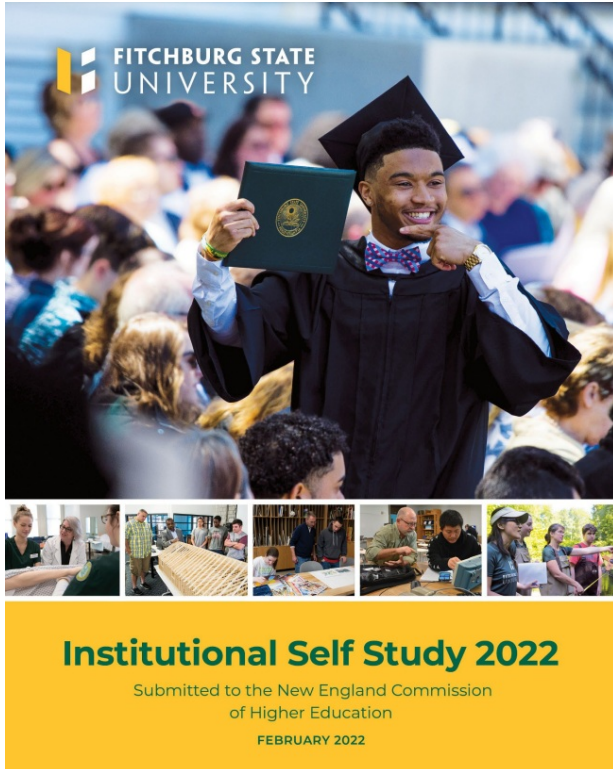

Fitchburg State University Today

NECHE self-study available for review



The comprehensive self-study created for our upcoming New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) review has been published for review on the university's accreditation [page](#).

The accreditation process will continue next month with the arrival of a visiting team of NECHE evaluators. The visiting team, who will be on campus **Sunday, March 20 through Wednesday, March 23**, has already been presented with the self-study, and will be reviewing an electronic workroom with supporting documentation.

There will be opportunities for all members of the campus and wider community to engage with the visiting team during their visit in March, and those details will be shared as their agenda is finalized.

[NECHE 2022](#)

Black History Month observations continue

The university's celebration of [Black History Month](#) continues tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. with a virtual discussion with celebrated author Maaza Mengiste, who will join us to talk about her acclaimed novel *The Shadow King*.

The discussion is also part of the Center for Italian Culture's series [Confronting Italian Colonialism](#), which explores the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 and its aftermath.

Mengiste was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A Fulbright

Scholar and professor in the MFA in Creative Writing & Literary Translation program at Queens College, she is the author of *The Shadow King*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the HWA Gold Crown, and *Beneath the Lion's Gaze*, named one of the Guardian's Ten Best Contemporary African Books.

The event tomorrow will begin with an address by Mengiste about her novel *The Shadow King*, followed by an interview with the author. Following the interview, there will be an open question-and-answer session.

To join the online event, go to meet.google.com/itt-cqgk-ocd. To join by phone, please call (US) +1 813-370-0381, and enter PIN 914 903 030#.

[Black History Month Programs](#)

CONFRONTING ITALIAN COLONIALISM SERIES



KEYNOTE EVENT:

Maaza Mengiste

Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 3:30 PM

Ethiopian-American writer, Maaza Mengiste, examines her novel, *The Shadow King* (2019), named a best book of the year by the *New York Times*, NPR, *Elle*, and *Time*.

Set during Mussolini's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, *The Shadow King* shines a light on women soldiers whose contributions to the Ethiopian resistance are often unrecognized in history. It also explores the role of memory, at the heart of *The Shadow King*, in its call for the world to remember all who have been lost to senseless violence.

To join this virtual event, scan this QR code ► or visit:
fitchburgstate.edu/cic/confronting-italian-colonialism

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR ITALIAN CULTURE



Valentine's Day luncheon will benefit student emergency fund

A Valentine's Day luncheon **today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** will raise money for the Student Emergency Fund. [Tickets](#) are \$7 for students and \$12 for faculty/staff, and may be purchased in advance or at the door by cash, check or OneCard.

Groups of 6-8 looking to reserve a table should contact [Shane Franzen](#) in advance.

The menu will include New England clam chowder, vegetarian minestrone, antipasto salad, Southwest pasta salad (vegetarian), Oktoberfest Rachel: turkey club on herbed focaccia with Vermont sharp cheddar and roasted garlic aioli, sparkling cherry "spritzer," and assorted desserts.

[Get tickets](#)

Info session today for Washington Center internship program



The campus will host an information session **today at 3:30 p.m.** in Percival 107 about [The Washington Center](#) internship program.

Attendees may join in person or may register online to participate remotely by visiting <https://hubs.ly/Q013jt6g0>.

Fitchburg State students have long participated in [The Washington Center Internship Program](#) to gain valuable career building experiences and advance their studies and long-

term goals.

In addition to significant career-building skills and experiences through internship placements, The Washington Center also provides a living and learning environment with participants from around the country and throughout the world.

Open Forums scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 22

President Lapidus invites the campus community to gather for open forums at **10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22** in Kent Recital Hall. The sessions will include updates about university operations, with opportunities for members to ask questions. For those unable to attend in person, the sessions will be livestreamed and viewers can post questions online.

- The 10 a.m. session will be streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xejd5ORNZlc>.
- The 3:30 p.m. session will be streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkJpMKV-XnY>.

Sustainability Snapshot



Courtesy of the university's [Sustainability Advisory Committee](#), here is another tip about an easy way to be a better steward of the environment: According to the Department of Energy, idling wastes about 6 billion gallons of fuel and produces over 30 million tons of CO₂ every year just by idling. Eliminating unnecessary idling will save you money and also reduce your impact on the environment. For the average, everyday driver, the best way to reduce idling is to simply turn the key

when stopped for 10 seconds or more (except when stopped in traffic).

View the Heritages of Change exhibition on campus and beyond

On display now around campus (and beyond), be sure to check out "[Heritages of Change: A Curatorial Activism Exhibition](#)" by Fitchburg State Writing II students. The project is sponsored by the Deans' Anti-Racism Fund.

"Heritages of Change" is a collection of mini-exhibitions developed by **Professor Kisha Tracy's** (English Studies) Writing II students for members of Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area ([ALFA](#)) and the wider community. Each of the eight mini-exhibitions practice curatorial activism, bringing attention to the heritages of marginalized and emerging topics.

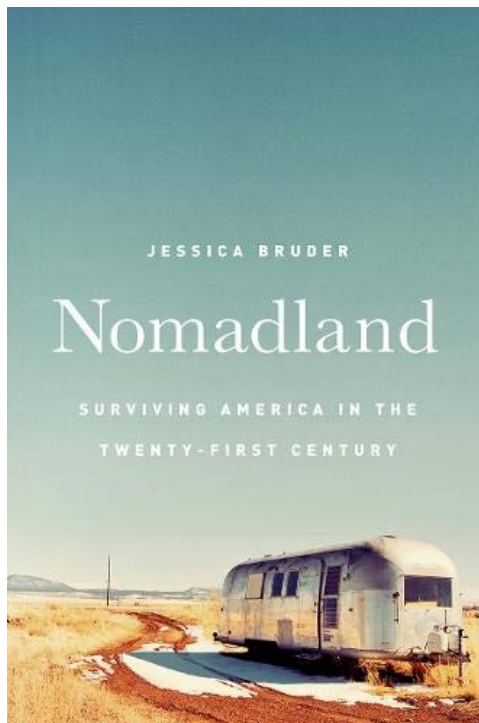
See the exhibitions at Miller Hall;

the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness; the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library; the university archives; the McKay Complex; the Antonucci Science Complex; the Center for Professional Studies; and the Fitchburg Historical Society at 781 Main St.

[Learn more](#)



Community Read events continue this week



The university's [Community Read](#) of *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder continues at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday** with a [virtual panel discussion](#) that will explore the challenges facing older adults in the U.S. to access affordable and safe housing.

Panelists will include Doug Bushman of the Fitchburg Housing Authority and Dr. Jennifer Molinsky of the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, and the discussion will be moderated by **Associate Professor Mark Williams** (Behavioral Sciences). [Register](#) to join this free event at <https://forms.gle/tKxyZirCcR39UJzk9>.

Is the American dream of home ownership crumbling for those 65 and over? Panelists discuss the growing challenge of ensuring older adults in America have access to affordable and safe housing. The program is co-sponsored by the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, Fitchburg Housing Authority and Fitchburg State University. Learn more at fitchburgcommunityread.com.

CenterStage and cultural events

The [Forge Theater Lab](#), in residence at Fitchburg State, will present a staged reading of new monologues and short plays about love and loss, chaos and comic relief, with "No Place to Go: Stories from a Pandemic" at

7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26 at Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building.

Admission is free and open to the public. Face masks are required in campus buildings. Visitors will be asked to attest they are free of COVID-19 symptoms and will be required to sign a contact tracing form at the door.

The Forge Theater Lab, founded by Fitchburg State alumni, includes current students as well as graduates from the university. The cast of “No Place to Go” includes current students Johannes Crueger-Cain, Sophie Geremia, Lex Guertin, Daniel T. Hankins, Aaron Lehner, Nina Turouski, and Eliana West. Alumni cast members include Michael Babineau, Amber Charest, Larry Hill, Angela Renzi and Kelly Stowell.

“This piece is a true reflection of our lives covering a broad spectrum of moments from the humorous to the infuriating ones,” said director Charlene Kennedy, current managing director of The Forge. “It goes beyond our personal experience and into our collective experience.”

“No Place to Go: Stories from a Pandemic” chronicles a time of exhaustion, loneliness, humanity, frustration, and compassion. Spanning multiple generations, relationships, and voices, “No Place to Go” is a reminder that despite the pandemic causing many to feel isolated, we are united by one collective experience.

To learn more, visit theforgetheaterlab.org.

In the Gallery at Hammond: Faculty Show

The faculty show, featuring visual art created by members of the Humanities and Communications Media faculty, is now on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through March 11.

Faculty Notes

Assistant Professor Hong Yu's (Engineering Technology) book *A Protocol for Multimedia Transmission over Wireless Networks* has been republished by Lambert Academic Publishing.

The volume is currently on display among faculty publications in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

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