
Fitchburg State University Today

Open house draws big crowd, new admissions director reports



The campus welcomed the biggest crowd of the recruitment season thus far at its third and final major open house of the season on Saturday, and recruitment efforts for Fall 2022 continue.

Today, Admissions Director Anthony "Tony" Trodella will report to campus for the first time.

Trodella brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education and enrollment to

the post at Fitchburg State, most recently at St. Anselm College and Plymouth State University in New Hampshire.

"Tony's diverse experiences and demonstrated passion for working with students will strengthen Fitchburg State's outreach and recruitment efforts as we continue our mission of supporting students in the pursuit of their academic and career goals," President Lapidus said. "Tony will lead a talented and committed group of admissions counselors who will show students from Massachusetts and beyond how Fitchburg State can serve and support them."

"I am truly honored to be given the opportunity to join the Fitchburg State community in this role," Trodella said. "The university's commitment to providing access to high quality education and experiences was evident with everyone I met during the search process. I'm very excited to be working with a great group of admission professionals to share the opportunities Fitchburg State has to offer to the future Falcons and their families."

[Learn more](#)

Police program highlighted in *Boston Globe* story

The *Boston Globe* published a front-page [article](#) on our police program in their Sunday, Nov. 7 edition.

The article explores the evolution of the police profession and the challenges faced by those looking to enter it. Using our program as a backdrop, it examines how the preparation and training of officers is evolving.

Read it [here](#).



Falcon Bazaar's food and necessity drive starts today

A TIME FOR THANKS AND GIVING
Falcon Bazaar Food Mountain



**Donations accepted from
11/5 - 11/23**

Street Level of Hammond Hall

sponsored by: Falcon Bazaar, Volunteer Center, and MassPirg

For your convenience:
QR Code for
Falcon Bazaar Amazon Wish List
Items can be mailed directly to the Bazaar
c/o Shane Franzen



The [Falcon Bazaar](#) food and necessities pantry will be restocked through the creation of a "food mountain" in Hammond Hall.

Members of the campus community may bring donations for the Bazaar to the Hammond Hall street level today through Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Items may also be purchased for delivery to the Bazaar, care of Shane Franzen, via this [wishlist](#) on Amazon.

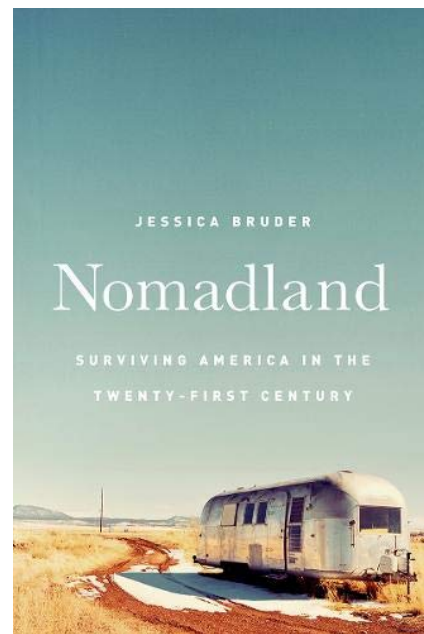
Community Read of *Nomadland* launches with film screening

Fitchburg State will launch its 2021-22 [Community Read](#) of the acclaimed book *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* with a screening of the Academy Award-winning film it inspired.

The screening, tomorrow at 3:30 p.m., will take place in Ellis White Lecture Hall. The film will be followed by a discussion facilitated by **Associate Professor Kevin McCarthy** (Communications Media).

Jessica Bruder's celebrated non-fiction book introduces readers to an array of older Americans who, finding their Social Security benefits insufficient, take to the roads in recreational vehicles, travel trailers and vans, to work itinerant jobs. The book has been described as a compelling, eye-opening tale of the dark underbelly of the American economy, as well as a tale of exceptional resilience and creativity.

[Community Read Website](#)



Moot Court tournament takes on vaccine mandates

The constitutionality of vaccine requirements will be under review when Fitchburg State University hosts the American Moot Court Association's Eastern Regional Tournament on Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20.

The competition, in which students are judged on their oral and written arguments on opposing sides of legal principles, will once again be conducted online because of the



COVID-19 pandemic. The teams with the highest scores at the regional tournament will move onto the national finals in January.

This year's hypothetical case will have students arguing whether a presidential vaccine requirement violates the U.S. Constitution.

"This year's competition is shaping up to be the strongest one yet," said **Professor Paul Weizer** (Economics, History and Political Science), who founded and coaches the university's moot court team. "With 22 different universities competing from across the country, I am looking forward to seeing how our students match up with some of the best in the United States."

"We have all been working tirelessly since the end of September to make the best possible impression on the courts, and all of us believe we have a chance to get to the highest levels of this competition," said team member Anthony Marcella of Boxborough, a senior political science major. "I couldn't be any more honored to represent Fitchburg State at the upcoming tournament."

"Preparing for this moot court competition has been unlike anything I have ever done before," said Maylynn Velazquez of Leominster, a senior majoring in political science. "Representing the Fitchburg State University Moot Court team is something that I am very proud of, as we are continually ranked among the Top 20 programs within the nation."

[Learn more](#)

CIC series on Italian colonialism continues in December

The Center for Italian Culture will launch a [series](#) of book discussions in December centered on the acclaimed novel *The Shadow King*, set against the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in the 1930s.

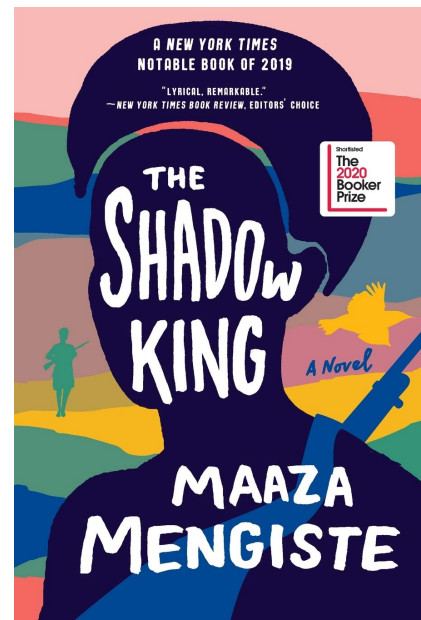
The discussions of the historical fiction novel *The Shadow King*, by Ethiopian-American author Maaza Mengiste, will take place at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7 and Tuesday, Jan. 18, in the main lounge of Hammond Hall.

Admission is free and open to the public, but face coverings are required indoors and all guests will be asked to attest they are free of COVID-19 symptoms.

Free copies of *The Shadow King* are available to participants of the reading group. [Contact](#) the CIC for more information.

The reading groups are part of the CIC's ongoing series [Confronting Italian Colonialism](#). Mengiste will come to campus in February to deliver the series' keynote address.

Following the opening of the book discussions, the series, entitled Confronting Italian Colonialism, will welcome Professor Roy Domenico, chair of the Department of History at the University of Scranton, for a guest lecture entitled "Italy's Imperial March to Ethiopia" at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.



Theater Block plans highlighted as part of state official's tour



Massachusetts Cultural Council Executive Director Michael Bobbitt recently visited Fitchburg for an arts and culture walking tour.

The visit included a tour of the university's Theater Block, with stops in the game design studio and ideaLab, and discussion of how the project will contribute to the city's economic revitalization.

[Read more](#)

Vintage Fitchburg State College apparel now available

The [Office of Alumni and Development](#) announced the launch of a new online store selling vintage-themed Fitchburg State College apparel.

All proceeds from the vintage items sale will benefit Fitchburg State students through financial, curriculum support, and other areas of need.

[Shop for vintage items](#)



CenterStage and cultural events



In the Holiday Mood with The Glenn Miller Orchestra

The Fitchburg State [CenterStage](#) arts and culture series invites you to get "In the Holiday Mood" with the world famous Glenn Miller Orchestra at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at Weston Auditorium.

Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$25 for Fitchburg State alumni, seniors and staff; and \$5 for students, and may be purchased [online](#) at

fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage or by calling the Weston Box Office at 978.665.3347. The box office, located at Weston Auditorium, is open 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Instrumental and Choral ensembles schedule winter concerts

The university's musical ensembles will present their winter concerts in December. All are free and open to the public, but a reminder that face coverings are required indoors on campus and guests will be asked to attest they are free of COVID-19 symptoms.

- The Concert Band and Community Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2 in Weston Auditorium. The concert will feature a variety of music by a diverse representation of composers. The Concert Band will perform under the direction of Assistant Professor Amy McGlothlin (Humanities), while the

Community Orchestra will be led by **Professor Hildy Schilling** (Psychological Science). Continuing a tradition begun four years ago, the concert will include a food drive to support the Falcon Bazaar, the university's on-campus resource for food and necessities for students. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring non-refrigerated, single-serve microwavable meals or cash donations to support the Falcon Bazaar.

- The Modern and Jazz Band will present its winter concert at **7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6** in Weston Auditorium. The performance will also be streamed live at https://youtu.be/0basZ_eRF28. The Fitchburg State University Modern and Jazz Band is a unique new ensemble on the campus that any student who plays an instrument may join. The ensemble's members pick their repertoire and compose their own arrangements to suit each player's skill level. The goal of the ensemble is to involve students who may not plan a traditional band instrument but would enjoy participating in a musical group.
- The Concert Choir and Chamber Choir will present "Lead with Love" at **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7** at Weston Auditorium. Those unable to attend in person may watch the concert via livestream at <https://youtu.be/XGDtERjuSY>. The concert will include pop music, spirituals, classical, protest music and show tunes, all about the power of love. There are pieces in Spanish, English, and Russian, and favorites like "Yesterday" by the Beatles, and "Carol of the Bells." The choral ensembles are led by **Assistant Professor Jonathan Harvey** (Humanities).

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: "Terrestrial Magnetism" by Jenn Houle

The Fitchburg State CenterStage arts and culture series features "Terrestrial Magnetism," an exhibit of the work of artist [Jenn Houle](#), through Dec. 10 in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery.

Houle is a visual artist with a studio based on her property in Merrimac surrounded by her pollinator gardens. She has held artist residencies in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Vermont Studio Center, and the Plumbing Museum. Houle is a grant recipient from the Puffin Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Cornell Council for the Arts, Einaudi Foundation, and John Hartell Graduate Award for Art and Architecture.

Houle currently teaches at Fitchburg State, UMass Lowell and Montserrat College of Art. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and a Master of Fine Arts from Cornell University.

Staff Notes

Several employees were recently honored with certificates through the state's [Performance Recognition Program](#) in acknowledgement of extraordinary service:

- The User Services Team within the Technology Department - consisting of **Joel Rodriguez, John Niles, Denise Lucier, Lynese Wiafe, Jeff Nardone and Michael Desmarais** - was recognized for its support to university staff, faculty and students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Team members facilitated remote learning and telework that allowed the university to continue operations during the pandemic. They continue to provide services and support so all members of our community may function at their best.
 - **Dean of Students Henry "Hank" Parkinson** was recognized for his commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts on our campus. After meeting with identity-based student organizations, Hank sought out resources and opportunities to examine his own biases and participated in professional development centered on DEI topics. His work on these areas continues, including training opportunities for students and colleagues, fueled by a commitment to creating a sense of belonging for all community members who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, and others.
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Faculty Notes

Professor Emeritus James Colbert (Humanities) reported that his translation of Étienne Gilson, *The Tribulations of Sophia*, has just been published by St. Augustine's Press, South Bend, Ind. A world renowned expert in medieval philosophy, Gilson wrestles in this book with some of the intellectual movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

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