
Fitchburg State University Today

MLK Week Events observed



The university's celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. week launches **today at 4:30 p.m.** with a [virtual discussion](#) entitled "The Critical Consciousness of Community." The program will be led by Jasmine Prince, associate director for the Martin Luther King Jr. center at the University of Kentucky.

Our programs continue at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan.**

26 with a screening of the film "King in the Wilderness," a documentary focusing on the final two years of Dr. King's life. The screening will be held in Ellis White Lecture Hall.

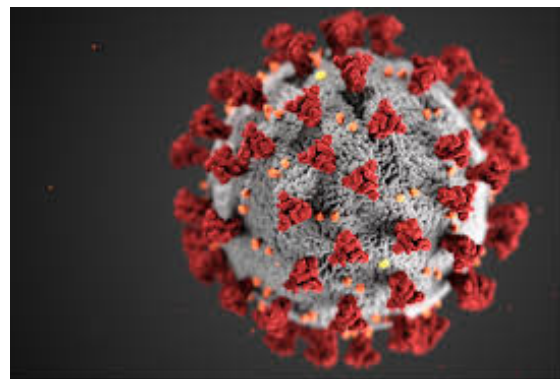
The programs are a prelude to our annual celebration of [Black History Month](#).

University kicks off semester with remote classes

The spring semester begins today, with the first week of courses conducted online while the university conducts a week of COVID testing for new and returning students.

Faculty, staff and librarians are also encouraged to be tested this week in Hammond Hall.

Remember to visit the university's coronavirus [resource page](#), which includes updates and links to [testing results](#) and other data.



The Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library has also created guides on the [latest COVID research](#) and information about [science reporting](#) and how to spot COVID misinformation.

Winter Commencement ceremony a face-to-face celebration

The university held the winter ceremony of its 125th commencement exercises on Friday, Dec. 17, conferring



more than 400 degrees at the first in-person ceremony since the start of the pandemic.

President Lapidus delivered the keynote address during the ceremony, in which he highlighted students whose journeys were emblematic of Fitchburg State and its values.

[Read more](#) about the ceremony, which can also be [viewed](#) on our YouTube page.

Future Educator Academy opens doors to local high schoolers

The university's Future Educator Academy recently welcomed a cohort of local high school students to campus for a day of programming, with more than 20 students completing a badge focused on mental wellness in the classroom and a badge on performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to adults and infants.



The academy is designed to address ongoing demographic shifts by recruiting and training future educators from traditionally underrepresented populations. According to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, about 40% of the state's public school students are of color, but only 10% of their teachers come from minority groups, noted Lourdes Ramirez, coordinator of field placements, partnerships and recruitment for Fitchburg State's School of Education.

[Learn more](#)

Communications Media students design catalog for FAM exhibition exploring the role of cars in American life

As part of the university's ongoing partnership with the [Fitchburg Art Museum](#), students in Professor Robert Carr's (Communications Media) document design class recently published the [catalog](#) for the museum's exhibit "[Joyride: Cars in American Art](#)." The exhibition featured work by artists highlighting how the car has impacted our lives



experience, collective and personal histories, and ideas about American identity.

Students in Professor Carr's fall 2021 document design class included Delaney Foresman, Eva Kozikowski, Mackenzie Ullrich, Ryan Stickney, Zion Keating, Darian Norwood, Anthony Morales, and Dakotah Lucero. See the catalog [here](#).

Sustainability Snapshot

The university's [Sustainability Committee](#), including faculty, staff, and administrators, will be sharing occasional facts and tips in the campus newsletter.

For example, it is estimated that heating and hot water can make up 42 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions in an urban environment in the northeastern United States. However, according to the Department of Energy, a typical home could reduce their carbon dioxide emissions from heating by 6% (the equivalent of planting 10 trees) simply by lowering their thermostat by 2 degrees during the winter.



Submissions wanted for "Archiving COVID" project

Members of the Economics, History, and Political Science Department and the Fitchburg State Special Collections and Archives announce a project in the construction of an archive of the campus community's experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photographs and related documents/descriptions that capture an aspect of community members' experiences living and learning during the pandemic may be submitted with [this form](#). Perhaps it is a photograph of teaching in a socially distanced, masked classroom in Fall 2020. It could be a picture of a remote classroom setup, a modified syllabus from March 2020, or a picture of your mask collection. The goal is to capture the everyday aspects, along with a written description/testimony, of the adaptations, strategies, and realities of the pandemic years, including the recent struggles to confront the Omicron variant.

The goal of this archival project is not only to capture the historical record in the archives, but also to create community conversations, exhibits, and reflections about the tremendous changes we have endured as a community. In the full phase of the project, we will be working with SGA to outreach to students. Students will contribute to the project by conducting oral histories and interviews.

For more information, [contact](#) Associate Professor Katherine Jewell (Economics, History and Political Science).

CIC series on Italian colonialism continues Tuesday, Jan. 25

The [Center for Italian Culture](#) continues its look at the legacy of [Italian colonialism](#) with a virtual guest lecture that will put Italy's imperial march to Ethiopia into context. The talk is presented as the campus community continues its discussion of author Maaza Mengiste's acclaimed novel *The Shadow King* at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25.

The virtual event features Professor Roy Domenico for a guest lecture on "Italy's Imperial March to Ethiopia." Professor Domenico, chair of the Department of History at the University of Scranton, will look at the history of fascism in Italy and lay the historical groundwork for *The Shadow King*.

To join the video discussion, visit <https://meet.google.com/edg-vrcn-jpr> or join by phone at (US) +1 567-250-1611 and enter PIN: 200 754 892#. The talk can also be viewed as a [livestream](#).

[Learn more about Confronting Italian Colonialism](#)



Faculty Notes

Associate Professor Kisha Tracy's (English Studies) article "Maternal Lament and Misremembering in *Dispute between Mary and the Cross*" was recently [published](#) in the collection *Grief, Gender, and Identity in the Middle Ages*.

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