

# Contact

**INSIDE:**

Best-selling author R.A. Salvatore

Campus transformation

Commencements



Michael Deitemeyer '86

“ Success is measured in the little things, in how many genuine smiles cross your face. Success is measured by how many people will truly miss you when you are gone. True success in life is in your heart, not your wallet. I hope you all see the truth in that before you figure out what road you wish to travel. ”

—R.A. Salvatore '81, '91,  
in his commencement  
speech on May 21, 2011





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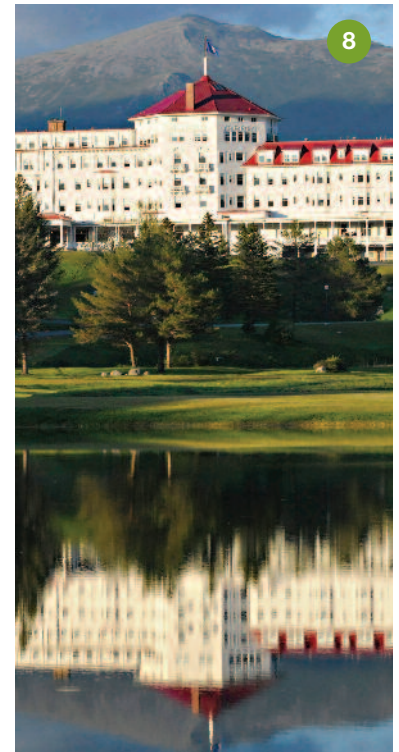
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*Photograph by Jay Philbrick.*

**Executive Editor**  
Michael Shanley

**Editor**  
Matthew J. Bruun

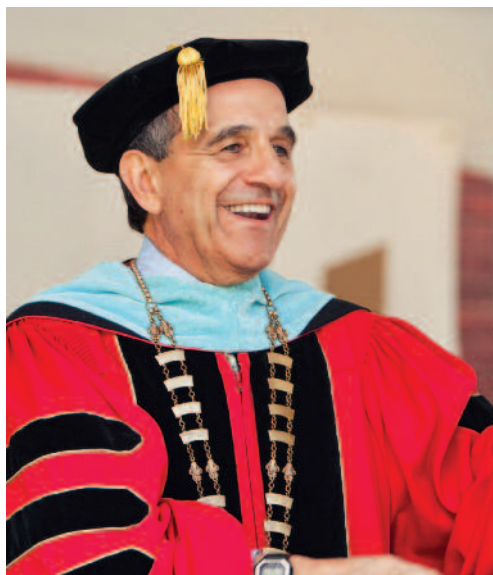
**Contributing Editor**  
Michael Kushmerek '08

**Design**  
Vicky Smith

**Photography**  
Matthew J. Bruun  
Robert Carlin '00  
Dan Cutrona '02  
Anna Latino '13  
Jay Philbrick

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# From the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is no small feat to take a stroll across the Fitchburg State University campus this summer. Within days of the undergraduate commencement ceremony, construction fences were erected and heavy equipment was in place. We are in a time of great and wonderful transition.

In this issue of *Contact*, we invite you to learn about some of the changes taking place on our campus. The renderings of our new and expanded campus buildings will dazzle you, I'm sure.

All of these changes are designed to improve the campus environment and enhance the spaces and opportunities for teaching and learning.

At the same time, we are investing in our faculty and librarians, with 25 coming on board this fall. Their knowledge and expertise will complement the talented educators already on campus. And in the pages ahead you will read about Robin E. Bowen, our new vice president for academic affairs, who will play a key role in moving Fitchburg State University to the next level.

We also celebrate the accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni. In our cover story, you will learn about Michael Deitemeyer, the 1986 graduate whose ambition and resourcefulness allowed him to parlay a humble internship at a Worcester hotel into a career as president of Omni Hotels & Resorts. His is a powerful and inspiring story.

Storytelling is also key to the saga of best-selling author and alumnus R.A. Salvatore. The fantasy writer delivered an amazing address at the undergraduate commencement ceremony in May, and in a separate article you will learn how he is continuing to evolve and adapt his skills to new media.

It has been a tremendous year at Fitchburg State. I hope you enjoy learning more about what is happening on campus and I encourage you to witness its evolution.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Antonucci  
President

## FAVE program launched

In February, the university marked the formal launch of Fitchburg Anti-Violence Education (FAVE), a program created to demonstrate the lack of tolerance for dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Like countless other campuses and communities, Fitchburg State has been affected by these phenomena. We have chosen as a community to stand up and act.

At the FAVE inaugural event, President Antonucci read a proclamation describing the institution's stance.

"Sexual violence is an intolerable crime with serious implications for every facet of society, including institutions of higher education," the proclamation reads, in part. "We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors."

FAVE is co-directed by faculty members John Chetro-Szivos (Communications Media) and Jannette McMenamy (Behavioral Science). The initiative, supported by a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, includes training every member of the campus to become a responsible bystander.



The bystander training regimen will help participants develop knowledge about the scope and causes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence. The curriculum is also designed to help participants develop skills to effectively and safely intervene to prevent incidents of violence.

Also, all incoming students will attend a performance of the powerful play, "Drawing the Shades," which tells true stories of dating violence and sexual assault.

The FAVE website ([www.fitchburgstate.edu/fave](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/fave)) also lists resources for members of the campus community to seek help.

## Undergraduate Research Conference highlights student work



Classes were canceled one day in April in order to allow all members of the campus community to take part in the second Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice.

In the Alumni Rooms of the campus center, students discussed their findings on topics such as how self-esteem is impacted when someone is confronted online versus face to face and how exercise and nutrition relate to thinking in young adults.

At Thompson Hall, meanwhile, students gave oral presentations on subjects ranging from the politics of health care reform to the effects of hurricanes on organic carbon transport.

Scenes from the spring theater production of "You Can't Take it with You" were performed at Ellis White Lecture Hall and the Hammond Lounge was lined with student artwork while live music played.

The day-long celebration of teaching and learning concluded with the 34th Honors Convocation at Weston Auditorium.



## REDI re-imagines downtown landmark

Student researchers working with the Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI) at Fitchburg State found that the former Harper's Furniture building on Main Street could be reborn as an advanced polymer manufacturing and training facility. The research was conducted in consultation with the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce.

The feasibility study, performed by students in Keith Chenot's architecture design class in the fall of 2010, was shared at a public forum in the spring. The shuttered furniture store, once a manufacturing facility, has the potential for 21st century reuse, the group found. The cost of the renovation would be similar to new construction, the researchers found, but would translate into a much smaller impact on the environment. Representatives from the company that owns the building gave high marks to the students' presentation.

## Kennedy Center Fest returns to campus

This spring, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) returned to Fitchburg, bringing thousands of visitors from campuses across the Northeast to North Central Massachusetts. The university's production of "Sticks and Bones" won much recognition: Brett Rochford won an honorable mention for the National Barbizon Award for excellence in scenic design; Anthony Ferraguto won the regional award for excellence in poster design; Luke Murtha was named a regional finalist for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship (for which 16 finalists were selected from 319 nominees); Jordan McCormack was named a regional semi-finalist for the scholarship (there were 36 semi-finalists from the 319 nominees); Amy DeMar won a merit award for outstanding stage combat choreography; and Jesse Hoyer was recognized for technical directing/master electrician/front of house.

Also at the KCACTF, student Tyler Welsh won a merit award for outstanding choreography in "Metamorphosis."

The festival's regional events are slated to return to Fitchburg next year.

## Falcon 5K off and running



Forging ties with the community and promoting the concept that exercise is medicine were the twin goals realized by the inaugural Falcon 5K, Fun-Run and Walk held in May.

The brainchild of Exercise and Sports Science major Kevon Plouffe, the Falcon 5K attracted dozens of participants who hit the streets, starting at the Recreation Center and proceeding around the campus.

Many students and staff members took part after finishing an eight-week "couch to 5K" training regimen overseen by student Laura Shotwell.

## A cut above



More than \$4,000 was raised for cancer research when the university hosted a fundraiser for the St. Baldrick's Society. Participants raised pledges in exchange for having their heads shaved. Several Fitchburg State students took part, as did community members like Carole Callahan of Shirley, shown here.



## ESS team competes at national tournament

Exercise and Sports Science students competed in June at the American College of Sports Medicine's National Championship College Bowl in Denver. Connie Perry, Kevon Plouffe and Chuck Kostopoulos earned their spot in the national event by winning the regional competition in November.

The Fitchburg State contingent placed fifth in the national competition. They competed against students from Michigan State, Western Colorado State, Fort Hayes State, Ithaca College, Wayne State College, Montana State, the University of North Carolina – Charlotte, Northern Arizona State, the University of El Paso and the Universidad de los Andes of Colombia.

The contest was a "Jeopardy!" style match where contestants took questions on exercise metabolism, strength and conditioning, pathophysiology, anatomy, cardiovascular physiology, EKG interpretation, exercise endocrinology and the concept of exercise as medicine.

## Employees earn state citations for outstanding performance

Several members of the Fitchburg State community were recognized at the Statehouse in Boston in June and received the Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance.

The citation gives formal recognition to state employees who make meaningful contributions, which distinguish them from their peers. These special awards focus attention on consistent, positive achievements by both individuals and teams of state employees, and recognize those who demonstrate innovation and dedication to their work, concern for the public trust and a commitment to excellence.

Citation award recipients are nominated by their colleagues and supervisors within the institution.

In addition to the citation awards, **Sherry Horeanopoulos** was chosen for the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service. This award is given annually to 10 employees or groups of employees who exemplify the highest standards of excellence in public service.

The Citation Recipients were **Jenny Pao** (Information Technology), **Sherry Horeanopoulos** (Information Technology), **Joseph LoBuono** (Capital Planning & Maintenance) and **Mary Chapin Durling** (Cultural Affairs).



## Center for Italian Culture awards scholarships

This spring, the Center for Italian Culture (CIC) at Fitchburg State honored eight students with scholarships to support their inquiries into Italian culture and Western civilization. The scholarships allowed the students to spend four weeks in Italy this summer. The CIC, established through an endowment from the late Amelia Gallucci-Cirio '38, celebrated its 10th anniversary last fall. Pictured at the scholarship ceremony, from left: front row, CIC Scholarship Committee members Carol Millette, Nancy Lee, Janice Testagrossa, Scholarship Committee Chair Anne Tardanico and CIC Chair Anna Mazzaferro; standing, from left: President Antonucci, CIC scholarship winners Kareem Woods, Robert Vater, Melanie Rose Saari, Ashlee Masone, Jamie McDonald, Jacqueline Maille, Yi Pui Lee, and Sean Doherty.



## 29 who shine

On May 12, 29 outstanding 2011 graduates of Massachusetts community colleges, state universities and the University of Massachusetts were honored for both academic achievement and their contributions to the commonwealth in a ceremony at the Statehouse in Boston. Eric Gregoire '11 represented Fitchburg State at this event. An exemplary member of the Fitchburg State community since his arrival on campus in the fall of 2007, Gregoire was an engaged contributor to countless campus organizations and initiatives, demonstrating a dedication to his fellow students as well as the university. Gregoire plans to begin his graduate studies this fall at Boston University.



## Sterilite scholars create community of learning

A generous gift from Sterilite Corp. in the fall of 2009 has blossomed into a unique community of scholars on campus.

The program is designed to bolster the academic success of Fitchburg State students by removing financial barriers and providing personalized support. The first class of Sterilite Scholars, 10 high-achieving students representing all four years of study, have already had meaningful experiences as a group.

In April, successful alumni whose career paths mirror the ambitions of the Sterilite Scholars returned to campus for a unique gathering, sharing insights and forging ties with their young counterparts.

Among the visitors were state Sen. Jennifer L. Flanagan '04, who discussed her political career as well as her counseling work; Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Melanie Perkins '91, who traced her path to a successful career from her days studying film at Fitchburg State; Patrice Nicholas '77, the director of global health and academic partnerships at Brigham & Women's Hospital, who talked about the great foundation for success she had studying nursing at Fitchburg State; and Mike Elfland '86, the online editor for the Worcester *Telegram & Gazette*, who described the importance of learning new skills to adapt to a changing workplace.

The Sterilite Scholars can renew their \$5,000 awards by maintaining high academic standards.



## Moot Court team blazes on

Continuing what has become a tradition, Fitchburg State's delegation to the American Moot Court National Tournament held at Tulane University Law School in New Orleans performed strongly in January.

The university continued its streak as the only school in the nation to reach the second day of the annual tournament, with both Fitchburg State teams making the cut. Of the nearly 250 teams that competed in regional tournaments in the fall, 64 were selected to participate in the national event. Two of them included representatives from Fitchburg State.

Matthew Costello, who is also the student representative to the university's Board of Trustees, was on a team that earned national honors by placing sixth in the brief-writing section of the competition. And Sydney Kirsch and Casey Ryder advanced to the final 16. Ryder graduated in January; Costello and Kirsch are expected to return to competition this fall.





## Bowen named to top academic post

Just days after commencement, President Antonucci announced the appointment of Dr. Robin E. Bowen as the institution's new vice president for academic affairs.

Bowen, who comes to Fitchburg from a stint as interim provost/vice president for academic affairs at Donnelly

College in Kansas, assumed her new duties at Fitchburg State at the end of June.

Bowen was selected after a nationwide search to find the successor to Michael Fiorentino Jr., who became president of Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

"Robin Bowen stood out among a strong field of candidates for her impeccable academic credentials, her demonstrated ability to lead and the breadth of her experience in higher education," President Antonucci said. "Dr. Bowen has the skills and intellect to help Fitchburg State become an even better institution."

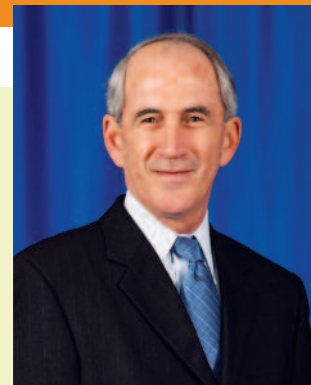
"I am thrilled to join the team at Fitchburg State University, and to be part of an institution whose mission and values correspond so closely to my own," Bowen said. "I believe in excellence and access, which are attributes I have already observed at this teaching university."

President Antonucci commended the search committee of faculty, staff and administrators who worked with a consultant in reviewing dozens of applications from across the U.S. Three finalists were brought to campus for two days of interviews and open forums.

"This was an exhaustive search that produced a slate of excellent finalists," the president said. "Every constituency on campus let their voices be heard in this process. I am pleased that Dr. Bowen will arrive at Fitchburg State with widespread support and enthusiasm."

Bowen earned a doctorate of education in higher education administration from Texas Tech University in 1988. She received a master of education in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Arkansas in 1983 and a bachelor of science in occupational therapy from the University of Kansas in 1982.

In her new role at Fitchburg State, Bowen will provide vision, leadership, and strategic direction to 180 faculty members organized into 14 academic departments and the library. She will also oversee undergraduate education, enrollment management, graduate and continuing education, international education, academic support units, and the principal of the McKay School, a cooperative laboratory facility for education majors and elementary students.



## Fiorentino to lead Pennsylvania university

Fitchburg State said farewell this summer to longtime friend Michael

Fiorentino Jr. '71, who concluded a remarkable career in Massachusetts to assume the presidency of Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

"The professional opportunity at Lock Haven University was one I could not pass up," Fiorentino said. "I look forward to putting my knowledge and enthusiasm to work for this institution starting in July. It was not an easy decision to leave Fitchburg State. I have enjoyed the challenges and successes that have accompanied my tenure, and I will always treasure the friendships Fitchburg State has brought me."

A 1971 graduate of Fitchburg State, Fiorentino served with distinction as a member of the special education faculty and later as its chair. He was principal of the McKay Campus School before briefly leaving Fitchburg for a post at Framingham State as executive assistant to the president and associate vice president for academic affairs.

He returned to Fitchburg, however, serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs before adopting his final title as executive vice president/academic affairs.

For the depth and breadth of his contributions to Fitchburg State and his community, Fiorentino was awarded the President's Medal during the graduate commencement ceremony on May 19.

"It would take a rare educator indeed to approximate the scope of Mike Fiorentino's accomplishments as a professor, an administrator and a colleague," President Antonucci said in making the presentation. "Mike's attributes have been recognized by others both in this country and abroad, as illustrated by the many organizations that have sought his assistance, from the State Department to other parts of the country to foreign nations.

"He has also given generously of his time to the community, serving on a host of non-profit and educational organizations, and has been a supportive alumnus at his alma mater," President Antonucci continued. "In his years as my second-in-command, his seasoned intellect and thoughtful approach never failed to bring clarity to complex issues."

# Driven, Now Driving

*Omni president touts persistence over pedigree*

*By Matthew Bruun*



“ ... an internship was huge. The diversity of opportunities it provided enabled me, at an early age, to see what you could do with a degree. I wouldn't trade where I'm at for the world.”

**F**or Mike Deitemeyer '86, president of Omni Hotels & Resorts, the path to a career leading a thriving brand of luxury hotels and resorts began at the ground floor, with an internship while he studied business and accounting at Fitchburg State.

Deitemeyer, a driven worker who knew the value of persistence, paid his dues in order to have achieved at the highest levels. And it is those same qualities he looks for when he seeks to cultivate the next generation of leaders for his company.

The Lancaster native attended Fitchburg State out of convenience and access. A child of divorced parents, Deitemeyer was among the first members of his family to pursue higher education and worked to help pay his way through school.

“My mother was determined to make it happen,” he recalled. “At the time I was helping my mother cover the mortgage on the house.”

Fitchburg State was a viable option as he sought a better future. But when Deitemeyer was in his third year of studying business with a concentration in accounting, he still wasn't sure where his path lay. It was an internship that let him find it.

“The internship program was really the key for me,” he said. “It allowed me to look at a few different options.”

He had three alternatives for his summer's placement: working in an office inside a grocery store, crunching numbers in a bank basement or working at a Marriott Hotel in Worcester. For a young man whose travel lodgings never exceeded modest motels, the urban hotel represented a new world.

“It was a brand new hotel with a restaurant,” he marveled.

“To me, it was very cool and it was different, something I'd not had much exposure to.”

Because of his accounting studies, Deitemeyer was put to work processing accounts payable and helping manage inventory at the hotel and its gift shop. And while the job was not glamorous, the work and environment appealed to him. Marriott hired him for a salaried position at the end of the internship. During his final year at Fitchburg State, Deitemeyer worked 20 hours a week at the hotel while balancing a full load of courses.

“I left Massachusetts two weeks after I graduated,” he recalled. Marriott sent him to Charlotte, N.C., the first in a series of postings with the company that included frequent relocations. It was there he met his future wife, Sherri, with whom he has two daughters: Hayley, 16, and Riley, 12.

Coming from a family of “union guys,” Deitemeyer said he was comfortable working late shifts, weekends and holidays, as he was the low person on the totem pole.

“Two weeks out of school, I was in a strange city. I didn't have an option (beyond) putting my head down and going forward,” he said. “I needed to be successful. I didn't know what else to do besides work hard.”

After Charlotte, Deitemeyer was moved to Memphis, then to Minneapolis, back to Memphis. And so on.

Being able to pick up and move remains a fact of life for someone working their way up the ladder in the hotel industry, Deitemeyer said.

He recalls himself as a driven young man who was always looking for the next promotion, the next forward step.

The company he worked for in his early career was eventually



bought out, and he represented his employer at the closing. He made a strong impression on the new owners, however, and wound up with a better position.

He had moved from hotel management to the corporate side of the operation, and the company—along with Deitemeyer’s responsibilities—grew. In 1996 his company bought Omni Hotels, and soon he was the chief operations officer. By 2004, he was company president.

Deitemeyer looks for that sense of drive when hiring recruits fresh out of college.

“Because of the value of my internship, we have 50 to 60 young associates in a Leaders in Development program at any given time in the company,” he said. “We’re always recruiting actively out of colleges. I tell my people not to focus on the kid with a 4.0 GPA. I’d rather see a kid with a 3.2 who worked his

**“Some people give up on their dreams. I’ve exceeded all of my expectations.”**

way through school. Of my peer group, half of them went to an Ivy League school and the other half came from the grassroots.

“Hotels are a tough business, even at the luxury level,” he continued. “You need a work ethic and people who are willing to come out of school and work nights and work weekends. It doesn’t always appeal to people coming out of



school. When we recruit, we look for attitude, someone who worked hard and put a lot of effort into achieving their education.”

Deitemeyer now makes his home in Texas, where Omni is based.

“We own 35 of our hotels outright. We’re debt-free and manage, in total, 50 hotels and resorts,” he said. “We’re consistently four-diamond rated hotels.”

One recent addition was the Omni Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, N.H.

The magnificent resort, with 200 guest rooms and suites, an 18-hole golf course, year-round zip-line tours and Nordic and Alpine skiing facilities, recently underwent a \$60 million renovation. It’s one of the many jewels in Omni’s crown.

“Some people give up on their dreams,” Deitemeyer said. “I’ve exceeded all of my expectations. I work hard and I travel a lot, but there are perks that go with that. We play hard, too. Living life with passion is important.”

Deitemeyer, who grew up playing hockey, enjoys riding motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles at his property near Sunday River, Maine, as well as skiing trips in the U.S. and Europe with his family.

“I like adrenalin sports,” he said. “I’m not a golfer.”

Fitchburg State holds a special place in Deitemeyer’s heart, representing the start of his amazing journey.

“Being a commuter, you don’t quite develop the same relationship with the school, but I have a lot of pride about the opportunities it provided me,” he said. “As a kid with no mentors and no real role models along the way, an internship was huge. The diversity of opportunities it provided enabled me, at an early age, to see what you could do with a degree. I wouldn’t trade where I’m at for the world.”

# THIS SUCCESS NO FANTASY

*By Matthew Bruun*

Writer R.A. Salvatore's creative  
mastery is still making its mark

WITH 17 MILLION COPIES OF HIS BOOKS IN PRINT AND LEGIONS OF ADORING FANS ACROSS THE GLOBE, YOU MIGHT THINK THAT R.A. SALVATORE '81, '91—KNOWN AS “BOB” TO HIS MANY FRIENDS—KNEW HIS JOURNEY TO SUCCESS WOULD LIE ON THE PRINTED PAGE.

## BUT YOU WOULD BE WRONG.

“My strength was math, according to the tests,” Salvatore said. “In high school I had a tough time reading for pleasure.”

Bob was a student at Fitchburg State when he was given a boxed set of J.R.R. Tolkien’s fantasy epics, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. He cracked them open during the Blizzard of '78.

“I kept thinking, why didn’t somebody give this to me to read in the eighth grade?”

Salvatore—studying technical writing at Fitchburg State—discovered he had an unquenchable appetite for fantasy and science fiction.



“I basically read the shelf at Waldenbooks,” he said, recalling the now-shuttered bookstore at the former Searstown mall in his hometown of Leominster. He wanted more books to read, even if it meant writing them himself.

It was his wife, Diane—whom he met on a blind date at Partners Pub in 1983—who encouraged him “to write the book I’d been threatening to write,” Salvatore said.

So, by candlelight, he took pen to paper, scribbling in a spiral notebook to the strains of Fleetwood Mac’s album *Tusk*. The result was *Echoes of the Fourth Magic*. Salvatore insists his candlelit novelizing is not an apocryphal bit of myth-making.

“I thought that’s just how writers did it,” he said.

Salvatore showed the book to friends and relatives, who told him it was worthy of publication. It took him years of tenacity and coping with rejection letters to see it published.

For the next book, he didn’t bother with the candles.

“Being a success has allowed me to watch my kids grow up,” says the proud father, for whom the bill-paying anxiety that

surfaced when he quit his day job at GenRad is now a distant memory. He worked instead from his home, and was able to coach his kids in sports and watch all the transitions of their growing lives. His youngest child has just left home.

And while he says being a father is his most important job, Salvatore’s skills on the keyboard are still intact.

“My job as a writer, very often, is to just flick the synapses in your head and conjure images,” he said. “Everyone can learn writing and grammar. The tools are not rules. The tools allow you to evoke from the reader. When I write battle scenes, I want your adrenalin pumping. I want your pulse pounding.

“You can teach anybody to write a book,” he says. “But you can’t teach anybody to write a book that anybody would want to read.”

Salvatore has enjoyed a great career writing novels. A jocular figure, he turns quiet when he describes hearing from the wife of a soldier deployed overseas that the written adventures of Drizzt Do’Urden—the dark elf who is perhaps Salvatore’s most beloved creation—have helped him get

through his tour. Or the letter from the sick child who says that if Drizzt can beat the demons chasing him then he can beat the cancer attacking his body.

His regimen includes writing at least 1,000 words a day—down from his former output, but he’s got less to prove these days. His latest, *Neverwinter*, the second book in the titular trilogy, will be published in October.

Still, Salvatore is not content to rest on his laurels.

“Ten years from now I may not be writing fantasy books,” he said.

## A NEW FORMAT FOR A NEW WORLD

It was a phone call in 2006 that launched the next chapter of Salvatore’s career. The voice on the other end of the line announced himself as Curt Schilling—the legendary Red Sox pitcher, whose bloody sock in the 2004 World Series is an iconic image in the annals of baseball. Salvatore was, to put it politely, skeptical that the man claiming to be a huge fan was none other than the pitching great.

But, of course, it was. And Schilling wanted to talk to Salvatore about creating a whole new fantasy world to serve as the setting of a massive, multi-player video game.

Salvatore jumped at the challenge, and he is now one of the founding partners of 38Studios, and the fruit of their years of labor is expected to launch next fall.

He is content to surrender the godlike control he has over his characters and worlds on the printed page to the participatory form of the video game.

“It’s a different animal altogether,” he said. “We’re just giving you the platform to write your story. Doing video games is my way of admitting that the person on the other end of this handshake is as important as I am.”

The design is a massive amount of work, with teams of artists, engineers and storytellers laboring for months—and years—before the final product is ready.

Salvatore said Schilling and the 38Studios team have amassed the top minds in the field to create a unique gaming experience, one that fulfills the promise of the medium. That promise is boundless, he added.

“Games are going to become probably the dominant form of communication,” Salvatore predicts.



## HOLLYWOOD CALLING

The next frontier is Hollywood, and Salvatore may soon be making his presence felt there, too.

Talks are preliminary but established Hollywood deal-makers are interested in adapting Salvatore’s *Demon Wars* books. Salvatore is ready to let his work be adapted and appropriated by another medium.

“There are two ways for an author to look at a movie,” he said. There’s the John Grisham approach, where the rights to the book are sold and it becomes someone else’s property. Or there’s the path taken by J.R.R. Tolkien’s son Christopher, who endeavors to remain involved at every stage of adaptation.

Salvatore sees himself in the Grisham camp.

“An author has to know his place,” he said. “I’m a team player. You have to understand different media have different needs. I understand all that. I was a communication major (at Fitchburg State) and I got a very good education at a very good college.”

He also sees a responsibility to the next generation of authors. He has taken young writers under his wing, mentoring them as they navigate what is to come.

“I owe that,” he said, recalling that the late Robert Cormier—a fellow Leominster native—did so for him, as did acclaimed fantasy author Terry Brooks.

Among the first kernels of advice he gives upcoming writers concerns the critics. “Don’t let the good reviews lift your feet off the ground,” he says, “and don’t let the bad reviews put you underground.”

Proud of his roots and in a state of disbelief at his own success, Salvatore looks to the future with excitement, and looks to the past with gratitude.

“If it all ended tomorrow,” he said, “I’d smile and say it was a hell of a ride.”



## Winter commencement a night of firsts for Fitchburg State

The winter ceremony of the 115th Commencement Exercises was a triumphant night for the institution, and an historic occasion—the first ceremony since the renaming of Fitchburg State University, and the first at any of the rechristened former state colleges.

The significance of the occasion was a recurring theme during the night, as President Antonucci discussed the landmark in his remarks to the graduates and their families who filled the Recreation Center.

The first President's Medal to bear the name and markings of Fitchburg State University was presented to

Frederick D. Healey, the former president and CEO of Workers' Credit Union. President Antonucci cited Healey's lengthy commitment to the highest principles of corporate citizenship.

Healey, whose career in the banking industry spanned more than 40 years, saw in his leadership role an obligation to support the communities where his customers and employees lived and worked. It was a duty he seized with enthusiasm, lending his talent and profile to numerous non-profit and civic organizations, including serving as chairman of the Investment Committee for the Fitchburg State Foundation's board of trustees.

Accepting the award, a visibly moved Healey urged the graduates to give of themselves and expect nothing in return.

In his remarks, President Antonucci described the transition to Fitchburg State University and the varied accomplishments of the past year that have affirmed his oft-stated description of the institution as the number one state university.

President Antonucci paid special notice to the first recipients of the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study, master's and bachelor's degree recipients who crossed the stage to receive their diplomas.

He also saluted the Fitchburg State employees who were earning degrees. Devin O'Neill, who works in the power plant, earned his bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies. Demetrice Phillips of the Campus Police earned his bachelor of science in criminal justice. Jayne Sambito, director of payroll, and Kelly Sylvia, who also works in payroll, each earned MBA degrees. Melissa Tasca, who works in housing and residential services, earned an MBA, her second master's degree in as many years. And Michelle Walsh, who works in athletics and recreation, was awarded a master's in business administration.





## Best-selling author R.A. Salvatore's advice to grads: "Seize the Day"



The spring ceremonies for the 115th Commencement Exercises were a joyous occasion, marking the return of old friends to campus and paying tribute to members of the community who are moving on to new challenges.

At the undergraduate ceremony on May 21, commencement speaker R.A. Salvatore '81, '91 urged the class of 2011 to seize the day, or *carpe diem*.

Salvatore, one of the most important figures in modern epic fantasy literature, has sold more than 17 million books worldwide and 24 of his 52 novels have listed as *New York Times* bestsellers.

In an emotional and uplifting address, Salvatore recalled his brother Gary's battle with cancer, and the multitudes who attended his funeral.

"In his too-short life, my brother was one of the most successful men I've ever known, and whatever the external success of my career might be, that measurement matters not. In the end, if I'm half as successful as Gary, I'll have lived a worthwhile and very good and full life," Salvatore said.

"Because success is measured in the little things, in how many genuine smiles cross your face. Because success is measured by how many people will truly miss you when you are gone. Because true success in life is not about public accolades or awards, or even giving commencement speeches. Because true success in life is not about applause. True success in life is in your heart, not your wallet. I hope you all see the truth in that before you figure out what road you wish to travel."

Many won't have that realization, he added, warning that people squander opportunities out of simple fear, or failure to act.

"Stop being afraid. The good little things matter greatly; the bad little things, like looking stupid while you dance, matter not at all," Salvatore said. "Because finally, if there's one thing I would want you to remember from this otherwise

forgettable speech on this otherwise unforgettable day, one thing that I believe is the necessary ingredient to success, however you want to measure that word: As you write the story of your life, put the notepad away; don't watch the dance from the sidelines, nursing a warm beer. As you write the story of your life, for God's sake, for your sake, make sure you're in it."

Salvatore, who serves on the Leominster Public Library's board of trustees, earned two degrees from Fitchburg State and has stayed in touch with his alma mater. In 1997, he donated manuscripts, letters and other items to the R.A. Salvatore Collection at the Gallucci-Cirio Library, and was recognized as a distinguished alumnus in 2001. During the ceremony, Salvatore was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of his professional accomplishments, civic engagement and contributions to his alma mater.

## Lisciotti honored for decade of leadership

Gregg P. Lisciotti, outgoing chairman of the board of trustees, was also awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

Lisciotti, one of the region's premier real estate developers, was a highly engaged trustee, in frequent contact with President Antonucci and was a sounding board as the university undertook ambitious capital plans.

"You have been a trusted source of wisdom and a loyal friend to me and to this institution for the past 10 years," President Antonucci said in presenting the honorary degree to Lisciotti. "Under your trusteeship, Fitchburg State has experienced the improvement and expansion of its facilities, and the start of construction of the new Science Center, which will be a signature feature of this campus for decades."

The president also commended Lisciotti for his work with construction technology students, to whom he offered frequent guidance as they participated in national competitions.



## Alumna award goes green



The Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Honey Rand '83, Ph.D., who has more than 30 years of experience in award-winning communication strategy, planning, and implementation with water and related environmental issues. Her company, the Environmental PR Group, Inc., which was founded in 1997, deals with the public side of environmental communications, conflict and advocacy.

The Florida native, who was a competitive public speaker since her early school days, attended Fitchburg State after serving in Army Public Affairs at Fort Devens. At Fitchburg State's Communications Media department she learned to appreciate the discipline and science behind communication skills, finishing her degree in two years.

She is author of the book: *Water Wars: A Story of People, Politics and Power*, and for more than a decade has served as a spokesperson and advocate for green real-estate developers, conservators, and hydro technology and bio-fuel companies.

Rand addressed members of the university's Alumni Association at its annual breakfast before the commencement ceremony.

## Veteran educators earn awards

On Thursday, May 19, two members of the campus community with lengthy contributions to the institution were recognized. Michael Fiorentino Jr., outgoing executive vice president/academic affairs, was given the President's Medal in recognition of his contributions to Fitchburg State.

Michele M. Zide was recognized with the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award.



An accomplished scholar who served the university with distinction for more than three decades, Zide led the development of successful new programs and demonstrated a boundless commitment to the institution.

Zide came to Fitchburg State in 1972, when she was hired as a professor of special education, a role she filled for almost 20 years. In 1989, she was named associate dean and principal of the McKay Campus School and two years later was selected for the position of associate vice president of academic affairs and dean of graduate and continuing education.

She held that post for eight years, leading the development of a number of new programs, including the master of science in criminal justice and master of business administration. She also established what is now known as the Center for Professional Studies. In August 2000, Michele took on another administrative challenge, becoming the interim vice president for student affairs/dean of students for a year.

Throughout her time at Fitchburg State, Zide was actively involved in community service, serving on numerous boards. After retiring in 2002, she continued to enjoy strong ties with the institution, as an adjunct professor in the MBA program, and chair of its educational leadership and management program. She also served as executive director of Central Links, the alliance of the four public colleges and universities in Worcester County.

Zide and her husband, District Court Judge Elliott L. Zide, reside in Fitchburg.

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 **FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**  
GRADUATE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION



# A Great Break

Fitchburg State sent 22 students and two administrators as advisors to Hurricane Rita-ravaged Foley, Ala. for spring break in March. The work crews, who were lodged in a church, performed home and roof repairs at several properties during their week-long trip. This was the 14th year that Fitchburg State has

undertaken the Alternative Spring Break project, paid for through fundraisers throughout the academic year. The students were accompanied by Associate Director of Student Development Shane Franzen and Associate Director of Capital Planning and Maintenance Joe LoBuono.



**Front row (L-R):**  
Andrew Patenaude,  
Sarah Peck

**2nd row:** Brian  
Costello, Kendra  
Mielcarz, Serena  
Ciccarello, Cara  
Iadonisi, Anna Latino

**3rd row:** Vicky Rose,  
Kylie Ferreira, Julie  
Fontana, Samantha  
Davis, Brianna Payos,  
Sarah Minton, Megan  
Walsh, Erin Olson,  
Sarah Mullin

**Top row:** Ryan Jones,  
Eric Gregoire, Mary  
Piskule, David  
Robinson, Josh  
Whipple, Nicki Casale



Photos by Anna Latino '13



◀ **Chris Picone** (Biology & Chemistry) attended the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Pittsburgh, and presented research on ecology education and misconceptions. At the last meeting he presented research about the abilities of beneficial soil fungi to improve soil structure, and this summer he continued a study of frog populations in local lakes that are treated with herbicides. Along with Dr. **Liz Gordon** (Geophysical Sciences) and **Brian Keagle** (Information Technology), Dr. Picone has also been working with classes at the McKay Campus School and summer Upward Bound Students to develop school gardens.

**Paul Beaudoin** (Humanities) had his essay “iTubes, YouTube and Me: Integrating Technology into the Music Classroom” translated into Hungarian and published in *Parlando*, a journal published by the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. The essay discussed how he used technology to create an online history of jazz course for Fitchburg State University. The project was partially funded by the Center for Teaching and Learning.

**Beverley Hollingsworth** (Business Administration) presented a paper titled “Factors in the Growth of Defined Contributions” at the Clute Institute for Academic Research Conference in Dublin, Ireland. The paper was co-authored by Wei Wang, a graduate student, and was accepted for publication.

**Susan Wadsworth**, **Petri Flint** and **Jessica Robey** (Humanities) presented at the School of Visual Arts 24th annual conference in New York City. The conference’s theme was “Green, Greener, Greenest: Romancing Nature Again.” Flint presented “Nature Into Art: Personal Reflections,” which was about his own work and his interests in 19th century Romanticism. Robey’s paper “The Politics and Poetics of Wilderness: Ansel Adams’ Images of the American West” highlighted a new approach to Adams’ work. Wadsworth’s paper, “Architecture of Healing: The Integration of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center with Nature” was also presented on the Fitchburg State campus.

**Benjamin Railton** (English) published his second book, *Redefining American Identity: From Cabeza de Vaca to Barack Obama* (Palgrave Macmillan). In it Railton attempts to redefine American identity, from the first moments of contact through our 21st-century moment, as a shared, core experience of cross-cultural transformations. He connects that core identity to the personal narratives of five representative focal figures, one from each century post-contact, and in the conclusion argues that Barack Obama’s status as the hybrid descendent of multiple such transformations makes him very much representative of all of our 21st century American identities.

**Ian Williams’** (English) book of short stories, *Not Anyone’s Anything*, was published in April. The collection is a trio of trios: three sets of three stories, with three of those stories further divided into thirds. Mathematical, musical, and meticulously crafted, these stories play profoundly with form, featuring flash cards and musical notations embedded in texts, literal basements, and dual narratives.

**Peter Yarrow / SUNDAY, OCT. 2 AT 3 PM**

Peter Yarrow, Paul Stookey and Mary Travers—Peter, Paul and Mary—gave voice to a generation. Mixing stories, songs and anecdotes, Peter returns us to that time of passionate idealism and sweet nostalgia.

**Gare St. Lazare Players, Ireland in Samuel Beckett's *The End* / THURSDAY, OCT. 27 AT 7 PM**

Enter into the theatrical world of Gare St. Lazare with Conor Lovett's performance of *The End* and be caught in an exquisite, sublime moment of art.

**Asphalt Orchestra / FRIDAY, NOV. 4 AT 7 PM**

Today's marching band isn't your traditional, run-of-the-mill piccolo, trumpet and trombone configuration—especially the Asphalt Orchestra. With enthusiasm, energy and élan, they are tomorrow's street band today.

**John McDermott / SATURDAY, DEC. 3 AT 8 PM**

With one of the most popular and beloved tenor voices, the internationally renowned John McDermott brings his inimitable style to the stage. This is an evening of well-known favorites to usher in the holiday season!

**Dan Zanes and Friends—his own and ours...**

THURSDAY, FEB. 2 AT 7 PM

Ten years and 10 albums have unfolded as the iconic Dan Zanes of Del Fuegos fame has blossomed into the “leading man of the family music genre.” This concert brings his heartfelt initiatives—sharing songs from the rich cultures of the Spanish-speaking Americas and singing with youth choirs to our stage.

**Natalie MacMaster / WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 AT 7 PM ▶**

Captivating and commanding, with fingers flying over the strings of her fiddle, voice soaring and feet tapping, Natalie MacMaster is unquestionably the most well-known of the cadre of Cape Breton artists. Extend your St. Patrick's Day celebration to include this fiddling superstar and sweetheart.

**Sagapool / SATURDAY, MARCH 31 AT 8 PM**

Sagapool is joyful and cinematographic music; an idiosyncratic sound that wraps gypsy swing, jazz and klezmer in with touches of ska, Latin and folk rhythms. Sagapool won Best Instrumental album at the 2008 Canadian Folk Music Award.

**An Evening with Groucho**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28 AT 8 PM

In this fast-paced 90-minutes of hilarity, award-winning actor/director/playwright Frank Ferrante recreates his PBS, New York and London acclaimed portrayal of the youngest Marx brother whose legendary career spanned vaudeville, radio, television and film.

# What are you doing tonight?



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**On the web at: [www.fitchburgstate.edu/cultural](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/cultural)**

## A back pat: Haverty returns to gridiron helm

This fall, Fitchburg State welcomes back Patrick Haverty as men's football coach Patrick Haverty.

Haverty returns to Fitchburg State highly decorated, as the former Falcon served five seasons on the Fitchburg State sidelines. In his five years at the helm, Haverty transformed Fitchburg State football, guiding the Falcons to an overall mark of 30-20 (.600 pct) and two New England Football Conference (NEFC) Bogan Division titles. He led the Falcons to back-to-back NEFC post-season berths as well



“Returning to Fitchburg State and the Falcons is a wonderful homecoming. This is a great program with even greater potential, and I am thrilled at the prospect of working with the players and coaches this fall.”

—*Pat Haverty*

as consecutive ECAC North Atlantic Bowl appearances with a pair of eight-win seasons.

“Hiring Pat Haverty marks Fitchburg State’s continued investment in our football program,” President Antonucci said. “During his previous tenure at Fitchburg State, Pat brought out the best in our players. I can’t wait to cheer on the Falcons under Pat’s leadership this fall.”

“I’m very happy to have Patrick Haverty return as head football coach at Fitchburg State University,” said Director of Athletics and Recreation Sue Lauder. “Pat is a proven winner and a coach who is dedicated to his student athletes’ athletic and academic success. I look forward to working with him again.”

“Returning to Fitchburg State and the Falcons is a wonderful homecoming,” Haverty said. “This is a great program with even greater potential, and I am thrilled at the prospect of working with the players and coaches this fall.”

In addition to his on-field accolades, Haverty has also cracked the program record books, becoming the school’s all-time and single-season wins leader during the Falcons 2004 title run. Over his tenure, Haverty has produced 19 NEFC All-Conference players, including the NEFC’s Offensive and Defensive Rookies of the Year during the 2002 campaign.

Prior to Fitchburg State, Haverty served two seasons as the head coach of the North Middlesex Regional High School football program. In addition, he also served as Offensive Coordinator at the University of Massachusetts Lowell (Division II), while also holding rank as the Falcons’ Defensive Coordinator for the 1996 and 1997 seasons.

## Skaters claim MASCAC crown

The Falcons ice hockey team caught fire in the closing weeks of the 2010-11 season, advancing to the MASCAC playoffs and capturing the 2011 MASCAC Championship en route to an overall record of 18-9-1 (9-8-1 MASCAC). Fitchburg State





qualified as the fourth-seed for the tournament, defeating fifth-seeded Worcester State University, 3-0; top-seeded UMass Dartmouth, 3-2 in double overtime; and second-seeded Salem State, 6-5 in the overtime championship match.

The Falcons collected five post-season honors as senior defenseman Billy Pescosolido led the way with three. As a member of the Falcon's defensive line, he appeared in all 28 games for the Falcons, totaling 19 points on six goals and 13 assists. With his play on the blue line, Fitchburg State ranked as one of the top defensive teams in the MASCAC, limiting opponents to only 49 goals allowed (MASCAC play) and a minimal 2.69 goals per game.

In his four years at Fitchburg State, Pescosolido participated in 107 career games, totaling 55 points with 14 goals and 41 assists.

This season, he was named to the MASCAC All-Conference first team, while also being selected as a New England Sports Writers regional All-Star and a semifinalist for the prestigious Joe Concannon Award.

Forwards Chris Riggs and Kris Threlkeld were awarded MASCAC All-Conference second team honors. In addition, Pescosolido and Riggs were honored with Fitchburg State's Leadership Award and Senior Scholar Athlete of the Year, respectively. Freshman Cory Callen took home Fitchburg State's Male Rookie of the Year Award.

## Discus spins to Nationals

The Fitchburg State men's indoor track and field team earned second place in the MASCAC over the 2010-11 season, while the Falcons ladies squad placed fourth overall.

Fitchburg State had 12 players earn post-season honors, including trips to the Division III New England Championships, All-New England Championships and ECAC Championships. Senior Matt Muolo, classmate Alex LeBlanc, junior Julian Stakley and sophomore Emily Lane all collected All-Conference honors with strong performances at the MASCAC/Alliance Meet.

Muolo's performance with the men's discus sent Fitchburg State to its first trip in the championship in more than a decade and set a new school record with a throw of 49.99m in the trials before topping that with a first-place effort of 51.94m in the finals. He went to the Division III national championship at Ohio Wesleyan in May.

## Women's basketball bounces back

The Fitchburg State women's basketball team rebounded during the 2010-11 season, earning a trip back to the MASCAC post-season with an overall record of 11-13 and a 5-7 mark in the conference. The Falcons qualified as the fifth seed for the tournament, falling to fourth-seeded Worcester State, 66-56 in quarterfinal action.

Senior Molly Maloney led the ladies squad with 8.2 points per game and 4.0 rebounds. For her efforts, she earned Fitchburg State's Female Athletic Leadership Award at the annual sports banquet.

The men's basketball team battled throughout the 2010-11 campaign, posting a 4-19 record overall, with 1-11 mark in the MASCAC. Senior Elliot Knower led the Falcons with 12.0 points per game (ppg) and 5.8 rebounds per contest, while junior Jeremy Kimber added 11.4 ppg on 40.7 percent shooting from the field.

## Building a better Fitchburg State University

Heavy construction equipment has become an unmistakable feature of the campus as Fitchburg State continues to invest in the evolution of its buildings and grounds. The new Science Center has been a bustling work site since ground was broken last fall, but several other large-scale projects are also under way:

- The dust had barely settled from the undergraduate commencement ceremony in May when crews began work on a massive renovation of the Hammond Campus Center. The broad brick façade that has faced North and Pearl streets will be replaced by a four-story glass tower, providing a much more welcoming gateway to the campus. The striking renderings of the new Hammond have dazzled visitors to campus for months, and the bold new look will be a reality by next spring.
- For years, Highland Avenue has separated the main campus from the Mara Village residence halls, the Townhouse apartments and the Mazzaferro Center. But no more. The street has been discontinued as a public way and work has begun on a pedestrian plaza in its place. Instead of a busy road, a private two-way drive will result in a net gain of parking spaces at the same time it promotes safe pedestrian passage.
- Parkinson Gymnasium is but a memory, replaced by a busy construction zone as the way is prepared for the new Science Center. The steel frame of the 55,000-square-foot addition to the current Condike Science Building will begin assembly by the fall. Following two years of construction to the addition, the existing Condike will undergo its own year-long renovation.
- Weston Auditorium will gain a new handicapped-accessible front entrance with ramps, new doors and relocation of the box office to create a new glass front to the building and lobby. The work is slated for completion by mid-August.



ARTIST RENDERINGS



# FAMILY WEEKEND



## FRIDAY, SEPT. 30, 2011

- Alternative Spring Break Silent Auction  
*Noon–5 p.m., Hammond Main Lounge*
- Mind-blowing mentalists the Evasons  
*7 p.m., Weston Auditorium*



## SATURDAY, OCT. 1, 2011

- ASB Silent Auction continues  
*9 a.m.–5 p.m. at Family Fun Fair, Elliot Field*
- Tailgate Lunch  
*11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Elliot Field*
- Family Fun Fair  
*11 a.m.–3 p.m., Elliot Field*
- Falcons Football vs. Coast Guard  
*1:30 p.m., Elliot Field*

- Family Skate and Movie  
*2 p.m.–5 p.m., Gaetz Arena and Wallace Civic Center*
- Ventriloquist Lynn Trefzger  
*8 p.m., Weston Auditorium*

## SUNDAY, OCT. 2, 2011

- Family Brunch  
*11 a.m.–1 p.m., Holmes Dining Common*

*For more information, visit  
[www.fitchburgstate.edu/osd/familyweekend.cfm](http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/osd/familyweekend.cfm)!*

# Why I Give

By Donald R. Irving '72



**M**y father joined the U.S. Navy when he was 17 and fought in the Pacific theater during WWII. When he was discharged, he married my mother and enrolled at Fitchburg State. A year later I was born and we lived on campus in one of the many barracks erected for the influx of returning servicemen. Weston Auditorium now sits on the site.

Fitchburg State University and the GI Bill gave my father an opportunity he never would have had otherwise. He spent his entire career in education with great success and accomplishment.

Eighteen years later, I returned as a freshman. The '60s and its varied social changes made for an exciting time to be in college. There was, however, the conscription sword of Damocles hanging over us because of the war in Vietnam.

While going to school I was able to get a job pumping gas, and another building parts for General Electric turbines. If the cost of Fitchburg State had not been so reasonable, I would never have been able to attend college.

After graduation I taught in a public school and enrolled in the evening graduate program at Fitchburg State. Finishing the degree six years later, I left teaching and entered the business world. The skills I learned at Fitchburg State allowed me to advance rapidly in the corporate environment. Four years later, frustrated with bureaucracy and a desire to have more control over my destiny, I quit my job and started my own manufacturing company. Again, the strong technical background and liberal arts core I gained in college served me well. The company still continues to grow and thrive after 27 years.

Over the years I have found that one of the things most satisfying and rewarding is being able to create jobs and opportunity for people so they can provide for themselves and their families. All most people want is a chance to be self-sufficient. It doesn't matter if you are teaching a class in cabinetmaking, running a business, or building a shopping mall—you are creating an environment where people have the prospect of helping themselves and others. This is a primary focus of mine and something I get excited about.

And so, I challenge my fellow alumni to reflect upon the time that we spent at Fitchburg State and consider giving back to help students enjoy the same opportunities that we once shared. Fitchburg State exists to help people better themselves and to prepare them for their own opportunities. I am honored to be able to help enhance that mission.

—Donald R. Irving is president of Data Guide Cable Corp. in Gardner.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Fitchburg State University graduates are everywhere. My travels take me around the country to visit them, and I am continually amazed by the stories I hear of alumni overcoming adversity, defying the odds, and carving meaningful careers. Seeing a recurring theme in the success of so many of our graduates, I recently reflected on the Fitchburg State motto, Perseverantia, a school symbol adopted over a century ago. This Latin word, meaning achievements brought about by quiet will, has come to exemplify the mark of a Fitchburg State University graduate. For more than 100 years, alumni of this institution have persevered in the face of obstacles, unique to each, in order to attain the highest levels of success. The stories featured in this issue serve as a testament to the enduring spirit of Fitchburg State University and its alumni.

Enjoy,

*Michael Kushmerek*

Michael Kushmerek

Assistant Director of Alumni Relations

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

## 1950s



▲ **Tom E. Convery '50 '53**, Major USAF Retired, and **Beverly Wiltshire**, former Fitchburg State student and Boston State graduate, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 16, 2011. Above, Tom and Beverly celebrated their wedding, June 16, 1951, at Sampson Air Force Base in Geneva, N.Y.

## 1960s

**Donna (Reed) Speth '67** retired this year from labor and delivery nursing, and currently works part time as a skills evaluator in the EMT program at Southeast Community College in Nebraska.

## 1970s

**Joseph Patuleia '71** serves as the executive director of the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club, Inc. of New York City.

## 1980s

**Michael Meyerson '80** is a pressman for the New York Post and the Wall Street Journal in New York City.

**Douglas Booth '84** is the vice president of operations at CheckPoint HR in Edison, N.J.

**Tara (Juif) Garcia '84** is a charge nurse at North Adams Regional Hospital. She lives in Adams

with her daughter. When not at work, Tara is costume mistress and designer for the Berkshire Dance Theatre.

**Jennifer (McDaid) Garbuzinski '84** owns an insurance company in Canton. She lives in Attleboro with her two sons: Mike, a junior at Loyola University, and John, a junior at Bishop Feehan High School. Jennifer lost her beloved husband, Terrence Garbuzinski, in March 2010.

**Edward Burke '84** has been named vice president of operations at Interstate Hotels and Resorts. Last year he spent three months in Egypt consulting on a mixed use resort in El Alimien on the Mediterranean Coast.

**Juliette Youngblood '84** of Los Angeles was recognized by the Century City Bar Association as the 2010 Entertainment Lawyer of the Year. In 2009, Juliette launched Youngblood Group PC, where she continues to provide her clients with innovative legal services. Simultaneously she has teamed with Mark Burnett to

pursue a life-long dream of film production.

**Amanda Best '85** resides in Attleboro.

**Richard Masciarelli '86** recently retired after serving seven years as principal of Fitchburg High School.

## 1990s

**Yvette Bythrow-Morse '90** is the director of marketing for the Arbors at Stoughton, an assisted living community in Stoughton.

**Patricia (Swales) Jacques '91** is a nurse practitioner at a small family practice in north central Massachusetts.

**Kimberly Blausler-McCoy '92** is a marketing assistant in the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State University.

**Christine Rosati-Dalton '92** is a nurse educator at Hartford Hospital, in Hartford, Conn.

## And justice for all

**Chris Maloney '89**, recently appointed chief of the U.S. Probation Department in Massachusetts, remembers it was in his senior year, after a career-counseling conversation with sociology professor Augustine Aryee, that he sought his first job in criminal justice.

Aryee had suggested starting with juveniles who needed help, Maloney recalls. So, during his senior year, he took a job weekends in Medfield, not far from his hometown of Dedham.

"I was an inpatient counselor for young people who had become involved with substance abuse," explained Maloney. Upon graduation, this part-time job blossomed into a full-time post, and the rest is history.

Two years later, Maloney became interested in pursuing a career as a probation officer and found his entry-level job as a counselor had given him the requisite experience to pursue such a position. With limited opportunities available in Massachusetts, Maloney chose to join two of his college roommates in West Palm Beach, Fla., and he spent the next two years supervising offenders on probation and parole.

"My experience as a state probation officer prepared me to advance to the next level in this profession," explains Maloney. He applied for a United States probation officer position in Massachusetts, and in May of 1992 he was appointed to the post. For the next five years, he supervised offenders in the Boston area and prepared pre-sentence investigations for the federal judges presiding in Boston.

In 1997, Maloney was promoted to a regional administrator's position and moved to Washington, DC, where for seven years he was involved in national policy development and program monitoring. During this tenure, he was promoted once again to Chief of

Program Services and given responsibility for the oversight of the U.S. Probation System's substance abuse, mental health, and location monitoring programs.

"My time in Washington, DC, paid off in 2004 when I was appointed chief of the U.S. Probation Office in New Jersey, where I stayed for another seven years," Maloney recounts. This wealth of experience reached its culmination this year, when, in February, he was appointed chief of the U.S. Probation Department in Massachusetts, and he was able to move with his family "back home."

Maloney currently oversees a staff of 65, spread throughout the Commonwealth at six locations; three federal courthouses in Boston,

Worcester, and Springfield and three satellite offices in Boston, Taunton, and Lawrence.

"I enjoy making a meaningful contribution to the community, by assisting offenders reintegrate back into the community as law-abiding citizens," Maloney says. "Many have served a lengthy amount of time, and our job is to assist them in getting their lives back together."

Maloney credits his studies at Fitchburg State for guiding him in this direction. The proud graduate says his college prepared him on several different levels, from the education he was given in the classroom to his love of sports and, most importantly, the contacts he made.

"My college friends are still the closest of friends, especially my roommates," who Maloney credits with helping him to find his first job in criminal justice in West Palm Beach.

Maloney's wife, with whom he parents two young daughters, serves as a Federal Probation Officer in Rhode Island.

—Margaret S. Gurney



**Rich Boyajian '92** is a nurse practitioner at Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the clinical director of the adult survivorship program.

**Corey Ferriera '92** is a team leader in the chemistry laboratory at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He lives in Dartmouth with his wife Tracie and son Tyler.

**Jason Cullinane '93** is living in Mountain View, Calif. Cullinane is a major in the Army and presently teaches Army cadets at Santa Clara University.

**Keith Gentili '93**, vice president of sales at That's My Ticket, has recently helped the Medway-based company sign a licensing deal with the Grateful Dead. The company is also licensed to make similar ticket display products for MLB, NFL, NHL, NASCAR, NCAA, and Elvis Presley.

**Marc Loranger '94** has been hired as the new athletic director for the town of Wareham. Loranger will be responsible for overseeing 19 interscholastic sports programs and he will teach up to three classes.

**Jennifer (Karcz) Dunlop '94** is now employed as an early years practitioner in Coventry, United Kingdom.

**John Dervishian '94** is a special investigator with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. Dervishian resides in Worcester and has published two books of poetry.

**Neal Reardon '95** of Rutland has been announced as the information technology manager for the Marlborough-based St. Mary's Credit Union. Reardon most recently served as a business system analyst at Digital Federal Credit Union in Marlborough.

**Sean McNiff '95** has been named the new principal of South Hadley High School.

## Healing the world with communication

**Ethan F. Becker '93**, president of Speech Improvement Company Inc., aims high with his aspirations: "My goal is to heal the world through communication," he said.

Becker, a published author, speech coach and developer of communication training and coaching programs, travels the globe with his skills. His clients include political leaders, captains of industry and individuals looking to hone their abilities to connect with others. He recently began a three-year assignment in Malaysia.

"I have found there are more similarities than differences around the world," he said. "Once you get beyond the obvious cultural differences, human behaviors are always the same."

And building relationships through communication is a key to success wherever you are.

The proud alumnus—who met his wife, Kelly, now a teacher who earned her master's in early childhood education and is a founding sister of Tri Sigma at Fitchburg

State—recalls having his choice of colleges including New York University, Emerson College and the University of Southern California. But the Communications Media Department at Fitchburg State had the strongest pull.

At the larger schools, he explained, it would have taken him several semesters to get his hands on the latest gear. Not so at Fitchburg State.

"My freshman year, I was playing with the equipment," said Becker, who also found his classroom work to have meaning and resonance. "I'm a huge fan of the theory. I'm a practitioner-scholar."

Indeed, Becker was exposed to the works of Aristotle as a child by his parents, who founded the Speech Improvement Company

in 1964. His studies at Fitchburg State helped him delve deeper into the principles he still applies in his professional life.

In *Mastering Communication at Work*, the book he co-authored with Jon Wortmann in 2009, Becker describes the difference between inductive and deductive thinkers and how their tendencies affect how information is delivered and received.



"Listeners are either inductive or deductive, and they respond to the kind of communication that matches their natural tendency," the book reads. "Deductive thinkers want the point first and then the details that support it. Inductive thinkers need to hear the details before they can consider the point.

"Neither way of thinking is better than the other, but being able to match what your listener needs is most important if you want him to understand you," he continued.

Those are truths that transcend culture, Becker said. In his Malaysian posting, he will be teaching business leaders

about persuasion and how to create healthy, strong relationships.

Becker says part of the confidence he brings to his work he learned at Fitchburg State. In 1991, he was one of the founding fathers of Sigma Pi fraternity and the group was just developing its pledge program, and he found himself in conflict over the techniques under discussion.

"It was the first time I learned to hold my own with people who were physically bigger than me," he said, recalling that he felt his opinion was respected. "Sigma Pi taught me a lot about voicing my opinion in a diplomatic way during business meetings, which prepared me well for the real world. I really thank Fitchburg for giving me that opportunity."

—Matthew Bruun

***Ethan Becker's passion in life is producing better communication. Here are some interesting facts and suggestions he's shared with his diverse clients:***

- If you're nervous about speaking in public, it's OK. Becker says some speakers can stand before 1,000 people without fear but get nervous at a small board meeting; for others, the converse is true. Early childhood, experiences in school, watching television and general attitudes about speaking all contribute to the anxieties we feel as adults.
- To control nervousness during a presentation, learn how to breathe using your diaphragm as you are speaking. This will maximize oxygen into your body and release unwanted pressure that surrounds the parts you need to communicate, Becker says. Also, try the "10-second relaxer," where you squeeze your finger and thumb together for 10 seconds and then release. This will create a pressure point in the body that redirects nervous energy from shaky knees, red face, quivering voice or sweat glands. The technique can be modified by squishing your toes into the ground.
- Parents can help their young children learn better speaking skills. Learn how to listen—that is, don't cut them off every time they speak, even if you're frustrated. Also, encourage your child to speak whenever you can; instead of telling them to be quiet in a public setting, show them by example which behaviors you'd like to see them do. And correct speech in very young children when you hear the need for it. As you do, try use a casual, non-judgmental tone.

For more tips on speaking, visit [www.speechimprovement.com](http://www.speechimprovement.com)

## Cut to the chase: *Pair takes top film editing honor*

There is a growing community of Fitchburg State alumni on the West Coast with a formidable list of achievements and awards in the specialized world of film production and editing.

Add to the list **Paul Coyne '05** and **Ken Yankee '02**. They recently earned American Cinematic Editors Awards for an episode of "If You Really Knew Me," an MTV series about high school cliques.

"For a film and TV editor, there is no higher honor," Coyne said. "It even trumps the Emmy because it is given by other, legendary, editors. It was a dream come true, and a total shock. We met with Steven Spielberg just after the win, which was icing on the cake."

Coyne and Yankee have now worked on four series together, and are currently the co-executive producer and editor, respectively, of the Arts & Entertainment network's "Beyond Scared Straight." Both the MTV and A&E series are favorites this year to be nominated for Emmys in the reality-TV categories.

When reality TV became the latest American craze in the early 2000s, Coyne worked as an editor on many series including

"Survivor," "The Amazing Race," "Big Brother," and "The Bachelor."

Coyne met Yankee over a game of pool at a Fitchburg alumni gathering and, needing someone to work nights as an editor on "Homeland Security USA," hired Yankee on the spot.

"It was a great decision; Ken is one of the fastest editors I've worked with," Coyne said.

"With such tight schedules, it's great to have someone on the team who can knock out a cut pretty quickly."

To date, the two men have worked together on "Homeland," "If You Really Knew Me," "Beyond Scared Straight," and NBC's "Great American Road Trip."

"Fitchburg State, and it will always be 'State' to me, still lives in my heart," Coyne said. "The professors there taught me that with ambition, anything was possible. I paid my own way through college and learned a great work

ethic. This is something that is shared by a lot of Fitchburg grads. Maybe we realize that there are bigger film schools out there, so we go the extra mile to prove that we are just as capable."

—Lynne Klaf



**Kathy (Lavine) Jackson '96** welcomed her third child, a daughter, in January.

**Eric Griffin '96** is a principal technical architect for Java Technology at AT&T. He lives in California with his wife and daughter.

**Gregory Spears '97** earned a graduate certificate in computer

network security from UMass Lowell. He is a diagnostics engineer at Blue Coat Systems in Sunnyvale, Calif.

**Zachary Darrow '97** is a managing partner at the law firm of DarrowEverett LLP in Providence, R.I., and also serves as a close confidant to Providence Mayor Angel Taveras.

**Scott Smith '98** has been named manager of Verc Enterprises East Acton Mobil and Dunkin Donuts store location. Smith, who has been with Verc Enterprises for the last 10 years, lives in Boxborough.

**Jill (Krueger) Lemay '98** was recently named the new director of the Kennebunk Free Library in Kennebunk, Maine. Previously,

Lemay has served as the principal of the Mary C. Dondero School in Portsmouth, N.H.

**Tracy Mitchell '98** is a segment/line producer with MSNBC in New York City.

**Joshua Cormier '99** has been named store manager of TD Bank at the Gardner branch. Prior to joining TD Bank, he served as branch manager at Citizens Bank in Gardner. Cormier earned an MBA in 2009 from the University of Phoenix.

**Sheryl Thompson '99** is currently working at Milton Hospital in Milton.

## 2000s

**April Carr '00** is currently working as a labor and delivery nurse at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

**Monica (Wallace) Gill '00** is an RN at Nashoba Valley Medical Center in the emergency department.

**Leslie (Stevens) Meehan '01** married Alan Meehan on August 25, 2010.

**Heidi Letendre '02** will become principal of the Merrill School in Raynham in January. Letendre, who received her master's degree from Fitchburg State in 2002, is currently assistant principal at the Mitchell Elementary School in Bridgewater.

**Christine (Gilcoine) Harrington '02** is a school nurse at the Leicester Middle School. She is also an emergency department nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester.

**Pamela Mumford '03** is a marketing coordinator at Celltreat Scientific Products in Shirley.

**Gregory Wheeler '03** launched a private legal practice in 2010, providing professional legal services to the Leominster, Worcester County, and Massachusetts area.



**Kristen (Waldman) Buck '04** and **Scott Buck '06** welcomed their first child on July 13, 2010.

**Melissa Ganley '04** is a human resources assistant for Third Sector New England in Boston.

**Brian Gill '04** was promoted to lieutenant of the Ayer Police Department in May 2009.

**Robert Whitney '05** has been appointed as the newest member of the Onstream Media Corporation's board of directors. Whitney is currently a partner in Greenhaven Partners, a private equity firm, also serving as chief operating officer of three Greenhaven-owned entities.

**Samuel Lurie '06** is the owner and president of The Beantown Sound, a professional disc jockey service.

**Patrick Pho '06** is an online analyst with New Media Strategies in Washington, D.C. Pho also writes for the website WeLoveDC.com.

**Sean Matthews '06** and **Amanda (Lacouture) Matthews '06** welcomed a daughter, Mackenzie Paige, on January 13.

**Karen E. (Chociey) Babcock '07** and **Matthew G. Babcock '07** were married on October 23, 2010. The Babcocks reside in Lisbon, Conn.

**Stephanie Fielding '07** is a transfer and academic counselor in a TRiO program at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner.

**Amie (Roemer) Levasseur '07** married **Jean Levasseur '07** on Feb. 18.

**Kristin Camara '08** graduated with a master's degree in science in speech language pathology from MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston.



**Nicholas Weissman LaFrance '09** recently completed a two-month bicycle tour from California to Fitchburg. Nicholas blogs nightly, recounting each day's events and travels. You can view his blog at [wolvescanbike.wordpress.com/](http://wolvescanbike.wordpress.com/).

**Marissa Torres '09** is the events and marketing communications manager at the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce.

**Tiffany Begin '10** is a volunteer/access coordinator at North Andover Community Access & Media.

**Charles Sternaimolo '10** works as a freelance photographer and photo correspondent for several central Massachusetts-based publications.

**Cheyane Goodrich '10** welcomed a baby girl on Dec. 24, 2010.

## In Memoriam

**Margaret (Morgan) Conaty '29**  
of Walpole, on Nov. 11, 2010.

**Alice (Lally) Bennett-Erickson '42**  
of Venice, Fla., on Jan. 3, 2011.

**Dorothy (Conroy) Lambert '42**  
of Auburndale, on May 3, 2011.

**Norman Pope '43**  
of Eastham, on Oct. 5, 2010.

**Frank Romano '43**  
of Cocoa Beach, Fla, on Dec. 29, 2010.

**Durward Eastman '46**  
of Lovell, Maine, on May 27, 2011.

**James Hills '50**  
of Solon, Maine on Dec. 10, 2010.

**Elizabeth (Pechulis) Kelleher '52**  
of Westfield, on April 25, 2011.

**Paul Rigopoulos '52**  
of Fitchburg, on March 16, 2011.

**Lois (Hanson) Norling '53**  
of Manchester, Conn., on Oct. 17, 2010.

**Elizabeth May '57**  
of Fitchburg, on April 20, 2011.

**James "Pete" McDonnell '58**  
of Salisbury, on March 19, 2011.

**Shirley Pick '68**  
of Fitchburg, on Dec. 22, 2010.

**Debara (Hallsworth) Carlson '69**  
of Cummaquid, on April 17, 2011.

**Rae Ann Bonnevie '75**  
of Fitchburg, in June 2011.

**William Hayes '84**  
of Paxton, on March 4, 2011.

**Sally Patenaude '84**  
of Winchester, N.H., on March 11, 2011.

**Richard McCarthy '89**  
of Abington, on July 3, 2011.

**Rosalie (Bourgeois) Duplease '90**  
of Rindge, N.H., on Dec. 29, 2010.

**Nicholas Gangemi '01**  
of Apex, N.C., formerly  
of Tewksbury, on June 18, 2011.

### FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY:

**Louise Keenan**, former dean of women and associate dean of students, of Arlington, on Aug. 12, 2010.

**George Merriam**  
of Worcester, former professor of history, on Oct. 15, 2010.

## Gatherings



**Class of 1960 Reunion:** On Sept. 24, 2010, the Class of 1960 celebrated 50 years since their graduation. Nearly 60 members of the class were in attendance, many visiting campus for the first time in five decades. Following a social hour, campus tours, and academic presentations, the group celebrated its milestone with a banquet dinner in the Alumni Rooms of the Hammond Building.

“Our years at Fitchburg State had such an impact on all our lives,” said **Frank Worthley**, the reunion chairman. “We think this is a proper moment for every one of us to look back and reflect once more on those critical years and what Fitchburg State has given us. We do think that our 50th reunion is the most appropriate occasion for a special class donation. In light of this, the reunion committee has chosen to have the Class of 1960 collectively make a gift of \$18,000 over three years to show our appreciation to the institution we love so dearly. With this donation we want also to honor the memory of those classmates who have left us too early.”

The following morning the university paid tribute to the class, inducting members into the Gold Key Society. The society, which celebrates each anniversary class 50 years and beyond, meets every year on the morning following the 50th reunion. After a breakfast and brief remarks by President Antonucci and Alumni Association President **Ronald P. Colbert '76 '80**, each member was presented with a gold key to the university.

**LA Reunion:** On April 17, the Fitchburg State University Alumni Association held a Los Angeles area reunion that celebrated the transformation of Fitchburg State University. Approximately 30 alumni were in attendance for the event held at Los Angeles's Cat & Fiddle Restaurant & Pub.



**The Class of 1961** will celebrate its 50th reunion on Friday, Sept. 30. More than 60 members of the class are anticipated to be in attendance, with many returning to campus for the first time in 50 years. On Saturday, Oct. 31, all members of the Gold Key Society are invited to attend the annual Gold Key Breakfast and induction ceremony for the 1961 class. 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 978-665-4555 for more information or to register for the event.



**Fenwick Reunion:** On May 14, more than 100 fraternity members of the Fenwick Society gathered at Slattery's in

Fitchburg for their annual reunion. **Bob “Biff” Quinn '81** organized the event, and asks all members who have not already corresponded with him regarding recent reunions to contact him. His contact information is available through the alumni office.

**DC Reunion:** The Fitchburg State University Alumni Association held a Washington, DC reunion, for all local alumni, on April 11. The more than twenty DC alumni celebrated Fitchburg State's new university status at the Gordon Biersch Brewery and Restaurant. **Jennifer Kurtinitis '04** will serve as the Washington, DC area coordinator, planning future reunions and events.



**Pub Tour:** On June 25, nearly 150 young alumni participated in the second annual Fitchburg State University Pub Tour organized by **Christopher McKillop '08** and **Timothy Graham '11**. The event raised more than \$1,000 for student scholarship support.

### Retired Teachers

**Luncheon:** On May 6, the Alumni Association hosted a retired teachers luncheon attended by approximately 70 former educators.



**Save the date!** The Business Administration Department is celebrating its 35th anniversary of preparing students with knowledge of business theories, policies, and procedures with a luncheon gathering on Saturday, Oct. 8 at noon. Department Chairman Joseph McAloon invites all alumni of the department to return to campus for a luncheon gathering of current business students, alumni and faculty. Contact the alumni office at 978-665-4555 for more information or to register for the event; RSVPs must be received no later than Friday, Sept. 23.



“ Education is not  
the filling of a pail, but  
the lighting of a fire. ”

—William Butler Yeats



**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Alumni Association  
160 Pearl Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

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