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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Celebrating Women's History Month

The campus community will celebrate Women's History Month in March with a [series](#) of programs on the theme "Her Story, Our Stories."

Programs include the campus celebration of International Women's Day on Wednesday, March 8, when all are encouraged to wear purple to signify justice and dignity.

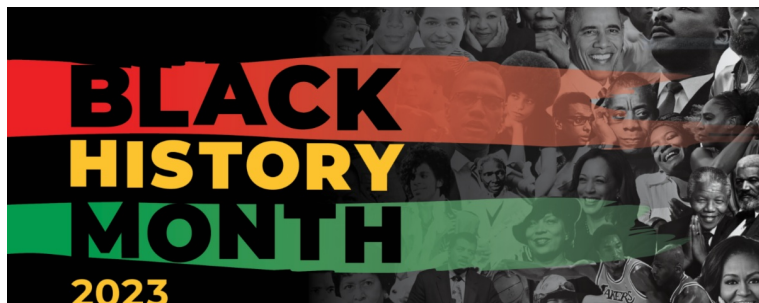
[Women's History Month](#)

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### Black History Month concludes this week

The university's celebration of [Black History Month](#) concludes this week with events including a discussion **today at 4 p.m.** in Hammond G-19 about the experiences of people of color serving in law enforcement, and a panel talk with Black and Brown alumni discussing their career paths **tonight at 6 p.m.** in the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall.

[Learn more](#)



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### Harrod Lecture tomorrow features Elise Takehana

Associate Professor Elise Takehana (English Studies) will present her Harrod Lecture "Database & Algorithm as Literary Infrastructure" at **3:30 p.m. tomorrow** in Presidents' Hall.

During this lecture, Dr. Takehana will discuss the conflicts and overlaps between storytelling and data analysis by exploring examples in experimental literature, interactive fiction, portraiture, and quantitative approaches to studying language and literature. The talk offers several reflections on the nature of human expression in the age of big data

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## Community Read film screening Thursday features "District 9"

As part of the [Community Read](#) of Trevor Noah's memoir *Born a Crime*, there will be a screening of the acclaimed 2009 film "District 9" at **6 p.m. Thursday** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.

The film, directed by Neill Blomkamp, is a science-fiction adventure set in South Africa that explores themes of apartheid and discrimination that are also central to Noah's memoir. The screening will be followed by a discussion moderated by **Associate Professor Kevin McCarthy** (Communications Media).

This event is co-sponsored by the Community Read and the Leominster Public Library.



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## Coming in March: Center for Faculty Scholarship research week

The [Center for Faculty Scholarship](#) will celebrate Research Week with programs organized around theme of Mental Health in America.

Presentations will include a program of lightning talks at **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 14** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall. Presenters and topics will include:

- **Kisha Tracy** (English Studies): "A Medieval Origin of Communities of Mental Health"
- **Elizabeth Swartz** (TRIO SSS): "What Are Students Identifying as Their Needs? Data from the College Student Inventory"
- **Mark Williams** (Behavioral Sciences): "Minority Stress and LGBTQ Mental Health"
- **Kiernan Riley** (Nursing): "Effective Management for Severe Mental Health in Older Adults"
- **John Crawley, Yang Liu, and John Lohmann** (Business Administration): "The Dark Side of Social Media"
- **Elise Takehana** (English Studies): "Representing Suicide in Contemporary Literature"
- **Jason Talanian** (Exercise and Sports Science): "Benefits of physical activity on mental wellness"
- **Kori Ryan** (Behavioral Sciences): "Centering Trauma in Discussions about Mental Health"
- **Heather Urbanski** (English Studies): "Mental Health Begins with Forgiveness"

The program will include time for questions and answers with presenters. Refreshments will be served.

There will also be a series of workshops starting at **2 p.m. Thursday, March 16** in the Hammond lounge, on topics including relaxation techniques, meditation, mindfulness, and equity in mental health delivery. Additional details will be shared with the campus soon.



The Sustainability Advisory Committee shares the following information to help save energy: According to the U.S. Department of Energy, idling wastes about 6 billion gallons of fuel and produces over 30 million tons of CO2 every year. 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).

## Keep up with campus happenings on the Burg Blog

Follow the [Burg Blog](#) for timely updates of campus life.

Among the recent articles and slideshows, check out last week's visits from the [Future Falcons program](#), the latest Hammond Hall visit by the [therapy dogs](#), glimpses of our [snowy campus](#), an alumni discussion featuring [mathematics graduates](#), and academic spotlights including a [nursing simulation lab](#) and [game design](#).



## CenterStage and cultural events

**Save the Date: Artrageous coming in April**

The high-energy, interactive performance troupe Artrageous will perform at Weston Auditorium at 7 p.m. **Friday, April 28** as part of the Fitchburg State University CenterStage arts and culture series. Tickets are [available online](#).

Artrageous includes multi-talented performance artists, world class singers and recording artists, highly trained dancers and audience motivators, and veteran musicians hailing from the high desert of New Mexico. Their high energy performance is a combination of all arts on one stage combined with humor and interaction in a frenzy of movement and color.

[Learn more](#)

## Faculty Notes

Assistant Professor Jared Vanasse (Earth and Geographic Sciences) was recently [published](#) in the February 2023 edition of the American Physical Society's journal Physical Review C. Read more [here](#).

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