
Fitchburg State University Today

Winter Commencement ceremony approaches

We will welcome hundreds of graduates and guests for the in-person winter ceremony of our 125th [Commencement Exercises](#) at **6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17** in the Athletics and Recreation Center.

The ceremony will also be streamed live at fatv.org.

Because of the high number of graduates registered to attend, there will be a limit of three tickets per graduate.

Information on reserving tickets will be shared with graduating students this week.



To accommodate more opportunities for graduates to mark this milestone, we will be holding a two-night Falcon Walk in advance of the ceremony, where graduates may register for a time slot and be joined by an unlimited number of guests to cross the stage and get a professional photo.

[Commencement Information](#)

Be part of Lighting of the Campus on Wednesday afternoon

The annual Lighting of the Campus will take place at **4:30 p.m. Wednesday** on the Highland Plaza.

ANNUAL *Lighting of the Campus*



**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 1ST
4:30PM
HIGHLAND AVE.
PLAZA**

Moot Court students once again bound for national tournament

Members of Fitchburg State's Moot Court team are headed for the nationals in January after a strong showing at the Eastern Regional Tournament.

There were 54 teams from 25 colleges and universities at the regional tournament held Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20.

Fitchburg State team members **Maylynn Velazquez** and **Benjamin Hill** will advance to the national tournament. Students **Miranda Gustin** and **Anthony**

Marcella also performed well, defeating teams from Georgia Southern, Western Connecticut, Framingham State, and Liberty University. They will learn after the regional tournaments conclude in the coming weeks if they scored high enough to advance to the nationals.

Professor Paul Weizer (Economics, History and Political Science), who founded and coaches the university's moot court program, noted that Fitchburg State was the only institution in Massachusetts to qualify a team for the national tournament.

"These students came a very long way this semester and performed extraordinarily well against some of the top schools in the nation," Weizer said. "Our students stood toe to toe with them. I am very proud of what they have accomplished."

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



Reminder: CIC series on Italian colonialism continues

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.

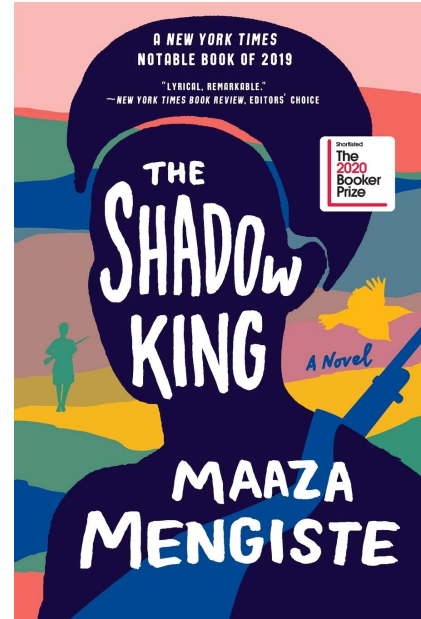
The discussions of the historical fiction novel *The Shadow King*, by Ethiopian-American author Maaza Mengiste, will take place at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7 and Tuesday, Jan. 18, in the main lounge of Hammond Hall.

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.



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 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

Vice President for Student Affairs Laura Bayless was recently given the Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Chief Student Affairs Officer at the [NASPA](#) Region I conference in Connecticut.

The award is presented to a chief student affairs officer who has demonstrated sustained professional achievement in student affairs work, innovative response in meeting students' varied and emerging needs, effectiveness in developing staff, and leadership in community and college or university affairs. The award recipient must also have earned stature among and support of student, faculty, and fellow administrators on campus, and made significant contributions to the field through publications or involvement in professional associations.

Also recognized at the NASPA Region I conference was senior **Mairead Weagle**, who received the Catch a Rising Star scholarship. That award is presented a student who has made a significant contribution to their home campus, demonstrated academic achievement, exceeded the expectations of their respective leadership positions, and shown an interest in the field of student affairs.

Faculty Notes

Professor Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) attended the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association from Nov.11 to 13. As the association's president, he helped plan this year's entirely remote conference. He presented a paper entitled, "Re-Imagining the Post-Conflict State." He also was the chair and discussant for a panel on insurgencies and political violence, and the discussant for a panel on Human Rights and Development. He organized and participated in a roundtable discussion on "Incorporating a Study Abroad Experience in your Political Science Class." He will serve on the association's executive board for one more year as its Immediate past president.

Associate Professor Kori Ryan (Behavioral Sciences) lent her perspective to Clean Living Magazine for an article entitled "[5 Ways to Combat Burnout This Season](#)." The article looks at ways to preserve one's mental health as a more "normal" holiday season arrives amid residual stresses related to the global pandemic. Suggestions included leaning on your inner circle; creating a list of things you value most this season; giving yourself grace; simplify as much as you can; and incorporate rest.

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