
Fitchburg State University Today

Next week: Undergrad Research Conference and Convocation

The Fitchburg State community will celebrate academic excellence on **Thursday, April 20** with the return of the in-person [Undergraduate Conference for Research and Creative Practice](#) followed by the annual honors [convocation](#).

- The research conference, running from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will take place in Hammond Hall.
- The honors convocation will follow at 2 p.m. in Weston Auditorium. More than 100 awards and scholarships will be presented at that celebration.

The conference has been a virtual event since the start of the pandemic, and this year marks a return to the in-person celebration of student work, from academic research to music and theater showcases.



Governor's visit celebrates Early College

Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll [joined](#) other state and local education leaders and students at Fitchburg High School last week to talk about the impact of early college programs, including [dual enrollment](#) and [Upward Bound](#).

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Pat Marshall joined other university officials at the forum, where students

discussed the life-changing impact that early college programs have had on their paths. (*Watch the presentation [here](#).*)

The Healey-Driscoll administration has proposed \$14.4 million for Early College and Innovation Pathways for the 2024 budget.

"We decided to come to Fitchburg because Fitchburg is doing it right," Gov. Healey said, describing the collaboration between the high school and education partners including Fitchburg State and Mount Wachusett Community College.

Faculty book launch event Tuesday

The [Center for Faculty Scholarship](#) will host a book launch **tomorrow at 3:30 p.m.** in Miller Oval to celebrate six faculty members who recently published books, and one who released an album.

Each faculty member will briefly discuss their work, with time for question-and-answer and discussion before a reception to honor them and their accomplishments.



Financial Sustainability survey closes Friday

The [Financial Sustainability Task Force](#), announced earlier this semester, is continuing to accept campus community input through an anonymous [survey](#) available on its website. The survey is open until **Friday**.

The Task Force will host a pair of open forums for the campus community at **10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25** in the Hammond Lounge where themes from the survey will be shared, and there will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

The Task Force is developing the first phase of a multi-phased process to propose and develop recommended strategies focused on efficient and effective allocation of resources and new/increased net revenue opportunities.

Celebrating graduate education

The School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education ([SGOCE](#)) held its second annual Graduate Education Celebration on April 3, highlighting the accomplishments of its students and faculty.

The university has more than 3,000 students in graduate classes this semester, being taught by approximately 200 faculty members, according to **SGOCE Dean Becky Copper Glenz**, who presided over the celebration. Of those students, 80% are taking classes entirely online.

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Patricia Marshall presented the second annual graduate adjunct faculty award to **Dr. Margaret**

O'Hearn-Curran, chair of the [dyslexia and reading specialist program](#).

O'Hearn-Curran's students and colleagues praised her commitment to ensuring all children learn to read and described her as an inspiring, hard-working and dedicated teacher who continues to make an impact on all those lucky enough to study with her, Marshall said.

[Read more](#)



A poster for the play 'Extremities'. At the top, it says 'FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS'. Below that, the title 'EXTREMITIES' is written in large, white, block letters. Underneath the title, it says 'BY WILLIAM MASTROSIMONE DIRECTED BY MARY VREELAND'. The dates 'APRIL 18-23, 2023' are written in a stylized, white font. Below the dates, it says 'MCKAY THEATER 67 RINDGE RD, ENTRANCE B FITCHBURG, MA'. At the bottom, the performance times are listed: 'APRIL 18 - 22 @ 6:30 PM' and 'APRIL 22 & 23 @ 2:00 PM'. There is a warning at the bottom left: 'WARNING: GRAPHIC DEPICTIONS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE' and a note at the bottom right: 'FREE ADMISSION DONATIONS ACCEPTED'. The background of the poster is a close-up of a pair of worn, brown leather shoes.

Extremities premieres April 18

The searing drama *Extremities* by William Mastrosimone will be presented as the Communications Media Department's spring theater production this April.

The production is directed by **Assistant Professor Mary Vreeland**, herself an award-winning director and actor.

Rape is about power, and what could happen if a victim took that power back from her attacker?

Extremities is inspired by the fantasy of taking control back from an attacker, and examines the extremes of human capacity: mercy against hatred, compassion against violence, and humanity against torture.

Extremities will be performed at the Wallace Theatre for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road.

Performances will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 18; Wednesday, April 19; Thursday, April 20; Friday, April 21; and Saturday, April 22. There will be matinee performances at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23.

Admission is free but donations will be accepted at the door. Attendees are advised the play contains graphic depictions of sexual violence.

[Learn more](#)

"Made in Italy" series concludes with guided tour of Italian cheeses

The Center for Italian Culture concludes its "[Made in Italy](#)" programming series on

Thursday, April 27 with "Formaggio Formidabile," an expert-guided tasting of Italian cheese and wines.

Fred Plotkin, a popular expert on opera and everything relating to Italy, will serve as a virtual guide to this in-person evening dedicated to the special pleasures of Italian cheese and wine. Plotkin is the author of seven books on Italian food culture, including the brand-new *Italy for Food Lovers* that he co-wrote with travel guru Rick Steves.

The program will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27 in the main lounge at Hammond Hall. Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased [online](#).

Last week, the series welcomed Professor Elizabeth Krause from UMass Amherst for a talk on the nature of authenticity as explored in the Made in Italy series. Learn more about that presentation [here](#).

Formaggio Formidabile
A Guided Tasting of Classic Italian Cheeses
with Fred Plotkin



Thursday, April 27 at 5:30 PM

Fred Plotkin, co-author of the just-published *Rick Steves Italy for Food Lovers*, will discuss five Italian cheeses, their history and usage, and how to correctly taste them for maximum pleasure. Ideal wine pairing and sweet or savory accompaniments and a delicious Italian dessert will complete the occasions.

MADE IN ITALY

Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, the Center for Italian Culture will present a series of programs developed around the theme "Made in Italy". From fashion to sports cars to fine cuisine, the programs will spotlight the enduring impact and global reach of Italian-made products.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO ▶

OR VISIT:
fitchburgstate.edu/made-in-italy



FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR ITALIAN CULTURE



National criminal justice conference features university police program

Students, faculty and staff recently presented to a national audience at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Maryland, sharing a view of the university's groundbreaking police program that integrates undergraduate education and police training.

The university delegation traveled to National Harbor, Md., for the conference, which included presentations on topics like court processes and post-conviction treatment and re-entry.

At the national conference, **Assistant Professor Katherine Hazen** chaired a panel talk on the university's police academy that included **Academy Director Lisa Lane McCarty** as well as **Professor David Weiss** and **Assistant Professor Michael McCutcheon**.

[Learn more](#)

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, see scenes from **Associate Professor Elise Takehana's Harrod Lecture**, accepted students and guests at **Future Falcon Day**, Women's History Month events including the **Women's Leadership Conference** and the **Women in Law Enforcement** panel talk, and students visiting with prospective graduate schools at the **graduate education fair**. Academic scenes include a **Writing II** class, an **Earth systems science** lab, and a **general biology** lab.



Updates from Leading for Change

[Leading for Change](#) is our campus-level team focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have launched a robust process and rubric for policy audits and several departments are making progress on it this year. Remember we have a funding source to hire an external consultant to assist your department in the policy audit process if you would find that helpful. Funds were designated as part of this year's University Innovation Fund. Contact [Hank Parkinson](#) for more information.

[Learn more](#)



CenterStage and cultural events

Coming soon: **VISIONS** opens April 26

[Visions](#), the juried honors showcase of the year's best original student work in the Communications Media Department, opens **Wednesday, April 26**. The entire campus and local community looks forward to this annual event, which consists of

an Alumni Panel, Gallery Art Exhibition, Theater Showcase, and a Film and Video screening. The schedule includes:

- 3:30 p.m. Alumni Panel, Ellis White Lecture Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Gallery Opening, Hammond Hall Art Gallery
- 5:30 p.m. Game Design Presentation and Reception, Hammond G-Lobby
- 7 p.m. Film and Video Screening, Weston Auditorium

[Learn more](#)

CenterStage presents: Artrageous, April 28

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](#)

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