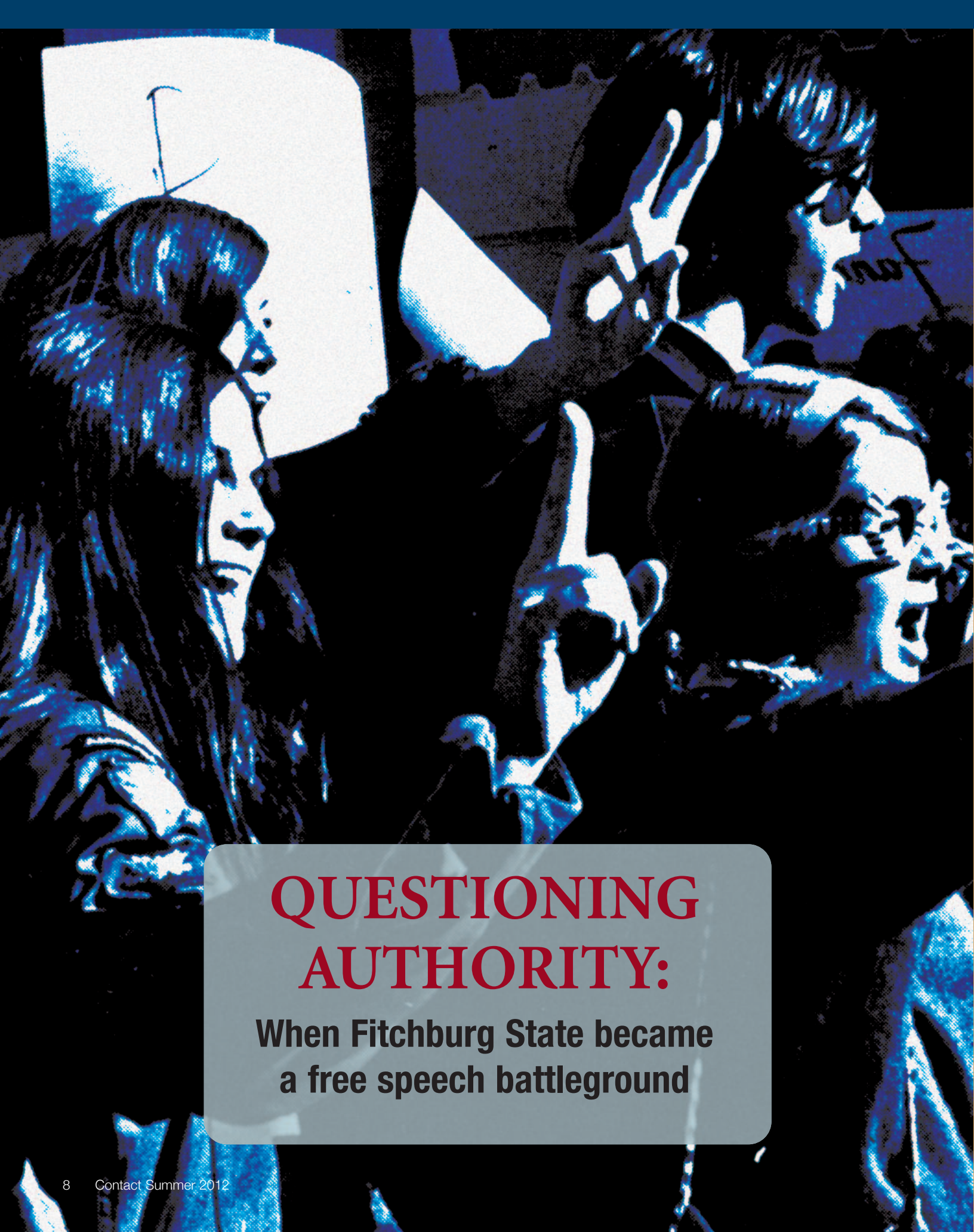
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FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION



QUESTIONING AUTHORITY:

When Fitchburg State became
a free speech battleground

Events Leading to

ANTONELLI V. HAMMOND

by Matthew Bruun

The fall of 1969 was a time of upheaval in the nation and the culture. The Vietnam war was raging and campuses were buzzing with protest as the specter of the draft loomed over a generation. On the campus of Fitchburg State College, though, it seemed many folks were keeping their heads down. James J. Hammond, Sr. was the college's president at that time.



Activist Abbie Hoffman was among the counterculture figures to speak on campus.

bulent time in the country and I personally felt kind of detached from that because of the social climate here.”

The campus scene in those days revolved around the Greek system, said John Antonelli, who was then the editor of *The Cycle*, an upstart student newspaper.

The social scene “was really all about fraternities and sororities,” Antonelli said. “It was an amazing part of our lives at the time. However, there was something it was taking the place of in our minds. There was something lacking on campus for us in those days. It was a very tur-

John Antonelli — Filmmaker



John Antonelli wasn't afraid to shake up the establishment during his time as a journalist at Fitchburg State, and his willingness to challenge authority is still part of his successful career as a documentary filmmaker.

The producer-director-writer has overseen acclaimed 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 has also written, produced and directed an ongoing series of 30-minute films about “The New Environmentalists,” narrated

by Robert Redford. The environmental series has screened at film festivals around the world and netted regional Emmy Awards for outstanding public service programming.

Antonelli was in his junior year at Fitchburg when the court case unfolded, and he did not finish his degree.

“At the end of the year I was both elated and exhausted by the case and decided to leave,” he said, recalling feelings of alienation from the administration as well as some faculty members. “I also had made a major shift from thinking I would be an English teacher and try to write on the side, to thinking I wanted to pursue writing as a career. I also had vague dreams of documentary filmmaking, which wasn't then an option at Fitchburg, of course.”

After his studies at Fitchburg, Antonelli migrated to California where he took courses on filmmaking and journalism at the University of California at Los Angeles and San Francisco State, as well as the University of California at Berkeley and the College of Marin. Though close to a degree with all the credits he'd compiled, Antonelli's career became his focus after he began making films. Recently, however, he's pondered finishing his degree due to an interest in teaching.

The process he uses as a documentary filmmaker was fueled by his time at Fitchburg, he said.

“I found there was something very familiar about the process of collaboration that I had learned in the *Cycle* office,” he recalled. “I also found that soul searching inquiry that was so familiar from the newspaper to be a big part of the process of filmmaking. That self-exploration into, ‘Why is this subject important? Do I want to take this on and devote myself to it and stand by it once it is done?’ This has become an essential part of my creative process and I learned it there at Fitchburg, through my peers, my teachers and the administration. Not all of them were necessarily supportive, but they all fed into the process of discovery that was integral to the creation of the newspaper and the pursuit of the court case and, ultimately, to my filmmaking career.”

Antonelli—who has a grown daughter, Mia, and is in a relationship with environmental community organizer Andrea Dean—is now working on a film called “Unfair Game: The Politics of Poaching” that is being filmed in Africa. This spring he was detained in Swaziland by authorities who wanted him to delete an interview he had just done with the local police commissioner.

“I was brought back to the day when Mr. Hammond insisted that the Eldridge Cleaver article couldn't be published,” Antonelli said, recalling the former college president's actions and motivations as understandable but at odds with the students' moral code. “I wish Mr. Hammond was around today to reflect on it with me. It has been a great gift to be able to revisit with my friends from that time period and to be accepted back on campus as an honored guest. It feels like a remarkable culmination of my educational experience.”

Matthew Bruun

Jay Sampson '70—A Special Education



Jay Sampson witnessed a revolutionary time on the Fitchburg State campus, but also saw great upheaval in the career for which it prepared him.

A native of Oakham, Sampson said he was essentially “a farm boy” growing up. He worked his way through school and in high school had an epiphany: “I thought I wanted to be in education.”

He interviewed at another college but the admissions officer told him his interest in special education would be better served at

Fitchburg State. And so it was.

After finishing his studies, Sampson worked for 30 years in special education as a behavior specialist. He saw the field evolve dramatically over those three decades. In the 1970s and 1980s, in particular, resources were ample and the field was exploding.

“Everything was changing,” he said. “Educational theories were just flying everywhere.”

He moved to Oregon with his wife, Paula—a high school sweetheart from their days at Wachusett High School in Princeton—and worked in several school posts. When he wasn’t teaching, he operated what he calls “a hippie farm” in his spare time. His wife worked as a nurse.

Sampson retired from teaching in 2001. Now, he works with his son as a building contractor, and serves his community as captain on the local fire department. Oregon, where he settled after his wife’s aunt encouraged them to visit, has become home. But he still has fond memories of his time at Fitchburg State, from the classroom to the friendships that formed here.

“As for the education I got, it was tops,” Sampson said. “It allowed me to experiment within special education.”

And he remains close with several of his co-plaintiffs from the Antonelli v. Hammond days, he said. Last year, he went on a fishing trip to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico with John Antonelli and Roger Tincknell.

“I drive down to San Francisco every once in a while to see John,” Sampson said. “We’re still very close.”

Matthew Bruun

“The first years seemed like ‘rah-rah college,” said Jay Sampson, who befriended Antonelli early in their college years. “It was like going to school in the 1950s.”

And then the culture started to change, Sampson said.

“If you graduated in 1965, you were right on the edge of that transition,” he said. “During my junior year we started to get more active. We really didn’t think we were very radical, but for Fitchburg State we were pretty radical.”

Dave Celuzza, a member of the Student Government Association and *The Cycle*’s sportswriter, said there was a latent will for political action among members of his social circle. He recalled one day in the Commuter Café when a man in a fatigue jacket approached to ask if Celuzza and his friends were interested in volunteering for a political candidate.

“We were interested in running a campaign for anybody on anything,” said Celuzza, who with his friends was soon working out of an office on Putnam Street in downtown Fitchburg on the congressional campaign for future U.S. Rep. Robert Drinan.

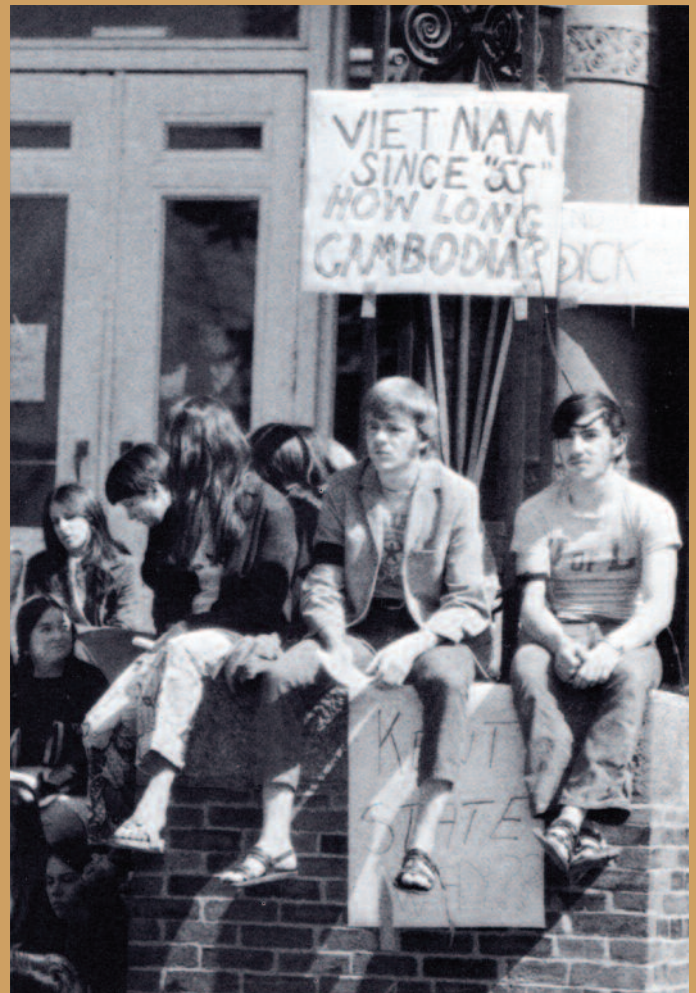
Roger Tincknell was the culture editor for *The Cycle*. He also described a complacent campus environment.

“When I came to Fitchburg I found a void overall,” he said. “Except for *The Cycle*. They seemed to be a refuge.”

Joan Sweeney (profiled on next page) also saw value in challenging the status quo, summoning speakers and musical acts to campus that would engage minds—citing Norman Mailer’s maxim that culture is insulation against a single idea.

“We tried to find additional ways to aggravate the administration, because that’s what we were into then,” she said. “We pushed the envelope constantly.”

The Cycle was a medium for all of them to do that, with historic consequences.





A student reads "The Black Moochie," the novella whose publication triggered the court case.

"The Black Moochie"

In the summer of 1969, Antonelli and fellow student Tony McNamara—who was also class president—attended a student journalism conference in Colorado, where they were introduced to *Ramparts* magazine. *Ramparts* offered left-wing essays to school newspapers, and *The Cycle* was interested in them.

One piece that was published in *The Cycle* contained an F-word which Antonelli and his colleagues were surprised to see blurred out by the off-campus printer.

"He had consulted with President Hammond about it," Antonelli recalled. "This was really the first shot."

The next volley would have greater reverberations. For the next issue, *The Cycle* staff sought to publish an excerpt from "The Black Moochie," a novella by Black Panthers founder Eldridge Cleaver. The piece contained a great deal of obscene language and references to sexuality. The printer who was delivered the piece objected, however, and called Hammond for his guidance. Hammond said he wouldn't pay for the printing and the edition was blocked.

In a show of support, the staff of the student paper at Salem State later printed *The Cycle* on the back of one of their own issues. "In effect, we published it without President Hammond's approval," Antonelli said.

Hammond pushed back. He appointed a faculty advisory board to review all *Cycle* content in advance of publication. The decision doomed the newspaper,

Joan Sweeney '71—Seeking Justice



Joan Sweeney was a student activist while studying at Fitchburg State in the late 1960s but the passion she felt for social justice didn't end there. In fact, fighting for equality has been an overriding theme in her life ever since.

"Fitchburg State really was the seed, the beginning of a lifelong interest and passion about justice and fairness related issues and that have taken a variety of different forms of expression," said Sweeney, who was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., grew up in Fitchburg, and now lives in Gloucester. "I'm still dealing with justice issues in a very different context."

Sweeney, a staff member of the student newspaper that filed suit against the administration, graduated with a double major in special education and psychology in the winter of 1971.

After Fitchburg State, she eventually earned a doctorate in psychology with specializations, as well as additional advanced training in organizational psychology, design and management of complex change efforts, organizational culture, organizational effectiveness, leadership development and human systems design.

Throughout her career Sweeney has worked on a variety of economic and social justice issues for low-income people and minorities. She has over 25 years of private and public sector experience as an educator, director, senior consultant and researcher working with leaders who are committed to making a difference in how they address the challenges facing their organizations.

For 10 years, she worked with the Boston Police Department to bring about management changes there. In all, her work on policing and public safety issues has involved working with leaders and managers from over 400 police departments and communities throughout the country and internationally.

She currently serves as the co-director of the U.S. Department of Justice Teaching Police Department Initiative (TPDI) based at the School of Justice Studies at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. TPDI involves a partnership among Roger Williams University, the Providence Police Department and Brown University School of Medicine. The goal of the program is to help advance the profession of policing by creating a new model for police leadership, professional development and organizational change.

"What really fascinates me is on pushing the edges of knowledge and how do you apply that," she said. "I continue to be an avid and lifelong learner. It doesn't stop for me."

Jennifer Lefferts





William D. Benson '70—From the sidelines to the Statehouse

Civil Rights, the Vietnam War, protests and unrest...1969 was a time of change, and the Boomer Generation had fire in their bellies. William D. Benson was an integral part of those turbulent times and has not lost any of that fire.

"I used to be a young Turk, now I am the Old Guy that young Turks come to for advice,"

Benson said. "But I tell them, 'Don't be comfortable.' Free speech issues are still not ensured."

Currently a program monitor for the Massachusetts' Department of Developmental Services, serving Franklin and Hampshire counties for the last 15 years, the Fitchburg native lives in Greenfield where he settled in 1974.

"The draft was staring us all in the face back then," he recalls. "I applied for Conscientious Objector status and worked for two years in alternative public service at a cancer hospital after graduating with a degree in public health and microbiology," said Benson.

A pacifist, Benson nonetheless observed much pain and death at the hospital as a bacteriologist, and says those years made an impact.

"It was a formative experience, like my years at Fitchburg State," he said. "The monster that was Vietnam had an impact on my activism both spiritually and politically. It's all connected."

Benson says his career path after graduation was motivated by the impact of the Vietnam War.

"You had to wake up and see the bigger world for what it was," said Benson, who traveled across the country with a friend and landed in San Francisco before deciding to return to Franklin County in Massachusetts.

He became involved almost immediately in a campaign to block the construction of a nuclear power plant. He then ran for state representative against an entrenched conservative politician.

"I ran as someone with very little chance of winning against a Republican, but it turned out to be one of the biggest upsets in Franklin County," Benson said. "I ran on a progressive platform, pro-labor, pro-environment, and it worked."

After three terms on Beacon Hill and a stint as county commissioner, Benson decided that 10 years of life in politics was enough.

He still has a fire in his belly, though, that burns brightest when he sees the reactionary nature of today's voters and the Supreme Court.

"If I die tomorrow," Benson said, "I am proud of the progressive nature of Franklin County, the coalitions that I helped build over the past 30 years."

Lynne Klaf

Antonelli said, as his colleagues deemed the advisory board model untenable. *The Cycle* published only four issues in its brief life.

But the story did not end there. The show of support from other campus newspapers to *The Cycle's* plight made the *New York Times*, where a young lawyer named Harold Dulong—just a year out of law school at the time—read about it and called Antonelli with an offer to represent the young journalists at no charge.

The young upstarts of *The Cycle* were glad to take him up on it.

"My attitude was, 'Who the hell does (Hammond) think he is?'" recalled Bill Benson, another *Cycle* staffer. "The bigger they are, the harder they fall."

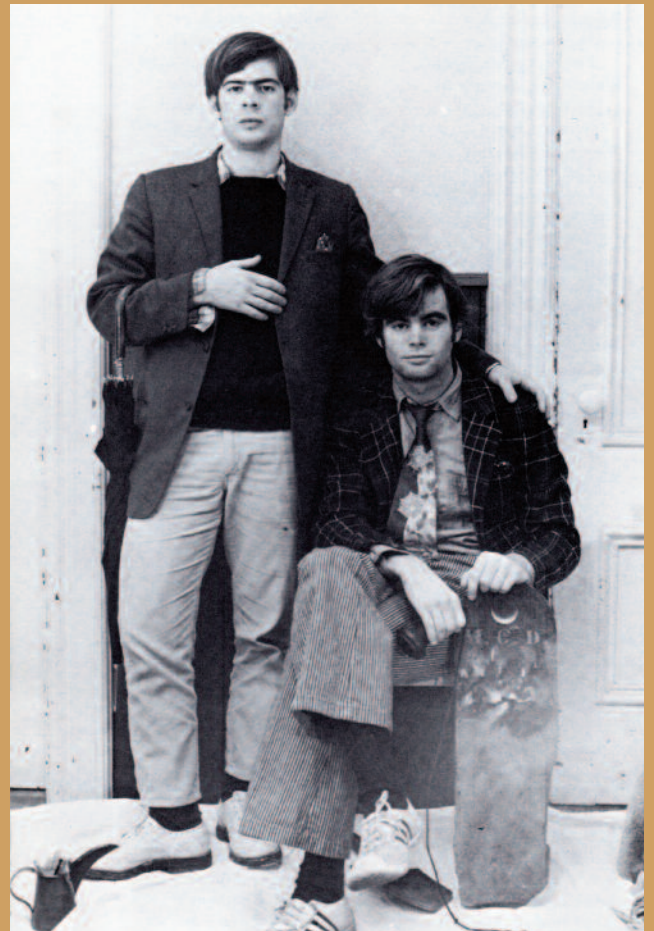
"It brought home the fact that, if we believe in what we want to believe in, you don't lie down," Sampson said. "We're going to let you do this? This is not right. This is not the way to do business at an educational institution."

"When it was happening, it just seemed like a normal day for us," said Sampson. "One thing led to another, and then another, and then another. And it became big."

A Civil Rights Case

At its heart, *Antonelli v. Hammond* was a civil rights case, pitting the First Amendment's guarantees to the test. Hammond was adamant that he was acting in good faith and upholding decency, and attracted widespread demonstrations of support as the case moved forward. Hammond was, after all, a pillar of the community.

Indeed, it was awkward for many of the defendants to be confronting their college president in the courtroom. Joan Sweeney's parents went to church with the Hammonds, she said, and recalled how distressed they were that their daughter



Jay Sampson and John Antonelli

Mark Rice—It Runs in the Family



More than 40 years after Mark Rice was a staff member of the student newspaper that filed suit against the school's administration for censorship, his son, Connor, reaps the benefits of that landmark case.

Connor Rice is an editor at the *Northern Star*, the daily student newspaper of Northern Illinois University. Thanks to his dad, and the other Fitchburg State students, the free speech of students is protected.

Rice, now 60 and living in Naperville, Ill., with his wife, Laurie, said his son is proud of what he and his compatriots stood up for on the Fitchburg State campus. It wasn't until

recently, though, that Rice's two sons learned about their father's involvement from Laurie.

Rice said he never told Connor, 24, or Brendan, 21, about the case because he didn't think they would understand. Rice recently framed a poster from the Fitchburg State Constitution Day last fall and gave it to Connor, who has it at school.

"He is very proud of his dad for the things I did in college and you can tell he was very proud to be holding the poster under the *Northern Star* logo," Rice said.

Rice, a Fitchburg native, was an 18-year-old freshman the year the case was brought forward.

He went on to become Student Government president his junior year, then left Fitchburg State to attend The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. He graduated from the University of New Haven in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in food management, thanks in part to his credits from Fitchburg State.

He's lived in Naperville since 1987, having worked in food sales for 30 years.

"I have been involved in the food industry since washing pots and pans in the (Fitchburg State) cafeteria," said Rice, who still has family in the Fitchburg area.

Rice hopes his son and other students continue to learn from the case.

"Stand up for what you think is right," he said, "just as the students in 1970 challenged conventional thinking and authority at the time to do what they thought was right."

Jennifer Lefferts

and her friends were giving the college president such headaches. Mark Rice was a friend of the Hammonds' sons, and said he effectively grew up in their home.

But the issues at stake were larger than neighborhood politics.

"Sometimes in life you draw a line in the sand, and other times the line is drawn in the sand for you," Rice said.

In his ruling dated Feb. 5, 1970, U.S. District Court Judge W. Arthur Garrity said Hammond's efforts to censor the student paper constituted a direct previous restraint of expression.

"The system devised by the defendant (Hammond) for passing upon the contents of *The Cycle* lacks even the semblance of any of the safeguards the Supreme Court has demanded," Justice Garrity wrote.

"Obscenity in a campus newspaper is not the type of occurrence apt to be significantly disruptive of an orderly and disciplined educational process," the judge ruled, adding that the risks of censorship outweighed those of circulating obscenity.

"The university setting of college-age students being exposed to a wide range of intellectual experience creates a relatively mature marketplace for the interchange of ideas so that the free speech clause of the First Amendment with its underlying assumption that there is positive social value in an open forum seems particularly appropriate," the ruling continued. "Because of the potentially great social value of a free student voice in an age of student awareness and unrest, it would be inconsistent with basic



Eleanor Jewett '73—Mixed Media

As the years have passed since Eleanor Jewett was involved in the precedent-setting *Antonelli v. Hammond* free speech case, the former Fitchburg State student government activist has grown to truly appreciate its influence on students not just in Fitchburg, but around the nation.

Jewett, who now works as a strategic planner and analyst for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said the students had no idea that the ruling would impact colleges around the nation for years to come.

"At the time, we were just happy of the outcome," said Jewett. "I didn't fully appreciate the precedent it set. It's still used extensively."

Jewett, a Hingham native who now resides in Cambridge, graduated from Fitchburg State in 1973 with a major in English and minor in science. She also

has a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Jewett has spent much of her career as a media content producer, working for nearly 15 years at Boston public television station, WGBH. She also had her own production company for several years. Before joining FEMA full time about six years ago, she had served as a reservist for the agency, assisting with emergency disaster work about once a year.

Looking back at her time in Fitchburg, she said the friendships she made were lasting, due in part to the lawsuit, and the unrest that was taking place throughout the nation. She said she was very much influenced by the civil rights and "hippie" era.

She remains in touch with several classmates, most notably John Antonelli and Joan Sweeney.

"There's a different kind of bond when you go through an experience like that," Jewett said. "There's this common experience you share."

Jennifer Lefferts



Protesters on the march in downtown Fitchburg.

assumptions of First Amendment freedoms to permit a campus newspaper to be simply a vehicle for ideas the state or the college administration deems appropriate.”

The case set an oft-cited precedent concerning the free speech rights of student papers.

In the wake of the ruling, Hammond said he was convinced he did what he had to do under the circumstances.

“I have no regrets about any action I took and have no apologies to offer to anyone,” he told the *Worcester Telegram* in the days after the decision was handed down. “I consider myself privileged to be in a position where an honest effort to perform my duty rallies the support of so many people whose esteem I hold in high regard. I hope I can continue to merit their regard and respect.”

Looking back four decades later, Antonelli holds no grudge, either.

“Jim Hammond was doing what he was doing, living by his moral code and making a choice, and it was very easy for me to be in his face,” Antonelli said. “The guy deserves a lot of credit, in retrospect. We just knew this thing was about the First Amendment, and that kept us moving forward.”

“When we won the court case, that gave me a tremendous sense of my personal place in the big picture of global politics, which gave me the confidence to pursue my career as a documentary filmmaker,” Antonelli continued. “I

Roger Tincknell—Music of Change



In one intense year at Fitchburg State, Roger Tincknell was called a “dirty hippie,” marched in anti-war demonstrations, and became part of a landmark lawsuit that reaffirmed freedom of speech rights for all.

Tincknell’s older brother had left for Canada to avoid the draft, so he was well aware of the impact the Vietnam War was having on families.

After taking a year off to stay close at home with his parents who were fighting the demons of war in their own way, Tincknell enrolled at Fitchburg State to avoid being drafted.

“It was a short, intense time with this group of special people,” Tincknell said. “For me, going to school in what was then a very working class city was an eye-opener. I could see how polarized people were.”

Growing up a self-described “privileged suburban kid,” he enrolled in the English department and wrote music reviews for the campus newspaper. He became friends with *Cycle* editor John Antonelli and photographer Jay Sampson and roomed with them for awhile.

“We communicated with other students on other campuses, went to SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) meetings in Boston. Then Kent State happened and we organized a march. But I found myself thinking about the SDS and how easily I could be sucked into that violent behavior,” said Tincknell.

He left Fitchburg, and spent some time in Boston, house sitting, taking extension courses at Harvard and working part-time jobs. Then he decided to go to Canada to visit his brother.

“By then I knew I had a high draft number. Canada turned out to be a breath of fresh air,” said Tincknell. The newspapers there were different, too. Tincknell compared stories from U.S. and Canadian papers and saw the differences in things that were reported.

Tincknell spent a decade traveling the country before earning an education degree at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and later worked 12 years as a classroom teacher and music specialist.

He also worked as an artist-in-residence, developed programs in multicultural education and special needs curriculum development.

“I was a musician since I was a teenager, so performing was always there for me, playing clubs,” said Tincknell, who now calls Shutesbury home. “But I never really liked the night life, and what I am doing now, my day job, as a professional musician, educator and consultant, and having a family, this works.”

Lynne Klaff

think that Mr. Hammond’s opposition to my vision for the newspaper made me want to prove that there was a real value to what I was doing and also to investigate it more deeply within myself, which I suppose is what the teacher or mentor relationship is often about, that kind of deep inquiry into one’s own soul that is prompted by a superior who questions your ideas and your approach.”



Reuniting with a copy of *The Cycle* are, from left, Eleanor Jewett, Roger Tincknell, John Antonelli and Joan Sweeney. (Boston Globe photo)

The Aftermath

The case may have ended in a legal victory for the staff of *The Cycle*, but the newspaper's obituary had already been written; only the original four issues were ever published. Nonetheless, its echoes reverberate to this day.

Last fall, when many of the principal players from *Antonelli v. Hammond* returned to campus to discuss their exploits with current students, their panel discussion was packed. Individual members also visited with different student groups to speak about the activism they embodied and the changes they had brought about.

"I feel so good about what we did here," Celuzza said.

"You students—don't take anything for granted," Benson said. "What you have today, many people want to take from you."

The case has also been part of the Fitchburg State curriculum. Communications Media Professor George Bohrer has cited the case in his class on communications law and ethics, and History Professor Katherine Jewell is using it as one of



From left, front row: Dave Celuzza, Mark Rice, Eleanor Jewett and Joan Sweeney. From left, back row: Roger Tincknell, William Benson, and John Antonelli.

the pieces history students can study in their project on college culture in the 1960s and 1970s.

"From my perspective as an historian," Jewell said, "the case helps to illustrate the range of activism on campus, bringing attention to how the free speech movement spread across campuses large and small alike. It also challenges the idea that smaller state colleges tended to be more conservative; at Fitchburg there were at least active pockets. It also begs the question of what conservative activism looked like on campus."

Mark Rice recalled being back on campus not long after the court case and finding a photo of himself in a garbage can. There's a lesson there, he told students during a presentation in the Hammond Campus Center, named for the president who the students confronted in court.

"Sometimes you win," he said, "and your picture ends up in the trash." ■

Dave Celuzza '71—Success on the Menu



After completing his studies in secondary education in 1971, Dave Celuzza eventually became a bartender at Slattery's Restaurant on Lunenburg Street, which at that point was a neighborhood bar more than it was a restaurant. But that all changed when Celuzza bought the establishment in 1984 after 10 years of service there and turned it into the thriving culinary business it is today.

"I'm a people person, I like hospitality. It just felt right," said Celuzza, describing why he purchased the restaurant. "It's given

me access to a lot of other networks."

Some of these networks include the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, for which he has been a member of the board of directors for 15 years, including a year as its chairman.

"I've had good relationships with the staff and students," he said of the experience, revealing that over the years, many Fitchburg State students have worked in his restaurant.

But ending up back at his alma mater isn't just a coincidence. Celuzza, who lives in Lunenburg, is very appreciative of his former university and the positive experience he had here.

"The college did a lot for me; it gave me a good, honest base," Celuzza said. "If it's got what you want, the quality of the program is as good as you're going to find. I think Fitchburg State gives everyone that gets through there a good base."

The alumnus also described what he remembers most about Fitchburg State. "The people I met, the friends that I made. Fitchburg State brought people together during a time when we were impressionable," saying he was exposed to all different types of people and backgrounds.

While Celuzza appreciates his time at Fitchburg State, he also enjoys his work at Slattery's.

"It has a life of its own, it kind of drives you," he said. "I'm just along for the ride."

Cillea Houghton '15



James J. Hammond, Sr.—Decades of Distinction

the public schools in Bedford and Newton before returning to Fitchburg in 1937. At first he was an instructor assigned to improve the shop and industrial arts program, which he directed for several years. By the mid-1950s he was a preeminent figure in industrial arts education and had acquired the nickname “Mr. IA.” Hammond, who had gone on to earn a master’s degree from Harvard University, became acting president of Fitchburg State in 1962.

As president of Fitchburg State, Hammond presided over an era of rapid growth and evolution. The construction of the industrial arts and fine arts building that would later be named in memory of Florence Conlon, the expansion of the dining hall that now spans North Street, construction of the dormitory that was later named Russell Towers, the library and campus center which bears his name, and the acquisition of land off Pearl Hill Road for the college’s athletic fields were among the projects brought to fruition under his watch. Also, the building of a new teacher training center that would include a public city school—currently known as McKay—would propel Fitchburg State forward. Enrollment more than doubled during his tenure, and Hammond pushed for major investments in technology and media.

Hammond’s presidency also oversaw changes to the institution’s structure of governance, from creating the positions of dean of students and director of admissions to the formation of the All College Council, which included student, faculty and administrative representatives (Hammond had long believed every faculty member should have a voice in the academic and professional

affairs of the institution). Curricular changes included an investment in liberal arts to implement broadened degree-granting powers that came with the name change to Fitchburg State College in 1960. Hammond also forged strong ties with industry.

During the unrest of the Vietnam era and the protests concerning the draft, Hammond discussed the anguish felt by students and faculty in a letter he wrote to President Richard M. Nixon on May 11, 1970:

“Taxation without representation has been indefensible in our nation’s history,” he wrote. “Conscription without representation, not only in an undeclared war, but in an extended theatre of action, seems inconsistent with our constitutional guarantees as a people. No action of the government must ever raise doubts about those basic ideals for which America has stood and by which every school child has been inspired. Any cause for disillusionment will result in a loss of confidence and a consequent withering of the common spirit of Americans. College campuses reflect a cancerous affliction caused by a lack of trust in or identification with the basic principles of America.”

Following his tenure at Fitchburg State, Hammond became chancellor of the state community college system, which at that time consisted of 10 campuses with 64,000 students, half of whom came from families that earned less than \$12,000 a year and 80 percent of whom were the first in their families to attend college.

“My history kind of symbolizes the system,” Hammond said in an interview with the *Boston Globe* in 1975. “It’s a rags-to-riches, Horatio Alger story.”

Matthew Bruun

The seventh president of Fitchburg State, James J. Hammond Sr., is remembered as a towering figure who presided over transformative times in the university’s history.

His affiliation with Fitchburg State spanned more than 40 years, from his days as a student to serving as a member of the faculty and, from 1963 to 1975, the school’s president. He was later named chancellor of the state’s community college system, serving from 1976 until his retirement in 1982. Hammond died on Dec. 28, 1997 at age 88.

Born in 1909, one of six children of a Fall River millworker, Hammond graduated from Durfee High School and worked in the construction and printing trades before attending the institution that would later be known as Fitchburg State. When Hammond arrived in 1929, it was the Fitchburg Normal School, devoted to teacher training. Hammond graduated in 1934, and taught in

ABOUT THIS SERIES

In the spring of 2011, Reference and Special Collections Librarian Kate Wells was working with a student on a research project when she came upon a short reference to Antonelli v. Hammond and was intrigued to learn more about the case, which made national headlines and continues to be cited in rulings concerning student newspapers and freedom of speech.

A discussion with faculty members and a chance campus visit from former Student Government Association President Mark Rice set in motion a reunion of most of the Antonelli v. Hammond participants last

fall. The occasion marked the university’s observance of Constitution Day, when colleges and universities across the country acknowledge the founding document of the United States.

“We’re here to learn from the past and prepare for the future,” President Antonucci said as he introduced the panelists that afternoon.

In addition to a panel discussion, several of the former students visited classrooms on campus to talk about their lives and careers, and the dramatic era they lived through.

MB

Failure brings strength, grads told

Celebrate mistakes? That was the word from Ethan F. Becker '93 in his address to the undergraduate class of 2012 before a crowd of nearly 5,000 people in front of Thompson Hall in May.

Becker is a published author, international speech coach and developer of communication training and coaching programs, as well as president of The Speech Improvement Co.

In his remarks, Becker encouraged the graduates not to be afraid to fail as they pursue their goals.

"We learn from our failures," Becker said. "Many successful people failed more than 30 times before they found what they were looking for. What I say to my kids as I'm coaching them in sports is, 'Don't get angry; get good.' When the other team scores on you, strikes you out, knocks you down, don't get angry, get good! Get smart! Get focused! Get better! And come back and win. And in life, do the same thing. When life knocks you down, throws you a curve ball, serves you something you didn't like, gets you confused, don't get angry about it. Get good."

The graduates' futures are in their hands, Becker continued.

"Your words determine the navigation of your life. Which words are you going to use, to talk to yourself, to talk to others?" he asked. "I can tell you, I work with leaders of countries, leaders of companies, celebrities, and people from all walks of life. As a coach, I hear their most intimate ideas and fears. I can share that common words I hear are that they never stop learning. They learn from failures, mistakes, problems. They celebrate them. And through that act, comes strength. So it's OK if you mess up along the way. Nobody's perfect, or as I like to say, perfection is an illusion."

He also advised them to take the initiative as they chart their course.

"Nobody's going to tell you to do it," he said. "That's the secret: Don't wait. You've got to be proactive."

MB



Ethan F. Becker '93



“
*Don't get angry,
 get good!*
 ”



Juliette Youngblood '84, left, and Simone Youngblood '84 speak at the annual Alumni Breakfast.

Alumni awards a sister act

The ceremony also included the presentation of Distinguished Alumni Awards to Juliette Youngblood and Simone Youngblood, sisters who graduated from Fitchburg State in 1984.

Juliette Youngblood's career has encompassed an impressive cross-section of Hollywood's award-winning production companies, networks, and studios. Youngblood, of Los Angeles, Calif., is president of Youngblood Group PC. Her longtime clients include Viacom, Paramount Pictures, CBS, MTV, Nickelodeon, and Survivor Entertainment Group.

Simone Youngblood is a member of the principal professional staff at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and is a nationally recognized expert in the field of modeling and simulation verification, validation, and accreditation (collectively known as VV&A). VV&A is focused on gathering and evaluating evidence to determine a simulation's capabilities, limitations and performance relative to the real-world objects being simulated.

At the alumni breakfast preceding the ceremony, the Youngbloods — who had not set foot on campus since their graduation 28 years earlier — described the importance their time at Fitchburg had on their lives.

"Back then, our focus was on the future and we were looking forward," Simone Youngblood said. "Now we're able to come back and look backwards, to talk to the professors who really had an influence on our lives, even if we didn't know it (then)."

Simone Youngblood sat with recently retired mathematics professor Lucy Dechene, who attended the breakfast to catch up with her former student.

"The faculty at Fitchburg State is so amazing," Juliette Youngblood continued. "We discovered our passion here. We discovered our natural talent here. I think that our success really came from the exposure to the wonderful opportunities at Fitchburg State, and the expectations people here had for us. We are just thrilled to be Fitchburg State University graduates. Go Falcons!"

Graduate Commencement

At the Graduate Commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 17, the university honored Dr. Elaine Francis '72, professor emerita, with the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award. Dr. Francis is a dedicated educator who has devoted more than three decades of her professional life to the Fitchburg State community.

A graduate of our Special Education Department and a faculty member since 1978, Francis became the university's first dean of education in 2003. Throughout her career she insisted on high standards for the university's programs to ensure that graduates were qualified to become educators. Before working at the university she spent years as a teacher of children and adult students with moderate to severe special needs. She built on this work to co-author a textbook, *Understanding and Implementing Inclusion: A Practical Guide for Classroom Teachers*, published in 2003 and still in use today.



Dr. Elaine Francis '72

Also recognized at the Graduate Commencement was Beverly S. Farias, an alumna from 1952 who recently completed 10 years of service to the university's board of trustees and who has been a steadfast advocate for Fitchburg State and its community for more than 60 years. For more on Beverly Farias, read the article on page 25.

"This is the best time of year on a college campus," President Antonucci said in his remarks to the graduate students on May 17. "This is the public recognition that each and every one of you deserve."



Beverly S. Farias '52

Faculty awards



George Bohrer, right, accepts his award from President Antonucci.

Professor George Bohrer (Communications Media) was presented the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching during the undergraduate commencement by President Antonucci and Alumni Association President Dr. Ronald P. Colbert. Bohrer has been a member of the Fitchburg State faculty for 28 years and is described by his students as an instructor without peer and an invaluable counselor, and an inspiration to his colleagues.

Professor Susan Williams (Economics, History and Political Science) was presented the 2012 Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship by President Antonucci. A full-time faculty member for



Susan Williams accepts her award.

20 years, Williams has published dozens of journal articles, presented at more than 25 conferences and is awaiting the publication of her third book. Her research informs her teaching, benefiting her students. She is also the driver of the university's annual Women's History Month activities.

Winter Commencement

The university continued a recent tradition last January with the Winter Commencement ceremony at the Recreation Center. That event included the presentation of the President's Medal to Mohammed H. Khan, administrator of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART).

Khan has played a leading role in urban planning and development efforts in North Central Massachusetts for nearly four decades. The Leominster resident has devoted himself to strengthening communities via enhanced public transportation since accepting his position in 1975.



Mohammed Khan, center, was awarded the President's Medal by Vice President for Academic Affairs Robin E. Bowen, left, and President Antonucci.

As one of the state's 15 regional transit authorities, MART provides public transportation to 21 area communities, from Hardwick in the west to Boxboro in the east.

As MART's administrator, Khan was involved in the planning and construction of Interstate 190, the cleanup of the Nashua River, and other projects to facilitate economic development in this region.

Khan worked with local, state, and federal agencies and legislators to secure millions of dollars in funding for enhanced rail service between Boston and North Central Massachusetts, the planned Wachusett Station in West Fitchburg, as well as construction of the parking garages in Fitchburg and Leominster.

Susan Wadsworth (Humanities) gave a paper entitled “American Synagogue Architecture: From Byzantine and Islamic Influences to Louis Kahn,” at the School of Visual Arts annual conference in New York. The paper looked at how early American synagogues evolved from their Byzantine and Islamic inspirations toward a radically new conception of space and light that was more quintessentially Jewish in concept.

Robin Dinda (Humanities) had the first performance in the Czech Republic of his composition “Kiara Pig Jig” for four hands and four feet at one organ, performed in Litomyšl. The live performance may be seen on YouTube. Part of that performance was also included in a broadcast by CMS-TV in Litomyšl. Dinda also had the first performance of his “Concerto #1 for Organ and String Orchestra” at the Region IV convention of the American Guild of Organists in Greensboro, N.C., last summer.



Michele Caniato’s (Humanities) article “From Popular Song to Jazz Composition: Thelonius Monk’s ‘Ruby, My Dear,’” was published in the *Annual Review of Jazz Studies* #10, by Scarecrow Press and Rutgers University. It was identified as essential reading by top scholars in the field and was cited as a must-read resource on jazz on the Oxford Bibliographies Online. Caniato spent the fall 2011

semester in Finland after being awarded a J. William Fulbright Lecture/Research award. In November, Caniato conducted the Metropolia Big Band in Helsinki, Finland, in a concert of big band classic repertoire and two original compositions.

Jane Fiske (Humanities) appeared on BNN TV 9’s “It’s All About Arts” to promote research conducted at Fitchburg State’s **Regional Economic Development Institute** (REDI). Fiske’s project, conducted with three members of Fitchburg State’s class of 2011, was entitled “The Creative Economy: The Impact of the Arts on Cultural Outreach and Economic Development in the Montachusett Region.” The television program was first aired in 1997 and has featured more than 1,000 guests.



Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) had his manuscript titled *Conflicted: Israeli and Palestinian Moderates and the Death of Oslo* accepted for publication by

Continuum Publishing. The book should be available in early fall. Budd also took part in and moderated discussions on Third World Development at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association in Philadelphia. Budd was president of the organization.

Aisling O’Connor (Biology and Chemistry) was featured in an article in *Chemical & Engineering News*, published by the American Chemical Society that described a green chemistry curriculum for the non-profit Science Club for Girls that O’Connor developed with undergraduate student Jillian Toomey. The mission of the Science Club for Girls is to improve science literacy.

Maria Mercedes Jaramillo (Humanities) co-edited *Hijas del Muntu*, a compilation of biographies of Afro-Latin-American women slaves, writers, politicians, activists, farmers, artists and entertainers who have been important forces of change in their countries and communities. The book was co-edited by Lucia Ortiz. Jaramillo also organized the 17th Congress of the Association of Colombianists in Colombia last summer. Many scholars and professors from Latin America, Europe, China, Canada and the U.S. presented papers about Colombian history, literature, art, theater, and politics. Jaramillo also presented at the conference. She also wrote the introduction to *Mabungu/Triunfo* by Maria Teresa Ramirez, an Afro-Colombian writer.

Daniel Sarefield (Economics, History and Political Science) presented a paper titled “The Roman Origins of Book Burning” this spring at the Association of Ancient Historians annual meeting, held jointly at Duke University and the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill in Durham, N.C. This is the nation’s premier gathering of ancient historians. Sarefield’s paper is from his current book project. Later in May, Sarefield presented a paper at the Mediterranean Studies Congress in Pula, Croatia.

FAMILY WEEKEND 2012

FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 2012

- **Alternative Spring Break Silent Auction**
Noon to 5 p.m., Hammond Main Lounge
- **Mentalist Joshua Seth**
7 p.m., Weston Auditorium, free

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22, 2012

- **ASB Silent Auction continues**
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Elliot field/ Gaetz Arena
- **WXPL Radio Station tours and reunion**
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Hammond Campus Center

- **Tailgate Lunch**
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Elliot Field (rain location Holmes Dining Commons)
- **Family Fun Fair**
11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Elliot Field
- **Falcons Football vs. Maine Maritime**
12 p.m., Elliot Field
- **Family Skate and Movie (Disney/Pixar's Brave)**
2 p.m., Gaetz Arena and Wallace Civic Center
- **Autumn Buffet**
4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Holmes Dining Commons

- **Juggler and comedian Nick Pike**
8 p.m., Weston Auditorium, \$15 for the public, \$10 for faculty, staff, alumni and families and \$5 for Fitchburg State students and children under 10
- **WXPL Reunion**
9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., Falcon Hub, Hammond Campus Center

SUNDAY, SEPT. 23, 2012

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

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

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY CENTERSTAGE

Gare St. Lazare Players, Ireland presents *Moby Dick* | OCT. 3 at 7 PM

Conor Lovett's masterful performance revels in the power of its simplicity with a script that is "stripped to the essentials but retaining the best of Melville..."

Harlem Gospel Choir presents *Joyful Noise* | DEC. 1 at 7 PM

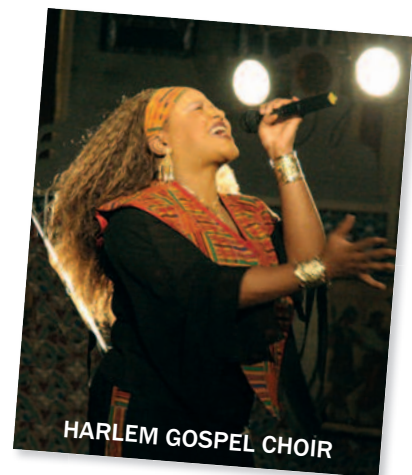
Founded in 1986, the Choir presents the finest singers and musicians from the black churches in Harlem and the New York City area. Joining the world-famous Harlem Gospel Choir will be the Greater Gardner Community Choir.

Lúnasa | FEB. 23 at 8 PM

Melodic lines soar as flutes, fiddles, whistles, and Uilleann pipe weld the ancient soul of traditional instrumental Irish music to the rhythmic framework of the double bass. Look for cameo step dance performances by some of our local talent.

American Idol Stars in Concert celebrate Broadway! | APRIL 27 at 8 PM

Broadway presented as only American Idol can do it! Featuring four stars from the past seasons of American Idol and a band, and, for a special treat, there will be cameo performances by local "stars."



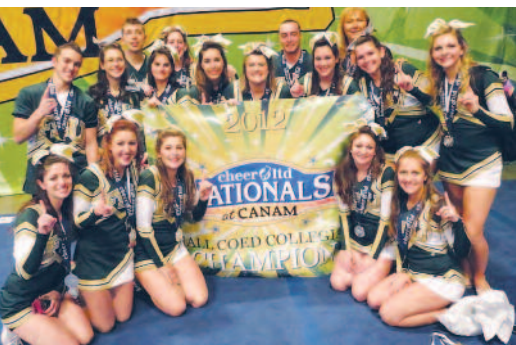
www.fitchburgstate.edu/cultural
(978) 665-3347 • TH-F 12:30-3:30 p.m.



Worth cheering about

The Fitchburg State University cheerleading team competed in the CanAm National Championship on March 16, winning first place in the Small Coed Collegiate division. In addition to beating the 16 teams in their division, they also captured the collegiate high score, beating out 28 total teams in all collegiate divisions. Every year in March, Cheer Ltd., founded in 1988, hosts the prestigious Nationals at CanAm in Myrtle Beach. During the fall and winter season, Cheer Ltd. holds regional competitions throughout the country, which allows competitors to qualify for CanAm.

This is the squad's second year as a competitive team and their first-ever national competition. The cheerleaders are coached by Jacki D'Innocenzo, who is in her third season with the Falcons and the former coach of St. Bernard's High School, two-time State and National Champions, and a current coach at Cheer Central Stormz All Star Gym in Lancaster.



Team members include Hope Bagdasarian, Waltham; Felicia Baiardi, Westfield; Rachel Bartlett and Corey Robideau, Hudson; Ashley Bugden and Stephanie White, Littleton; Kaila Camilleri, Burlington; Dustin DelleChiaie, Worcester; Allison DeMoranville, Dartmouth; Megan Fisher, Enfield, CT; David Hill and Christina Kosmidis, Fitchburg; Rebecca Jackson, Boston; Erin Killam, Mendon; Lea Lafond, Lancaster; and Alyssa Prentiss, Hubbardston.

Double threat

Fitchburg State senior cross country and track star **Chris Kibler** was selected the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference 2012 Male Co-Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Kibler, an Exercise and Sports Science major from Bath, Maine, who graduated in May, shared the year-end honor with basketball standout Brian Clark of Salem State University.

The award is presented annually to male and female senior student-athletes who have excelled both academically and athletically while a student of a Massachusetts state university. To be considered for the award, a student-athlete must have achieved a least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average and be in

his or her last year of athletic eligibility.

"Chris is a totally deserving athlete," said head coach Jim Jellison. "He worked extremely hard both academically and athletically, and continued to make huge strides from his freshman year on."

Kibler, who was honored with Fitchburg State's Male Leadership award at the annual Senior Awards Banquet, was a four-year member of the men's cross country team and men's outdoor track team, while serving three years on the indoor squad. Throughout his career, he led the Falcons to a pair of first place finishes in both cross country and outdoor track, while also leading Fitchburg State to a pair of runner-up finishes on the indoor circuit.

A recipient of 12 MASCAC track weekly honors, Chris has etched his name in the program records books, breaking four school records in the DMR, the 4x800 relay, the 1500m and the 3000m. In addition, this season, Chris snapped a pair of MASCAC records, earning the league's best mark in the indoor 3,000m run and gaining the Alliance meet record in the outdoor 10,000m run.

In the classroom, Chris was just as strong, boasting a 3.75 cumulative GPA. Throughout his career, he was named to both the Dean's List and Athletic Director's Honor List every semester, while receiving the Leadership Award in Exercise and Sports Science. Kibler concluded his academic career being named to the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.



Using their heads

The Fitchburg State women's soccer team was honored this spring by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), earning the group's Team Academic Award for the 2010-11 academic year.

A total of 794 soccer teams (221 men, 573 women) posted a team grade point average of 3.0 or higher, thereby earning the NSCAA Team Academic Award for the 2010-11 academic year.

Under head coach Bruce Walberg, Fitchburg State recorded a cumulative 3.16 Team GPA, earning the program's second consecutive NSCAA academic honor (2002, 2010, and 2011).

Members of the 2010-11 team include: Jillian Kirouac, Nicole Stone, Julie Dowson, Katrina Marrone, Erica Graves, Carissa Kennedy, Rebecca Spiro, Ali Landry, Katie Hayward, Rachel Jamieson, Courtney Kimball, Samantha Bonasera, Kristen Cameron, Lauren Donovan, Heather Sharp, Megan Breault, Melanie Olson, Julie Almstrom, Danielle Polcari, Megan Macomber, Hannah Mitchell, Mary Lindberg, Hayley Bissonette, Chelsea Neves-Carr, Chelsea Rustenburg and Melanie Berent.



This season, the Fitchburg State women's soccer team concluded the 2011 campaign with an overall record of 10-6-2 and a 4-3 mark in the MASCAC.

Two strikes

Fitchburg State named **Keith Brouillard** its 10th head coach in the history of the baseball program. Brouillard took over the coaching reins after serving the past four years as the university's associate director of athletics. He joined Fitchburg State staff in 2008 after completing a four-year career with NCAA Division II powerhouse Franklin Pierce University.

Brouillard was a four-year member of the Franklin Pierce, NCAA Division II College World Series baseball team, earning All-Region and All-Conference honors as a pitcher. In a strong 2004 season, Brouillard became the first pitcher in program history to open a season 8-0, while establishing records for consecutive shutout innings (17.2 IP) as well as consecutive innings without yielding an earned run (36.1 IP).

During his time, he ranked among single-season leaders at the University with a 2.37 ERA (3rd), eight wins (4th), 83.2 innings (6th), 13 appearances (6th) and five complete games (8th). For his efforts, he was inducted into the Franklin Pierce University Hall of Fame during the spring of 2011.

Off the field, Brouillard has served the past five years as lead instructor and head coach at RBI Academy in Foxboro. Focusing on hitting, pitching and fielding development, Keith has played a

vital role on the RBI staff, promoting player development both through its competitive AAU program and highly decorated camps, including the Dustin Pedroia Summer Camp and the Nomar Garciaparra Advanced Hitting Clinic.

Throwing his weight around

Senior **Matt Muolo** competed in the 2012 Men's Indoor Track & Field Championships hosted by Grinnell College this spring. Muolo became the program's first men's All-American since the 1995 season. Muolo entered the NCAA Championships ranked 13th in the nation after a huge week at the MIT Invitational in late January. Muolo set his NCAA qualifying mark in the event with a throw of 18.62m, finishing first overall.

At the 2012 Championships, Muolo collected his first career All-American honor, earning top eight honors in the weight throw. The senior thrower posted a mark of 17.98m (59 feet, 9 inches).



Trifecta

Women's basketball standout **Amy Fahey** collected a trio of post-season honors this year, including being named to the Division III hoops, All-Region second team, the MASCAC All-Conference first team and the MASCAC's Women's Basketball Player of the Year.

Fahey collected her first Player of the Year accolade after witnessing a breakout season for the Falcons. The sophomore forward led the team and league in scoring, averaging 23.6 ppg and 9.6 rebounds per contest. Fahey finished the season, shooting 51.1% from the field, while hitting 170-of-214 free-throws on the year.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I reflect on my own experiences as an undergraduate at Fitchburg State University, I remember professors' impassioned pleas to their students challenging them to find a passion in life and devotion to a cause. For me this task was simple. Higher education allowed me, a first-generation college student, to achieve my dream of earning a diploma. I found my calling by working for the same institution, helping thousands of current students achieve their dream by breaking down the financial obstacles that stand in their way.

I quickly realized that my story is not so uncommon among graduates of Fitchburg State; look no further than the alumni featured in this issue. Each of these amazing stories depict alumni whose life work has been dedicated to a community and a cause, be it the Walsh brothers' dedication to the educational community and intellectual enrichment, Judge Marotta's commitment to juvenile justice and rehabilitation, Nicholas Carbone's dedication to the city of Fitchburg, or Beverly Farias' undying passion for the university.

All share a similar passion, and ultimately it was the sum of their experiences at Fitchburg State that propelled them toward a life-long investment in their communities.

Enjoy,

Michael Kushmerek
Assistant Director of Alumni Relations

1940s

Vincent DiSessa '49 of Weymouth has been substitute teaching at Weymouth High School since he retired in 1990. DiSessa began his teaching career in 1949 at North Attleboro High School. School officials, teachers, and students recently honored "Mr. D," celebrating his 87th birthday.

1960s

Emile Johnson '61, who has coached Leominster High School baseball for 42 seasons, beginning in 1968, is in a club all by himself: the 700-win club. Johnson, the winningest coach in the state, earned victory number 700 when the Leominster Blue Devils held off host Wachusett Regional for a 2-1 win.

Alice Dion '62 recently returned to Massachusetts from Tunisia, where she had been teaching for three years. Dion previously spent many years as a director and educator of eight different international schools.

Priscilla Pineo '68 is currently enrolled in an online master's degree program and has recently reconnected with Deanne Suzor Noisseux.

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.

Mohawk Reunion What started four years ago as a class of 1965 Mohawk reunion has now grown to include members from other classes. The 'Hawks' from these classes meet twice a year, once in Florida in the winter and once in the summer somewhere in Massachusetts! The summer 2012 reunion will be in West Yarmouth hosted by the Romanos, with a possible second summer reunion in Central Mass.! The winter 2012 reunion in Florida is still in the planning stages. Contact Ned Daniels for more information at: nbdisme@verizon.net.



Pictured from left to right, front row: Linda (Ulm) Flahive '65, Rosemary (Mrs. Richard) Dow '64, Ingre DeFusco, Ned Daniels '65, Tony Romano '64, Ginny (Corbett) Noiles '65, Tim Carroll '65, Pat Lowney, '65. Pictured from left to right, back row: Paul Flahive '65, Billy Brodeur, Louis Cornacchioli, '66, Jack DeFusco '64, Jim Carroll '65, Nancy (Lambert) Romano '67, Jim Noiles '65, Veronica (Sullivan) Carroll '66, Peter Gill '65, Robert Connors '65.

James Douglas Hunter '69, '74 of Concord, is the President of The Hunter Group, a construction management firm.

1970s

Ann (Doyle) Belliveau '71 retired in 2004 after teaching English for 33 years in Leominster Public Schools and working on curriculum in Fitchburg. Although she misses her students, now genealogy, volunteering, and travelling with her husband occupy her time.

Susan (Tieuli) Gala '73, '01 has retired from her position as special education administrator for Ashland Public Schools. Prior to ten years as an administrator, Ms. Gala worked as a special educator for 28 years, 25 of those with the Milford Public Schools. In June 2011, she was honored for distinguished service as a special education administrator by the Doctor Franklin Perkins School in Lancaster.

Kevin McShane '73 recently had one of his board games accepted by the crowd-funding platform, Kickstarter. His board game gives special education students practice in counting money. As a cartoonist, he created the character "Smiling

Beverly S. Farias '52: A Second Family

Anyone who has been to a major Fitchburg State celebration has probably seen Beverly (Sherwin) Farias '52.

The tireless booster recently completed 10 years of service to the university's Board of Trustees, where she was an impassioned and effective voice for Fitchburg State alumni. Her commitment to the institution far exceeds that term of office, however, as Farias can point to more than six decades of engagement with the university community.

A native of Townsend, Farias arrived at Fitchburg State in 1948 and in addition to her studies worked in the alumni office under Florence Conlon from 1948 to 1952. It was on campus that she met Joseph Farias '53, who would later become her husband.

"From the time I met him, I never stopped going out with him," said Farias, who celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary in June (and who bought her husband a lifetime membership in the alumni association for \$25 more than 50 years ago).

Joseph Farias would go on to become a school teacher and then a longtime member of the college's industrial arts faculty.

"I was a faculty wife," Beverly Farias recalls, joking about the assorted roles she's held at Fitchburg State during her remarkable tenure. She can look at the portraits lining the walls of Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center and say she knew a majority of the presidents who led Fitchburg State. She can also tell personal stories about many of the

institution's luminaries for whom scholarships have been named.

"It's like a second family," she said. "I have my own family, including seven children and 16 grandchildren, and then I have Fitchburg State. I've been here for every name except the Normal School."

After her graduation, Farias taught at the Spaulding Memorial School in Townsend before embarking on a 28-year career in educational sales, selling textbooks and encyclopedias. She continues to work part-time hosting wine tastings.

Her commitment to her alma mater has been unswerving. A proud alumna, Farias has served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors since its creation, when it replaced the alumni council as the association's governing authority. She has been the association's historian for more than a decade. Her service includes more than 30 years on the group's scholarship committee—

many as its chair—and also on its alumni engagement and executive committees. Farias was president of the Alumni Association from 1995 to 1998. In 1998, she was a recipient of the President's Medal.

She was also a member of the university's search committee that led to the appointment of President Antonucci in 2003, which she says was her greatest accomplishment.

Farias has no plans to slow down, despite her impending 82nd birthday this August.

"I wouldn't make a good hermit," she jokes.

Matthew Bruun



care coverage to more than 170,000 Massachusetts residents with low or moderate incomes. Piercy will oversee the health plan's medical management team, which provides ongoing care for select Network Health members, and promotes effective use and monitoring of health care resources.

Stephen Zanni '75 began serving as mayor of Methuen in January.

Joseph Addante, '76, '79, international podiatric surgeon, was honored by an Italian medical university for his work and innovation in foot medicine. Dr. Addante is licensed to practice medicine in America, Canada, Italy, England, Spain and New Zealand and, at 85 years old, still performed surgery six months ago in Italy. Dr. Addante is currently writing a book promoting amputation as a life-saving procedure.

Jim Todd '76, '81 joined the New York Knicks as assistant coach under interim head coach Mike Woodson, in March.

Jeffrey Bean '78 was elected to the Fitchburg City Council as a Councilor-at-large in November 2011, and was the Mayor of Fitchburg from 1989 to 1999. He is a lifelong resident of Fitchburg and has eight biological and adopted children with his wife of 32 years, Karen. Bean has served on the School Committee and City Council and currently works as a program coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Angelo Bisol, Jr. '79, '81 is a member of the Board of Park Commissioners and volunteers on the Civic Days Committee and the Fourth of July parade in Fitchburg.

Robert Lima '79, of Somerset, was recently honored for being a member of the New England Water Works Association for more than 25 years. Lima, who received his degree in Industrial Technology and Education from Fitchburg State, has worked in the town's water department for more than 32 years.

Sam" and uses the character as the basis of the game.

Rose (Brazawskis) Kavalchuck '74, of Winchendon, was recently named vice president for clinical services and chief quality officer at Heywood Hospital in Gardner. Kavalchuck began in Heywood's

Clinical Laboratory in 1975, was the chief medical technologist for 14 years, and held several senior management positions at the hospital over the past 20 years.

Patrick Meagher '75 serves as the assistant superintendent for Carver Public Schools. From 2003

to 2009, he was the business manager for Southeastern Regional Vocational Schools.

Jan (Tobey) Piercy '75 has recently been appointed director of medical management by Network Health, a Massachusetts health plan that provides high-quality health-

1980s

Robert Hall '80 has published a new book, "Advice for my Granddaughter: For When I'm Gone." All author royalties from this book are donated to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

Lisa (McGivney) Tibbetts '81 was named the director of patient care services in pediatrics by Southcoast Health System. Tibbetts will be responsible for the operational and strategic leadership of pediatric services across the Southcoast system.

Maryann (Catino) Perry '82, '94 was one of four finalists for superintendent of the Norfolk elementary school system. Perry has been deputy superintendent for the Leominster public schools since 2008.

Alan Albee '83 co-wrote an article in the August 2011 edition of the magazine *Evaluation Engineering*, titled "Vector vs. Vectorless ICT Test Techniques." He is currently the in-circuit test product manager at Teradyne's System Test Group, has written numerous technical articles, and has been awarded two patents.

David Berube '83 of Anchorage, AK, was appointed to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee. Berube serves as a legal rights advocate at The Disability Law Center of Alaska.

Frederick Henry '84 of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., was promoted to brigadier general in November, 2011, becoming the deputy commanding general of the Army's Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM).

Nancy (Snow) Bastien '86 displayed her works in oil, watercolor and other media at an exhibition in The Great Ponds Gallery at the Lakeville Public Library during the month of August 2011. She has two self-published books, one including her own illustrations.

Lisa (Gauntlett) Frackleton '86 is currently in her sixth year of teaching at the Annie L. Sargent Elementary School, located in North Andover.

Larry '51, Jack '58 and Bill Walsh '61: Triple Play

The Walsh brothers—Larry, Jack and Bill—have more in common than their heritage. All three began their long and storied careers at Fitchburg State.

Larry Walsh was the first to discover the school, when a shop teacher at Canton High School—himself a Fitchburg alumnus—took his students on a tour of what was then known as Fitchburg Teachers College.

"That's what triggered me," recalled Larry. "It was relatively small compared to what it is today."

Tuition was \$75 a year, plus a few dollars for room and board. Social organizations on campus, as well as athletic teams, were the main non-academic pastimes.

"We walked most everywhere we went, so we didn't go too far," said Larry, who arrived with a wave of soldiers returning from World War II under the GI Bill. Times were different then.

"The girls had curfews but the boys didn't," he said. "The GI's wouldn't go for it." Larry had initially planned to study industrial arts but ended up studying elementary and junior high school education. He went on to get a master's degree in elementary education from Boston University and taught in the Canton school system for 39 years, including more than 20 years in administration.

"I opened two brand-new buildings," Larry recalls with pride. "I was very fortunate to get into a system that was growing, and I grew with it."

Jack Walsh followed in his brother's footsteps.

"(Larry) had a good experience there," said Jack, who studied industrial arts and

graduated in 1958. Jack learned the value of being flexible. He started his career as an industrial arts teacher who taught math part-time, and was moving up the administrative ladder by the mid-1960s in Connecticut.

A good teacher's foundation is a solid education, Jack said.

"A lot of it is proper training, in terms of insight and compassion," he said. He retired in 1993.

Bill Walsh also studied industrial arts when he arrived at Fitchburg State, inspired by the solid experiences of his brothers.

"I got a good education and met a lot of nice friends," said the 1961 graduate, who lived on campus in Palmer Hall before moving to "the new building,"

Herlihy Hall. A standout athlete at Fitchburg State, Bill played on the undefeated baseball team in 1961 and was a member of the soccer team that went to the nationals.

Bill taught for 29 years—in Walpole and Stoughton—before retiring in 1991. Retirement for him, however, was another career. Since leaving public education, Bill has run William J. Walsh & Sons contracting in his native Canton.

At 73 years old, Bill Walsh said he doesn't foresee a second retirement.

"I'm going to keep going 'til I drop," he laughed. "I enjoy it. I just take it a little easier."

The Walsh brothers have been back to campus for various Gold Key events and hold the school in high regard.

"It's been mind-boggling, the changes," said Jack, who also met his wife, Carol (Lazarchick), a fellow 1958 graduate, at Fitchburg. "It's a great experience."

"I wouldn't trade it for anything," echoed Larry.



From left: Jack, Bill and Larry Walsh all got their start at Fitchburg State.

Matthew Bruun

Anthony J. Marotta '81: *Justice is served*

Anthony J. Marotta '81 doesn't mind admitting that he was a late bloomer, at least academically speaking. Now an associate justice of the Worcester Juvenile Court, Marotta took a circuitous route to the bench.

Marotta grew up in the shadow of the Fitchburg State campus, in a three-decker apartment building on Clinton Street. He and his neighborhood friends used to play football on the outskirts of the campus, frequently getting chased off by custodians. As his academic career at St. Bernard's High School was wrapping up, Marotta said he felt somewhat directionless.

"I didn't really have any plans," he said. "College wasn't a priority at that time. But my parents encouraged me. They said, 'There's a really good school right in your backyard.'"

And so he enrolled at Fitchburg State, though he still didn't know where his path was leading.

"I was a slow starter," he said, adding his major was undeclared for more than two years. "About halfway through, I kind of woke up. Something clicked. I started applying myself."

He remembers two professors who made particular impressions. He took a class on presidential history with Professor Norman Carson. "I remember being amazed he knew so much about them," he said, still marveling at the professor's anecdotes about Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, so vividly told it appeared the men had been close friends. And there was Professor Colin Bourne, who taught English. "It was the first time I enjoyed being in a class," Marotta recalled. "Once I started to apply myself, I realized I could do it."

To make up for lost time from his comparatively wayward early years, Marotta took several classes at Mount Wachusett Community College while also enrolled at Fitchburg State.

He graduated in 1981 with a business administration degree. By now he had developed a love of learning, so he went to Clark University for a master's in business administration. He was working for

the family business, Delisle's home furnishings on Main Street, and was keen to augment his intellectual arsenal with a law degree.

"I loved being in school and I knew I wanted to continue studying," Marotta said. Next up was a law degree from the New England School of Law, and plans to help his family business from a legal perspective.



But Marotta's path lay elsewhere. He went to work with another attorney in Fitchburg and ultimately opened his own office as a criminal defense lawyer. After 12 years as a defense lawyer, however, Marotta—who by now had three children with his wife, fellow 1981 Fitchburg State alum Mary (Connolly) Marotta—wanted more job security. Being one's own boss sounds great, he said, but the hours were long and the time away from family was hard to bear.

In 2001 he was hired as an assistant district attorney by the legendary John J. Conte, for decades the chief law enforcement officer in Central Massachusetts. "I think the world of John Conte," Marotta said. "He was really good to me."

It was a challenging job. Marotta was assigned to the child abuse and sexual assault unit of the prosecutor's office, where he dealt with harrowing crimes against defenseless victims. It was difficult to adapt, especially as a parent, he said, but one develops defense mechanisms to cope.

"Those are the toughest cases," he said. "You are dealing with children who are victims, but when you do succeed, it's that much more gratifying." He adds that he was serving with a strong team in his unit. "They were the most skilled prosecutors and the most compassionate people I've ever known."

He continues that pursuit of justice now from the other side of the bench. Last fall, Marotta was sworn in as a judge for the Worcester Juvenile Court after an exhaustive 18-month process that included several rounds of interviews, thorough background checks and an interview with Gov. Deval L. Patrick.

The Juvenile Court hears cases involving juvenile offenders aged 7 to 17, outside the public eye to protect their identities.

"The whole purpose of the juvenile court is to rehabilitate them so they don't end up in the adult court," Marotta said, describing the feelings of pride that come with helping young offenders turn their lives around.

He also hears so-called "care and protection" cases, where the state is seeking to remove children from their homes for physical abuse or neglect; the court can even terminate parental rights and free children for adoption. In his brief tenure, Marotta has already encountered all of these circumstances.

"Obviously you want to do what's best for the child," said Marotta, whose family now lives in Leominster. "Every once in a while you realize you made a difference. When you see a kid taken out of an abusive home and you put him in a loving family, it's great."

Matthew Bruun



Antoinette (Palange) DeMaio '82–2011 Joel D. Miller Award
For the last 11 years, Antoinette (Palange) DeMaio has served as a special education teacher at the Alice B. Beal Elementary School in the Springfield Public School System. She received countless letters of unconditional support from her supervisors, peers and students alike, attesting to her skills and passion. Her principal, Linda Fenlason, says of DeMaio: “She exemplifies what quality teaching is all about: dedication,

devotion to her students, and professionalism.”

DeMaio graduated from Fitchburg State University in 1982 with a B.S. in Special Education before completing a master’s program at Springfield College. DeMaio worked as a therapist from 1986 to 2000, simultaneously teaching in early childhood and special education for five years.

The Joel D. Miller Award, given annually to an outstanding educator who has demonstrated unselfish devotion to her/his profession and exerted an influence for good among her/his students.



Jane (Szum) Tremblay '82–2012 Thomas C. Passios Outstanding Principal of the Year and National Distinguished Principal (Massachusetts)

Dr. Thomas Jefferson, superintendent of schools in Lynnfield stated, “Jane is a leader with vision. She understands the role of data informed instruction and has left no stone unturned to guarantee that every student in Summer Street School receives first class instruction and whatever supports

are needed to guarantee success.” Jefferson continued, “it is always about the kids—what needs to be done and where, to make sure that everyone is making progress.”

The Passios Award is given annually to an elementary and middle-level principal who has demonstrated clear leadership in developing successful programs for children and teachers, exceptional dedication to education, outstanding professionalism and an unselfish attitude toward helping others. The award is sponsored jointly by MESPA, The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Fitchburg State University Alumni Association.

Jane Tremblay has been the principal of Summer Street School in Lynnfield for eight years. Prior to assuming that role, she was an elementary teacher in Lynnfield for 18 years, and to this day, she remains the lead teacher.

Jane resides in Danvers with her husband, Greg, and their three children, Jennifer, Gregory and Mary Margaret.

Joan (Bailey) Moran '86 has been promoted to vice president and senior retail lending officer at Clinton Savings Bank.

Frank Sherburne '86 has been appointed superintendent of the Maine School Administrative District 6. Sherburne will be serving the school districts encompassing Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Standish and Frye Island. He has served the Maine School system for the past ten years in various capacities.

Robert Cassidy '87, Colonel USA, is a military professor at the U.S. Naval War College, a senior fellow with the Center for Advanced Defense Studies, and a member of the Royal United Services Institute Advisory Board. His experience and scholarship focus on strategy and irregular warfare. He has served on deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, Egypt, and Grenada. He most recently served as a special assistant to the senior operational commander in Afghanistan in 2011. Colonel Cassidy has published a number of articles and books on stability operations and irregular war, including his most recent publication: “War, Will and Warlords: Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2001-2011.” He has a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

David Altavilla '89, of Mendon, is the editor-in-chief of *HotHardware*, an online publication that covers the latest trends in computer hardware, consumer electronics and related technologies, mobile computing and PC gaming.

Juliette Bedard '89 and her husband Ron Bedard, a retired General Electric engineer, celebrated 50 years of marriage on Aug. 26, 2011. In honor of the occasion they spent a week at a beach house in York Beach, Maine, with their four children, their spouses, and eight grandchildren. Their children include Fitchburg State alumni, Nancy Taylor '87, Keith Bedard '95, and Keith’s wife Karin Valencia-Bedard '11.

Brian Crossman '89, two-time Sun Coach of the Year, led his Acton-Boxboro Regional High School Colonials to a 2nd place finish at the Outdoor Track State Championship Meet in June 2011.

1990s

Stephen Croke '91 wrote and directed a film called *The Busker* with a screening held on December 2, 2011, at the Adams Memorial Opera House in Derry, N.H. The film, which was shot in Lowell in 2002, was previously screened at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Harvard Film Archive, and numerous film festivals. The screenplay was selected as a semifinalist from more than 5,000 scripts in the Academy of Motion Pictures Nicholl Fellowship Awards.

John Honeycutt '91 was named executive vice president and chief operating officer of Discovery Networks International in October 2011.

Robert A. Salvatore '81, '91, best-selling author of Leominster, was named one of the area’s 25 Most Fascinating People, in the *Sentinel & Enterprise* newspaper.

Mark Linde '92, general manager of Brockton Community Access Television and chairman of the Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee, has announced that he will run for the Democratic nomination to the 11th Plymouth seat.

Christopher Cook '93 has joined the full-time faculty at the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown as an Assistant Professor of Political Science.

Henry Kulik '93 has been appointed to the Leominster Credit Union board of directors. Kulik owns Henry C. Kulik Jr. CPA LLC in Leominster.

James Lord '93, doctor of podiatric medicine, recently celebrated 12 years of private practice in Carol Stream, Ill., at Lord Foot and Ankle Specialist.

Daniel McDermott '93 is the director of marketing for America's Job Exchange, a division of Navisite Time Warner in Andover.

Merilyn Chicknavorian '99 was hired as a realtor associate by Evergreen Realty in Sterling. Prior to joining the real estate industry, she worked in community and public relations for Digital Equipment Corp.



Nathan Crooker '99 with his short film entitled *Stuffer*, has garnered four Best Short awards including Worldfest Houston, as well as a Silver Palm at the Mexico International Film Festival. In October 2011, Crooker returned to the Fitchburg State University campus for a screening of the film.

2000s

Keith Kinney '01, '08 has been appointed as the new assistant principal of the Job Lane Elementary School in Bedford. Kinney, who previously taught in the Chelmsford school system for over a decade, is currently enrolled in the CAGS programs in Educational Leadership and Administration at Fitchburg State University.

Krista Van Guilder '00 performed as "VanRet" at the Bull Run in Shirley, on August 19, 2011, playing a unique style of country blues and folk rock.

Julia Hans '01, '04 conducted a college admissions essay workshop at the Townsend Public Library last August with topics on

GAGE STREET REUNION In May 1992, a group of Fitchburg State students gathered on the steps of 22 Gage Street to say farewell to the spring semester and the end of an era. Many of these students lived in five different houses on Gage Street from 1989 to 1992.

In May 2002, many of the same group got together for a reunion photo on these same steps. Many filled the same spots on the steps they sat in 10 years earlier.

On May 12, 2012, the group, with the addition of spouses and children, assembled on the same stairs, now the residence of current Fitchburg State students, for a 20-year reunion photo.



Featured in the photos: *Jeff Graziano, photographer '93; Keith Gentili '93; Carrie (Valletta) Gentili '94; Eric Engler '92; Kelly (Roarke) Engler '90; Steve Lecain '93; Amy (McNeil) Lecain '94; Marc Trongone '93; Sarah (Cloud) Trongone '92; Stephen Medina '92; Maura (Sullivan) Sousa '89; Eric Hellweg '94; Eric Hanson '92; Kevin Moran '93; Keith Rice '94; Carlos Figueira '93; Bob Rogers '92; Patrick Curran '92; Janet (Ricci) Hare '93; Kristin (Groder) Paicos '93; Shawn Robinson '94; Jim Panaccione '93; Chris Herring '95; Scott Remillard '94; Tim Kane '93; Kama Lawrence '94; Yvonne (Abbott) Moriarty '93; Bob Bazydlo '92; Anne Bender '92; Kevin Doherty '97; Cecile (Reilly) Groder '92; Paula (Ashford) Stefanakos '92, '02; Carl Fandreyer '93*

generating ideas for the personal essay, writing styles, finding a topic and writing in your own voice.

Tauni Szlosek '02 is currently the owner and CEO of an artist management company, working with rap/hip-hop and R&B artists.

Anna Ferguson '03 taught "Building Life Skills and Relationships through the Arts" with the Burt Wood School of Performing Arts in the fall 2011. The eight-week course covered all aspects of the performing arts from acting, costumes, set design, music, props, creative movement and character development through to appropriate social interaction.

William Taylor Dillon '04 and **Katie Marie Murphy '04** were married on June 12, 2011.

Matthew R. Germain '04 ran and completed the 2012 Boston Marathon.

Jaci Cavaioli '05, '12 is an intensive care coordinator and in-home therapy clinician at Community Health Link in Leominster.

Amanda Michaud '05, '09, of Ashby, was promoted to senior staff accountant at the Leominster-based firm, Robert C. Alario, CPA, PC.

Evelyn (Garcia) Howe '06 starred in her first professional role as Shahrazad, in "Arabian Nights" at the Central Square Theatre in Cambridge in December 2011.

Amanda Anderson '07 has joined Washington State Community College as an English Instructor. Anderson also assisted in the publication of a 2007 symposium excerpt and a costume and culture book on the American Renaissance Festival.

Jeffrey Bartell '07 is an interactive designer at WGBH in Brighton. Bartell is also pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree from Massachusetts College of Art.

Sieh Samura '07 recently directed a film entitled *Block Reportin' 101*, which deals with issues in urban communities. Samura plans to engage a wider audience by submitting *Block Reportin' 101* to local film festivals.

Christopher Seidlich '07, '11 is a bank investment officer with Rollstone Bank & Trust in Fitchburg.

Darren Alston '08, of Orange, was sworn in as clerk magistrate for Northampton District Court on November 29, 2011, by Gov. Deval

Patrick. His career in the Greenfield and Orange district courts has spanned 17 years.

Paula Maxwell '08 has been promoted to assistant principal at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School.

Stefanie Scaglione '08, '11 is the recipient of the 2012 Kappa Delta Pi Teacher of Honor distinction and was published in Kappa Delta Pi's "New Teacher Advocate" spring 2012 edition.

Derek Bailey '09 is a senior officer with the Federal Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Medical Center, Devens.

Trisha Doyle '09, '11 completed her master's degree in education at Fitchburg State University in 2011, and is now a 1st grade teacher at McKay Elementary School in Fitchburg.

Erin Harty '09 is a special education teacher at McKay Elementary School in Fitchburg. Harty is also pursuing her master's degree in special education at Fitchburg State University.

Amanda Valcourt '09 has joined Workers' Credit Union as a marketing coordinator.

2010s

Jonathan Berube '10 is a serving as a corrections officer for Worcester County. At a graduation ceremony for the new officers held in December 2011, Berube was honored with the Paul Westberg Class Banner Award for “outstanding effort, enthusiasm and excellence.”

Emily Carey '10 is an accounts receivable specialist at Simplex-Grinnell, a Tyco company.

Carol Ciccone '10 recently joined the Leominster-based firm, Robert C. Alario, CPA, PC. Ciccone lives in Leominster with her husband and two children.

Bryan Clark '10, of North Adams, has been hired by Maynard-based construction and design firm, J.M. Coull Inc. Clark will assist with project management, administrative and preconstruction work.

Ryan Dalton '10 currently works as a layout designer for Arnold Worldwide, an advertising firm located at the Prudential Center in Boston.

Daniel Donell '10 and Katherine Marie Reissfelder were married August 2011 in a wedding Mass celebrated at St. Bonaventure Parish in Plymouth.

Alexander Kobbs '10 has seen his latest motion animation movie go viral on YouTube and appear on network television.

Cory McCue '10 works for Elite Health and Fitness as a personal trainer, and is training director of all the programs in the club. McCue was also accepted to participate in an exclusive mentorship with Todd Durkin at his world-class gym in San Diego.

Kristi Oliver '10 has been selected by the National Art Education Association (NAEA) to receive the 2012 Massachusetts Art Educator of the Year Award.

Maria Antich Azpurua '11 published her first book, *Veo, Veo*:

Nicholas J. Carbone '09: *Fighting spirit*

Nicholas J. Carbone—who earned his degree in political science from Fitchburg State in 2009—is a fierce competitor.

He achieved the Boy Scouts' highest rank, Eagle Scout. In 2011, at the age of 24, he was elected to the Fitchburg City Council. He is pursuing a law degree from the Massachusetts School of Law and can't wait to face opponents in the courtroom. And he does it all while facing everyday challenges of a rare neurological disorder.

“I was diagnosed at the age of 12 with Friedreich's Ataxia, but I played sports until I was 18 or so,” Carbone said. The inherited condition—affecting about 1 in every 50,000 people in the U.S.—causes nervous system damage and movement problems. “Life is good. I think that you shouldn't do anything differently. You should do what you want. It's not really that bad. I drive. There are tons of assistive and adaptive equipment these days that can make a disabled person relevant. You can make your life as cool as you want.”

The Fitchburg Ward 5 councilor attends to city business every week while finishing up his juris doctorate degree in civil and criminal education. He intends to either find work at a law firm or hang his own shingle up locally after taking the bar exam.

“My time at Fitchburg State University was great,” Carbone said. “I had awesome professors who made me think about what I wanted

to do after graduation. If you can get into college, it's relatively easy to graduate, but I think you really want to use it as a tool. I have always been interested in Political Science, but was told by a counselor that I didn't have enough life experience yet, and was told that the law was a good career.”

And Carbone loves the competition of the courtroom, a competitive streak that he found he had when taking part in moot court team competitions.

“I liked the debate and being on a par with other competent competitors, thinking on my feet,” said Carbone.

Running for political office in 2011 was another challenge that Carbone threw himself into.

“It was a tough battle,” he said, recalling the challenged race. “I wasn't expected to do well, but I found campaigning exhilarating. I liked talking to people. I spoke from the heart and people recognized that.”

After just a few months on the City Council, he finds himself interested in com-

mercial development and plans to run for another term.

“This is about how we can make the city better for existing and new businesses,” Carbone said. “I hate it when people say, bring Fitchburg back to the good old days. It is better now and the best is yet to come.”

Lynne Klaff



Colors, Numbers, and Animals. It's the first of a new series of Spanish learning books for children and was inspired by the traditional game “Veo, Veo” (I Spy).

Eric Gregoire '11 earned a master's degree in policy, planning, and administration from Boston University's School of Education in May 2012.

Allen Russell '11 produced and directed a documentary simply titled *Raynham*. Broken down into four one-hour long installments, *Raynham* will be aired on the Raynham community access television station.

Carissa Scottfenton '11 is a therapeutic mentor and therapeutic training and support clinician at Community Health Link in Leominster.

Looking ahead

- We're proud of our graduates who have gone on to serve their nation in the armed forces. For a future edition of *Contact*, we are hoping to chronicle some of their experiences. You can share your story at contact@fitchburgstate.edu.
- Did you find Mr. or Mrs. Right at Fitchburg State? For another possible article, we'd like to hear from couples who met on campus. Photos welcome. Again, contact@fitchburgstate.edu.
- Fitchburg State has a long tradition of preparing teachers. We'd like to find higher education senior administrators who got their start in our classrooms. Once again, contact@fitchburgstate.edu.

In Memoriam

Nellie (Clark) Hillman '38
of Shelbourne Falls, on April 23, 2011

Helen (Chadwick) Randall '43
of Fairfield, Conn., on April 20, 2011

Robert T. Duncan '53, '59
of Gardner, on Feb. 7, 2012

Agnetha (Daley) Gettens '47
of Leominster, on April 24, 2011

Georgianna Marshall '47, '50
of Wilbraham, on March 9, 2011

Ruth (Baker) Munro '47
of Northborough, on Feb. 17, 2012

Curtis Boyden '51
of South Yarmouth, on Dec. 31, 2010

Edward Convery '51
of Framingham, on Feb. 5, 2012

Richard Porteus '51
of Braintree, on Nov. 26, 2011

Mary Dwyn (Costigan) Shalhoub '54
of Yarmouth, on Sept. 22, 2011

Mildred (Francis) Marion '56
of Baldwinville, on Dec. 27, 2011

Maxine (Mason) Collins '59
of Westfield, on July 16, 2010

Carol-Ann T. Bristol '61
of South Hadley, on March 16, 2011

Mary K. (Flynn) Leblanc '62
of Saco, Maine, on Dec. 28, 2011

Pauline (Belliveau) Boardman '65
of Westport, on Sept. 3, 2011

Janice E. (Sulisz) Loiselle '65
of Hatfield, on Oct. 2, 2011

Lois I. (Driscoll) Dooley '67
of Plainfield, Conn., on Feb. 23, 2012

Raymond C. Racette '67, '86
of Phillipston, on Oct. 1, 2011

George J. Janas '71 '73
of Newport, N.H., on Aug. 12, 2011

Edward Strange '73
of Cape Coral, Fla., on Sept. 23, 2011

Eugene K. McCarthy '76
of Quincy, on Jan. 15, 2012

James J. Costello '80
of Roslindale, on July 23, 2011

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

Paul F. Gurrie '90, '92
of Franklin, on March 14, 2012

Erik L. Brown '98
of Nashua, N.H., on Feb. 4, 2012

Chad LeBouf '01 '06
of Leominster, on Jan. 13, 2012

Two new collections now open for research at the Fitchburg State University Archives document the role of women in the military during World War II and paint vivid pictures of the history of the education profession in the early 20th century.

The manuscript collections reflect the experiences of Fitchburg State alumnae **Anna Catherine Zimmerman '38** and **Cecil Crandall Burrows '19**.

The Zimmerman papers, spanning 1937-1998, chronicle the experience of Anna Catherine Zimmerman in the Women's Army Corps (WACs), in which she served from 1942 to 1945. The collection includes army publications, newspaper clippings, photographs, brochures and a WAC recruitment poster.

This collection is particularly valuable for researchers as it documents the role of women in the military during World War II, especially those in Massachusetts. The members of the Women's Army Corps were the first women, aside from nurses, to serve in the ranks of the U.S. Army. Over 150,000 women served in the WAC during World War II and filled army roles left vacant by soldiers sent overseas. This collection uniquely contributes to existing scholarship related to women's military history.

The **Cecil C. Crandall** scrapbook, 1910-1920, contains photographs and materials that document Crandall's time as a student at Fitchburg Normal School during the 1910s and her early teaching career. Crandall used her high school chemistry notebook as a scrapbook and included photographs and ephemera related to her student experience. The scrapbook contains portraits, photographs, programs, certificates, letters, bookmarks, cards, songbooks, notices of pay raises, and one drawing that together reflect school activities and the start of her career.

Donated by Mrs. (Crandall) Burrows' daughter-in-law, the scrapbook is a particularly important document of the history of the Fitchburg Normal School. The University Archives yearbook collection begins in 1922, thus the scrapbook uniquely illustrates the student experience for a period in which there is little other documentation. While unidentified, the classmate portraits are the most inclusive group of student photographs for the year and other items such as event programs and invitations are not found elsewhere in our collections. The inclusion of materials related to student teaching and the transition into a professional teaching career provide a singular view of the history of the education profession in the early 20th century.

For a more detailed inventory of the collections, please view the finding aids online at
<http://library.fitchburgstate.edu/Archon/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=212> and
<http://library.fitchburgstate.edu/Archon/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=201>.
 Any inquiries may be directed to Special Collections Librarian Kate Wells at kwells6@fitchburgstate.edu.

Events

Alumni Soccer Game: In August 2011, more than 20 men's soccer alumni returned to campus to face the Falcon team in the fourth annual Men's Alumni Soccer Game. The 2012 game will be played on Aug. 25 at noon.



Alumni Advice: In April five recent graduates returned to campus to participate in a career panel discussion for graduating seniors. The discussion focused primarily on experiences in their professional field and how students can transition effectively to the "real world." Panelists included: Nicholas Carbone '09, Carissa Scottfenton '11, Christopher Seidlich '07, '11, Jade St. Cyere '11, and Marissa Torres '09.



Class of 1961 Reunion: On Sept. 30, 2011, more than 25 members of the Class of 1961 returned to the Fitchburg State University campus, many for the first time in nearly 50 years. Following a class social and campus tours, the class celebrated its 50th reunion with a dinner in Thompson Hall.

The following morning, the university paid tribute to the

1961 class, inducting its members into the Gold Key Society. The society, consisting of all class members who are 50 years or more removed from their studies at Fitchburg State, annually celebrates the induction of the 50th reunion class. More than eight members of the society attended a breakfast where President Antonucci presented each member of the class with a gold key to the university.

Alumni Field Hockey Game: On Oct. 15, 2011, the Falcon field hockey team squared off against an alumni team consisting of 20 members from the classes of 1978 to 2011. The current team topped the alumni by a score of 3-1. The 2012 alumni game will be played on Sunday, Sept. 23.



Alumni Baseball Game: On Oct. 16, 2011, 30 Falcon baseball alumni returned to campus to challenge the current Falcon team. The 2012 alumni game will be played on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m. at Elliot Field.



Retired Faculty Luncheon: On April 15, nearly 50 former faculty members gathered for a luncheon at Fitchburg's prestigious Fay Club. President Antonucci, Alumni Association President Ronald Colbert '76, '80 gave remarks recognizing the group for its past and continued contributions to academics at Fitchburg State.

Retired Educators Luncheon: On May 9, nearly 90 retired educators, all alumni of Fitchburg State University, attended a luncheon at Slattery's Restaurant in Fitchburg, organized by the Alumni Association with the help of alumni Mary (Angelini) Dennen '62, '76 and Judith (Wagner) Seguin '70, '83.

Pub Tour: On June 2, more than 200 graduates of the last decade participated in the third annual Fitchburg State University Alumni Pub Tour. Organized by recent graduates Chris McKillop '08 and Tim Graham '11, the event raised more than \$1,000 for student scholarship support.

Esoteric Society Reunion: In June, Fitchburg State University welcomed back 40 members of the Esoteric Society, a former local fraternity on campus for nearly 50 years. The group, assembled with the help of Michael Quinn '98, enjoyed a lunch in Holmes Dining Commons and campus tours. Contact Mike Quinn for questions or to be added to the Esoteric mail list: quinna10@hotmail.com.



The Class of 1962 Reunion. Save the date! The Class of 1962, led by reunion co-chairs William Erickson '62 and Mary (Angelini) Dennen '62, will celebrate its 50th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 22. More than 60 members of the class are anticipated to be in attendance. The day will include a social hour, campus tours, class dinner, and induction into the Gold Key Society. The Gold Key Society is comprised of all alumni whose classes have celebrated their 50th reunion. Each year the Gold Key Breakfast celebrates the collective achievements of the society. Contact the alumni office at alumni@fitchburgstate.edu or (978) 665-4789 for more information or to register for the event.

Class of 1965 In the fall of 2015, the Class of 1965 will hold its 50th reunion. Classmates John Caron, Nancy (Massoni) Goudreau, Bruce Goyette, Irene (Czekanski) Hamel and Bill Mahoney have joined efforts to form a reunion committee, but they need your help! Please contact the Alumni Office to verify your contact information: alumni@fitchburgstate.edu or (978) 665-4789.

A challenge met

This spring, I made a gift to the university as a challenge to alumni and friends. Through June 30 of this year, any new gift or pledge made to Fitchburg State was matched dollar-for-dollar up to a combined total of \$100,000. My intent

was to cast a spotlight on the critical need for private philanthropy to increase its focus on public higher education, as well as to spur new gifts from alumni who haven't given previously.

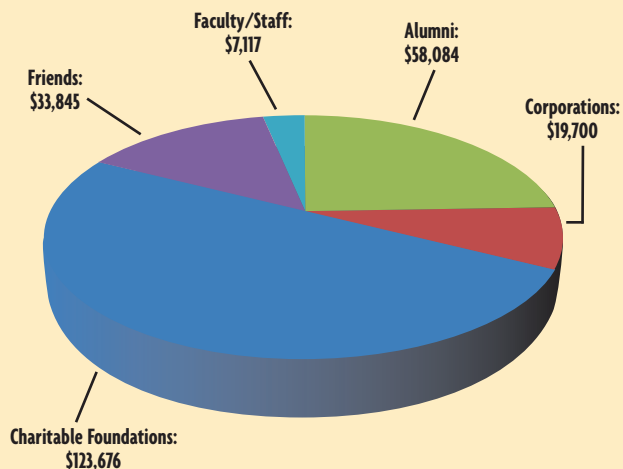


The concept succeeded beyond my most ambitious dreams: the challenge generated \$242,000 in contributions! This is a remarkable feat, one that could not have been reached without the support of so many, including the nearly 300 first-time donors who stepped forward. But that spirit cannot end with the conclusion of this grant. My challenge to you continues: invest in the future of Fitchburg State University, by doing so you ensure the success of generations of future leaders.

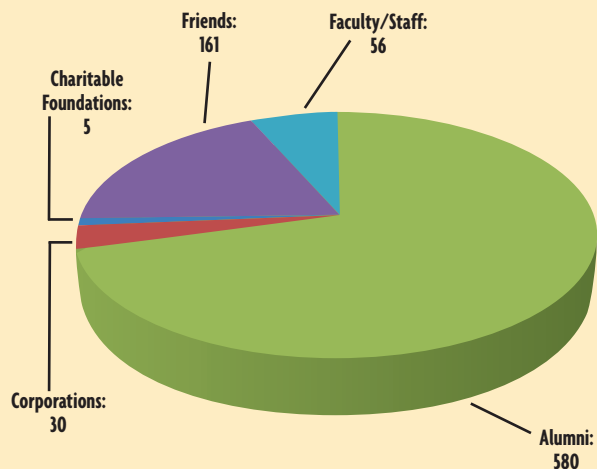
My deepest thanks to all who answered the call.

Sincerely,
Gregg P. Lisciotti

Contributions by Constituency



Gifts Received in Response to Lisciotti Challenge (March 19-June 30, 2012)



FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association
160 Pearl Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

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