

Fitchburg State University Today

Welcome Back

The Fall 2022 semester has begun! Fitchburg State welcomed more than 650 first-year and transfer undergraduate students with the start of the semester, with the incoming class including students from 22 states, as well as more than 120 [international students](#).

The university community welcomed several new members this summer, including Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Patricia Marshall and Dean of Health and Natural Sciences Jennifer Hanselman.



[Learn more](#)



2022 Faculty Awards announced

Academic Affairs kicked off the fall semester last week with Development Day and the [Celebration of Faculty and Librarian Excellence](#). The event included the announcement of our four major faculty awards:

- The [Faculty Award for Service](#) was presented to **Professor Sean Goodlett** (Economics, History and Political Science)
- The [Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship](#) was presented to **Professor Samuel Tobin** (Communications Media)
- The [Contributions to the Graduate Program Award](#) was presented to **Professor Brady Chen** (Computer Science)
- The [Vincent. J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching](#) was presented to **Associate Professor Kisha Tracy** (English Studies)

The program also included recognition of promotion, tenure, and years of service, and included the awarding of emeritus status to **Professor Peter Laytin** (Communications Media).

[See photos from the Celebration](#)

Rock the Block this Thursday

Rock the Block, the university's annual clubs and organizations fair, will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday on the main quad and along Highland Avenue.

The event, now in its 24th year, was originally scheduled to take place today but was postponed because of inclement weather.



Center for Faculty Scholarship events

The [Center for Faculty Scholarship](#) will present a series of events this fall showcasing research of faculty members. Programming will also incorporate student work.

Upcoming events include the faculty speaker series and a faculty research poster session at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6 in the main lounge at Hammond Hall.

[Events](#) will be posted on the campus website.

FALL 2022 EVENTS

Mon. 10/3 @ 12:30

Faculty Speaker Series featuring Dr. Daniel Welsh (Biology) in his talk "Patterns of variation in fish scale size within individuals and across population" at <https://meet.google.com/oyq-obks-vgg>

Mon. 10/3 @ 3:30

The CFS joins the celebration of LGBTQ+ History and Latin X History Months sponsored by the Office of Student Development with poetry readings that celebrate diversity and inclusion. **In-person at the Hammond Street Level Patio.**

Wed. 10/5 @ 3:30

Jeremy DeSilva, paleoanthropologist and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Dartmouth College, speaks on his book *First Steps: How Upright Walking Made Us Human*. This event is co-sponsored with ALFA. **In-person in the Hammond Main Lounge.**

Thurs. 10/6 @ 2:00

Faculty research poster session! Learn more about the research faculty across campus are doing right now. Refreshments served. **In-person in the Hammond Main Lounge.**

Thurs. 10/6 @ 3:30

Faculty share 5-7 minute lightning talks on compelling questions and findings from their research. Refreshments served. **In-person in the Hammond Main Lounge.**

Thurs. 10/13 @ 3:30

Faculty in the sciences share posters on active lab projects that students can participate in during the Spring 2023 semester. Refreshments served. **In-person in the Antonucci Science Building.**

Mon. 11/7 @ 12:30

Faculty Speaker Series featuring Dr. Michael McCutcheon (Criminal Justice) in his talk "Emotional Intelligence and the Police" at <https://meet.google.com/tsd-jnoh-kkc>

Mon. 12/5 @ 12:30

Faculty Speaker Series featuring Dr. Heather Urbanski (English Studies) in her talk "Interpretive Gaps in the Marvel Cinematic Universe" at <https://meet.google.com/gbq-tdw-egk>

CENTER FOR FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITIES GENERATE NEW KNOWLEDGE.
LEARN ABOUT THE RESEARCH BEING DONE AT FSU.



5th recruit officer class graduates Friday

The 5th Recruit Officer Course of the university's [police program](#) will graduate from the academy at 11 a.m. Friday in Weston Auditorium.

These 21 students, who completed their bachelor's degrees in criminal justice in May, have spent the summer in

a 17-week [academy](#) that included defensive and skills training.

Following Friday's ceremony, they will be ready to report for duty in municipal police departments in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, as well as start on their master's degrees.

R.A. Salvatore '81, '91 will discuss "The Future of Storytelling" on Sept. 21

Best-selling author [R.A. Salvatore](#), a two-time Fitchburg State alumnus, will return to campus in September to discuss "The Future of Storytelling."

The talk, to be held at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21** in the main lounge of Hammond Hall, is free and open to the public.

Salvatore, who completed degrees at Fitchburg State in 1981 and 1991, is a top author of fantasy novels with an ever-expanding and loyal following. His books regularly appear on the *New York Times* bestseller lists and have sold more than 30 million copies in numerous languages.



The presentation is sponsored by the Fitchburg State University [Alumni Association](#).

Latinx/a/o Heritage Month observed Sept. 15-Oct. 15

Fitchburg State will celebrate [Latinx/a/o Heritage Month](#) with a series of programs and events organized around the theme "*Unidos* (United): Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation."

Latinx/a/o Heritage Month is observed nationally Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Fitchburg State's events were curated by a committee of students, faculty and staff with a goal of reinforcing the need to ensure diverse voices and perspectives are welcomed in making decisions, helping to build stronger communities in the process.

See all the month's programming at fitchburgstate.edu/latinxao-heritage-month.

Marketing and Communications shares branded assets for presentations

The Office of Marketing and Integrated Communications, working with Print Services, has developed an array of [branded assets](#) for use by university faculty and staff in making their digital presentations or virtual backgrounds pop.



[View and download](#) them on the university website.

Keep up with campus happenings on The Burg Blog

The [Burg Blog](#) continues to offer timely updates of campus life.

Recent articles and slideshows include galleries related to new student [move-in](#), scenes from the president's welcome back events



for [staff](#) and [faculty](#), including recognition of years of service, and scenes from the celebration of longtime employee [Kevin Kelley](#) upon his retirement.

Catch up on the summer's news

The summer was a busy time on campus. Read up on what you may have missed - and stay up to date - by visiting the campus [news feed](#). Among the stories since the last issue of the newsletter:



- Our Moot Court team is [nationally ranked](#) once again
- President Lapidus has been [appointed](#) to the NCAA Division III President's Council
- Fitchburg State and Mount Wachusett Community College [created](#) a new pathway program for educators
- The university was [recognized](#) for online courses of distinction
- Our students [collaborated](#) with students at Fitchburg High on anti-racism projects

Follow our social media channels

The Office of Marketing and Integrated Communications invites followers to the university's social media channels, including:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [TikTok](#)

You can also follow by clicking on the relevant icons in the footer of this message.

The [School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education](#) also maintains social media channels



on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

CenterStage and cultural events

The [CenterStage arts and culture](#) series presents a solo exhibition by artist Nayda A. Cuevas that explores her Latinx identity.

“Status Quo: Deconstructing My Latinx Identity” will be on display in the art gallery at Hammond Hall from **this Thursday** through Thursday, Oct. 20. There will be an opening reception and gallery talk with the artist at **3:30 p.m. Thursday** at the gallery.

The exhibition is presented in collaboration with the university's celebration of [Latinx/a/o Heritage Month](#).

[Learn more](#)



John McDermott returns Sunday, Sept. 25

Acclaimed tenor John McDermott returns to campus for a performance at **2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25** in Weston Auditorium. [Tickets](#) are available now.

McDermott, born in Scotland to Irish parents 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

Professor Charles Sides (Communications Media) recently published two poems in the journal, *Appalachia Bare*: “Valoury Delia” and “Appalachia Song,” which included a Cherokee translation by Loretta J. Slade, first language speaker, Cherokee Nation.

Associate Professor Katharine Covino (English Studies) co-authored *You Got a Phone! (Now Read This Book)*, which was published this summer by Free Spirit Press. The illustrated volume was designed to be light, accessible and funny, with [information](#) on texting, taking and sharing pictures, online privacy, and maintaining healthy screen habits.

Associate Professor Kisha Tracy (English Studies) authored the book *Why Study the Middle Ages?* (Arc Humanities Press). The [book](#) is designed as an introductory guide that gathers and organizes information, current events and scholarship for non-specialists, including undergraduate students.

Professor Emeritus James G. Colbert (Humanities) sends word that Brill has published a translation *The Dialectic of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola* by Gaston Fessard, S.J., Dr. Colbert did this translation with the late Oliva Blanchette of Boston College. Also published in late 2021, this time by St. Augustine's Press, was Dr. Colbert's translation of *The Tribulations of Sophia*.

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