

Fitchburg State University Today

Welcome Back

The campus welcomed new and returning students last week for the start of its 130th academic year.

Approximately 800 new first-year and undergraduate transfer students joined the university community last week, includes students from 24 states, 20 countries and five continents. Our student-athletes were on hand to help welcome our new Falcons (see photos on the [Burg Blog](#)).



Several new academic programs are launching this fall, including an interdisciplinary minor in [political journalism](#), serving students interested in journalism, political science, and the role of reporting in democratic societies. This semester also marks the debut of a new course called “Podcasting the Past,” in which students will collaborate across the disciplines of history and communications to integrate historical research and story development with audio production. Their work will be released through [Perseverantia, the Fitchburg State Podcast Network](#).

Among the early-semester highlights:

- Rock the Block, our annual clubs and organizations fair, will be held at **3:30 p.m. Tuesday** on the Quad and along Highland Avenue. The event is celebrating its 25th year.
- The university's observance of [Latinx/a/o Heritage Month](#) begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday a live mariachi band and free food on the Quad. Learn more about the month's events on the university website.
- The 6th Recruit Officer Course of our police program will hold its graduation ceremony at **11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 15** in Weston Auditorium.
- The university will celebrate Latinx/a/o Heritage Month from mid-September to mid-October. Additional details will be posted online.

Digital magazine launches

The university has launched its new digital magazine platform, [Fitchburg State Magazine](#), giving its 50,000 alumni and other audiences an engaging and environmentally-friendly way to experience its institutional story.



The digital version is visually optimized to fit whatever device its readers are using and will allow them to share individual articles to their social networks.

"The digital magazine offers our readers a timely and well-illustrated platform to experience how our [graduates](#) and our institution are making an impact in the region and the world," President Lapidus said. "It also contains the traditional features we know our readers enjoy, like [class notes](#) and [in memoriam](#) notices, which can be searched and updated in real-time."

[Read the magazine](#)

Constitution Day 2023
Racial Profiling and the Constitution
What Do Math, Maps, and the Law Have to Say?
Dr. Mary Fowler
Professor of Mathematics, Worcester State University
Expert Witness in Racial Profiling Cases across the Commonwealth

September 18, 3:30PM
Hammond Main Lounge

"Driving while Black or Hispanic: The Constitution at Work"
Dr. Fowler will share her experiences as a statistical expert witness in support of making United States Constitutional Provisions effective in Massachusetts. A series of racial profiling cases shows the development of this area of the law.

Funding provided by the Office of Student Development; refreshments provided by the Student Government Association

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

MATH 3003 Advanced Statistics with Dr. Fowler: Data Analysis as an Expert Witness
September 18, 12:30PM, Hammond Main Lounge
Dr. Fowler's experiences as an applied statistician with using data in constitutional provisions interpretation, including sources such as traffic citations, police reports, Census data, & geolocation.

"Social Media's Racial Filter, Activated: How Digital Media Uses Race and Platforming to Profile"
September 19, 3:30PM, Hammond Main Lounge
Investigate the intersection of race and social media, contrasting the responses to racially-targeted ads and the Black Lives Matter movement and examining the influence of design choices on racial discourse and profiling.
Dr. Kyle Moody & Dr. J.J. Sylvia (Comm Media)

"Debating & Constituting 'We the People': The Constitution, the 1790 Naturalization Act, & the Idea of America"
September 20, 3:30PM, Hammond Main Lounge
Few American phrases are more famous or more meaningful than the opening three words of the Constitution. But who comprises that "we"?
Dr. Ben Ralton (English Studies)

"Mapping and Profiling Communities"
September 21, 2PM, Library Computer Lab/Hybrid
How do historic and current boundaries influence neighborhoods? In this workshop, we'll explore maps and find out!
Dr. Jane Huang (Environmental, Geographic, & Public Health Sciences) & Dr. Eileen Kirk (Criminal Justice)

Check out the related book display all week in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library and the LibGuide with more resources!
<https://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/ConstitutionDay2023>

Constitution Day events explore racial profiling and the Constitution

The campus is invited to gather for a [Constitution Day](#) discussion entitled "Racial Profiling and the Constitution: What Do Math, Maps, and the Law Have to Say?" at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18 in the Hammond Main Lounge.

Worcester State University Professor Mary Fowler will share her experiences as a statistical expert witness in support of making United States Constitutional Provisions effective in Massachusetts. A series of racial profiling cases shows the development of this area of the law. Additional events will be held throughout the week, and the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library will have a book display and [online resources](#) available.

This event is presented by the university's [General Education Program](#) with funding from the [Office of Student Development](#) and refreshments from the [Student Government Association](#).

[Constitution Day Events](#)

Center for Italian Culture series explores immigration to and from Italy

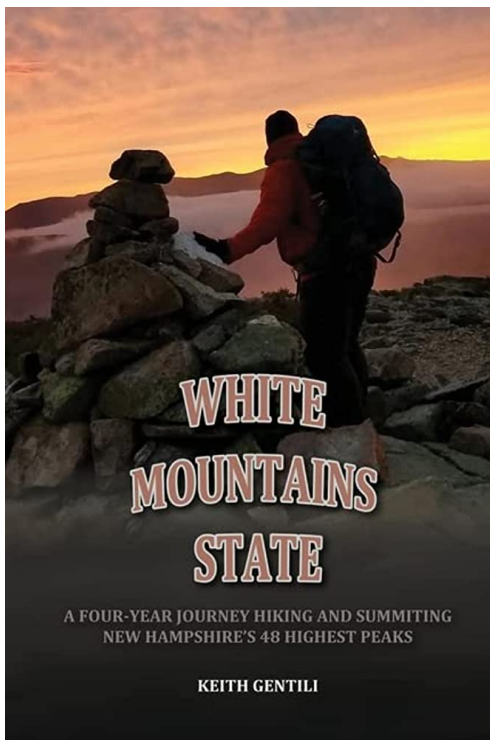
During the 2023-2024 academic year, the [Center for Italian Culture](#) will explore the Italy's immigrant experience, past and present, with our programming series [Nuovo Mondo](#)--A Century of Migrations from and to Italy.

Through lectures, film series, food events, discussions, workshops, and more, the CIC will examine the impact and legacy of the emigration of Italians to the United States and contemporary migration into Italy.

The series begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21 with a screening of the film "Nuovomondo," a 2006 drama

film recounts the Mancuso family's migration from rural Sicily, Italy to New York City at the beginning of the 20th century. The screening will take place at Ellis White Lecture Hall.

[Learn more](#)



Community Read 2023-24 launches

Our 2023-24 [Community Read](#) of *White Mountains State: A Four-Year Journey Hiking and Summitting New Hampshire's 48 Highest Peaks* by Fitchburg State alumnus Keith Gentili, will launch with a two-mile hike to the top of Fitchburg's Rollstone Hill at 3:45 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 21.**

The walk, led by Peter Capodagli, will include the stories and history of Fitchburg's signature boulder, quarries, and other interesting stories. Participation is free and open to the public. Advance registration is not required; simply meet at the Boulder Art Gallery at 960 Main St. at 3:45 p.m. on Sept. 21 to participate. In the event of rain, the event will be held Thursday, Sept. 28.

The events continue at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, with another outdoor outing. "Level Up Your Hiking Skills with Tim Swanson and the North County Land Trust" will provide attendees the skills and knowledge to take their hiking to the

next level. Pre-registration is required through the North County Land Trust's [website](#).

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 the [international student orientation](#); the "welcome back" events for [staff](#) and [faculty](#); and the [re-dedication](#) of our student Veterans Center in Thompson Hall. The blog was also updated over the summer, including the 7th annual [Celebration of Faculty and Librarian Excellence](#), the campus hosting guidance counselors from across the state for a Department of Higher Education "[Reach Higher](#)" event, and numerous entries documenting the 6th Recruit Officer Course of our [police program](#).





Find our branded assets and campus photos online

The university's [Office of Marketing and Integrated Communications](#) has created a collection of [branded assets](#) for university departments and presentations. These include virtual meeting [backgrounds](#), [letterhead](#) templates, digital [slideshow](#) templates, and university [logos](#).

Departments may also use the online [photo catalog](#) for approved images (and watch this [video tutorial](#) on how to navigate the catalog).

[Branded Assets](#)

IT offers new login portal to minimize sign-ins

This semester, Information Technology launches its new Single-Sign-On (SSO) login portal at login.fitchburgstate.edu. The portal lists configured applications to which faculty, staff and students may log in with their Fitchburg state email address and password (also referred to as your Falcon Key). Today it's a one-stop shop for accessing Blackboard, Gmail, College Scheduler, FalConnect, OneCard eAccounts, Rave Alert, and more. As time goes on, more applications will be transitioned from links to integrated SSO applications. No more need to remember multiple website addresses and bookmarks.

The security of campus accounts remains a priority. As part of the portal rollout, IT is moving away from Google Two-Step and Duo to Microsoft Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). Come February, MFA will be required when signing into the portal and all related applications, including Blackboard. To set up Microsoft MFA, sign into <https://aka.ms/mfasetup> and follow the prompts.

Please note, IT will be turning the Google Two-Step requirement off in the coming months as part of this transition and post instructions to walk campus users through the unenrollment process.

CenterStage and Cultural Events

Platinum hit-makers Orleans, now celebrating 50 years of live performances, will [perform](#) at Weston Auditorium at 7 p.m. **Saturday, Sept. 30.**

Since their humble beginnings in Woodstock NY and throughout countless worldwide tours, Orleans have set some very high standards. Here in 2022 and beyond, Orleans continue to meet and exceed those standards at every show, to the delight of audiences everywhere.



Praised by their peers for their songwriting skills, instrumental prowess and classic trademark harmonies, their iconic radio hits, including “Still The One,” “Dance With Me”

and "Love Takes Time," still resonate with audiences of all ages thanks to continued airplay on Classic Rock radio, television, film and streaming services. ORLEANS have produced a body of work spanning 17 albums and several DVDs ... and they continue to be in demand for live shows, as they have been for nearly five decades.

[Tickets](#) are \$20 for adults; \$15 for senior citizens, Fitchburg State alumni and university employees; and \$5 for Fitchburg State students. Tickets on sale now, [online](#) or by calling 800.657.8774.

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: "Don't Close Your Eyes" by Hanna Melnyczuk

Powerful drawings inspired by the war in Ukraine are on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery in artist Hanna Melnyczuk's [exhibit](#) "Don't Close Your Eyes."

Melnyczuk began creating these drawings upon Russia's invasion of Ukraine in an attempt to show her personal attempts to process what is happening to the country her parents left in 1944. Influenced by her work on children's books, the images in this collection show her struggle to understand the unfathomable acts of war that fill her mind.

"Don't Close Your Eyes: Reactions to the War in Ukraine" will be on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Sunday, Oct. 15. There will be a reception with the artist at 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 21** at the gallery.

[Learn more](#)

Faculty Notes

Professor Charles Sides (Communications Media) published the poem "Herb Gatherer, 1963," in the journal, *Appalachia Places*, a peer-reviewed publication of East Tennessee State University. The poem is from his as yet unpublished collection, *Appalachia Song*.

Professor Michael Greenwood (Business Administration) was featured in the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce's Inside North Central [podcast](#), where he described how his passion for business and leadership helped bring the Community Leadership Institute program back to the Chamber. Listen to it [online](#).

Professor Emeritus Mel Govindan was recognized this summer when the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers ([NEACT](#)) presented him with its [Timm Award](#). The award is given to recognize an individual who has been instrumental in the furtherance of the study of chemistry. Govindan's wife and daughter were among the attendees at the awards banquet, which was held on campus.

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Fitchburg State University | 160 Pearl Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420

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