
Fitchburg State University Today

Monday, Feb. 13, 2017 - Volume 7, Issue 11

Vote for next year's Community Read

The Community Read steering committee is looking for feedback from the campus concerning the book that will be featured in academic year 2017-18. [Voting](#) on the book is open until **Friday, Feb. 17**.

The books under consideration are:

- *The Girls of Atomic City*, by Denise Kiernan. The true story of Oak Ridge, Tenn., a secret city founded during World War II to help create fuel for the atomic bomb. Oak Ridge didn't appear on any maps, but thousands of workers moved there during the war, enticed by good wages and war-ending work. Their jobs were shrouded in mystery, but the workers - many of them young, single and female - were excited to be 'all in the same boat,' buoyed by a sense of shared purpose. But these hardworking young women also faced unexpected challenges.... Through it all, day in and day out, nobody knew what they were working on, only that they had been told it would help end the war. The secret wasn't out until after the first atomic bomb, powered by uranium enriched in Oak Ridge's massive factories, fell on Hiroshima, Japan. Today, Oak Ridge and the other Manhattan Project sites continue to carry the legacy of helping to make the first atomic bomb a reality.
- *The Good Lord Bird*, by James McBride. Henry Shackleford is a young slave living in the Kansas Territory in 1857, when the region is a battleground between anti- and pro-slavery forces. When John Brown, the legendary abolitionist, arrives in the area, an argument between Brown and Henry's master quickly turns violent. Henry is forced to leave town-with Brown, who believes he's a girl. Over the ensuing months, Henry - whom Brown nicknames Little Onion - conceals his true identity as he struggles to stay alive. Eventually Little Onion finds himself with Brown at the historic raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859-one of the great catalysts for the Civil War. An absorbing mixture of history and imagination, and told with McBride's meticulous eye for detail and character, *The Good Lord Bird* is both a rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival.
- *Undocumented*, by Dan-el Padilla Peralta. An undocumented immigrant's journey from a New York City homeless shelter to the top of his Princeton class, where he made the momentous decision to come out as an undocumented student in a Wall Street Journal profile a few months before he gave the salutatorian's traditional address in Latin at his commencement.
- *Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie: A Tale of Love and Fallout*, by Lauren Redniss. *Radioactive* is the visual journey into the life of Marie Curie, as told through the dazzling collage style of acclaimed author and artist Lauren Redniss. A brilliant visual storyteller, Redniss has hand-designed more than 100 color collages to tell Curie's story, fascinating in its scientific significance and its sometimes whimsical, sometimes haunting mix of romance and intrigue. Bringing together archival photos, images, and clippings with dazzling line drawings and a compelling narrative, *Radioactive* is far more than just an art book or a graphic novel: It is a stunning visual biography and a true work of art. *Radioactive* draws on Redniss's original reporting in Asia, Europe and the United States, her interviews



with scientists, engineers, weapons specialists, atomic bomb survivors, and Marie and Pierre Curie's own granddaughter.

For additional details about the books and to cast your vote, [click here](#).

Community Read events resume this week

The spring's [Community Read](#) events exploring themes in author Robert Putnam's *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* begin with an inter-generational community panel discussion at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 16** at the Leominster Public Library, 30 West St., Leominster. The panel will feature area high school students and community members discussing the American dream and whether it is still achievable for all. Local high school students are creating entries for an essay contest on the topic, and the winners will be invited to participate in the event.

A look back at the Market Basket boycott of 2014 will be held at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 22** at Ellis White Lecture Hall at Hammond Hall on the Fitchburg State campus, 160 Pearl St., including a short documentary by Fitchburg State Professor Kevin McCarthy. The event will also include in-person testimonies from Market Basket employees and veterans of the boycott.

Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis is a New York Times bestseller and "a passionate, urgent" (The New Yorker) examination of growing social inequality in the United States. Putnam's volume offers a personal and authoritative look at a new American crisis where a growing "opportunity gap" has emerged over the past 25 years. The crisis challenges the traditional assumption that Americans who have talent and try hard will succeed.

The programming continues with a movie marathon starting at 11 a.m. **Saturday, March 4** at the Leominster Public Library, 30 West St., Leominster. The Mount Wachusett Community College Humanities Project will present the films *Modern Times* (1936) and *The Devil and Miss Jones* (1941). The films will be introduced by Fitchburg State Professor Joseph Moser, who will also lead a post-screening discussion. Lunch will be provided and registration is required. Visitors may register by visiting the library website or by calling 978-534-7522. This event is co-sponsored by the Community Read and the Leominster Public Library.

There will be a community discussion of the book at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 8** at the Fitchburg Public Library, 610 Main St. Another discussion will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 22** at the Lunenburg Public Library, 1023 Massachusetts Ave., Lunenburg, co-sponsored by the library and the Lunenburg Council on Aging, led by Fitchburg State Professor David Weiss.

Author Robert Putnam will present a keynote lecture

Market Basket workers fight for their American dream—featuring a short film screening and panel discussion with Kevin McCarthy, FSU Professor, and Market Basket Fitchburg Store #14 employees Peggy Proietti, Jim St. Cyr, Adiel Silva, and Alex Luna Rodriguez.

**WEDNESDAY
Feb. 22 at 6:30 PM**

Ellis White Auditorium
in Hammond Hall

**FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY**

This event is part of the 2016-17
COMMUNITY READ PROGRAM for
Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis
BY ROBERT PUTNAM

at 7 p.m. **Tuesday, April 4** at Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public.

Throughout the Community Read, which began last fall, the campus and wider audience is invited to explore Putnam's book and the topics it raises. All of the Community Read events are free and open to the public.

The university recently received a grant for \$3,000 from Mass Humanities to support its Community Read programming. Mass Humanities grants inspire considered thought, conversation and action through the humanities. See more about the work Mass Humanities does to improve civic life in Massachusetts at masshumanities.org.



OUR KIDS

The American Dream
in Crisis

ROBERT D. PUTNAM
author of *Bowling Alone*

Faculty talk on disease modeling Thursday, Feb. 16

Benjamin Levy (Mathematics) will give a talk on disease modeling at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 16** in Thompson Hall room 113. The talk is open to the campus.

Infectious disease modeling is an interesting interdisciplinary topic that combines concepts from mathematics and biology. One can use mathematical techniques to model a disease outbreak in order to make future projections, consider intervention strategies, or consider other key characteristics of an epidemic.

This presentation will begin by introducing the common framework used to model infectious diseases which will be illustrated by some simple models. After laying the groundwork, a specific application to modeling ebola virus disease will be presented where the role that education plays in preventing/limiting future outbreak is evaluated.

Alumni Association hosting Brand Yourself conference Feb. 16

The Fitchburg State University Alumni Association is hosting its third skill-building, career preparation conference for students who are at the threshold of the often-dreaded job search.

The [Brand Yourself](#) conference is set for **Thursday, Feb. 16** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Hammond Main Lounge. Students will have the opportunity to network with alumni professionals from various backgrounds and disciplines and join them afterwards for dinner with a

presentation by etiquette consultant, Janet L. Parnes. The goal is to put action-oriented immediately applicable information into students' hands to help them confidently prepare for a successful life after graduation.

BRAND YOURSELF

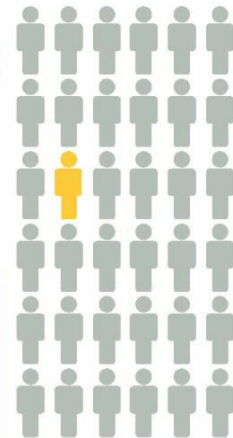
STUDENT & ALUMNI NETWORKING
+ ETIQUETTE DINNER

THURS., FEB. 16, 2017

5:30 – 8:30 PM

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
MAIN LOUNGE, HAMMOND HALL

\$10 TO ATTEND, LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE



Brand Yourself is being presented in partnership with the Student Government Association, Business Society, Housing & Residential Services, Student Development, International Education,

and Expanding Horizons.

The conference costs \$10 to attend and seating is limited. All participants will be entered into a raffle for the chance to win prizes. Students must register online in advance at support.fitchburgstate.edu/brandyourself.

CDI, library present "Coffee, Cake and True Islam" on Feb. 23

The Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness and the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library will present "Coffee, Cake and True Islam" at 5 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 23** in the main lounge of Hammond Hall.

The program has been developed with the Amhadiyya Muslim Community and is designed to be an open-minded conversation, with an opportunity for questions and answers with the audience.



Join us for an open-minded conversation about Islam.
Discuss issues, ask questions, receive answers.

When: Thursday, February 23 at 5:00pm

Where: Main Lounge Hammond Hall

Sponsored by the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness, Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library and Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Harrod Lecture series continues in February

The Harrod Lecture series continues **Tuesday, Feb. 28** when Professor Joshua Spero presents "Bridging South America's Divide: Indigenous Ruling Bolivia" in Presidents' Hall in the Mazzaferro Center.

The historic election of Bolivia's first indigenous Indian president that democratically swept Juan Evo Morales Ayma to power witnessed a critical juncture in the country's foreign policy from 2006-2009. The lecture presents an overview of the first presidential term's crucial juncture broadly by Morales and his small team who created Bolivia's pivotal middle power status regionally.

To understand Bolivia's nascent pivotal middle power role, the lecture explores how the Morales Administration re-framed Bolivia's foreign policy in the heart of South America and geopolitically redefined ties to Bolivia's two stronger, domineering major power neighbors - Brazil and Argentina - building transformative "bridging" foreign policy, shifting Bolivia away from its historically subjugated state to longer-term regional middle power player.

BRIDGING SOUTH AMERICA'S DIVIDE:

Indigenous Ruling Bolivia 2006-2009

Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 3:30 pm
PRESIDENTS' HALL

Presented by:
Dr. Joshua Spero
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

HARROD LECTURE SERIES | **FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

A map of South America with Bolivia highlighted in orange, Brazil in yellow, and Argentina in light green. Other countries like Chile, Peru, and Colombia are also visible in lighter shades.

CTL sponsors Celebration of Teaching Week in March

The Center for Teaching and Learning will hold its first Celebration of Teaching Week from March 20-24. A number of events are planned, including:

- Advising Advice Session at 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 20
- CTL Teaching and Learning Hour at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21
- Poster session and celebration reception at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23
- 2nd annual Medieval Studies Conference for middle and secondary educators on Friday, March 24
- Open classroom visits (on a volunteer basis)
- Ongoing poster session highlighting our faculty's teaching
- Thank a Teacher opportunities

Faculty interested in opening their classrooms for visits by other faculty, staff, alumni or students are asked to contact [Kisha G. Tracy](#) by Tuesday, Jan. 31, and include the course names and numbers they are opening, the date and times they are offered and their location. Volunteers for the poster sessions are also due by **Tuesday, Jan. 31**, with the posters themselves delivered to the Center for Teaching and Learning by March 10.

CenterStage and cultural events



"Black Ice" by Madeleine Altmann.

The sculptural video installations of artist Madeleine Altmann are on display in gallery spaces at Fitchburg State through Wednesday, Feb. 22 as part of the [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series.

The Fitchburg State exhibition, entitled "Refuge - Nothing is Everything," will include a display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery as well as the media wall at Conlon Hall, 316 Highland Ave.

"Video can be a weapon for change and a tool for repair," Altmann said. "This current body of video art provides the necessary pause, a simulacrum of calm amidst a frantic digital world. These videos invite the viewer to slow down and be absorbed by luxuriant color, captivating textures and elements of rhythm and repetition."

Altmann has been active in visual arts for most of her life. Starting in photography she moved on to television, interactive telecommunications and video art. Along the way she has exhibited her work around the world and accumulated a variety of accolades including awards from the American Film Institute and Sony Pictures.

Born and raised in Brazil and England, she moved to the U.S. to attend Hampshire College for undergraduate studies in film and video. She went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute and a master's in professional studies from New York University, where she received the Interactive Media Pioneer Award.

Along with her single channel installations, Altmann works with her husband, engineer Andreas Uthoff, to create the sculptural elements of the monitors on display. She resides with her family in the Greater Boston area.

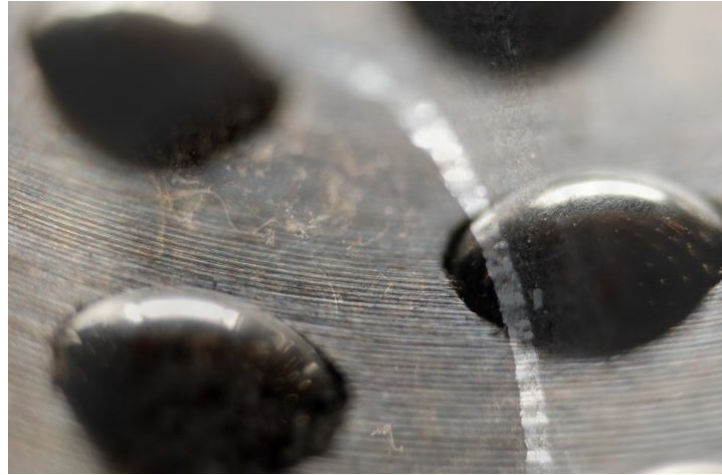
Altmann delves into the intersection of nature, technological change, and visual representation. Building on a diverse set of influences, from Henry David Thoreau to Rebecca Solnit and Bill Viola, this work strives to present a landscape of both our internal and external worlds. We see a simple walk through the woods with a dog as the cosmic experience, echoing the belief that local is universal. Reiterated in the six-panel piece called "Black Ice," the microscopic is the macroscopic.

Many of the works take sculptural forms. Various technologies like pro-grade media players, embedded raspberry pi computers, 4K or HD displays, obsolete CRT monitors and discarded computer screens from the e-waste pile are all imbued with timeless landscapes and ritualistic

experiences.

Coming to the Conlon Hall Media Wall: Dave Fischer, On Copper Wings

The abstract video art of Dave Fischer will be on display at the Conlon Hall Media Wall from Wednesday, Feb. 23 through Wednesday, April 17. There will be a wall talk with the artist at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 29.**



"On Copper Wings" is described as a film made by insects. No individual insects are listed in association with it - it is thought that hundreds of millions of insects worked on this production. The movie tells the story of the insect creation myth, which involves the insect development of science and technology, insects time traveling to 450 million years ago to rescue the early proto-insects from the Ordovician-Silurian extinction event, and genetically modifying them to be more competitive.

Dave Fischer is an artist from Providence, Rhode Island. He creates videos using a combination of algorithmically processed video, still photographs, and pure geometry. He writes all his own software for manipulating and editing video, and maintains a cluster of high-end late-90's servers for running the batch-mode computations.

Faculty Notes

Kevin McCarthy (Communications Media)'s short film "Official Teaser #2 Reaction!!!" was accepted into the [Festival of \(In\)appropriation](#), an annual showcase of cutting-edge, experimental, found-media film and video. The 9th edition of the festival will screen at the Egyptian Theater in Hollywood, Calif., on Sunday, Feb. 19. Following the screening, the festival program will be traveling to screens across the country.



McCarthy, a self-described "Star Wars" agnostic, calls the film is a response to feeling like a cultural outsider when he wasn't "frothing with excitement" when "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" opened in December 2015. The film uses found footage and his own contribution to the dynamic subculture of trailer reaction and mashup videos as the structural vehicle for his self-reflection and as a commentary on shared culture.

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