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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Kicking off a Year of Service

Fitchburg State President Donna Hodge, the university's 12th president, outlined her vision for "A Year of Service" as the theme of the 2024-25 academic year at her first State of the University address on Wednesday, Sept. 4 on the main quadrangle.



"This year, together we will explore what it means to serve one another, to serve students in our rapidly changing world, and to serve our community—our state, this region, and the world," Hodge told a crowd of students, faculty, librarians, staff, trustees, alumni, and community members. "No loftier goal exists for higher education, and Fitchburg State is ready to become its next best version—a place where we celebrate our successes, live joyfully, and balance hope against the numerous pressures our world faces today."

See photos from the event on the [Burg Blog](#) or watch a [recording](#) of the address via FATV.

[Learn more](#)



### Rock the Block on Tuesday afternoon

Rock the Block, our annual clubs and organizations fair, will celebrate its 26th year at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday on the Quad and along Highland Avenue. Learn about all the ways to get involved on campus.

For additional information, visit the [Office of Student Development](#) or learn more at the [FalConnect](#) club and organization website.

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### Hispanic Heritage Month observed

The university will observe [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 with programming organized around the theme of "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together." The theme encapsulates the spirit of innovation, resilience, and unity that define the Hispanic experience.



Fitchburg State's campus observance will kick off with an outdoor cookout and music on the main quad at 2 p.m. **Saturday, Sept. 14**. The [Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness](#) will welcome the executive boards of the campus African Student Association (ASA), Black Student Union (BSU), Caribbean American Student Association (CASA), and Latin American Student Organization (LASO).

There will be a Hispanic Heritage Month flag raising ceremony at 4 p.m. **Monday, Sept. 16** to formally launch the month's festivities. The ceremony will be held on the Alumni Quad between Hammond Hall and Thompson Hall.

Events are open to the campus and wider communities.

[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 new student [move-in](#); President Hodge and members of Cabinet sharing [doughnuts](#) with students on the first day of classes; and classroom activities like Professor Rob Carr's client project production students [meeting](#) with representatives from the Fitchburg Art Museum.

[Burg Blog](#)



## Presidential Debate watch party Tuesday

As part of a series of events entitled "Engaging Students in the Voting Process: Voter Education & Drive Series," there will be a presidential debate [virtual watch party](#) at 8 p.m. **Tuesday**. The online program will be hosted by faculty members **Wafa Unus** and **Collin Syfert** of the English Studies Department and **Kenneth Mackie** of the Economics, History and Political Science Department.

Prior to the debate between Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and Republican nominee Donald Trump, the panelists will provide an overview of what to watch for in the debate including:

- The function of debates in a democracy and the election process
- Role of journalists in developing questions and moderating the debate
- Debate techniques used by the candidates

During the debate, attendees can participate in a live chat moderated by the hosts.

[Join the watch party](#)



## 7th Recruit Officer Course graduates this Friday

The 7th Recruit Officer Course (ROC) of Fitchburg State's groundbreaking [police program](#) will graduate at **11 a.m. Friday** in Weston Auditorium.

The 10 graduates, all of whom have all been hired by municipal police departments across Massachusetts, graduated with their bachelor's

degrees in May and spent the last 17 weeks in academy training.

## Constitution Day observed on Sept. 17

The university will observe Constitution Day at **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17** in the main lounge of Hammond Hall with a keynote address by attorney, author and student advocate C.L. Lindsay III entitled "Knowing Your Rights: Title IX and Gender Equity on Campus." The program is free and open to the public.

[Learn more](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Knowing Your Rights: Title IX and Gender Equity on Campus

## Constitution Day 2024

Keynote on Tuesday, September 17, 3:30PM

C.L. Lindsay III, J.D.  
(Attorney, Author, and Student Advocate)  
*Other events on the topic throughout the week!*

 **FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**  
GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
and Student Development

## Banned Books Week to be observed in September

Fitchburg State will observe Banned Books Week in September with programs highlighting children's books and the challenges facing public libraries.

The programs will begin with a Banned Book Storytime at **9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 23** in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library in Hammond Hall. In this program, faculty, librarians and students will read and discuss banned children's picture books.

There will also be a panel discussion at **11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 26** in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library featuring librarians from surrounding communities who will discuss questions related to book banning and censorship.

[Learn more](#)

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY  
AMELIA V. GALLUCCI-CIRIO LIBRARY

CENSORSHIP IS A DEAD END.

**BANNED BOOKS WEEK**

SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2024  
HAMMOND HALL | LIBRARY | 1ST FLOOR

**Banned Book Storytime**  
Monday, Sept. 23, 9-10:30am  
Join Dr. Covino's Banned Book ALFA class in reading and discussing children's books that have been challenged and/or banned.

**Banned Books in our Public Libraries: Panel Discussion**  
Thursday, Sept. 26, 11am-12pm  
Join us for a conversation with local area public librarians on the recent national wave of book challenges and bans in public libraries.

**Banned Book Display**  
Sept. 22 - Sept. 28  
Check out a display featuring books that have all been challenged or banned in libraries and schools.

All events are open to the public.  
Light refreshments will be served.

## Save the Date: Author and illustrator Peter H. Reynolds '83 to give talk on Sept. 26

Best-selling author and illustrator Peter H. Reynolds '83 will return to campus for an artist residency that will include a moderated discussion with President Hodge at 2 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 26** in the main lounge at Hammond Hall.



Reynolds' works, including *The Dot*, *The Word Collector* and *Say Something!*, have inspired children of all ages with their messages of authentic learning, creativity, bravery, empathy, and courageous self-expression. He is also the illustrator of the best-selling *I Am* and *Judy Moody* series written by Megan McDonald.

Reynolds, who studied communications media at Fitchburg State, will visit classrooms at the McKay Elementary School on the university campus before taking part in the public forum.

## University receives Wilson Language Training and International Dyslexia Association accreditation

This summer, Wilson Language Training [awarded](#) Fitchburg State three-year full accreditation Wilson Accredited Training Partner status. The university's positive and open communication practices, business management, community outreach, and high-quality delivery of Wilson programs professional learning was found by Wilson's accreditation review team to fully support the mission of Wilson Language Training.

[Learn more](#)

Find branded assets  
and photos online



The university's [Office of Marketing and Integrated Communications](#) maintains 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 consult this [video tutorial](#) on how to navigate the

catalog).

Be sure to follow the university's official social media channels, either by clicking on the links in the footer of this email or by visiting our online [social media directory](#).

## Cultural Events

### Gallery Exhibit: "Within Our Gates" by Keith Morris Washington

Our first art exhibition of the academic year will feature the thought-provoking work of artist Keith Morris Washington, whose large-scale landscapes depict lynching sites from across the United States.



"Within Our Gates: Site and Memory in the American Landscape" will be on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Friday, Oct. 11. There will be an opening reception and gallery talk with the artist at **3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20**. Admission is free and open to the public.

[Learn more](#)

### Gallery Opening: "Second Nature" by Atom Moore '05

The works of celebrated photographer and alumnus Atom Moore will be on display in the Sanders Administration Building throughout the 2024-25 academic year, with a gallery opening and reception with the artist at **4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26**.

Moore, a 2005 Fitchburg State graduate, will discuss the exhibition, "Second Nature," during a gallery talk in the Fiorentino Foyer adjacent to the Sanders Administration Building gallery space.

Moore is a professional photographer and videographer living and working in New York City. He specializes in macro watch photography working with major watch brands and publications to bring his unique view to the industry. He has been creating artwork based on his watch photography since 2015 and has had solo exhibitions of his work in New York City, Hong Kong, and The National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, Penn.

## Faculty Notes

Professor Kisha Tracy's (English Studies) book *Heritages of Change* is a [finalist](#) for a 2024 Open Education Global Award for Excellence in the category of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Winners will be [announced](#) on Wednesday, Sept. 18. Learn more about

Tracy's work [online](#).

**Associate Professor Wafa Unus** (English Studies) was [selected](#) by the Center for Community News at the University of Vermont as a member of its third cohort of CCN Faculty Champions. The national initiative is designed to support the people running local news reporting programs at U.S. colleges and universities across the country. News-academic partnerships have emerged as a critical contributor to the national news landscape and one solution to the crisis facing local news. Unus was also selected to speak on a panel this summer during the Association for Education in Journalism in Mass Communication.

On a related note, Unus collaborated with faculty and librarian colleagues to create a [conference](#) for educators and interested community members on journalism and associated topics.

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