
Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 - Volume 9, Issue 7

Students bound for Moot Court nationals

Fitchburg State will send at least two students to the national competition of the American Collegiate Moot Court tournament in Florida in January following their performance at the regional qualifying contest this month.

The campus hosted nearly 100 student competitors and more than 80 members of the local legal community served as judges during the regional tournament.

Matthew Murphy of Milton, a junior majoring in political science, and Riley Grinkis of Gardner, a senior majoring in criminal justice will compete in the nationals at Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando. Those teams that made it to the regional quarterfinals advance to the national tournament, while Murphy and Grinkis won two additional rounds beyond that mark.



Fitchburg State's moot court teams (from left to right), front row: Crystal Aneke, Theresa Klobucher, Kajahna Matos, Riley Grinkis, Lauren Poirier, Sean O'Halloran-Ciccolo and Matthew Murphy; back row: Matthew Badagliacca, Benjamin Butkus, Webster Bokoo, William Travers, William Cooney, and Alexander Ramos.

"We compete against some very elite schools and more than hold our own," said Professor Paul Weizer, the longtime coach of the university's moot court team. "Matt and Riley will be a serious force at nationals."

[Read more](#)

Community gathers to share input for ideaLab

Members of the campus and wider communities got their first look at the ideaLab in the Main Street Theater Block this month during a "think tank" designed to brainstorm possible uses of the site.

President Lapidus and Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale were on hand to welcome the guests, who broke out into groups to discuss what they would like to see take place at the ideaLab, as well as ways to boost perceptions of the city's downtown corridor.

The information collected during the think tank will be compiled into a report for later distribution.



Cloutier to be honored at State House

University Police Chief Michael J. Cloutier was named a 2018 recipient of the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service. This award, named for the late secretary of human services and selected by the governor, is presented to just 10 state employees each year who exemplify the highest standards of public service.

The statewide distinction recognizes exceptional accomplishments; exemplary leadership; creativity and innovation; and achievement of significant improvements in productivity or cost savings in agency operations.

"Chief Cloutier, a member of our campus community since 2014, certainly embodies those attributes," President Lapidus said. "As a first-generation college student, his drive and perseverance helped him achieve career success by overcoming some of the same early challenges many of today's students experience."



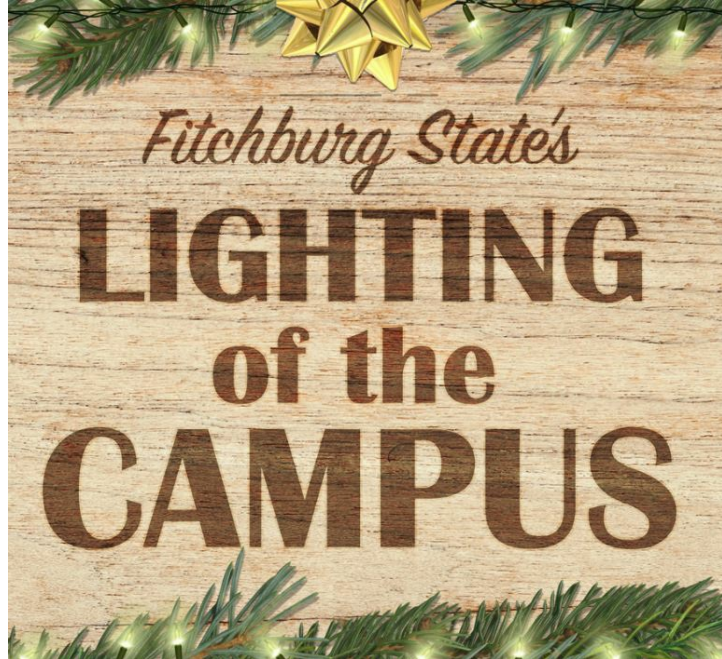
The chief is also credited with transforming the university's emergency management operations and planning with proactive strategies and tactics. He also has demonstrated an unfailing commitment to creating and delivering new awareness and violence prevention programming.

"In short," President Lapidus said, "he exemplifies all that makes our university so unique."

The chief will be recognized along with other recipients at the State House in December.

Be part of Lighting of the Campus this Thursday, Nov. 29

The university's annual Lighting of the Campus will take place at **4:30 p.m. Thursday** at the Highland Plaza gazebo. The festivities begin at 3:30 p.m. with attractions including food and hay rides.



Resident Assistant applications due

Do you know students who would be interested in working as resident assistants in the 2019-20 school year? Applications are now being reviewed, and the deadline is **today**. Please direct any interested students to the [online application](#), and direct any questions to housing@fitchburgstate.edu.

Reminder: occupational/vocational webinar Dec. 5

A free [webinar](#) about Fitchburg State University's occupational/vocational education degree programs will be held at **3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5**. Visit <http://info.fitchburgstate.edu/voced> for more information or to register.

The webinar will discuss requirements and curriculum, admissions and application requirements and more. Fitchburg State offers a Master of Education in occupational education; a Bachelor of Science in occupational/vocational education; and a vocational teacher approval program.



Registrants for the webinar will have their admission application fee waived.

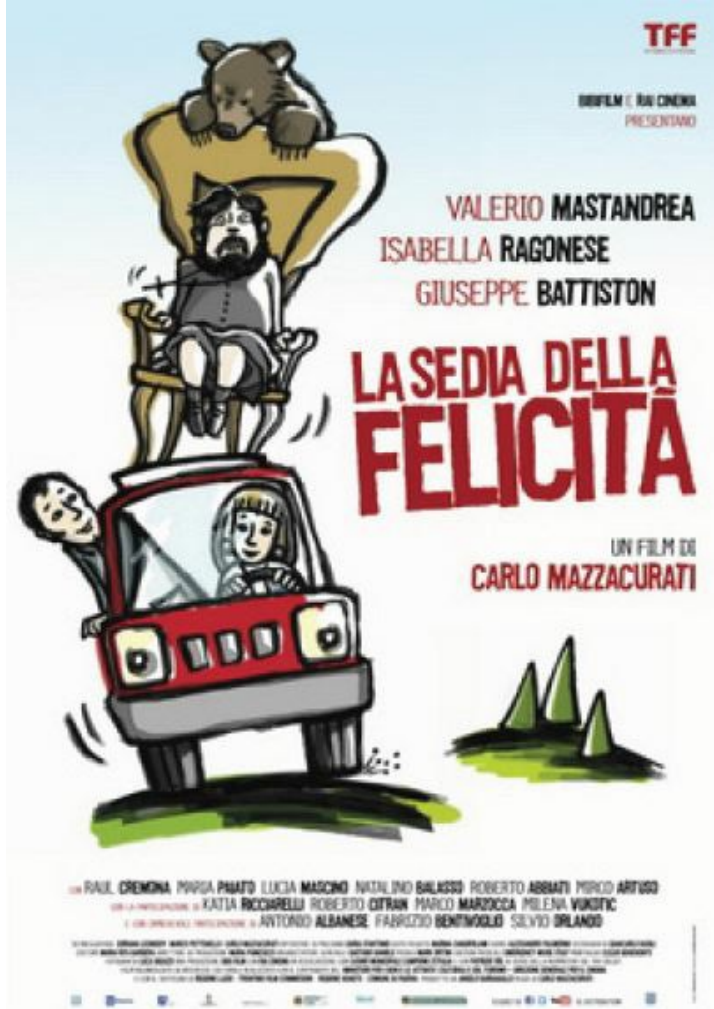
Reminder: Italian film series continues Tuesday night

The university's contemporary Italian film series continues this week with a screening of the film "The Chair of Happiness (La sedia della felicità)" at **7 p.m. tomorrow** in the Randall Lecture Hall in the Antonucci Science Complex.

In the film, directed by Carlo Mazzacurati, a quest to find a lucky chair with a hidden treasure brings an unlikely couple around the Veneto region trying to persuade the chair owners that

they don't really need them. A magician, a greedy priest, industrious immigrated entrepreneurs, a grumpy fishmonger and a shepherd in the alps are some of the characters the couple find in their pursuit of happiness.

The screening is sponsored by The Education Office of the Consulate General of Italy, Boston, facilitated by the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State. Professor Rala Diakite (Humanities) will introduce the film, and admission is free.



Community Read continues Thursday with book discussion

The [Community Read](#) of Celeste Ng's *Everything I Never Told You* continues at **5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29** with a "Books and Brews" discussion at the River Styx brewery at 166 Boulder Drive. All are invited to this informal discussion of the novel, for which copies are available in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

Community Read programming for the spring semester is still taking shape, but keep an eye out for events on campus and in the community surrounding Ng's novel and the themes it explores.



Speakers Series tackles "fake news" on Monday, Dec. 3

The university's Speakers Series will continue at **12:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3** with a talk by **Professors Kyle Moody and J.J. Sylvia** (Communications Media) entitled "Fake News and Cyber Agents: Understanding the Role of Social Media in Today's Political Communication."

The presentation will be in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. Refreshments will be served.

CenterStage and cultural events

The magic of the holidays begins at Fitchburg State when the celebrated five-man a cappella group Rockapella returns to campus for a seasonal show at **8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.



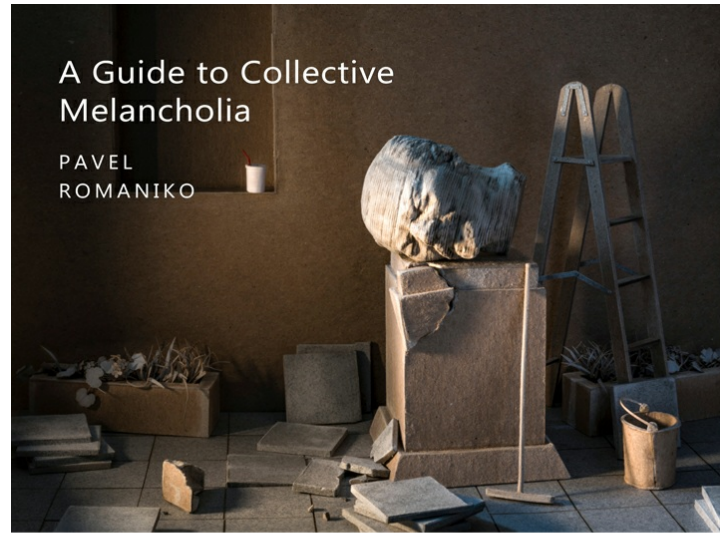
Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$25 for Fitchburg State alumni, seniors and staff; and \$5 for students.

Tickets can be ordered [online](https://fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage) at fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage or at the Weston Box Office.

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery and the Conlon Hall Media Wall: Pavel Romaniko

"A Guide to Collective Melancholia," featuring the work of artist [Pavel Romaniko](#), will be featured in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery and the Conlon Hall Media Wall through December 28.

Pavel Romaniko was born outside of Moscow, Russia, in 1980 and came to the United States at the age of 17. Romaniko completed a BA in Studio Arts from Northwestern College in Saint Paul, Minnesota (2002), and an MFA in Imaging Arts from the Rochester Institute of Technology (2009). Recent solo exhibitions include Nostalgia at Harriman Institute at Columbia, New York, Tyler Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College; Art Center, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA, and Glory at Gallery Kunstler, Booksmart Studio, Rochester, N.Y. His work has been featured as part of Museum of Contemporary Photography Midwest Photographers project. He is currently on faculty at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

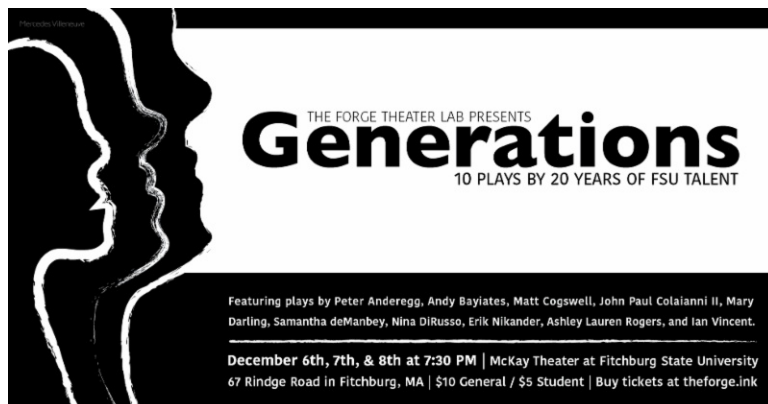


Hammond Hall Art Gallery & Conlon Hall Media Wall
NOVEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 28

Artist Talk & Reception | Hammond Hall Art Gallery
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 3:30 PM

Plays by university faculty and alumni to be performed in December

The [Forge Theater Lab](#), a newly-formed alumni theater company dedicated to developing and producing new plays, will spotlight comedic and dramatic plays by Fitchburg State alumni and faculty in "Generations: 10 Plays by 20 Years of Fitchburg State Talent" in December.



Performances will be at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6;**

Friday, Dec. 7 and **Saturday, Dec. 8** at the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Admission is \$10 for the public and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance online at theforge.ink.

Featured playwrights include Peter Anderegg, Andy Baiyates, Matt Cogswell, John Paul Colaiani II, Mary Darling, Samantha deManbey, Nina DiRusso, Erik Nikander, Ashley Lauren

Rogers, and Ian Vincent.

University instrumental ensembles perform in December

The Fitchburg State Jazz Band will present its winter concert at **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5** in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Concert Band and Orchestra will take the stage at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6** in Weston Auditorium. That show is also free and open to the public.

University and high school voices combine for Choral Kaleidoscope Monday, Dec. 10

Fitchburg State's choral ensembles will be joined by voices from several area high schools at the "Choral Kaleidoscope" concert at **7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10** at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Admission is free and open to the public.



The show will feature more than 100 voices, with the university Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and the student-run a cappella ensemble, Harmonic Velocity, being joined by the Gardner High School Select Choir, the Fitchburg High School Concert Choir and the Narragansett Regional High School Concert Chorus.

"The Choral Kaleidoscope concert, which is now an annual tradition here at Fitchburg State, is a wonderful opportunity to hear so many different groups and styles all in one performance," said Professor Jonathan Harvey, who conducts the university's choral program.

Selections for the show include everything from pop to classical to jazz to gospel to Renaissance, from the U.S., Germany, Kenya, Italy, England, and Canada.

"It also runs the gamut from some of the most famous music ever written, such as Handel's "Messiah," to never-recorded works by several unheralded women composers and composers of color," said Harvey.

For more information, please visit fitchburgstate.edu/music.

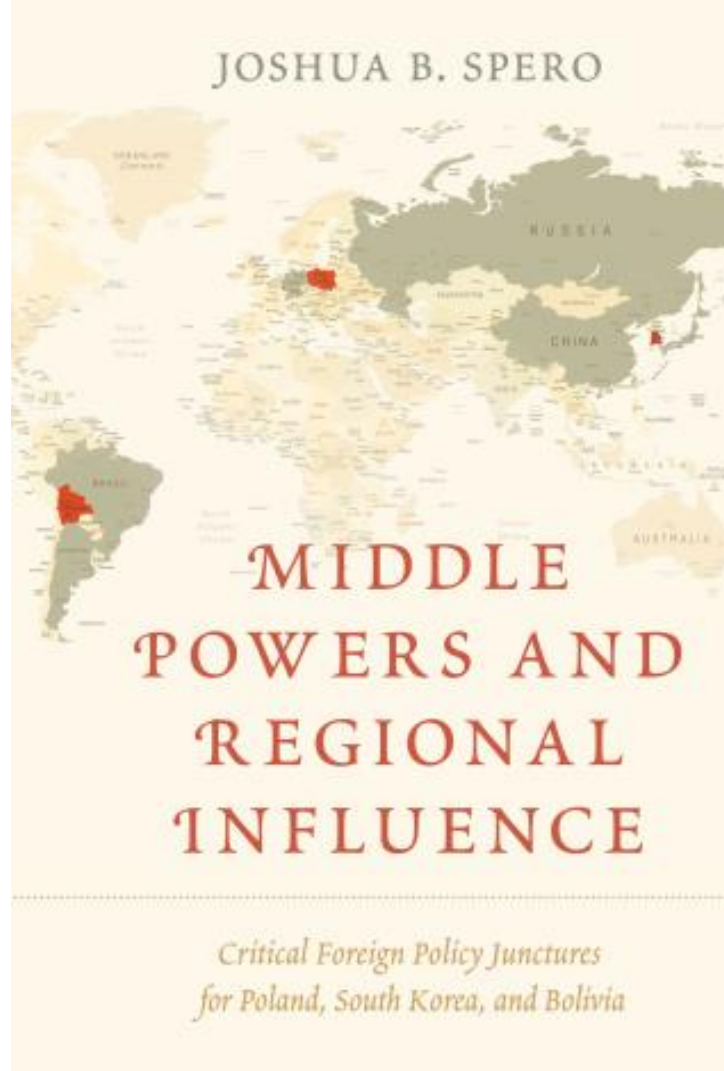
Faculty notes

Joshua Spero's (Economics, History and Political Science) new book, *Middle Powers and Regional Influence: Critical Foreign Policy Junctures for Poland, South Korea and Bolivia* (Rowman & Littlefield International, London) was published this month. He gratefully acknowledges the university community for its support, particularly during his research semester's sabbatical and in preparation for his Harrod Lecture. Spero's book analyzes why middle power impact matters, not only regionally for stronger, dominant greater power neighbors, but also for transformative middle power leaderships which proved pivotal geopolitically for their region's challenges and changes.

Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) was asked to rejoin the Executive Council of the Northeastern Political Science Association as 2nd vice president. In that capacity he will help the program chair plan next year's conference, and then as 1st vice president/program chair will plan the 2020 conference in Boston. After that conference, he will be the association's president, which will be just the second time in the organization's 50-year history that a former president had a second term.

Budd also gave a dinner talk entitled "Conflict: Its Origins, Resolution and Reconciliation" at the Monadnock Inn in Jaffrey, N.H. earlier this month.

J.J. Sylvia (Communications Media) was published in the edited collection *Research Methods for the Digital Humanities*. His chapter, "Code/Art Approaches to Data Visualization" uses the project *Aperveillance: Watching with Open Data* as a case study for artistic approaches to data visualization afforded by the iterative and generative nature of coding. More information on the book can be found [here](#).



Save the date: Winter Commencement Friday, Dec. 21

The Winter Commencement ceremony will be held at **6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21** at the Athletics and Recreation Center, where undergraduate and graduate degrees will be conferred.



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