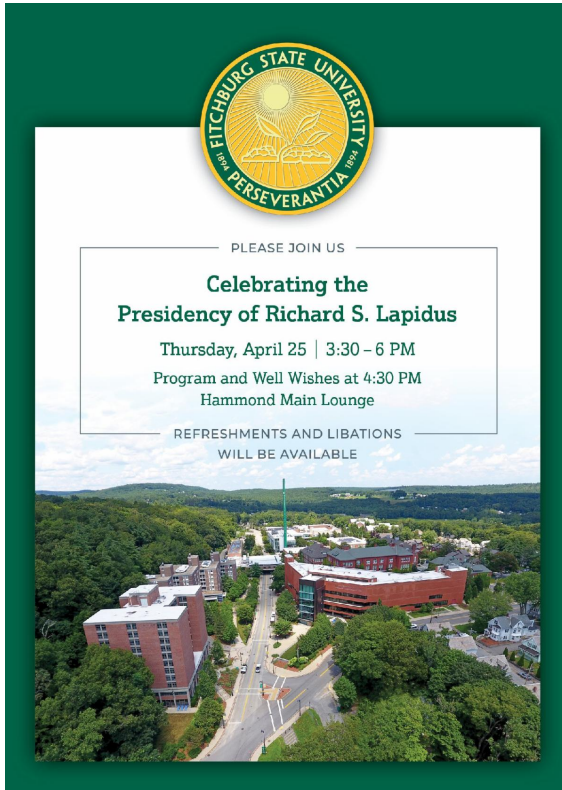

Fitchburg State University Today



Celebration of President Lapidus to be held April 25

The campus will celebrate the presidency of **Richard S. Lapidus** this spring.

There will be a celebration for faculty, librarians, staff members and invited guests at **3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25** in the Hammond Main Lounge. There will be a brief speaking program at 4:30 p.m., and refreshments and libations will be available.

Students are invited to a celebration at **3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 2** on the main Quadrangle, in conjunction with Spring Week activities.

Presidential finalists visit campus

The on-campus interviews with the presidential [finalists](#) continue this week.

- [Dr. Karim Ismaili](#), Executive Vice President and Provost at Bridgewater State University, visited campus April 10-11.
- [Dr. Mark Overmyer-Velázquez](#), Dean and Chief Administrative Officer at the University of Connecticut-Hartford, is on campus Tuesday, April 16 and Wednesday, April 17.
- [Dr. Donna Souder Hodge](#), Vice President of Operations & Advancement at Colorado State University, Pueblo, will visit campus Monday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 23.

Additional details on the [search](#) are posted online.

University dedicates new biotechnology lab

The university dedicated its new biotechnology research laboratory during a daylong celebration of its



investment in life sciences that included [presentations](#) by students and career [networking](#) opportunities.

President Lapidus welcomed guests including representatives from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, MassBioEd and Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives, as well as local elected leaders who celebrated the impact of the laboratory and what it represents.

[Learn more](#)

Rindge Road cleanup this Wednesday

Members of the [Outdoor Adventure Club](#), the [Sustainability Committee](#) and students in an honors course will be doing a cleanup on Rindge Road at **3:30 p.m. Wednesday**. Volunteers from campus interested in joining them are encouraged to meet at the North Street entrance to the Antonucci Science Complex at that time.

Trash and recycling bags will be provided, along with sturdy gloves.

A colorful poster for the 15th Annual Undergraduate Conference at Fitchburg State University. The poster features a rainbow arch at the top. The text includes: "THE 15TH ANNUAL FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE April 18 HAMMOND HALL 8 AM - 12 PM". Below this, it says "Student presentations of creativity and scholarship that proudly define our campus community." and lists activities: "Poster & Oral Presentations", "Creative Writing Showcase", and "Roundtable Discussions". There is a QR code and the website "fitchburgstate.edu/ug-conference". The bottom right features a silhouette of a woman's head with various icons floating around it. The original artwork is by Emmeine Sharpe.

Reminder: Undergrad Research Conference and Honors Convocation return this week

The [Undergraduate Research Conference](#) and [Honors Convocation](#) will be held **Thursday, April 18**.

The research conference, running from 8 a.m. to noon, will include poster and oral presentations; a creative writing showcase, and roundtable discussions.

Day classes are canceled so all members of the campus community may take part in the events.

Take Back the Night on April 22

Fitchburg State University will hold

its annual Take Back the Night vigil against domestic, sexual and dating violence at 7 p.m. **Monday, April 22** on the main quadrangle. The event, sponsored by [Counseling Services](#) and [FAVE](#), is free and open to the public.

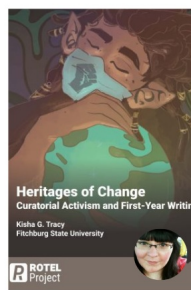
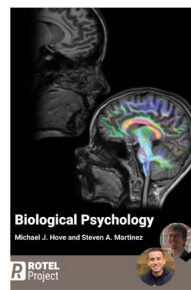
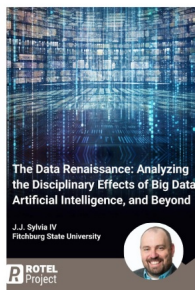
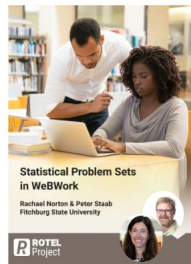
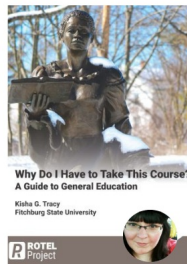


FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

ROTEL Book Launch Party

Tuesday, April 23 at 3:30pm
President's Hall,
Mazzaferro Center

Celebrating our faculty whose OER textbooks have been published through the ROTEL Project.



This event is sponsored by The ROTEL Project, Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library and the Center for Faculty Scholarship. The ROTEL Project is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education's grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

ROTEL Book Launch event on April 23

Celebrate the publication of Fitchburg State's first five ROTEL (Remixing Open Textbooks through an Equity Lens) [textbooks](#), authored by faculty members **Michael Hove (Psychological Science)**, **Peter Staab (Mathematics)**, **J.J. Sylvia IV (Communications Media)** and **Kisha Tracy (English Studies)** at 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, April 23** in Presidents' Hall.

This event is sponsored by [The ROTEL Project](#), Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library and the Center for Faculty Scholarship.

Drag Show rescheduled to May 3

The Gay Straight Alliance has rescheduled the 17th annual benefit drag show for 7 p.m. **Friday, May 3**. This event, designed to entertain, enlighten, and share a great cultural experience with the community, was rescheduled because of inclement weather on its original date.



The "Dancing Queens" drag show will be held at the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St., Fitchburg. Proceeds from the show will support the LGBTQ Student Scholarship at Fitchburg State. The program is labeled as New England's largest and oldest drag show. [Tickets](#) are available now.

[Learn more](#)

Fitchburg celebrates Earth Day

Sunday, April 21

Join InTown Fitchburg and NewVue Communities as Fitchburg celebrates Earth Day 2024 at Riverfront Park off Boulder Drive from 12 to 3 p.m. **Sunday, April 21**. The event is family friendly, free and open to the community. There will be live music, food, plant and clothing swaps, art and fitness activities as well as local vendors on hand.

Learn more at intownfitchburg.com/events.



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 campus community's viewing of the [solar eclipse](#) on April 8; students meeting and interviewing former Boston Bruin [Shawn Thornton](#) at Weston Auditorium ([read](#) a news article about the visit); students enjoying [Greek Week](#) on the quad; and views of our second [Future Falcon Day](#) reception for admitted students on April 6.



[Burg Blog](#)

Cultural Events

Absurdist Alert: One-act plays to be performed on April 25-28

Two one-act plays that point out the bizarre, delightful and surreal nature of life will be presented as Fitchburg State's spring theater productions this month.

The performances, collectively known as "Absurdist Alert!" will be held in the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex at 67 Rindge Road. Admission is free and open to the public.

"The Zoo Story," written by Edward Albee and directed by Jo Nazro, is absurdist in mood and



explores different themes of existentialism, isolation, loneliness, social disparity, and dehumanization in a materialistic American society. Scattered with suspense and provocative humor, the piece is a study of human behavior.

- “A Game,” written by Dennis E. Noble and directed by student Allison Thompson, is the story of three individuals who agree to participate in an experiment in which they are locked in a small room divided into three “equal” sections. Each section is given to one of the subjects and possesses a unique quality. Whenever the lights turn on, they must complete their only given task: stating ownership of their land. With every flick of the light switch, the subjects fight over their land. As they descend to madness, they showcase how far people are willing to go to be better than those around them.

The plays will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25 and Friday, April 26; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 27; and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 28.

“Absurdist Alert!” is presented by the university’s Communications Media Department.

Instrumental, choral concerts this month

The Community Orchestra and Concert Band will present its spring concert at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25** at Weston Auditorium. The performance, presented by the Humanities Department, is free and open to the public.

The ongoing collaboration between the Fitchburg State University and Christ Church choirs continues this month with “The Heavens are Telling: The Music of Franz Joseph Haydn” at **4 p.m. Sunday, April 28**.

The concert will be held at Christ Church, 569 Main St. Admission is free with a \$10 donation suggested at the door.

The collaborative arts event combines university and community musicians, featuring music for voices and orchestra by renowned classical composer Franz Joseph Haydn. “It is always a joy and a privilege to bring together the musicians of Fitchburg State Choirs and Christ Church, and we are very excited to continue our long-term collaboration with this upcoming springtime show,” said **Associate Professor Jonathan Harvey** (Humanities), who will conduct the concert.

There will also be an open rehearsal for this show at **7 p.m. Thursday, April 18** at Christ Church. The open rehearsal will be presented as part of the city’s 01420 Week festivities. Admission to the open rehearsal is free.

The Chamber Choir and Concert Choir will present their spring concert, “I Love to Sing: Music of Joy and Community” at **7 p.m. Tuesday, April 30** at Weston Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public. At this concert, the choirs will perform classical, jazz, soul, avant garde, spirituals, show tunes, and more at the concert.

Faculty Notes

Professor Yasser Derwiche Djazaerly (Humanities) will give a [talk](#) at Framingham State University on Tuesday, April 16 about the Gaza War entitled, “The Gaza War at the Crossroads of Regional and International Politics.”

Professor Jane Fiske (Humanities) and alumna Cynthia Schilling performed at the 11th Annual North American Conference on Video Game Music (NACVGM) hosted by Michigan State University in March. The Fiske-Schilling Piano Duo presented a four-hand piano arrangement of “Reach for the Summit” from the video game Celeste by Lena Raine. The piano duo also performed in March for the university’s Women in the Arts event and will be featured with the university orchestra at the upcoming Spring Concert on April 25. The Fiske-Schilling Piano Duo will perform again this summer for the Old Deerfield Sunday Afternoon Concert Series, at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 28.

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