

Contact



INSIDE:
Commencements
Greeks: Yesterday and Today
A Fish Story

Dr. Patrice K. Nicholas '77

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Another academic year has passed and the transformation of the campus and community continues.

It is a thrilling time to be at Fitchburg State. Design work is well underway for a \$57 million science building for which ground will be broken this fall. This comprehensive project will deliver state of the art science facilities for students and faculty. Demolition of Parkinson Gymnasium will begin this year to make room for a 55,000-square-foot addition to the Condike Science Building, which will be followed by a year-long renovation of the existing science labs.

At the same time, the college is continuing its commitment to the city of Fitchburg. Earlier this year, the Fitchburg State College Foundation purchased an underused property at Main and North streets. This is a key gateway to the campus and the structure's demolition in May has improved the aesthetics and positions us to be a strategic partner with the city in its continuing renaissance.

We are also delighted that our Exercise and Sport Science Department has outgrown the offices in the Recreation Center prompting a major renovation project across North Street that will become faculty office and classroom space.

Our nursing lab, meanwhile, has undergone a major investment that will improve the ability of faculty to simulate real-time patient emergencies in a controlled setting. And the mathematics and computer science departments have moved to renovated space within Edgerly Hall.

This summer, the entire campus is enjoying a major upgrade to our Internet service, doubling our bandwidth and improving the speed and security of our wireless access.

This issue of Contact contains more good news about Fitchburg State. In the pages ahead you will learn about Dr. Patrice K. Nicholas '77, who delivered the commencement address at our undergraduate ceremony in May. Her travels across the globe studying HIV/AIDS and chronic illness were fascinating to discover, as were her remarks to the class of 2010.

We also delve into the rich history of Greek life on campus and the traditions that help bind the past and present. And, of course, we catch up with some of our talented and successful alumni who are leaving their mark on the world.

If you have not been back to Fitchburg State in the past few years, I encourage you to make the trip and reconnect with your alma mater.

Sincerely,

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

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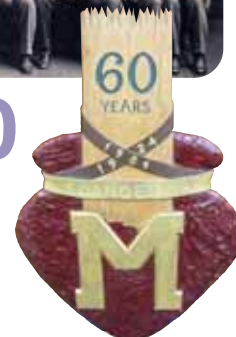
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Dr. Patrice K. Nicholas '77 stands in front of Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston. Photograph by Robert Carlin '00.



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Emmy-winner Melanie Perkins goes to the head of the class

Melanie Perkins '91, an Emmy-winning filmmaker, has fond memories of Fitchburg State and has maintained strong ties in recent years, whether keeping in touch with the professors who mentored her during her studies or returning to campus to give the commencement address last year.

This spring, Perkins added another layer to her relationship with Fitchburg State—guest instructor.

Perkins' road back to the classroom began in the aftermath of winning the Emmy for outstanding long-form investigative journalism in September 2008 for her documentary film, "Have You Seen Andy?" Perkins came to speak to the class of a former professor, George Bohrer. She enjoyed the experience, and was happy to accept the college's invitation to deliver the commencement address the following spring.

As she told the members of the class of 2009 last May, Perkins dropped out of school in her native Lawrence in eighth grade, only later being "loved back to life" by her aunt. She came to Fitchburg State and spent six years pursuing a double major in human services and communications media.

In an emotional and affecting speech, she told the students not to ignore the wisdom of clichés.

"Today, as you sit in your black robes in the hot sun, I want to tell you I've been where you are," she said. "We've taken the same classes, maybe even had some of the same professors. I can tell you the way I always learned best was through experience."

Common pearls of wisdom like "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger," "Believe in yourself," and "You never know what the future holds," are trite sayings, but express truths Perkins came to realize as she endured a difficult childhood, her struggles at college, raising a daughter with Down Syndrome, and making her documentary feature.

"Have You Seen Andy?" recounts the disappearance in August 1976 of Perkins' childhood friend, Andy Puglisi.

"I decided to make a film about Andy," she told the crowd at commencement. "At first I was told I shouldn't, then that I couldn't. I wrote grant applications, and was rejected. But with the help and encouragement of so many amazing people—from Andy's family, to my family, to my editor and composer—we forged ahead."

The film was shown on HBO in June 2007. The following year, Perkins was onstage at Lincoln Center in New York, clutching an Emmy.



Melanie Perkins returned to campus in the spring, this time as an instructor.

"I know today that I couldn't have made that film if I didn't at first believe that I could," she told the graduates. "Try to remember, as Michael Jordan famously said, 'You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them.'"

Her story moved the crowd at commencement, and Perkins is still ready to share her wisdom with students. This spring she returned to campus at the invitation of John Chetro-Szivos, the Communications Media department chair, to teach an introductory course on film styles and genres.

Focusing on documentary films, Perkins screened several titles for her students, who are working on their own documentary projects as well as researching other alumni.

"The students are so impressive," Perkins said after her teaching stint

had begun. "They're so smart, fresh and eager."

She also sees something of the mettle that she used to get through college and to get her film produced.

"I had a strong work ethic, and that goes a long way," said Perkins, who is still working on financing her next film, which will address Down Syndrome.

"I am so proud of Melanie," Bohrer said, discussing Perkins' return. "I am happy to count her among my good friends as well as a former student. Her life story makes her accomplishments all the more impressive. Her current work on Down Syndrome children, and the choices parents make, shows her devotion to important social exploration. She is a great example to our current

continued on page 3

“...from this day forward”

President encourages engagement for Winter Commencement grads

President Antonucci challenged the graduates of the Class of 2010 to find ways to make a difference in his address at the winter ceremony of the college's 114th Commencement on Jan. 29. Almost 200 graduates crossed the stage before an excited crowd of family, friends and invited dignitaries.

In his commencement address, President Antonucci noted two events that had affected the campus community. On

Jan. 23, first-year student Allison Myrick was killed in Shirley in what police said was a case of dating violence. Her ex-boyfriend was charged with murder. Hours before the ceremony, President Antonucci met with Myrick's parents.

“I cannot imagine the hurt they are feeling,” he said.

He also described the ravages of the earthquake in Haiti, which affected several families of Fitchburg State students.

“As I thought of those two incidents, I didn't want to come here tonight and create a sense of sadness among all of us, and that's not my intention,” he said. “My intention, however, is to challenge the undergraduates and graduates tonight to make a difference in what we do from this day forward.”

Expanding on the theme of volunteerism, President Antonucci introduced Matti A. Mattson, who was awarded the President's

Medal in recognition of his service in the Spanish Civil War in 1937.

“Born and raised in Fitchburg, the son of Finnish immigrants, Matti is a member of that generation of Americans defined by their willingness to put principles and ideals before self,” President Antonucci said during his introduction. “In 1937, Matti went against an international non-intervention agreement to join the

anti-Fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War. Like thousands of other volunteers, Matti saw the threat to world peace posed by the Fascists, who were getting support from Mussolini and Hitler.”

Mattson was given the perilous job of ambulance driver when he served in what came to be known as the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Of the 2,800 Americans who served, 800 never came home. Mattson returned to the U.S. in 1939 and later served in World War II. He has lived in New York for the last several decades and often speaks about his experiences fighting the Fascists.

Mattson expressed his gratitude for the honor during his own remarks, where he urged the assembled crowd to learn more about the history of the Spanish Civil War. Had the Fascists been defeated there, Mattson said, perhaps World War II could have been prevented.



Graduating students appreciated the words of wisdom shared at the Winter Commencement.

Emmy winner Melanie Perkins, cont'd.

students because, as she says, if you don't give up on your dream you can succeed.”

“Melanie is an inspiration to faculty, as we can see the path our students can take and their successes,” said Chetro-Szivos. “She is an inspiration to our students, but not because of the accolades she has earned but because of the person she is. Perhaps most importantly, Melanie is a role model for young women and

letting them know they can achieve in a field where there are not enough female voices.”

Perkins said the lasting lesson she seeks to impart on the students is that possibilities abound.

“Half of getting where you need to be is believing you can get there,” Perkins said. “I really believe that.”

— *Matthew Bruun*

College celebrates undergraduate research with campus-wide conference

The college suspended classes for the day on April 22 to celebrate student achievement.

In addition to the annual honors convocation, the college launched the first Undergraduate Conference on Research and Private Practice.

Peter Staab, mathematics professor and co-director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, organized the conference.

“We’ve come together to celebrate academics,” President Antonucci said at the start of the day’s events. “It’s a time when students can shine.”

Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Michael Fiorentino saluted Staab’s enthusiasm for putting together the project, which spotlighted student achievement.

“The students and the faculty do great work, and we don’t often see it as a campus,” Fiorentino said.

Students from every discipline on campus took part in the entertaining and informative event. The Hammond Main Lounge was filled with tables bearing posters and displays, accompanied by students who described their projects to passing faculty, staff and parents, as well as their peers.

The topics ranged from the effects of print advertising on women’s self-image to the effect of labeling and color on product memory, and from the effects of light and sound on the performance of a psychomotor task, to a survey of college student stress.

Meanwhile, three classrooms at Thompson Hall were home to a rotating series of oral presentations. Dozens of topics were covered, from the renaissance of campus radio station WXPL to the first year of the Regional Economic Development Institute at the college.



Students shared research with faculty and staff at poster sessions in the Hammond Main Lounge.

One group of students showed off their vision for a re-imagined block of downtown Fitchburg, while another presentation focused on the ethnography of communication among Fitchburg State students. Homelessness, study abroad, biblical literature, and leadership and the military were also discussed.

There was also entertainment on hand, ranging from a selection of scenes from the college theatre program’s spring production “Almost, Maine” performed at Percival Auditorium to a performance by the college Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Singers in the Underground Pub.

[there are many causes to give to,
but only one is your alma mater.]

Why give?

- ▶ Because your learning experience went far beyond the classroom.
- ▶ Because your professors were not just mentors but friends.
- ▶ Because you know your donation will help fund important programs, initiatives and improvements.
- ▶ Because the connections you made at Fitchburg State turned into the friendships of a lifetime.
- ▶ Because scholarships and aid are what enabled you to earn a college degree.
- ▶ Because you help fill in the gaps between our decreasing state support and the 100 percent it takes to provide an affordable education every day.
- ▶ Because at Fitchburg State you found yourself and your inspiration to succeed.
- ▶ Because even a small gift can make a big difference.

*Please consider a gift to the Annual Fund at Fitchburg State College
and begin your tradition of giving back today.*



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In Brief



International Studies speaker describes opportunities, challenges

Students who attended the International Studies program in April learned from a long-time foreign service officer that the world is, literally, within their grasp.

Michael Singh, the Ira Weiner Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, delivered the keynote speech, "International Public Service: Careers and Challenges," in the Hammond Campus Center. Singh's remarks were followed by a lively question-and-answer session with students, who inquired about topics ranging from the Israeli-Palestinian peace process to the prospects of a nuclear Iran.

Singh, who was raised in Virginia and attended college in Chicago, said he was not a political creature but had long had an interest in the Middle East. A year after graduating, he said, the decision to join the foreign service was made on an impulse.

"I took the foreign service exam, really on a lark," Singh said. "And I passed."

Soon Singh and his wife were in Tel Aviv, their first-choice assignment. The world had changed from the time he took the exam to when he arrived in Israel, however, as the Israeli-Palestinian peace process begun under President Clinton had broken down.

He was in Israel during the terror attacks of 9/11, and the world changed again.

"Terrorism jumped to the top of the list of priorities in foreign relations," Singh said. On a more positive note, however, the attacks triggered a surge of interest in public service careers, as bright young minds sought an outlet to engage the outside world.

Singh's own career trajectory brought him back to Washington, where he worked as an assistant to secretaries of state Colin Powell and, later, Condoleezza Rice. He traveled to 55 countries with Gen. Powell, including nations devastated by the massive tsunami in 2004. It was profound to see the role that American aid played in those countries, he said.

"It really was a testament to what America can do in the world," Singh said.

Singh is currently taking "a pause" from government employ, working at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy as well as writing.

He encouraged the students to cultivate their friendships and be willing to volunteer for tasks, even if they appear menial. His own government tenure included buying and slicing fruit for the vice president's hotel room in Israel, for example, but also saw him briefing the president in the Oval Office and riding aboard Air Force One.

He described the foreign service as a family-friendly work environment, one that offered meaningful challenges and intangible rewards.

"I have a lot of faith in the U.S. system," Singh said as the conversation with students was nearing its end. "We make a lot of mistakes, but we usually come around to the right answer."

The event was the fourth in the International Studies speakers series, coordinated by Associate Professor of Political Science Joshua B. Spero. Spero encouraged the students at Singh's address to consider the international components of whatever their field of study.

College continues investment downtown

The Fitchburg State College Foundation made an investment in a key gateway connecting the campus to the downtown corridor with the February purchase of the building at 161-181 Main St.

The building, which was owned by Gerard A. Martel, is located at Main and North streets, a major gateway and a key downtown parcel that has long been eyed for economic redevelopment. The building was demolished in May and the college will work with city leaders in marketing the property for appropriate development.

"This effort will give Fitchburg State College a seat at the table with a critical parcel in the city's revitalization plans," President Antonucci said when



The building at Main and North streets as it appeared at the start of demolition in early May and then razed.

the purchase was completed. "We look forward to working with developers on the best use for this site, one we hope will offer services for our students while enhancing the city's tax base."

The move also strengthens the college's long-standing commitment to building bridges between the campus and the downtown corridor. Over the last several years, numerous parcels have been bought and demolished along North Street, improving the safety and aesthetics of the corridor. The Recreation Center on North Street and the Campus Police Station on Clinton Street represent just two of the sizable investments the college has made. Last fall the college also opened the Center for Professional Studies on the first floor of the Intermodal Station on Main Street, across the street from the latest acquisition.

College, city host hometown celebration for Erika Lawler

U.S. Olympic Silver Medalist Erika Lawler made a triumphant return to the college's Wallace Civic Center in March, when the college and city hosted a celebration of her accomplishments in Vancouver.

Lawler played forward on the women's ice hockey team that won the silver medal in the games.

Born and raised in Fitchburg, Lawler discussed her ties to the city in an emotional speech before a crowd of hundreds of enthusiastic spectators at the center. The festivities included presentations from Mayor Lisa A. Wong, State Rep. Stephen L. DiNatale and State Sen. Jennifer Flanagan. Lawler was also given flowers from youth hockey players and a Falcons jersey from her brother, Trevor, who plays on the college hockey team.



Olympian Erika Lawler, center, greets her brother, Trevor; a member of the Fitchburg State Falcons ice hockey team, as he presented a Falcons jersey with her name and Olympic number.

"This is awesome," Lawler told the crowd. "I've never really felt so much a part of Fitchburg as I do right now. I'm so happy to be back and it's so good to know people are still supporting me and still cheering me on."

She said the medal that was placed around her neck in Vancouver represented more than her team's performance on the ice during the Olympic Games.

"It represented my whole life," Lawler said. "It represents Fitchburg. It's where I come from, it's who I am."

Lawler's remarks also included personal thanks to her parents, Peg and Kevin, as well as her siblings, whose support and encouragement has meant so much to her.

"I couldn't ask for a better family," she said.

Lawler visited with well-wishers for almost two hours after the ceremony, signing autographs and pictures. Meanwhile, hundreds of people enjoyed the ice at the Civic Center at a free open skate. For many of the visitors it was their first glimpse of the renovated center, which underwent major repairs when the college took over its ownership.



teams to the national event in January, the college entered with high expectations.

"I knew that I had a very good group this year," said Prof. Paul Weizer, chairman of the Department of Economics, History and Political Science. "However, they exceeded even my greatest hopes for the tournament."

On day one of the national tournament, all 64 teams compete in three rounds. At the conclusion

of the day, half the teams are eliminated and the top 32 move on to day two where these top teams compete in single elimination rounds.

All four Fitchburg State teams performed well enough to see them all advance to the second day of the event. Fitchburg State was also the only school with multiple entries to have all teams advance to day two.

The Fitchburg State group was led by the team of Amanda Goodall and Sydney Kirsch, who went undefeated on day one and were ranked fourth overall after the preliminary rounds. However, the rest of the group was close behind. The four Fitchburg State teams won 20 of the 24 possible ballots cast in their day one rounds.

While Goodall and Kirsch lost in the first elimination round, the other three Fitchburg State teams all advanced to the round of 16. While the Fitchburg teams of Sharon Lewis and Kimberly Marceau and Lan Lieu and Casey Ryder were eliminated there, Sally Foster and Matthew Costello did advance to the quarterfinal round.

In addition to these outstanding performances, the honors for the Fitchburg State squad did not end there. Lewis and Marceau also placed fourth in the nation in the brief writing portion of this competition.

Fitchburg State remains the only school in the country to send teams to the second day of all 10 national tournaments, Weizer said.

"I have had a team reach the national finals before, but never have I had the honor to work with

Students shine at Moot Court Nationals

The 2010 American Collegiate Moot Court Association's National Tournament was one to remember for Fitchburg State.

The season started with 248 teams competing in eight regional tournaments throughout the country. All were hoping to gain one of the 64 spots in the national tournament being held at Florida International Law School in Miami. Fitchburg State was able to qualify four teams. As one of only six schools to send multiple

such a strong group from top to bottom," said Weizer. "It was very rewarding to see their hard work recognized. It is also very exciting to see the Fitchburg State name earn such respect and recognition throughout the country."

College launches Center for Conflict Studies

A new multi-disciplinary effort will strive to advance knowledge and understanding of conflicts and conflict resolution.

The Center for Conflict Studies launched in the spring semester with four events, including film screenings and panel discussions.

Political Science Prof. Eric Budd co-founded the center with Communications Media Department Chairman John Chetro-Szivos and History Professor Benjamin Lieberman.

Budd and Chetro-Szivos have collaborated on the college's peace studies minor, Budd said, and decided to collaborate with Dr. Lieberman because of his interest in genocide studies.

The new Center for Conflict Studies will house a program on conflict resolution and mediation, a program on genocide studies education, a program on intercultural and interpersonal conflict and communication, and other programs based on the interests and needs of the center's board and the college community.

The inaugural events included a screening and discussion of the film "Screamers," about the rock group System of a Down, composed of Armenian-Americans who use their music to promote awareness of genocide.

The center also welcomed Rabbi Michael M. Cohen of the Arava Institute in Israel. The institute is dedicated to environmental studies, bringing together undergraduate and graduate students from Israel, Palestine, the Middle East and North America to work together to address environmental issues and to promote conflict resolution.

Later in March, the center held a screening of the film, "The Listening Project." The documentary follows a group of Americans as they travel to 15 countries across the globe and interview ordinary

citizens about their views of the U.S. and Americans. The film is a very interesting examination of how others see us, how we see ourselves, and how conflicts develop between the U.S. and other nations.

In April, the center hosted a panel discussion with Fitchburg State students and alumni who are veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The discussion concerned their experiences fighting, the issues they faced in coming home and more.

Chinese scholars welcomed to campus

The college continued its exchange with Tianjin Medical University in China when Fitchburg hosted scholars Dr. Ming Gao and Assistant Professor Muqun Xia. The scholars and their families spent several months in Fitchburg before returning to China in March.

Dr. Gao is the vice president of Tianjin Medical University Cancer Institute and Hospital. A noted specialist in head and neck tumors, especially related to thyroid cancer, Dr. Gao was a visiting physician at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas and at the Queen Mary Hospital of the Hong Kong University Medical Center before coming to Fitchburg.

Assistant Professor Xia is the director of the president's office at Tianjin Medical University. He has published two books and ten papers on the subject of international education. His primary research focus is ethics education for international medical students.

Industrial Technology students win at national conference

The college's Industrial Technology students made another strong showing at the recent Technology Education Collegiate Association national conference in Charlotte, N.C., winning first place for their problem-solving skills. It was the second

consecutive year that Fitchburg State took the honor in the national competition.

Students Jason Ciccariello of Burlington, Michael Wilbur of Mashpee and John Dembkowski of Northampton made the trip to North Carolina during spring break with Industrial Technology Department Chairman James P. Alicata. The students were presented with common household items—including a Styrofoam bowl, a plastic cup and some rubber bands—and told to create a working candy dispenser that would issue 10 to 15 jelly beans per activation. The materials were presented that Wednesday night, and the finished product, along



From left, Jason Ciccariello, Mike Wilbur, Jack Dembkowski and James P. Alicata, at the Technology Education Collegiate Association conference in Charlotte, N.C.

with documentation explaining how the machine was created and functioned, was put to the test that Friday morning.

"My students were up until 2:30 Friday morning," Alicata said.

Their creation worked as designed, and their supporting documentation helped garner them the highest score in the competition, which consisted of 17 colleges and universities such as Old Dominion, Ball State and Brigham Young University.

Dembkowski, president of the local Technical Education Collegiate Association, said his team's

attention to detail paid off this year and last, as some of his competitors used unauthorized materials in trying to solve the design problem.

"We treat these competitions very seriously, because we want to represent our institution with pride because we are the best," Dembkowski said. "As future educators, we have to be ahead of the game. Technology is always changing and that means we are always learning new ways to do things and think critically."

"They showed the detail of their design," Alicata said. "That was what put them up there. I'm very proud of them. We only bring three to four students to this competition, where other schools may have 30. We're thrilled we can compete, and outperform them."

The Fitchburg State contingent also placed third in a technology challenge during the competition.

"I was very surprised we placed third in the technology challenge, because we didn't even know we were competing until we arrived," Dembkowski said.

All three students plan to pursue careers in technology education.

Alpha Sigma Lambda inducts 12 members

The Pi Gamma Chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, which recognizes adult learners, inducted 12 new members on April 9. Elaine Francis, dean of education at Fitchburg State, was also inducted as an honorary member for her commitment to evening undergraduate students. Francis has been an outspoken advocate for the needs of adult learners, most recently helping to establish education degree bachelor completion programs for evening students.

The honor society's aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work. Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL) is dedicated to the advancement of scholarship and recognizes high

scholastic achievement in an adult student's career.

"One of the most unique parts of our ASL induction ceremony is when students send in their biographies," said Lisa Moison, Alpha Sigma Lambda committee member. "We ask them to tell us a little bit about themselves and we give them an opportunity to also thank special people in their lives that helped them to achieve academic success."

The printed biographies are distributed at the ceremony.

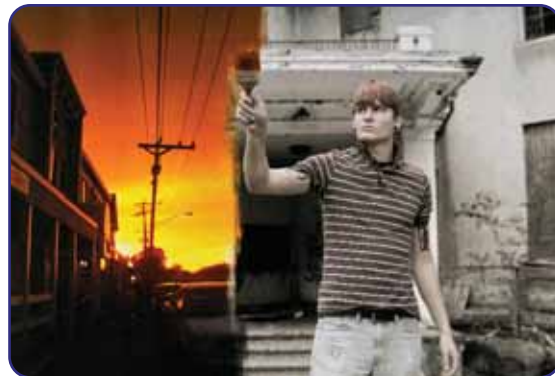
"Inductees thank their spouses, their children, co-workers and even professors who mentored them," Moison continued. "It helps us all to remember that we cannot succeed without the support of others."

Alpha Sigma Lambda, established in 1945, is the oldest and largest chapter-based honor society for full- and part-time students.

This year, the Pi Gamma Chapter welcomed the following students: Suzanne Anganes, Patricia Britton, William Collins, Marcela Coronel, Cynthia Driscoll, Susan Duffy, Marites Maclean, Craig Norris, Barbara Perron, Theresa Pfeifle, Julie Ritari, Flordeilenia Salazar and Catherine Tikellis.

Student photographers selected for prestigious Boston exhibition

Five student photographers from Fitchburg State were featured in a prestigious exhibition this spring at the Photographic Resource Center (PRC) at Boston University.



Photograph by Peter Ruokis

Fitchburg State students Peter Ruokis, Heather Mastriani, Cate Brown, Nicoletta Amato and Joe Marine had works selected for this exhibition of the Institutional Member Schools of the PRC. All five Fitchburg State students are majoring in Communications Media with concentrations in photography.



Triptych by Joe Marine

"The PRC Student Exhibition is a major photography showcase highlighting the finest work created in Boston-area institutions of higher education," said Peter Laytin, professor of photography. "The talent of these five students is representative of the hard work of many who are dedicated students in the Communications Media program. I am proud to have these five students represent Fitchburg State and enhance the reputation of our program."

The PRC is an independent, non-profit organization that serves as a vital forum for the exploration and interpretation of new work, ideas, and methods in photography and related media. The PRC presents exhibitions, fosters education, develops resources, and facilitates community interaction for local, regional, and national audiences.



Photograph by Nicoletta Amato



**IT'S
ALL
GREEK
TO
THEM**

By Paula J. Owen

A

s much as Greek life has changed at Fitchburg State, much has remained the same: with a focus on leadership and community service, today's sororities and fraternities help students find a home away from home and create friendships that last a lifetime.

That lifelong connection is true for the Greeks of the past as well. While the Esoterics, Fenwicks, Mohawks, Gavaleers, ToKalons and other groups may not be active on campus anymore, the attachments members have to each other and their clubs are just as strong as the day they pledged.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Back in the days of the “locals,” as groups like the Gavs and Tokes were called because they lacked national support, clubs were the places students got to know each other and socialize.

The locals were strongest in the 1960s-70s, with the clubs organizing all sorts of events, from the usual college parties, to intramural sports, balls and social events at the Buttercup and Saima clubs.

President Antonucci remembers what it was like to be a Gavaleer in the 1960s, when Fitchburg State was not the broad liberal arts college it is today. With a student body of a mere 800 and program offerings focused on teaching or nursing, Greek clubs were the fiber of the institution.

“There were no social networks, and the Internet and computers were non-existent,” he said. “The social aspect of the college took place within Greek organizations. If you were a Gavaleer on Facebook today, you could do a lot more.”

With fewer students on campus there were fewer social choices, and joining a club was all the more essential, according to Dr. Ronald P. Colbert, professor of education and president-elect of the Alumni Board of Directors. Colbert, a 1976 graduate, was a member of Omicron Psi.

“Communication was different,” Colbert explained. “There was no texting, cell phones, cable or computers. You might not know what different groups might be doing, but you knew where the parties were and you had plenty of opportunity for service.”

The locals were also a bit different from clubs at other colleges. There were no official “Animal House” style dorms or clubhouses, but members were close as family, supportive of many causes, and fiercely loyal. Rivalries abounded. Ask a Hawk today what the number one frat in Fitchburg State history is and, of course, it'd be

HISTORICAL GREEK LETTERED SOCIETIES & ORGANIZATIONS

GAVALEER SOCIETY “Gavs” Founded as literary society in 1916 (became Greek in 1921).
Motto: “*Amici Usque Ad Aras*”

THE MOHAWK CLUB Founded as a literary society in 1919 (became Greek in 1925).

ESOTERIC SOCIETY “Esos” Founded 1946

TOKALON “Tokes” Founded 1946. “*First women’s club on campus was formed in order to further the high standards of the college and to stimulate all school activities. ‘Gnothi Seauton’, the club motto, is cherished by the members and embodies all the aims and ideals of the group*” (Saxifrage, 1950)

PHILODEMIC SOCIETY “The Philos” “*Founded in 1948 with the purpose of cooperation and participation in social functions at FTC*” (Saxifrage, 1950)

ADELPHIAN SOCIETY Founded 1949

PI SIGMA UPSILON “The Fenwicks” Founded 1966

GAMMA SIGMA SIGMA

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

IOTA LAMBDA PHI “The Unicorn Society”

THE NEASYLONS



PHI BETA SIGMA National Black Fraternity

IOTA PHI BETA “The Iotas” National Black Fraternity

ZETA PHI BETA National Black Sorority

the Mohawks. But don't tell that to a Fenwick, or an Esso, or any other local man or woman. The passion of members for their clubs and the clubs' stature is legendary, and enduring.

From inscribed paddles to uniforms and club colors, from the late nights and the socials to the charitable causes, and from life-long friendships to marriages, the trappings of Greek life formed character as well as collegiate experience. A brother or a sister is always someone who can be called on in time of need, or in time to celebrate. That passion continues.

THE ESOTERICS

John Malloy '69 pledged with the Esoterics in the 1960s as a sophomore. Freshmen weren't allowed to pledge, and the year-long wait had the effect of boosting camaraderie among those itching to join a frat. Once a student became a member, a world of weekend activities would open up—a big thing, especially for students who stayed on campus on weekends.

“At that time, there were two women's dorms and a men's dorm,” Malloy said. “Commuters still had a home life outside of school. We didn't, so your club was a big part of what you did, and a good part of your social life.”

Tony M. Petrone, an information technology specialist from Tewksbury, graduated in 1997. In the fall of 1992 he “pledged in” after seeing a flyer from the Esoteric Society.

“We always knew there was something going on with the group,” he said. “I remember there definitely was a good amount of partying and rivalries. The Mohawks were our archrivals, you could say.”

Petrone said intramural sports were a big part of “frat life” on campus. His brothers always encouraged members to get out of the dorm and play, a fun way to build bonds with brothers.

THE FENWICKS

W atertown Deputy Fire Chief Robert J. Quinn, known as “Biff” to his friends, was a Fenwick who pledged in the spring of 1978. The Fenwicks, established in 1966, were the youngest fraternity on campus.

Quinn planned a recent Fenwick reunion in Fitchburg and created a Facebook page to network with members. Though he meets regularly with members of his pledge class, he said there has not been a reunion for the group since it phased out at Fitchburg State in 1996.

“I felt it was time to try to get people together,” he explained. “We're reaching out to people from different eras from the Fenwicks to get guys from every pledge class.”

The Fenwicks interested Quinn because the brothers were “good, friendly, stand-up guys.” His pledge class was the largest, starting at 17 pledges and ending with 14 when pledging finished, boosting the membership.

“The guys were tight, had a common bond and were there for each other in any circumstance,” he said. “That's what I wanted. It got me into a whole flow of college life and enhanced my college experience. I made friends I still have today who will help me whenever I need it.”

Quinn is also wistful recalling some of the parties the Fenwicks cultivated at the college, including renting out the Wallace Civic Center at the start of the fall semester. But Greek life wasn't just about keg parties. Other events included holiday caroling at nursing homes,

holding a campus Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas parties for kids at the elementary schools, and fundraising for the Globe Santa.

Not unlike today, the central Greek mission was promoting social unity.



Frivility among fraternity members is a hallmark of Greek life.

Malloy, chairman of Fitchburg State's capital campaign steering committee, said the routine of fraternity and sorority members wearing Greek letter jackets would be a little passé today, but the ritual made the Greeks more visible on campus.

“My time at Fitchburg State College was four fabulous years,” said Quinn. “I would love to do it all over again, but the only way I would is if I could do it with the same group of people, because it was the people I was with that made it so special.”

THE NEASYLONS

Susan E. (Russell) Cogliano '76, a middle school science teacher from Canton and a member of the Neasygons, still knows where her inscribed paddle is more than 30 years after graduation. The inscription reads:

*“For my little sister,
there are memories of the times we’ve shared,
both bright and gloomy days.
Memories of your kindness, and your many thoughtful ways.
There are memories of the things we’ve done, each special little
chat when we would get together and talk of this and that.
We have sisterhood forever, and forever the brown and gold.
These are special memories that we’ll always have to hold,
And as we recall these memories as we go along life’s way, we’ll
find they’ll grow more precious still, with every passing day.
With love and sisterhood forever.”*

As each year passes, she said, those handwritten words become more meaningful, the memories more treasured. Cogliano remembers pledging—having to wear the required brown and gold every day—meeting with other pledges at night to study the sorority’s history and singing the sorority song over and over. All the rituals made them become a strong, cohesive and trusting group of sisters.



John A. Churcher became an unofficial historian for the Mohawks, taking care of artifacts like the jacket he showed off during a recent campus visit.

THE MOHAWKS

The Mohawks, also planning a reunion, share equal feelings of camaraderie. John A. Churcher of Leominster pledged as a junior in 1984. He also compiled a history of the Mohawks called “The Mohawk Club at Fitchburg State College.”



CURRENT NATIONAL GREEK ORGANIZATIONS

SIGMA TAU GAMMA Founded 1989

PHI SIGMA SIGMA Founded 1997

SIGMA PI Founded 1996

SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA Founded 1995

ALPHA SIGMA TAU Founded 2005

GREEK COUNCIL Founded as Inter Fraternity Council in 1949 as the governing body for Greek Organizations

PANHHELLENIC COUNCIL Founded in 2006 as the governing body for all sororities. Helps with the rules and regulations for Recruitment.

ORDER OF OMEGA Founded in 2006 as the National Honor Society for Fraternity and Sorority men and women. 15 students a year are selected by grade point average, involvement on and off campus, and awards.

Editor's note: This list represents the known organizations that once populated Fitchburg State. If a founding year was available, it is included. If you know of any other groups, contact alumni@fsc.edu.



The Mohawks were unique, he said, because their group was actually not a Greek letter organization at all.

In 1923 a handful of young men from North Adams enrolled at Fitchburg State. Not knowing many others, they formed the Berkshire Club, which later became the Mohawk Club after the Mohawk Trail.

“Whether it was a club or a Greek letter organization, it was still a frat,” said Churcher. “We formed the same bonds. There was just no Greek history.”

Like Malloy and Quinn, Churcher remains close to his network of brother Hawks.

“Fellow Mohawks have helped me get jobs or get into companies. Before I look to do anything, I look to see if there are guys from the Mohawks I can look to for help or get work I need done.”

When doing research for his book, he talked with former Fitchburg State President James J. Hammond Sr., a Gavaleer, and former professors Ed Donnelly and Walter Harrod, who were both Mohawks. Though decades separated their experiences, they all had similar stories to tell.

“We were all young men once,” Churcher said, recalling his discussion with the elders.

GREEK LIFE TODAY

Today, all the locals are gone, but Fitchburg is home to two national fraternities and three national sororities overseen by two governing boards—Greek Council and Panhellenic. Like the locals of the past, each has their own special rituals and ceremonies to help build brotherhood and sisterhood.

SIGMA TAU GAMMA

Alan M. Archibald, Jr. '09, the alumni representative of the national Greek organization Sigma Tau Gamma, touts community service and philanthropy as large components of today's Greek life.

Some of his fondest memories, he said, are of visits he and his brothers made to nursing homes.

“The residents often have no one else,” he said. “We'd have dinner and dance with them and talk for four or five hours.”





Alan M. Archibald cites public service as a hallmark of Greek life, past and present.

To see the look on their faces, it's worth it. It feels like you've really gotten to know someone and touch their lives."

And as with his predecessors, he has deep bonds with his fraternity brothers. Archibald didn't give it a second thought when he was called in the middle of the night two years ago by his brothers who needed a lift after a car accident four hours away in New Jersey.

"That's what brotherhood means to us. Joining was the best thing I've done in my entire life," he said. "I wouldn't change a thing. There is always someone to count on and that goes for all the Greek organizations."

A LASTING TRADITION

Such is the way of today's sororities as well. Stephanie L. Kennett, a sophomore from North Pittsfield, R.I., is in Sigma Sigma Sigma. Kennett doesn't have a biological sister but found a sisterhood on campus.

"I was a little uncomfortable at first with the stereotypes of what you see on TV, that you come to college and party all the time. But that's really not true



This chariot was raced during the Greek Olympics in April.

at all," she said. "Joining was the best choice I made. We do so much on this campus with community service."

She recalled the recent "teeter-totter-a-thon," where the sisters rode seesaws for an uninterrupted 40-hour stretch to raise money for hospitalized children.

"We had a blast," she said. "It's so much fun. I don't know where I am going to be in the future, but I want to come back and see what our chapter is doing."

The Greek organizations also sponsor a children's Halloween party for the community, among other charitable efforts.

Alicia M. Robinson, a sophomore from Spencer, MA, is one of Kennett's new sisters. She joined as a freshman as a way to be more involved on campus.

"It opens you up to meet other people from other organizations," she said. "I would not have met all the people I have if I didn't join."



Stephanie L. Kennett, left, and Alicia M. Robinson found close friendships through their sorority.

The friendly competitions — chariot races, pie-eating contests, volleyball — help bring new students into the Greek system.

"It's for a lifetime," Robinson said. "We're always going to be sisters. As an alumna, I'll always come back and stay in contact."

Nursing a global society

World travel brings Patrice Nicholas '77 full circle *By Taryn Plumb*

End-of-life care; chronic illness; health care. Inevitable elements of life, they are all dealt with across the globe—regardless of race, gender or affluence. Some countries are well-equipped to handle them. Others struggle.

Patrice Nicholas '77 has dedicated herself to their study—traveling from Tokyo to Botswana; Belgium to Zimbabwe. In her quest, she's learned that "the world's people are remarkably similar," said the 54-year-old, a mother of two young men, who calls Milton home. "Meeting people around the globe makes us realize we're all one."

Humility rounds out Nicholas' studded resumé. The accomplished nurse serves as director of global health and academic partnerships at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston; she teaches and advises students at Massachusetts General Hospital's Institute of Health Professions; and, in the past decade, she's been the recipient of two Fulbright Scholarships.

Nicholas, who went on to earn a master of science in nursing at Boston University, and doctor of nursing science degree at Boston University, completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University School of Public Health focusing her research on HIV/AIDS and quality of life in chronic illness. During her fellowship, she finished a master of public health degree in International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Nicholas delivered the commencement address at the college's 114th Spring Commencement on May 22 (see story at right).

“Meeting people around the globe makes us realize we're all one.”

For her first Fulbright, awarded in 2003, Nicholas visited Germany, traveling from Berlin to Frankfurt to Warnemunde to Rostock. What she studied: shifting demographics, population changes, and the ensuing implications for the health profession.

Her findings: low birth rates, growing migrant populations, and swelling numbers of older people. As she explained in her research, many women in western Europe have been delaying childbearing into their 30s, so they're having either no children or just one child.

But while the younger population dwindles, the other end of the age divide is surging. By 2050, one out of three German citizens will be over age 60, Nicholas said. The result is a complex problem that mirrors concerns in the U.S. over who will provide care to the aging population.



In 2006, Nicholas received her second Fulbright award, for which she spent six months in South Africa studying the HIV epidemic.

While there, she researched how patients' symptoms were managed and how well they adhered to therapies; she also taught home-based caregivers, as well as students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

What she experienced was staggering. In addition to drastic unemployment and a "general difficulty just trying to live," more than 50 percent of pregnant women were HIV infected. Their only risk factor? Getting married.

Also, HIV in South Africa is more "virulent," and transmitted prevalently female-to-male, as well as male-to-female, Nicholas explained.

All told, the experience "definitely changed the way I viewed the world," she said. "I got to see a different lens on (HIV). The epidemic affects people across society."

Initially, it was the stigma and the misunderstood nature of the disease that prompted her to probe further. Going along with that, she's also intrigued by how health care systems in various cultures work.

"What does health care mean, and how do people live with diseases like HIV when they're from different cultures? That's important to study," she said.

And she has—these issues have drawn her to Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Cambodia, Tokyo, Belgium, and the United Kingdom. This spring, she may also visit Rwanda.

Quoting Mark Twain, she said of traveling, "it is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness."

One could say the same of education.

At Fitchburg State, while studying for her bachelor's of science in nursing, Nicholas was particularly stirred by a class taught by Professor Eleanor Voorhies that explored her future profession from a worldly view.

"It opened my eyes to the incredible work that nursing offered in our global society," she said, "long before we even really knew we were a global society."

Voorhies, particularly, put her on the path. "She was one of the major influences and mentors for my professional career," Nicholas said.

But in the ensuing years, she, in turn, has become an inspiration herself.

"She has been the person I go to for advice; she is always sharing her knowledge with me," said nurse Egidia Rugwizangoga of Nicholas, describing her as kind and caring, with a "rich" experience. Recognizing these traits early on in their daughter, Nicholas' parents pegged her for a great fit as a teacher or a nurse.

"I'm so delighted that I'm actually both now," she said.

Nicholas to grads: Get involved

On a beautiful morning in late May, Dr. Patrice K. Nicholas '77 urged the members of Fitchburg State's class of 2010 to become global citizens.

The bonds Nicholas made at Fitchburg State have lasted a lifetime, she said during her address at the 114th commencement exercises on the quad on May 22.

"So I ask you to look to your right and look to your left," Nicholas told the graduates. "If your life is like mine, these bonds that you share with those around you—or perhaps that you build with FSC graduates as your lives progress—can be among the most important friendships and professional relationships that you forge. I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the roles that your faculty, administration, and staff have had in molding your education and your lives."

She told the graduates to foster those ties, and to be open to new friendships that may end up helping them reach personal and professional goals.

A global traveler, Nicholas reminded the graduates that education does not end with commencement.



Dr. Patrice K. Nicholas '77

minister of the interior or part of the cabinet supporting a future president of South Africa in some role," Nicholas said. "But the take-home message is that there is greatness all around you—including in yourselves—and with your future ahead of you, you can expand your horizons and improve the world in ways that may surprise you."

Also honored at the undergraduate commencement was retired Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason Jr., the former adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard.

The college held its graduate commencement on Thursday, May 20, at Weston Auditorium, continuing a tradition begun last year.

In his address to the graduates, college President Robert V. Antonucci noted the difficult economic times facing the country. But previous difficult chapters have been followed by periods of recovery.

"We can go back in the history of this country and see that we are a strong citizenry," Antonucci said. "It's all about people like you, who are receiving your degrees tonight."

He urged members of the Class of 2010 to be leaders in their communities, and to seize the opportunities that have been presented to them.

"Use the education you have received to be part of the solutions to the problems we face," he said.

The President's Medal was awarded to Ellen M. DiGeronimo, a former Fitchburg city councilor who has served her community in varied public capacities for decades.

Professor Emerita Rosemarie Giovino, who remains an adjunct faculty member, was given the inaugural Contributions to the Graduate Program Award in recognition of her decades of service to the college.



Ellen M. DiGeronimo



President Antonucci and Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason Jr.

"Be a lifelong learner," she said. "This isn't the end of your education. It is really the beginning. Read professional journals in your field. Stay current with world affairs and advance the future of our great country. Never has it been more important to be a well-read and learned person."

The two-time Fulbright scholar recalled meeting with a Fulbright candidate in South Africa and being impressed with the depth of his knowledge, and how one of her associates asked him if he had considered one day running for president in his country.

"And the young man declined humbly and said that he believed his career path might be as a



Professor Emerita Rosemarie Giovino

Also honored during the spring commencement ceremonies was Jane A. Fiske, a professor in the Humanities Department who was presented the Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in College Teaching. Jannette M. McMenemy, a professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department, was presented the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship.

College, alumni lend helping hands to

H A I T I

The college mounted a successful campaign to show support for members of the campus community affected by the earthquake in Haiti. Four current Fitchburg State students live or have family in Haiti, and two of them were home for the winter break when the quake struck in January.

One of them was Kapriskie “Kikie” Seide, a sophomore sociology major. Kikie was in her father’s apartment in a Port-au-Prince suburb when the quake hit, and the house crumbled around her. She was able to escape but one of her mother’s feet had to be amputated because of injuries.

In the days that followed, Seide and her mother made their way to relatives in Florida, where her mother has been receiving medical care. Seide had hoped to return to campus for the spring semester but instead chose to continue her studies from Florida, taking a Fitchburg State class online.



Kapriskie “Kikie” Seide

Seide, a member of Phi Sigma Sigma, received a warm welcome from the college when she visited in April. She said her mother is making progress and continues to push her forward regarding her studies.

On a Tuesday in February, the college—which had already been accepting contributions for the American Red Cross—turned its attentions inward. All contributions collected on FSC Haitian Student Support Day were directed to the families of students touched most closely by the tragedy.

Hundreds of ribbons—in blue and red for the colors of the Haitian flag, and yellow to symbolize hope—were distributed at stations across campus, and donations were also collected.

Combined with more than \$570 in ticket receipts from a late January hockey game at the Civic Center, the support effort raised \$3,551.19 for the college’s Haitian students and their families.

“This effort garnered an amazing response and speaks to the sense of community and compassion that has long thrived at Fitchburg State,” President Antonucci said in a letter to students, faculty and staff. “To all of you who helped make this event such a success, I thank you.”

Russell Antoine, a junior studying business, said he usually goes home to Port-au-Prince for the winter break, but this year he stayed in Fitchburg. He was on campus when the earthquake struck.

His family runs the Kingdom Kids Orphanage, which was home to about 26 children at the time of the quake. The population tripled in the

aftermath, Antoine said, and thousands of displaced residents still live in tents on the grounds of the property.

Antoine was born and lived his early childhood years in Florida before his Haitian-born parents returned to their native land. He visits regularly. His father, a civil engineer by trade, also started a ministry in Haiti that offers school feeding programs to children.

“I still want to have something to do with my father’s ministry,” Antoine said, referring to his long-range plans. “But there’s a lot I can do from up here.”

Several alumni also were part of the global effort at Haitian relief. Gregory Moquin ’98 has been making annual excursions to the country since 2006, working with Haitian Outreach, a local non-profit that supports an order of nuns called the Daughters of the Mary Queen Immaculate of Haiti. The sisters run a number of elementary schools and a shelter for homeless girls, among other efforts.

“I first learned about the Haitian Outreach group when my parents sponsored a girl name Lilibian,” Moquin said. “After seeing her picture, learning more about the harsh conditions in Haiti, and hearing about the good things the Haitian Outreach group was doing I decided to volunteer with the group.”

The group provides support to the sisters through donations of money, food, clothing and supplies, as well as a tuition assistance program that helps support 350 children who otherwise would not go to school.

During her visit to campus in April, Seide said she has been moved by the global outreach toward her besieged nation. The challenge now, she said, is making sure that all of the aid reaches those in greatest need.

Watching the impact on her country has also been fascinating.

“A lot of what I heard in class, I’m seeing now,” she said, describing her sociology studies. “There is a split (in Haiti). There are the ‘patriotics’ and the ‘realistics.’”

The “realistics” who have left the nation may never return, but the “patriotics” want to see Haiti reborn from the rubble, she said.

For now, Seide is staying in Florida but plans to return to Fitchburg full-time this fall. Her mother, she joked, is insistent.



Russell Antoine

— Matthew Bruun



FACULTY NOTES

Updates on teaching, scholarship, research, and artistic expression



◀ **Joshua B. Spero** (Political Science) had two different chapters selected to appear in edited books on *NATO's Future in Central and East European Politics* (2nd Edition by Wolchik and Curry) and *Russia's Military Strategy toward Central-East Europe in Russian Military Challenges* (US Army War College). Spero was also quoted in the Voice of America after President Obama's State of the Union Address on US-Russian Relations, particularly in terms of arms control and non-proliferation issues.

Robin Dinda (Humanities) completed a busy year of solo and duo organ recitals. He performed solo recitals at First Parish in Fitchburg, St. Anthony of Padua church in New Bedford, and at First Unitarian Universalist Church in Cincinnati, where he re-dedicated the historic pipe organ. He also improvised an organ accompaniment to two silent films at First Parish, Fitchburg: "Nosferatu" and "The Golem." With his wife, organist Renea Waligora, he performed duo organ recitals (four hands and four feet) at First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville, Tenn., and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Racine, Wis.

Charles H. Sides (Communications Media) has edited the *Journal of Technical Writing & Communication* since 1995, and began editing its corresponding book series in 1997. Begun at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the 1970s, the journal has become one of the pre-eminent technical writing publications. Sides is its third editor. "The audience is a combination of academics and working professionals," he explained recently. It's international in scope." The journal was recently given an Award of Merit for 2009 by the Society for Technical Communication's Philadelphia Metro Technical Communication Competition. Sides said individual articles in the publication have been recognized on several occasions, but last year's award was particularly special. "For the entire journal to be acknowledged, that is a first," he said. The journal is published by the Baywood Publishing Company in Amityville, N.Y.



Robert Harris (Communications Media) had his video work, "Suite of Summer Evenings," screened at the Strange Beauty Film Festival in Durham, N.C.

Michele Caniato (Humanities) has just published a book, *The Jazz Ensemble Companion*, for which there was a signing and talk on Jan. 27 in the Center for Teaching and Learning. He also conducted the premiere of a new piece he composed for jazz orchestra called *Poem* at the Church of Christ and St. Stephens in Manhattan. Caniato also composed the music for the theater/puppet play "La leggenda del coniglio volante" (The Tale of the Flying Rabbit) by Gigio Brunello, performed at Teatro Mongiovinio in Rome, Italy.



Susan Wadsworth (Humanities) had a solo exhibition of abstracted landscapes—inspired by a trip to Brittany as well as New England ski mountains—at the Southern Vermont Art Center in Manchester, Vt., this winter. In March, she gave a lecture for the Center for Italian Culture entitled "Venice, Verona and Urbino: Visual History through Architecture."

Jane Fiske (Humanities, Music) began her new assignment in the fall as co-chair of the CAGS IDIS Graduate Program at Fitchburg State (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study, Interdisciplinary Studies) with professor emeritus Dr. Harry Semerjian. Over the summer, Fiske travelled to Venice, Italy, to present a paper at the 2009 International Conference on the Arts in Society. Her paper, entitled "Contemporary Issues in the Humanities," was based on the seminar she developed for the Leadership Academy Honors Program at Fitchburg State. Fiske also presented a paper for the ALFA (Adult Learners in the Fitchburg Area) Fifth Anniversary Celebration and also offered "The Age of the Baroque; through Art and Music" in February. For the seventh consecutive year, Fiske hosted the MMTA (Massachusetts Music Teachers Association) Annual Bay State Competition at the college in May. More than 200 piano, string, and voice students from all around the state have competed in this competition for more than 40 years. In addition, Fiske recently hosted the annual recital for the Community Music School of Leominster at Fitchburg State, and judged the Indian Hill Honors Piano Recital Auditions at the Indian Hill Music School in Littleton.



Athletic Hall of Fame inducts new class



Dr. Frederick Gillis
Class of 1965

Frederick Gillis was part of the most dynamic one-two offensive punch in the history of Fitchburg State College basketball. Teamed with Hall of Famer Bob Johnson, Fred helped guide his team to national acclaim, ranking fourth among the nation's small colleges in both points (with 29.9 points per game) and rebounds in the 1962-63 season. Gillis established new MASCAC records, setting a mark of 33 rebounds, only to break his own record the following game with 37 boards. Gillis, a dominant player of his era, ranks among Fitchburg State's top 10 scorers, a feat accomplished in just three years.

Following graduation, Gillis continued his studies, earning a master's in education and later a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from UConn in 1975. He served as a partner and practicing psychologist for nearly two decades, specializing in drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation and child and family therapy.

Upon retirement in 1995, he and his wife Nancy (Goodheart) '66 opened The Center for Independent Living, aimed at providing housing and support services for at-risk youths. In 2005, following the loss of their daughter Amanda, they established the Amanda Gillis Foundation to provide educational scholarships for homeless youths. For their charitable efforts, Fred and Nancy were recognized as the Las Vegas

Citizens of Distinction in 2005 and later the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Citizens of Distinction in 2008.

Paul McGovern
Class of 1982

Paul McGovern was a student athlete with dedication and determination, but more notably, he was a man on the run—literally. A former teammate recalls, "we would often see McGovern run in a track meet at Fitchburg State, finish his event and walk over to the baseball field to pitch, stopping only to change his uniform in the storage shed. He was a great leader and a friend to everyone on the team." On the same day, after winning three long-distance events to be crowned MASCAC Champion for each, and helping his team to win the MASCAC Championship, he entered the field to pitch in the baseball game. The following day he pitched two



games for the baseball team, against Framingham State, recording the win in both. In his four-year student-athletic career, McGovern was a six-time MASCAC champion in track, a five-time All-New Englander, three-time New England Champion, and helped his outdoor track and cross country teams to win three championships while playing four years of baseball.

Following graduation, McGovern continued to run and was coached by fellow alumnus

Martin "Marty" Siluva '72. "The hills of Fitchburg prepared me for the rest of my life," said McGovern. "Marty told me that the run from Mt. Wachusett to Fitchburg State was similar to the Boston Marathon, so I ran it." Since 1986, McGovern has run more than 25 marathons, including a 22nd place finish in the 1986 Boston Marathon and the 1992 US Olympic trial run, where he placed 16th with a time of 2:19. In 2004, after years of running, he decided to give back to the sport by participating in Trek USA, a transcontinental charity relay. The organization raised \$300,000 when McGovern and nine other greater Bostonians ran from behind the home plate of PacBell Park in San Francisco to home plate in Fenway Park. Greeting his team at the finish line, in addition to the 32,000 fans present for the home game, was Tom Brady to help throw out the first pitch with McGovern and the team.

McGovern isn't always running (though he has run every day for the past 10 years). He has been happily married to his wife Beverly for 14 years. They have two children, son Paul, age 13, and daughter Peyton, age 11. Working in a rehabilitation nursing home, helping clients aged 50 to 100 to recover from injuries, McGovern said, "I wish student athletes were as tough as the seniors I work with. They fight through the pain, and are more driven to recover." McGovern teaches a class in sports massage therapy at North Shore Community College.

Tara (Herrick) Witzgall
Class of 2000

Tara (Herrick) Witzgall was among the most prolific softball players in Fitchburg State College's history. Before entering Fitchburg State, Witzgall competed as a full-time catcher for the Junior Olympic fast-pitch softball program, the Polar Crush. Her former Junior Olympic coach, Matt Palumbo, said of Witzgall's four years at Fitchburg State: "She never let up in her quest to be the best, was never satisfied, and continued to strive for perfection into and throughout her college career." At the conclusion of her collegiate career, Witzgall owned the Fitchburg State records for career at bats, hits in a season, career hits,



runs batted-in in a season, career runs batted-in, doubles in a season, career doubles, career home-runs, total bases in a season, and career total bases. She credits much of her collegiate athletic success to the strong network of support and dedication from her high school and college coaches.

After graduating with an early childhood education and sociology degree, Witzgall returned to teach in her hometown of Leominster. In June 2002, she married Jim Witzgall, a man who just years before had been introduced to her by the assistant softball coach at Fitchburg State. Teaching English/Language Arts to grades 1-5, Witzgall returns home each day to her son Taylor, age 4, and daughter Victoria, age 3. In her free time, Witzgall continues to play softball, competing in a local slow-pitch softball league.

The 1961 Baseball Team

In the spring of 1961, the best kept secret on the Fitchburg State campus was the undefeated baseball team. Inclement weather and persistent rain limited outdoor practice and deterred fan attendance throughout the season. Despite this, the 1961 baseball team achieved the first and



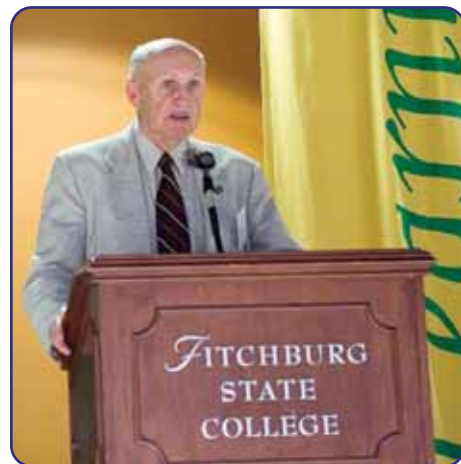
only perfect season in Fitchburg State baseball history. Dominant pitching, excellent defense, and clutch hitting separated Fitchburg State from the pack.

Led by Hall of Fame contributor and Coach Robert Elliot, and Hall of Famers Thomas Flynn (captain) and Emile Johnson Jr., Fitchburg State baseball rose to national acclaim. Fitchburg State led the nation in team pitching, boasting an ERA of 1.19, allowing only 13 earned runs in a 12-game season. Freshman phenom James Herrick led the pitching staff with a 5-0 record, allowing only one run in 37 innings while striking out 38 batters. For more than a decade, Fitchburg State's 1961 team appeared near the top of the NCAA's best team pitching. Thomas Flynn said of his team: "Coach Elliott had a team of heady ballplayers, they were well trained not to beat themselves."

Frank Worthley Jr. Class of 1960

Frank Worthley Jr. is the type of alumnus that every college needs to have: the emotional cheerleader of the college, loyal to the end. Through his college years, Worthley earned the title of "Mr. Everything," playing soccer, basketball, baseball, and track, also participating in the Newman Club, Glee Club, Drama Club, and Mohawk Club. Worthley excelled as a member of the 1957-58 championship soccer team, helping Fitchburg State to its first soccer championship in school history. Class President Richard

Cross '60 describes Worthley as a man who "throughout the years has always been the person on the scene who was ready and willing to help in any way possible. I have found him to be a very unique individual who holds an unshakable bond towards the college."



After graduating, Worthley returned to Fitchburg State to earn his master's in education, occupational administration in 1975. Worthley has spent 40 years in education, concentrating on pre-vocational exploration, industrial arts, general shop and science and remains a substitute teacher in the Fitchburg, Leominster, and Ashburnham school systems. Dedicating more than 40 years to athletics, Worthley served the community through athletic team directing, officiating, and coaching at the high school, college, and semi-professional levels.

Serving the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Worthley has dedicated himself as a volunteer for more than two decades. Worthley continues to make his annual pilgrimage to Florida to attend the Fitchburg State baseball team's spring training.

The creation of the college's Athletic Hall of Fame was due in large part to Worthley's persistent efforts to recognize and embrace past athletes. It is only fitting that the motivating force behind the Hall of Fame be inducted as an outstanding contributor for his 50 years of service to Fitchburg State College Athletics.

For more sports news, features and schedules, check out www.fsc-alumni.org and click on Athletics.

Falcons skate to championship

The Falcons hockey team captured its first regular season title since the 1999 season. Fitchburg State boasted a remarkable 19-61-1 record this season with a 14-4-0 mark in the MASCAC. The Falcons advanced to the MASCAC Championship match, defeating UMass Dartmouth in the semis (3-1), before falling to Salem State (2-1 OT) in the finals.

Five members of the Fitchburg State ice hockey team were honored by the MASCAC with post-season honors. Head Coach Dean Fuller, in his 26th season behind the Falcon bench, headlined the list of Fitchburg State honorees as he was named the 2009-10 MASCAC Coach of the Year by his peers. Fuller registered one of his most successful regular seasons this year, leading Fitchburg State to a conference regular season championship and the conference playoffs for the 26th consecutive time. Senior captains Andrew Hutton, Chris Brecken and junior Robert Vorse led all Fitchburg State players, earning MASCAC All-Conference first team honors while senior Pat Dolan was named to the All-Conference second team.

Hutton earned his first All-Conference honor after pacing the high-powered Fitchburg State offense with 33 points on 11 goals and 22 assists. Throughout his four-year career, Hutton was a true shooter for the Falcons, totaling 96 career points (41g, 55a) over 97 games played. He entered the Fitchburg State post-season ranking fourth in the MASCAC with 1.50 points per game and third over-all in 1.00 assists per contest.

Brecken also collected his first All-Conference nomination after spearheading Fitchburg State's defensive line.

This season, the Falcons limited opponents to a league low 84 goals, while holding the conference's best penalty kill. Brecken, a four-year member of the Falcons, reached the century mark for games played this season, totaling 11 assists for 11 points from the backline.

Joining Brecken from the defensive side was two-time, All-Conference recipient Robert Vorse. Vorse, the 2008-09 ECAC Northeast Goaltender of the Year, earned his second consecutive All-Conference first team nod after leading the Falcons in net with 11 victories, a 3.09 GAA, .895 save percentage and one shutout. Between the pipes, Vorse was as consistent as they come, totaling 970 saves and a minimal 2.71 GAA over 35 games played.

Rounding out the Falcons award winners was defenseman Pat Dolan who picked up his first-career All-Conference honor with a second team nomination. This season, Dolan witnessed one of his most prolific years, ranking second among MASCAC defensemen in scoring with 15 points on three goals and 12 assists.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Fitchburg State men's basketball team posted an 8-18 overall record this season with a 3-9 mark in the MASCAC. The

Falcons qualified for the 2009-10 MASCAC Tournament, falling to Worcester State, 72-64 in the quarterfinals.

Throughout the season, the Falcons were led by senior Colin London who averaged a team-best 15 points per game with 7 rebounds per contest. London was a two-time MASCAC Player of the

Week, collecting three double-doubles throughout the year. Classmate Tim Graham also enjoyed a successful 2009-10 season with 12.2 points and 6.5 rebounds per game. Graham finished his career just 16 points shy of the 1,000 point plateau (984), while bringing in over 500 rebounds (511) in 101 games played.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team concluded its 2009-10 campaign with an overall record of 10-15 and 4-8 mark in the MASCAC. The Falcons finished seventh in the conference, missing the MASCAC playoffs by only one game due to numerous playoff tiebreakers.

Junior Melissa Proffitt was named to the MASCAC All-Conference first team. This season, Proffitt witnessed a career year for the Falcons, totaling career-highs in points (307), rebounds (195), blocks (26) and steals (40). She added a career-best six double-doubles, while ranking first on the squad with 12.3 ppg. On the glass, Proffitt was just as dominant, ranking second on the team with 7.8 rebounds per contest, including a team-high 97 offensive caroms.

Proffitt, a Hubbardston, Mass. native, was even better in conference play averaging 13.3 points per contest, while collecting 7.9 boards per game. She ranked among the top ten in the MASCAC for scoring (7th), rebounds (5th) and blocks (5th), while ranking second overall in offensive boards. As a member of the Fitchburg State basketball team, Proffitt has appeared in 71 career games, registering 522 points and 393 rebounds. A recipient of the prestigious Fitchburg State Soaring Falcon award, Proffitt has boasted a successful three-year career, averaging 7.4 ppg with 5.3 caroms/g and 1.1 blocks. She has sported a 41.0% career-shooting average (188-of-460), while connecting on 66.0% of her attempts from the free-throw line.



Senior captain
Andrew Hutton



Dear Alumni and Friends,

What does it mean to be an alumnus of Fitchburg State College? That question has been posed to me hundreds of times since I began my career as the new Coordinator of Alumni Relations in fall 2008.

I quickly realized that a swift, concise, or blanket response could not be given. As a recent graduate and fellow alumnus, I began to reflect upon my time here as a student and my experiences as an alumnus. The concept of “alumni” means something different to everybody; it can be what you want it to be. Much like your time as a student at Fitchburg State, your experiences are what you make of them; it is a reciprocal relationship.

My time at Fitchburg State was, and continues to be, one of enlightenment. Enlightenment of self, of the world around me, and of the alumni and college I serve. The countless interactions with alumni who continue to give both time and capital to better the institution has been a truly humbling experience. One needs to look no further than the Alumni Board, and its quickly growing army of volunteers to understand what I speak of. Each board member donates innumerable hours and precious time that they can never get back that could have been spent with family and friends. Ask any of them and they would tell you that Fitchburg State is family. As one noted, “the college educated and helped me to better myself, giving me every possible opportunity to succeed; now it’s my turn to give back.”

In this issue of Contact, you will find a number of stories about alumni who are doing just that, in myriad ways. They are stories of people dedicated to Fitchburg State and to a life of service.

Alumni are Fitchburg State’s living legacy and we are always looking for new ways to serve you and enrich your experience as a representative of the college. For example, the Alumni Office is looking to engage you through social media sites such as LinkedIn and Facebook. Though I am a fellow alumnus, I know I cannot speak for the needs of all 33,000 alumni. We need your help and input.

Whether you graduated in 1950 or 2010, the campus has changed immensely, and will continue to change. Please come back and take a look; you will not be disappointed. Whether it be for athletics, a cultural event, or a reunion, I hope you visit your alma mater often.

A Fitchburg State College diploma imparts limitless potential, as reflected by the stories featured in this issue.

Enjoy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Kushmerek".

*Michael Kushmerek '08
Coordinator of Alumni Relations*

The Reel Deal: Pro angler Gene Ellison '82 making waves as "The Fishing Machine"

By Matt Bruun



Gene Ellison '82 doesn't do things by half-measures. Taking a role in the family's investment business turned into a flourishing career—he's now Financial Advisor at Commonwealth Financial Network in Boston—and a chance encounter with bass fishing 11 years ago proved to be an epiphany.

As a Fitchburg State student, the Somerville native competed in athletics, helped found the campus radio

station and was named the Communications Media Student of the Year his senior year. Soon after getting his degree, the young photographer was selected to study in California under the legendary Ansel Adams.

"I still love it," Ellison said recently. "I'm always, always shooting."

But photography is just one of his passions. To his growing legions of fans, Ellison is known as "The Fishing Machine."

Ellison was a devoted coach of youth sports in Massachusetts for 27 years, leading four different groups of players to national hockey championships.

"My wife Kate asked me to do something with my son that was non-competitive," he recalled. So, 11 years ago, he went to a sportsmen's expo at the DCU Center in Worcester, where famous angler Shaw Grigsby tapped young Phillip Ellison to assist in a tank demonstration. Before the evening was over, Ellison purchased rods, reels and his first Tracker bass boat and, as the saying goes, he was hooked.

"I went full speed into fishing," he said. "At first things were confusing, but then I started doing really well. Six years ago I turned pro."

Competing in his first professional tournament on Pickwick Lake in Alabama resulted in a top 40 finish.

"Believe me, that finish—and competing against these guys and at the top level—I was excited," he said.

Ellison's personal and professional passions merged when he began managing funds for top-level anglers. Soon after that he became the executive director of the Professional Anglers Association, where he helped design and run the first professional bass tournament owned by the anglers instead of third-party tournament organizers.

"If you had told me 11 years ago I'd be a professional bass fisherman today," Ellison noted, "I'd have said, 'No way.'" But that's what's happened.

Timmy Horton, one of the top rated champion bass anglers in the sport today, said Ellison made a big splash when he took the leadership role and built the Professional Anglers Association (PAA).

"His business skills and hard work ethic really took the PAA to another level," said Horton, himself a phenomenon in the fishing world. "Gene is always so upbeat, he's one of those people you're really happy to be around."

And though Ellison recently gave up the leadership post in the PAA, he remains a vocal cheerleader for the PAA and the joys of bass fishing in general.

Ellison, who has earned two master's degrees, credits his undergraduate training at Fitchburg State College with laying the foundation for his success. From the mentorship he experienced under the tutelage of photography Professor Peter Laytin, to the communications skills he used in marketing and sales, he speaks with fondness of his days at Fitchburg State.

Now, Ellison is looking to spread the joys of fishing to the next generation, kind of like the Johnny Appleseed of fishing. When he travels the country competing, he is always looking to turn parents and children on to an affordable and family-friendly pastime.

"I'm focused on getting parents off the couch and into the outdoors," he said. "I want to be the first guy to put a fishing rod in the hands of a million kids. So far we're at about 68,000."

Ellison said he takes part in 18 to 20 kids' events per year.

A simple rod and fishing reel can be bought for as little as \$20, Ellison said, though his own gear is considerably more expensive. The priciest part of the high-end angler's arsenal is, of course, a fast-moving boat. But anglers can fish for bass off the end of a dock, too.

"From a tournament perspective, the sport's not about catching them," he said. "The sport's about finding them. Once you find them, believe me, we can all catch them."

And that is where a "student" of the sport can really shine, Ellison explained. Knowing how weather conditions and water temperature affect bass in a given area is key to placing your casts where the fish are biting," he said.

It's also where bass fishing and investing parallel one another.

"It's the ability to take a whole bunch of different variables that are constantly changing and then knowing which asset categories to put your money in front of," he said.

But instead of moon phases and cloud cover, Ellison explains, the investor studies factors like corporate earnings, unemployment, interest rates and currency changes.

So far, Ellison's instincts have served him well. In February he was named one of Boston's Top Portfolio Managers by *Boston Magazine*. He recently attracted large crowds when he appeared at the Bass Fishing Academy Seminars at the DCU Center in Worcester, where his own fishing career was begun.

He has also been able to balance his thriving financial career with the demands of his second job as a professional angler, and his love of his family.

"My wife Kate—a 1985 early childhood and special education major—and I met at Fitchburg, however we didn't start dating until after I graduated," Ellison said. "Kate is an incredible person and she supports all of the business, fishing and kids activities I am involved with. Our three kids—Julie, Phillip and Colleen—are bright, active people with great educations on their resumes.

"I think the reason I'm able to do all of this is because of my wife, my staff (which includes Ellison's younger brother and business partner Razz), the technology we use and our commitment to our clients," he said. "The investment business a daily challenge, the fishing is a passion and a getaway. I enjoy it and feel like I'm getting better at it every day."

Ellison said he has no plans to change his hectic schedule.

"If I have the energy level to balance my family, my investment business and my fishing," he said, "I will continue to try and do that for a while."

Honey Rand '83 and her fight for the blue gold

By Taryn Plumb

It's always been about water.

For Floridian Honey Rand '83 the essential element has provided direction—a current, if you will.

As a restless teenager growing up in a resort town, she just wanted to get away from it.

Later, she became embroiled in a notorious war over it.

Now, the 50-year-old represents those who protect it—as well as other stressed natural assets—as an environmental public relations and marketing specialist.

"We work for people we like and causes we believe in," said Rand, whose Twitter profile is fittingly "H2O Honey."

For 12 years, Rand has been a mouthpiece and an advocate for green real estate developers, conservators, and hydro technology and biofuel companies, and she's unhesitatingly taken on strip-mining and water pollution. At the same time, she's been a liaison and spokesperson for many companies that aren't environmentally focused, but merely share her firm's values—including lawyers and laser eye surgeons.

In the end, the goal is to preserve Florida's unique aspects, she said, and urge residents (both full-timers and snowbirds) to live in a practical, economical way.

"People move here from other places and tear our history down," said the environmental proponent, herself a resident of the touristy Tampa Bay.

In her quest, she hasn't always made people happy. But she has made some unlikely friends.

"She is a forceful person who knows her issues inside and out," said Republican Florida State Sen. Michael Bennett, a real estate developer when he's not at Capitol Hill. "Even those that oppose her, respect her."

He's been in that category himself—in the 10-plus years he's known Rand, they've clashed on certain issues. But, "she can disagree with you in a manner that you don't get mad," he said, adding with a gravelly laugh, "she can tell you to 'go to hell' and you kind of look forward to the trip."

Clearly, Rand isn't shy about making her point—and she's no rookie with controversy, either. It's something she got a whole slew of while working as a director of public communication for the Southwest Florida Water Management District, an experience she chronicled in the book, *Water Wars: A Story of People, Politics and Power*.

At the time, the agency was facing a vortex of crises—water sources were dwindling due to drought and demand increases. In turn, there was environmental damage. The result: A years-long fight over "blue gold" between the district, suppliers, politicians and water regulators. In the end, Rand said, a judge determined that even though there was environmental damage, the local governments were entitled to pumping permits.

Even 15 years later, tensions persist. "We are better off today than we were before," Rand acknowledged, "but the fight over water will always be present."

Growing up, she dealt with a different sort of conflict around water.

As she put it, there were two kinds of people in her resort hometown of Sarasota: The rich with their beachfront houses, and the rest of the people who catered to them. Her family was of the latter—mom was a hairdresser and dad was a paint salesman.

She quickly became disillusioned. So, with just \$475, she left. She had her eyes on Colorado, but she ended up in Kentucky, at the home of a family friend.

Soon, her money ran out; she decided to join the army, where she trained for broadcast journalism, and even went on to a year-plus-long stint as a disc jockey in Korea.

Back in the U.S., she ended up at Fort Devens before being discharged.

"I didn't know what I wanted, but it became clear what I didn't want: A career in the army," Rand explained.

So she snagged a full-time job at a radio station, and started attending Fitchburg State full-time to study communications. She described "wonderful educators with great educations of their own, tucked away into this tiny little place in the middle of nowhere."

In particular, she was inspired by Communications Media Professor Helen Obermeyer-Simmons; she also recalled an "outstanding" Languages of Communication class with John Magnasco that explored communication beyond words, including dance, art and music.

Even though Fitchburg was "freezing cold" compared to her balmy home state, it was a "fabulous, fabulous education," she said.

She graduated in two years through an accelerated program, and later built upon her degree with a master's in communications from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a doctorate in communications from the University of South Florida.

This is the key, she said: Educate and train yourself. Discover your passion—and don't be afraid to try on different personas until you find it.

"People need to follow their passion," she said. If you do, you're "setting yourself up for excellence."



Honey Rand is aghast at the ongoing crisis in the Gulf of Mexico, where a gushing undersea leak has spewed millions of gallons of oil.

"For those of us who spent time and treasure in the last Florida legislative session fighting the expansion of drilling, this is the worst ever 'I told you so,'" Rand said.

"More and more these issues are not about choosing economic opportunity over environmental sustainability. Increasingly, these are two sides of the same coin. Those of us who want investment in alternative energy are not simply tree-hugging radicals. We're businesspeople who understand that the amount of oil spilled to date equates to a fraction of a day's gas for Americans."

The disaster will have lasting consequences for coastal businesses in at least four Gulf states, she said, and will affect food supplies for years to come. And all those whose livings are tied to catching, processing or selling fish and shellfish will long feel the effects, as will those working in tourism, recreational fishing and other industries.

"The oil-soaked birds and turtles and wetlands are horrible. But we have not yet begun to understand the depth and breadth of the economic consequences," Rand said. "The Gulf of Mexico is America's sea. It shines now with the glimmering sheen of oil." —MB

Nypro enhances scholarship commitment with \$50,000 gift

The Nypro Foundation has awarded Fitchburg State a grant of \$50,000 in support of the college's capital campaign and the Nypro Scholar Fund at the school.

"Providing scholarship aid ranks among the college's highest priorities," said Fitchburg State College President Antonucci. "This important gift further solidifies our partnership with local industry leaders like Nypro, while providing crucial support for students pursuing an education in science and technology."



The Nypro Scholar Fund was established in 2006 with an initial \$60,000 gift from the Nypro Foundation for students majoring in the fields of science and technology who demonstrate financial need. As a strong foundation in those fields becomes more and more critical in our global society and demand for programming increases, Fitchburg State is responding with an expansion of academic offerings and major capital improvements on the campus, including a new science facility planned for 2014, the first academic building to be built in 45 years.

The first Nypro Scholar was recognized during Fitchburg State's Honors Convocation in April. Derek Baker of Halifax, a member of the class of 2012 and majoring in biotechnology, was congratulated by Executive Vice President/Academic Affairs Dr. Michael J. Fiorentino Jr. and President Antonucci.

"Because I am focusing so heavily on the biological sciences, as well as the theoretical and physical sciences, I have to dedicate a great deal of time to understanding my material," Baker said. "A job takes the lower priority while my performance in classes takes the highest priority. This scholarship will help relieve some of the financial stress, and I will be better able to perform in class, which is ultimately the core reason I am attending college."

Officials from the college and Enterprise Bank gathered to unveil the new Zamboni at the Wallace Civic Center at Fitchburg State College. Pictured, from left, are Fitchburg State Executive Director of Advancement Karen Sharpe; President Antonucci; Enterprise Bank Vice President and Regional Manager Cheryl Gaudreau; and Enterprise Bank Vice President of Commercial Lending Sarah Plaza.



Why I Give Back

By Randy Meech '97

Every year I make it a priority to give something back to Fitchburg State College. I do this because when I think back, the college in a sense saved me. It was a place I could go when going anywhere else wasn't an option because of funds, and turned out to provide more academic and extra-curricular opportunities for me than I would have received anywhere else.

I remember getting some advice in my freshman year from Chris Cook, who ran the radio station at the time. He told me that you could do anything you wanted at Fitchburg State, as long as you actually had the motivation to do it. So I revived a then-defunct theater group, raised money for it, sold ads, dealt with budgets, begged then-President Vincent Mara for money when we ran drastically over budget, built sets, learned how to do lighting, managed contractors, and basically learned how to start and run an organization. This taught me that with work, you can virtually build up something out of nothing. It's not an experience I could have had anywhere else, and it forever changed how I look at opportunity. Fitchburg State is full of such possibilities.

It's hard to imagine how your life would have changed had you done something in the past a little differently, wound up here instead of there. Who knows? But I can point to the things I learned at Fitchburg State and see how they've contributed to my life and career, and that is worth a great deal.

“I can point to the things I learned at Fitchburg State and see how they've contributed to my life and career now, and that is worth a great deal.”

For the last 10 years, I've worked in web technology in New York City, mostly in startup companies where you can have a big impact. I currently work at Patch, a local news and information website that hires full-time journalists to serve communities. We were recently acquired by AOL, and are expanding to Massachusetts (watch for us!). Joining companies at an early stage reminds me a lot of the time I spent producing plays at Fitchburg State. You start with very little and create something that makes an impact.

I believe that everyone who has any measure of financial stability owes something to the non-profit institutions that touched them over the years, especially if they came out of the public higher education system. In fact, public colleges deserve donations much more than private ones, because the impact they have on students who otherwise might not be able to afford college is so much greater. College is a virtual necessity today to be successful, and the work of public colleges is essential.

Although my contributions aren't much in the grand scheme of things, I like to imagine them helping someone in a situation similar to mine 15 years ago. I know there are many other comparable stories from Fitchburg State alumni, and I encourage them all to do their part for future students.

Randy Meech '97 is the vice president of engineering at Patch.com.



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FAMILY WEEKEND

SATURDAY, AUG. 28, 2010

- **Alumni Men's Soccer Game**
12 p.m. Elliot Field

Family Weekend Events

FRIDAY, SEPT. 24, 2010

- **Alternative Spring Break Silent Auction**
Noon-5 p.m., Hammond Main Lounge
- **Class of 1960 50th Reunion**
2:30 p.m.-7 p.m., Hammond Building
- **Outrageous Comedy! Amazing Juggling! Mark Nizer, the 3D Experience**
7 p.m. Weston Auditorium

Family Weekend Events (cont'd.)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25, 2010

- **ASB Silent Auction continues**
9 a.m.-5 p.m., Hammond Main Lounge
- **Gold Key Breakfast**
Underground, Hammond Building
- **Tailgate Lunch**
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Elliot Field
- **Fun Fair**
11 a.m.-3 p.m. Elliot Field
- **Falcons Football vs. Maine Maritime**
12 p.m. Elliot Field

- **Family Skate and Movie**
2 p.m.-5 p.m. Gaetz Arena and Wallace Civic Center
- **The Improvisational Comedy of Baby Wants Candy**
8 p.m. Weston Auditorium
- **Fraternity and Sorority Social**
10 p.m. Underground Pub/Union Stop Pub

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26, 2010

- **Alumni Awards Banquet**
Noon-2 p.m. Underground Pub
Alumni invited to attend to congratulate outstanding alumni honorees

Call the Alumni Office at 978-665-4555, or visit www.fsc.edu/osd/familyweekend.cfm, for more information on any of these events.

20 Things That Alumni Can Do To Strengthen Fitchburg State College

- 1 Refer a prospective student to Admissions.
- 2 Support Falcon Athletics.
- 3 Host a career day at your business.
- 4 Buy a theater seat at a CenterStage event.
- 5 Host a foreign student for Thanksgiving Dinner.
- 6 Take a Graduate and Continuing Education course.
- 7 Join an Alumni Board of Directors working committee.
- 8 Remember Fitchburg State in your will. (Even 1% of your estate would have a huge impact.)
- 9 Send Fitchburg State current biographical information and a picture for *Contact*.
- 10 Support the Annual Fund Drive. Leverage your gift with a corporate match, if applicable.
- 11 Donate a life insurance policy that you no longer need.
- 12 Visit campus and say hello to a professor who touched your life.
- 13 Support one of our many scholarship funds.
- 14 Be a proud ambassador of Fitchburg State.
- 15 Sponsor our annual Golf Tournament or field a foursome.
- 16 Support our graduates: Attend graduation.
- 17 Suggest that a friend support the Annual Fund Drive.
- 18 Volunteer at our fall Open Houses or spring Accepted Students Day.
- 19 Donate artwork, real property, vehicles, jewelry and/or other valuables to the Fitchburg State College Foundation.
- 20 Make a major gift that transforms the College that we know and love.

Share your story! You can submit news to us online at www.fsc-alumni.org. You can also email updates and photos to contact@fsc.edu or mail them to Fitchburg State College, Alumni Office, 160 Pearl Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

From Fitchburg to Montana: The Journey of Frank Trocki '67

Frank Trocki '69 has a knack for chasing his ambitions.

Born and bred in Boston, Trocki remembers it was "quite a hike" to get to Fitchburg State when he enrolled.

"When I was a freshman at Fitchburg," he recalled, "I said I was going to be a college professor, and I did."

Not too long after reaching that goal, when he took a position at Mississippi State University, he set his sights again.

"I said, someday I'm going to become a college president," he said. "And I did."

Last June, Trocki was named chancellor of Montana State University—Northern in Havre, selected from a field of 68 candidates.

"You take a job like this, you have to be able to jump right away," said Trocki, who was impressed with the faculty, staff and students he met as he was being considered for the post.

Before taking the job in Montana, Trocki, who earned his doctorate in education from West Virginia University, served as president of a manufacturing company and most recently held the post of vice president of business development for Lincoln Educational Services/Lincoln College of Technology in West Orange, N.J.

"It was a great job, but (the college presidency) was an objective of mine," said Trocki, who met his wife, Joan, at Fitchburg State. The former Joan McMillan '70 earned her undergraduate degree in special education from Fitchburg State.

Trocki's resume also includes serving as interim president of the University of Jamaica.

Moving to Montana last summer was quite the shift in landscape and lifestyle. Havre is 40 miles south of the Canadian

border, and when he was visiting campus last summer the sun rose at 3:30 a.m. and set at 10:30 at night.

"It's like Texas, (driving) 200 miles is nothing to them," he said. Havre has a population of 9,000, and the MSU-Northern campus is located downtown.

"It's very sparsely populated, with low crime," he said, adding the local beef is also an attraction.

In taking the post, Trocki vowed to enhance the university and make it affordable and accessible to any student desiring a quality and diverse education. One of the popular courses of study at MSU-Northern is diesel technology, and the school is one of just three universities in the country to offer a four-year major in the subject.

"We have companies coming every week to recruit

our students," Trocki said, noting a thriving cooperative program that includes paid internships to Alaskan gold mining operations. The automotive technology program sends students to Detroit and other car-producing cities.

The university also boasts a biodiesel research center that is developing new fuels.

"All the biofuel we make is produced from local seed," he said. "It's a way of workforce and economic development."

The projects remind Trocki of his studies at Fitchburg State, he said.

"It has the good old industrial arts flow, teaching practical skills up to construction management," he said.

He said he is enjoying his new surroundings and cheering on his new school's teams, which also reflect cultural differences.

"It's great to see a basketball game," Trocki said. "But to see a rodeo match, that's cool."



'41

Dorothy (Hackett) Hunt of Dartmouth recently compiled a cookbook, *G.G. Cooks*, from thousands of recipes collected from friends and family over the years. In addition to recipes, the book also contains tidbits and quotations on food and life.

'50

Norman May spoke at the Townsend Historical Society's annual Pot Luck Supper, where he presented a talk on the history of the Spaulding School and shared some of his experiences there as principal from 1966 to 1986.

'50, '53

Major Thomas Convery (Ret.) has published his fifth book, *I Wish I Could Remember*, detailing two dozen stories of his life both here and abroad. Convery continues his philanthropic ways, donating the proceeds of his book sales to various charitable causes.

'64

Dr. Katherine Enwright, M.Ed., in recognition of her excellent teaching and service to the academic life, has been awarded Granite State College's Distinguished Faculty Award. The Faculty Award recognizes individuals who exemplify a standard of excellence by sharing their knowledge in a challenging and supportive learning environment, demonstrating dedication to the life of the mind, and inspiring lifelong learning in their students.

50TH
REUNION
!

The Class of 1960 will celebrate its 50th reunion on Friday, Sept. 24. This year's Reunion Committee is co-chaired by Frank Worthley Jr. and William Brown, who anticipate one of the largest reunion turnouts in recent history. On Saturday, Sept. 25, all members of the Gold Key Society are invited to attend the annual Gold Key breakfast and induction ceremony of the 1960 class. A detailed schedule will be made available this summer.

'70

Dr. Paul Gagliarducci, superintendent of schools for the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, will retire from the position in June 2009.

'72

Henry P. Ares has announced that he will use his "retirement" years to continue work in the field. His career work includes education, champion of French culture, at-large member of the Gardner City Council, and member of local city government committees.

David Beaulac will be retiring from Nissitissit Middle School in Pepperell. He has been teaching for almost 32 years. He will be spending more time with his grandchild and the rest of his family.

'74

Dennis Marandos is teaching Technical Writing at Daniel Webster College. His amateur radio (ham) call is K1LGQ. He spends much of his free time hiking and biking for long distance commuting. He says Fitchburg State has opened more doors for him than he ever could have imagined.

Catherine (Casey) Meers

has been working as a nurse since 1981, currently on the Geriatric Unit at the Metrowest Medical Center in Natick. She is also pursuing one of her passions, photography, and has recently started selling her work. Catherine is turning her love of nature into cards and prints, and will be happy to share her pictures with fellow alumni.

'75

John Thomas is the new director for the Center for Technical Education at Blackstone Valley Regional Technical School in Upton.

'76

Todd Goodwin is a senior master and chair of the Social Studies department at Applewild School in Fitchburg. Todd and his wife **Laura (Bishop) '77** celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in 2008.

'77

Dr. Thomas Allingham has been named Interim Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

Laura Bishop Goodwin earned a master's degree of divinity from Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto. She is currently the rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in North Grafton.

'80

David Costa, captain, retired from the U.S. Navy on Oct. 24, 2008, in a ceremony held in the Hall of Heroes at The Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Costa was the military assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs and served for more than 28 years in the Navy. Dave and his wife **JoAnn (Parzich) '80** live in Northern Virginia.

'81

Karen (Leopold) Barrows has been promoted to chief of staff in the office of President William Dester at Rochester Institute of Technology. Barrows has been with the president's office since 1998. She lives in Henrietta, N.Y.

'83

Stephen Folan is in his second year of coaching the North Attleboro boys' varsity hockey team. Prior to coaching at NA, Folan coached at Xaverian Brothers High School in Westford for 14 years. He has worked closely with all USA Hockey programs and has coached many select teams that have competed locally and internationally. Folan lives in Mansfield. He was a four-year hockey player at Fitchburg State.

Patricia Lisle '83, '86, of Templeton, a certified operating room nurse, has been a member of medical teams ministering to citizens of the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh and Nicaragua.

Judy Wadland-Tanner received the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors 2008 Advocate of the Year Award.

'84

Ida Tomlin has been appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Detroit Zoological Society. Tomlin is responsible for directing numerous operations of the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo.

'85

Carl Bradshaw, a retired Army lieutenant, is the new city veterans' agent in Attleboro.

'87

Philip Schoenig retired from the U.S. Army after a 28-year military career and has moved back to New England, now residing in Shrewsbury. He is currently the deputy director for the defense contract management agency Space Sensors, and communications operations contract management officer for defiance contractors for Raytheon and Boeing. He is attending the Senior Executive Fellows program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Arthur Smith III recently sold one of his images to an ad agency, Via Group; their client, Kayem Foods of Chelsea, is using the image on a billboard appearing outside Fenway Park and in a print ad to be featured in *Red Sox Magazine*. A recent photo taken by Smith of the Fay Club in Fitchburg was recently featured on the cover of *Discover Fitchburg*, published by the city of Fitchburg. Smith is also involved with a project for Community Health Connections Family Health Center, to attract residents to the area. CHCFHC is a federally funded non-profit

Building the Information Highway: Judith Dumont '86 Laying the Foundation

Access to high-speed Internet service is as vital to economic development as telephones and electricity, says Judith Dumont '86.

"It has become virtually a utility," said Dumont, who was recently named director of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. Gov. Deval L. Patrick formed the quasi-public agency in 2008, its mission being to assess and improve broadband access in the state.

There are more than 40 communities—most in Western Massachusetts—that are underserved or have no high-speed Internet access, Dumont said.

"Our focus has been on providing that Internet backbone that private companies can hook into," she said.

Dumont's agency has used state bonds and federal stimulus funds to help create the infrastructure, mostly in rural areas where there is less incentive by private companies to make the costly investment. Once that infrastructure is in place, however, those companies can come in and establish service. The groundwork is expected to take three years to complete, after which the agency will help foster economic development to capitalize on the new service.



"Once we provide that infrastructure, it opens the door," Dumont said.

Dumont can trace her current role to the classrooms of her alma mater. She studied business and accounting at Fitchburg State, and took a course in the then-new field of management information systems.

"I fell in love with it," said Dumont, who lives in Nahant. "It was that great combination of business and technology. Having the business degree and having that solid business

foundation has just served me so well. Everything involves understanding numbers."

She later earned her Master's degree at Boston University in management information systems, and credits the one course at Fitchburg State for setting her on what became her career path. She spent 18 years working in telecommunications and most recently worked as a consultant for technology companies. Her professional experience implementing complicated projects is a great fit with her role at the Broadband Institute, she said.

"It's been about, 'How do we put this plan together,' and getting it done," she said. "I'm having a ball."

community health center providing medical, dental, behavioral health and low-cost pharmacy services.

'89

Dr. Scott Eaton has been selected as the Athletic Director of Northern Kentucky University. "Scott has demonstrated during his tenure here a deep commitment to the values that have made our intercollegiate athletics program so successful," said NKU President Dr. James Votruba. "When you consider

that every one of our programs advanced to NCAA post-season play last year, and that our student-athletes were among the most accomplished academically, this is an exciting time for Norse athletics. I am confident that with Scott as A.D., this success will continue."

'90

Tina Lorenzen followed her husband Tony to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as he accepted a call to be a minister of a Unitarian Universalist

church. A former elementary school teacher in Littleton, she is now working in the Keller Independent School District.

'91

Army Reserve Maj. Roger J. Govaert has been mobilized and activated for deployment overseas to a forward operating base in Iraq. Govaert, a transportation officer with 20 years of military service, is regularly assigned to the 343rd Military Police Detachment, Fort Dix, Trenton, N.J.

Andrew Gobeil, veteran news anchor and journalist, has joined WLNE-TV/ABC6 in Providence as co-anchor of *Good Morning Providence*. Gobeil, a southern New England native, returns home with his wife, **Maureen (O'Shea) '92** and their two sons, Devin and Jack.

'92

Deborah Plotkin was the keynote speaker at the Mount Wachusett Community College Gardner campus graduation ceremony of 32 new nurses.

'93

Army Major Jason Cullinane has been mobilized and activated for deployment overseas to a forward operating base in Iraq. The major, a psychological operations officer/detachment officer in charge with 18 years of military service, is normally assigned to the 361st Psychological Company, Bothell, Wash.

'94

Diane (Farrell) Castelli has been appointed as chair of the American Telemedicine Association's (ATA) Telehealth Nursing Special Interest Group (SIG) by the AMD Global Telemedicine Inc. Castelli will guide over 250 Telehealth Nursing SIG members on numerous projects worldwide throughout the next two years.

Matt Debenham has been selected as the winner of the 2009 Ohio State University Prize in Short Fiction for his collection, *The Book of Right and Wrong*, which will be published by the OSU Press in the spring of 2010.

John Dervishian is currently a special investigator for the Department of Children and Families. Dervishian, who began his writing as a student

Global Awareness is Key for Jessica (Guiney) Glover '07

Like many Americans, Jessica (Guiney) Glover '07 was shaken by the events of 9/11. She was in high school at the time of the terror attacks and found herself asking questions as the U.S. launched military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq in their aftermath. The questions accompanied her to Fitchburg State College.

"Even though I started out thinking I would become an English teacher, I ended up taking a political science class and found that there was an entire discipline that could help me study, analyze, and attempt to understand academically the political issues I was trying to understand," she recalled. "After

taking what was an introductory course, I was hooked and ended up joining the Political Science department."

Glover's studies sparked a fascination with the Middle East, particularly Egypt.

"In addition to that, I was lucky enough to be part of the Model United Nations team, which provided a myriad of experiences to explore international issues that I had never studied before," she said. She credits then-advisors Eric Budd and Joshua B. Spero for pushing her to take her interests further.

"I studied abroad in Cyprus, interned in Washington, D.C., and eventually applied to graduate school with their encouragement," she said.

Glover is now in her last semester for her Master's degree in Middle East Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. During her graduate studies she has continued to conduct research abroad.

"I traveled to Israel and the West Bank, living in Ramallah for a summer, to study the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In addition, I was awarded a scholarship to study Arabic in Morocco this past summer via the State Department. After that, another government scholarship allowed me to live in Cairo for four months learning Arabic and examining protest behavior in Egypt," Glover said.



"The research I conducted in Cairo is a direct link back to my senior seminar at Fitchburg State—which, along with an independent history study—gave me the baseline to even put forth a competitive application. There's no way I would have gotten these amazing opportunities were it not for those pivotal experiences and people I met at Fitchburg State."

She credits her undergraduate experiences for laying the foundation for success in graduate school, from the coursework to the spirit of dedication and service she observed in the work ethic of students a faculty.

"Whether a group of students wanted to start a new club, invite a guest speaker to Fitchburg State, or plan an event—there were ways to make these things happen," Glover said. "At Fitchburg State, I learned to strive, set high goals, and do my best to achieve them."

As the recipient of the David L. Boren Fellowship, also known as the National Security Education Program, Glover will be required to serve at least one year in the federal government after graduating.

"America is in a really challenging place now, domestically given our economic crisis, and also globally," said Glover, who is married to fellow Fitchburg State alumnus Matt Glover '06. "I'm hopeful that the area expertise I've developed can be put to good use."

at Fitchburg State College, has continued to write poetry as a means of expression. With the encouragement of **Dianne Chalifour '93, Dervishian** recently published his first poetry publication, *Purification: Cleansing of a Contaminated Soul*.

David Jurewicz was the recipient of the Massachusetts Technology/Engineering Collaborative Program of the Year award. Jurewicz is now eligible for a national Program Excellent award from the International Technology Education Association of Reston, Va.

'95

Kyle Reagan has been named Associated Builders & Contractors of Massachusetts chapter chairman for 2010. Former state chairman Roy Greenwald states, "When Kyle says he will do something, it gets done. So stand back."

Major Pedro Rosario III, Army Reserve, has been mobilized and activated for deployment overseas in a forward operating base in Iraq. Rosario, an operation officer with 15 years of military service, is regularly assigned to the 12th Psychological Operations Battalion, Mountain View, Calif.

'96

John Conroy has joined the Kinlin Grover GMAC Real Estate Office, in Wellfleet, as a sales associate.

'97

Richard Harding was elected to the Cambridge school committee in November.

Jeri (Kennedy) Bannister received her bachelor's of science and master's of science in music education from Ithaca College School of Music. She presently teaches in Northfield-

Mt. Herman School, Greenfield Public Schools, Greenfield Community College, Erving Elementary School and the Valley Community Music School. She is a member of the Pioneer Valley Symphony, Commonwealth Opera Orchestra and performs regularly with many ensembles in New England on clarinet or trombone.

'99

Sean Devereaux supervised visual effects on the *The Proposal*, a film which premiered during the summer of 2009. Sandra Bullock plays a high-powered executive who is forced to pretend she is engaged to her assistant. The movie was filmed almost entirely in the North Shore, but is set in Alaska. As a result, there are 350 special effect shots. Sean currently works for a company called Brickyard VFX.

'04

Suzanne Clark is a graphic arts instructor at Stevens-Henager College in Boise, Idaho, and was recently promoted to Department Chair.

Kimberly A. Maxwell '04 and **Daniel W. Paquette '04** were married on June 28, 2008. Kimberly is a teacher for students with autism at Lambert Lavoie School in Chicopee. Daniel is a history teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

'05

Geoffrey Bloom is a graphic designer for EH Publishing in Framingham, in the trade show division. Bloom designs trade show materials, from postcards to signage, brochures and magazine ads. Previously, Bloom worked for That's My Ticket, creating products for MLB, NHL and NASCAR, with many products sold in sporting goods stores at Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium and more. Bloom

Panteha Sanati '07 Shares Her Odyssey from Iran to America in Published Memoir

Panteha Sanati '07 imagines the opportunities she would have been deprived of had her family not emigrated from Iran more than 20 years ago.

At the very least, the outspoken and outgoing Sanati certainly could not have written recently published book, *Under a Papery Roof: A Memoir About Life in Post-Revolutionary Iran and Exile*.

The book began as a thesis during Sanati's days at Fitchburg State. She gave it renewed attention after the violence that erupted in the wake of Iranian elections last year. The memoir was published in November by VDM as an academic volume.

Under a Papery Roof describes the impact of the Iranian revolution of 1979 on that country's economic growth and civil liberties. Secular traditions were lost beneath Islamic edicts, Sanati said, and thousands of Iranians fled the country in fear of political and religious persecution.

Sanati's family was among them. With her mother and sisters, she went first to

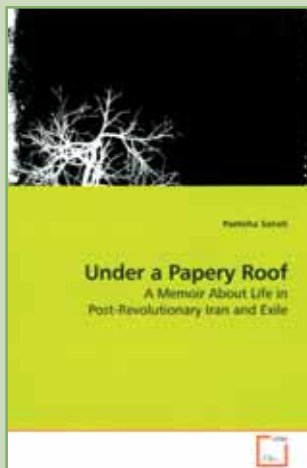
Switzerland and England before settling in the U.S. in 1986. In 2003, Sanati and her partner came to Massachusetts.

When she arrived at Fitchburg State, she found a rigorous curriculum and demanding teachers.

"Those were the best days," she said, recalling her studies under professors including Patrice Gray, Margarite Landry and Aruna Krishnamurthy. The key to success is applying oneself, she said, adding she found the harder she worked, the more she received from her studies.

She is now teaching at the college level herself. Sanati joined the faculty at Massasoit Community College in 2008, and teaches a number of English courses.

"I'm a nurturer. I like to give back," she said. "I'm an agnostic. The closest I've come to spirituality is when I get my students to question, to open the possibilities for them. I can't imagine doing anything else. I would do it for free."



lives in Waltham with his fiancée, Amy Flagg.

Paul Coyne is the supervising producer of a new television series, *Homeland Security USA*, which debuted on Jan. 6, 2009, on ABC. The show follows the Department of Homeland Security as it works to stop the flow of drugs and more into the country.

Paula Graham, wellness instructor at Coolidge Middle School in Reading, has been named 2008 middle school teacher of the year by the Massachusetts Association of Health, Physical Education and Dance.

Robert Harris recently presented State Sen. Stephen M. Brewer with a portrait of the statesman. Harris teaches art at Gardner Middle School and lives in Petersham.

'06

Walter Mahoney is an environmental engineer with the Louis Berger Group, Inc., consulting engineers in civil, energy and environmental fields. He is primarily responsible for the design of wastewater treatment facilities, including the Narragansett Bay Commission Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) abatement project and a treatment facility in Karbala, Iraq.

'07

Melissa Ray of Shirley has been named legislative and constituent services director in the district offices of State Sen. Jennifer Flanagan (D-Leominster).

Ashlie (Kauffman) Swicker is an elementary teacher in Leominster and is working towards a graduate degree in Early Childhood Education at Fitchburg State.

'09

Eric Luongo is a laboratory technician at the Toxikon Corporation, in the In-Vitro Cell/Hematology department.

Teri, Oggi, Domani

The Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State celebrates its first 10 years

Amelia Gallucci-Cirio's vision was as strong as that of her forebears, who boldly set out to discover new worlds centuries ago. In the case of the 1938 graduate of Fitchburg State, her dream to establish a place to honor the impact and influence of Italian culture and western civilization became a reality a decade ago through her philanthropy, with the creation of the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State College.

On Oct. 16, 2010, during Italian Heritage month, the CIC will celebrate its first 10 years with a gala dinner event, "*Teri, Oggi, Domani*" (translation: yesterday, today, tomorrow).

The evening will showcase student activities and language and cultural programming supported by the CIC. Proceeds will benefit scholarships for students pursuing further studies of Italian heritage in the United States or abroad in Italy. Additional celebration events will include an exhibition by Jules Aarons, "The Photographs of Boston's North End," as well as a three-part series called "Remembering Galileo," with a presentation of Bertolt Brecht's play, "The Life of Galileo," and the Emmy-award winning NOVA documentary "Galileo's Battle for the Heavens," based on the book *Galileo's Daughter*; and concluding with a talk by Dava Sobel, author of *Galileo's Daughter*. The book is based on 124 surviving letters to Galileo from his eldest child. Ms. Sobel translated the letters from the original Italian and used them to elucidate Galileo's life work. *Galileo's Daughter* won the 1999 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for science and technology, a 2000 Christopher Award, and was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in biography.

For the CIC's benefactress, the month-long celebration is a fitting tribute to her heritage as well as a milestone achievement for the center.

"Thanks to Amelia Gallucci-Cirio's continued generosity, the college's Center for Italian Culture has become one of this region's most valuable resources for promoting an appreciation of Italian language, culture, and history," said Anna Mazzaferro, chairwoman of the CIC.

The Center aims to encourage the understanding and appreciation of all aspects of Italian language and culture, including ancient and contemporary studies, and the Italian experience in America. It hosts a cultural series and

Italian language courses, and provides academic programs, scholarships and a summer study program in Italy.

A Connecticut native, Gallucci-Cirio came to Fitchburg State when it was known as Fitchburg Teachers College because she had family in the area. After graduation, she started teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in Connecticut. She continued teaching in various schools for 15 years, with a year off to earn a master's degree from Boston University in 1947.

In 1952, she met and married Henry Aldo Cirio, an Italian businessman who took her to Italy for their honeymoon. The newlyweds lived outside Rome for two years, then returned to the United States. They moved to Phoenix, where they began a successful career in real estate. Before Henry's death in 1993, the couple returned to Europe each summer to indulge their passion for art and culture. In 1994, Amelia returned again to Italy, where she scattered her husband's ashes over the Apennines Mountains in the Abbruzzi region, "the birthplace of Ovid, the great Roman statesman," as Amelia often notes.



Editor's Note: As this issue of Contact was going to press, the Fitchburg State campus community was saddened to hear of Gallucci-Cirio's death. Gallucci-Cirio spent her final years in Phoenix, where she supported many philanthropic efforts including Fitchburg State and the CIC.

"I hope to further cement Fitchburg State's reputation as a leading center for the study of Italian heritage, and to provide opportunities for students of all ages who want to learn more about our history and culture," she said this spring.

A more in-depth look at Gallucci-Cirio's incomparable legacy at the college will be featured in the next edition of Contact.



In Memoriam

Arlene Cross '29 at 100

Arlene E. (Demmon) Cross, a member of the Class of 1929 of the then Fitchburg Normal School, passed away at the age of 100, on Dec. 29, 2009, in Leominster.

Cross was believed to be the oldest living alumna of Fitchburg State College.

Cross taught for several years in Vermont and in Massachusetts before becoming a laboratory technician. She then served in W.A.V.E.S., the women's branch of the U.S. Navy during World War II. Cross' three other siblings also served during the war: Philip in the Air Force, and twin sisters Priscilla and Isabel, serving in the SPARS, the women's branch of the Coast Guard, and the Army Nurse Corps.

Cross was an artist and pianist and active member of the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Leominster and a close friend of Fitchburg State Professor Diana Suskind, who often brought students to visit Cross at home.

In Memoriam

1920s

Julia Harrington '28
of Fall River, on Jan. 12, 2009

1930s

Emile Johnson, Sr. '35
of Leominster, on Sept. 30, 2009

Mary (Collins) Lund '36
of Fall River, on May 16, 2009

Beulah (Mitchell) Pettee '39
of White River Junction, Vt. on Aug. 8, 2008

1940s

Gertrude (Hermanson) Carll '42
of Westminster, on April 26, 2009

Thelma (Anderson) Cousins '43
of Leominster, on Oct. 14, 2008

Onerva Lovejoy '41
of Fitchburg, on June 8, 2008

Kathryn (Huot) Ruby '44
of Fort Myers, Fla., on May 26, 2009

Helvi Wintturi '40
of Westminster, on Dec. 21, 2008

1950s

Leonard Fougere '51
of North Chatham, on Oct. 17, 2008

Margot (Morin) Gillis '58
of Lunenburg, on Aug. 6, 2008

Erling Hanson '51
of Lunenburg, on July 22, 2009

Susan J. Kerr '51
of Vero Beach, Fla., on Dec. 28, 2009

Margaret Anne (Jones) Mahoney '56
of Maynard, on Feb. 7, 2009

Norma Pettigrew '54
of Andover, on Jan. 7, 2009

Carl Sector '50
of Muncie, Ind., on Jan. 12, 2010

Kenneth Stone, Sr. '50
of Holliston, on Oct. 13, 2009

1960s

Thomas Allen Jr. '65
of West Sand Lake, N.Y., on Jan. 20, 2009

Benjamin Botbol '67
of Georgetown, Texas, on Nov. 10, 2008

Martha Chapin '67
of Ashburnham, on Feb. 7, 2009

Richard Leo 'Dick' Cocci '62
of Lake Suxy, Fla., on Dec. 31, 2009

Donald Gillis '63
of Lunenburg, on Feb. 6, 2009

Shirley Hatch Griffin '61
of Shirley, on Feb. 19, 2009

Mary Anne (Sztucinski) Maxim '63
of Leominster, on Dec. 24, 2008

Paul Maynard '64
of Pepperell, on Jan. 6, 2009

Margaret Taylor '69
of Osterville, on Sept. 16, 2009

Richard Vivolo '67
of Winthrop, on March 12, 2009

Charlotte (Gilchrist) Waterman, MED '62
of Westminster, on March 1, 2009

1970s

William Abruzzese Jr. '73
of Worcester, on April 20, 2009

Jean (Savinen) Benson '71
of Marlboro, on Feb. 2, 2009

Bette A. Brown '79
of Sandown, Oct. 25, 2009

Alan Champagne '74
of Andover, on Feb. 17, 2009

Linda J. Fall '71
of Chelmsford, on Jan. 24, 2010

Gail (Possiel) Forshage '74
of San Jose, Calif., formerly of Winchendon,
on Feb. 18, 2009

Robert Harris '73
of Salem, on Feb. 16, 2009

Barbara (Burns) Hevey '74
of Methuen, on Sept. 22, 2009

Edward Johnson '75
of Woburn, on Jan. 10, 2009

Suzanne (Dunphy) Kruger '76
of Shalimer, Fla., on Nov. 1, 2008

Edward Lantry '74
of Lunenburg, on Sept. 29, 2008

Anne MacRae '76
of Watertown, on Feb. 20, 2009

Emily (Sullivan) Scott '75
of Holden, formerly of Westerly, R.I.
on Feb. 4, 2009

Daniel Stefanilo '77
of Uxbridge, on Feb. 21, 2009

Jonathan Watkins '74
of Hubbardston, on June 13, 2009.

1980s

Paul Carnzza '82, of Hopedale
formerly of Worcester,
on Feb. 11, 2009

Kathleen (O'Malley) McGrail '87
of Clinton, on May 22, 2009

Wallace Renton Jr. '81
of Bridgewater, on Dec. 7, 2008

Daniel Stefanilo '78
of Uxbridge, on February 25, 2009

1990s

Mary Colburn '92
of Carlisle, on August 31, 2009

Friends of Fitchburg State

Dr. Irene Harris, former chairwoman
of the English Department, on Dec. 29,
2008, at home in West Hyannisport.

An Evening with

Judy
Collins

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 7 PM

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JAMES "SUPERHARP" COTTON

Saturday, November 6

CANTUS

Sunday, December 5

HARRY MANX

Saturday, February 5

THE KLEZMATICS

Saturday, April 16

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For 30 years, the foundation has helped ensure that students have access to quality education at Fitchburg State College.

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The Fitchburg State College Foundation thanks all those who helped make this year's event another success.

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