
Fitchburg State University Today

University continues recognition for advancing social mobility

Once again, Fitchburg State University has been [recognized](#) for upward social mobility in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual ranking of colleges and universities.

The ranking among regional universities reflects Fitchburg State's success in enrolling and graduating large numbers of economically disadvantaged students. Fitchburg State's ranking in its category was among the highest in Massachusetts.



“Two of the pillars of Fitchburg State’s mission are access and affordability,” President Lapidus said. “We are proud of our continued success in creating opportunities for all students and helping them move forward in pursuit of their academic and career goals.”

Lapidus said the university’s success in creating upward social mobility is tied to the work Fitchburg State is continuing in its latest strategic plan, whose three pillars are educational justice, being a student-ready campus, and inclusive excellence.

[Learn more](#)

4th recruit officer course graduates police program



Fifteen police officers took the oath of honor Friday, Sept. 10 when Fitchburg State graduated its 4th Recruit Officer Course (ROC) in a ceremony at Weston Auditorium.

The new officers, most of whom have already been hired by area police departments, are completing Fitchburg State’s first in the nation police program, wherein graduates complete bachelor’s and master’s degrees, plus full certification to work in police departments in Massachusetts and neighboring states, in five years.

[Learn more and watch the ceremony](#)

LGBTQ History Month to be observed in October

Fitchburg State celebrates [LGBTQ+ History Month](#) in October with a series of gatherings,

film screenings and participatory events developed under the theme “We Are Here.”

The programs begin with the Rainbow Reception: LGBTQ+ and Ally Alumni Event, presented in collaboration with the university’s [Homecoming 2021](#) events. This program, an evening of networking and storytelling with current and former university students, faculty, and staff, will run from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1 in the Falcon Hub at Hammond Hall. There will also be a parade of flags representing the different populations that comprise the LGBTQ+ world. Registration is required for this event, which is free for current students, faculty and staff members, and \$10 for alumni. Register at support.fitchburgstate.edu/eventregistration. This event is sponsored by Fitchburg State’s Office of Alumni and Development.

[See the month's events](#)

Latinx/a/o Heritage Month events continue

Our celebration of [Latinx/a/o Heritage Month](#), which began last week with a parade of flags on the quad (pictured) continues this week.



Upcoming events include a [virtual discussion](#) on Leading for Change at Hispanic Serving Institutions at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday** featuring Dr. Gina Ann Garcia, a leading scholar on Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), which are colleges and universities that enroll at least

25% Latinx undergraduate students. She is a scholar activist committed to disrupting the status quo of postsecondary education by bringing attention to the ways higher education has historically been committed to whiteness and regularly reinforces white narratives and white standards. The discussion can be joined online at <https://meet.google.com/nab-sdro-dxp?authuser=0>.

The history of Latinos in Massachusetts will be spotlighted when guest speaker and radio host Jose Masso presents “We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants” at **3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30** at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.

[See the Calendar of Events](#)

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, Oct. 1-3



Fitchburg State will welcome members of the Classes of 1970 and 1971 as part of its annual [Homecoming](#) celebration, being observed **Friday, Oct. 1** through **Sunday, Oct. 3**.

The events include an in-person acknowledgement of the Class of 2020, whose members were unable to attend a face-to-face commencement ceremony because of COVID-19 restrictions. The Falcon Walk, in which

members of the 2020 class will be able to get professional photographs in their caps and gowns, will be held on the main quad on Saturday, Oct. 2.

Library's DEI work highlighted in major industry publication

The Association of College and Research Libraries [highlighted](#) the diversity, equity and inclusion work being undertaken by the staff of the [Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library](#).

Read the article [here](#). The Association of College and Research Libraries has more than 9,000 individuals and library members, and is the largest division of the American Library Association.



Center for Italian Culture sponsors film series



The [Center for Italian Culture](#) celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2021, will hold an Italian film festival on campus this fall.

The *Festival del cinema italiano* opens with *Italo* (2014) at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday** in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building.

Although it might sound like a fairy tale, *Italo* presents the true story of a stray dog who arrived in the Sicilian town of Scicli in 2008, several years after a young child had been tragically killed there by a pack of wild dogs and the community had undertaken a crusade against the dogs, banning them entirely. Despite their initial resistance to the newcomer, Italo soon became so conspicuous in attending all of the town's activities – school, Sunday mass, weddings, funerals, festivals, and even pizza night at the local pizzeria – that the dog became a beloved member of the community. This endearing Italian comedy was written and directed by Alessia Scarso and was her first feature film.

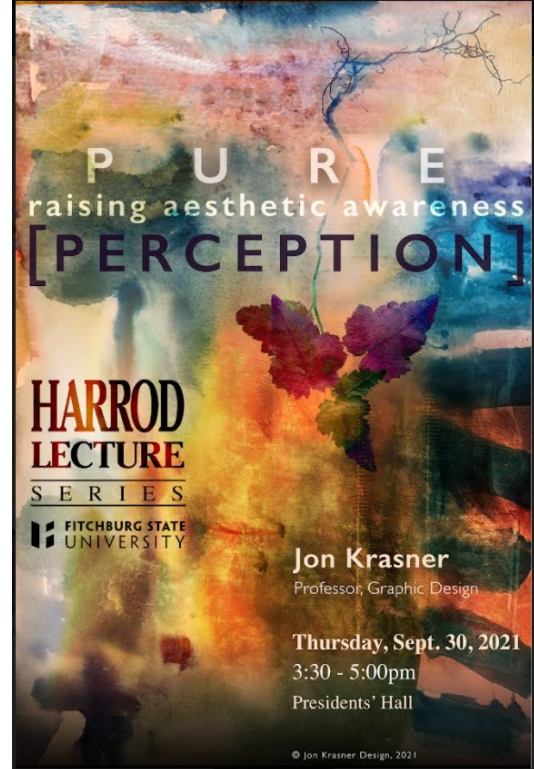
[Learn more](#)

Harrod Lecture Series continues Sept. 30 with aesthetic awareness talk

The Harrod Lecture Series presents **Professor Jon Krasner** (Communications Media) and his presentation "P U R E...raising aesthetic awareness [Perception]" at **3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30**, at Presidents' Hall.

"Representational theories of perception offer

appealing explanations of the world we live in and explain how experiences justify learned judgements and beliefs about the world," Krasner said. "However, the notion of perception without representation (what I refer to as 'pure perception'), can enable heightened visual and musical literacy, stronger engagement with the creative process, and more transformative aesthetic experiences in teaching and learning."



CenterStage and cultural events



The [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series is back, with exhibits and performances for the enjoyment of the campus and wider community.

The sculptures, drawings and animations of artist [Yuko Oda](#) are on display at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Friday, Oct. 8. The artist led a gallery talk (pictured) on her exhibit, entitled "The Heaviness and Lightness of Being," last week.

Coming in November: John McDermott

Irish tenor, John McDermott, returns to CenterStage at Fitchburg State to serenade us once again at [2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14](#) at Weston Auditorium. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors and Fitchburg State alumni; and \$5 for students. Tickets can be ordered [online](#).

From "Toora Lora Lora" and "The Rose of Tralee" to "The Last Rose of Summer" and "Danny Boy," John McDermott's voice rings velvety and true. John McDermott, who was born in Scotland to Irish parent and raised in Toronto, draws from a wide repertoire of songs telling stories of love and war, of loss and history. A McDermott performance is a festival for the ears.

[Learn more](#)

Faculty Notes

Associate Professor Daniel Welsh (Biology/Chemistry) created a website that serves as a resource about the freshwater fish species that can be found in the Nashua River watershed. The project began as a class project and has since been updated. Visit The

Fishes of the Nashua River Watershed [here](#).

Associate Professor Audrey Pereira (Business Administration) was [published](#) in the peer-reviewed [Online Learning Journal](#) with a piece about the roleplaying gamification module she developed (with the help of an educational consultant/programmer funded via a Fitchburg State grant), implemented, and analyzed in one of her MBA classes.

Professor Jane Fiske (Humanities) participated in the 41st Annual International Conference on Critical Thinking, 2021 Virtual Conference, in July. Her paper presentation, "Critical and Creative Thinking-in-Action; Playing the Piano," focused on how playing the piano requires students to actively engage with the musical knowledge domain (critical thinking) and form conclusions about that knowledge in original and imaginative ways (creative thinking). The presentation was part of her Spring 2021 sabbatical research project.

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