

STUDENTS TO TRAVEL ABROAD

FITCHBURG STATE CREATING GLOBAL AMBASSADORS



COURTESY PHOTO

Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus and Anna M. Clementi signed a memorandum of agreement Wednesday establishing the Global Ambassadors Scholarship Program, opening doors for students to travel abroad for experiential learning opportunities.

Clementi Family Charitable Trust's \$1M one of largest endowed gifts ever

Contributed Report

FITCHBURG » One of the largest endowed gifts ever received by Fitchburg State University will create the Global Ambassadors Scholarship Program, opening doors for students to travel abroad for experiential learning opportunities.

Through the leadership of Anna M. Clementi and the Clementi Family Charitable Trust, \$1 million has been raised to support the new scholarship program.

The gift was announced



Thursday by University President Richard S. Lapidus, who said the new scholarship program will help turn the world into a classroom for Fitchburg State students. When fully implemented, the fund is designed to boost the number of students in the university's faculty-led international programs by 30% over its first six years.

"Studying abroad creates better understanding of the global forces that shape our region and our world," Lapidus said. "Fitchburg State has committed to building on these international opportunities, and the transformative gifts we celebrate today will create countless opportunities for students. On behalf of the entire university community, I thank all of

our donors, and in particular the Clementi Family Charitable Trust for their generosity and commitment to the success of our students. As our university embarks on its 125th anniversary year, this program exemplifies our commitment to preparing students to thrive as global citizens."

Anna M. Clementi, representing the Clementi Family Charitable Trust, has served on Fitchburg State's Board of Trustees for eight years and has been a stalwart advocate for the

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FSU

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value of study abroad programs. As one of the founders of the university's Center for Italian Culture, Clementi had previously offered her personal support for international scholarships.

"I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of travel for our university students," Clementi said. "These young people return with a great-

er sense of purpose, direction and confidence. It is my hope that all Fitchburg State students take advantage of all the experiential travel opportunities, and that high school students looking at colleges carefully consider this great travel experience as a unique advantage."

When fully implemented, the Global Ambassadors Scholarship Program will cover 50% of the costs for students to attend Fitchburg State's faculty-led international trips. Students will apply for the

scholarship with the endorsement of faculty, and will be limited to sophomore, junior and senior class students and will target recruiting first-generation students and students with no previous international travel experience. Students from all majors and programs will be eligible.

After the student returns, they will be expected to serve one year as an "International Program Ambassador," in which they will be asked to work with the Office of Interna-

tional Education in recruiting their peers to take part in future programs. Students will be asked to attend five events during the year, such as fairs, social media events, faculty classes, and first-year experience courses.

The target outcome of the program is to increase participation in the university's faculty-led programs by 5% per year for the first six years so as to increase the number of students benefiting from the program by 30%.

LOCAL

COLLEGE TOWN

Fitchburg State gets \$1M for study abroad

By Scott O'Connell

Telegram & Gazette Staff

Fitchburg State University has received a \$1 million gift to start a new foreign travel program for students.

The new Global Ambassadors Scholarship Program is intended to expand the number of students in the school's faculty-led international programs by 30% over its first six years, according to Fitchburg State.

"Studying abroad creates better understanding of the global forces that shape our region and our world," university president Richard Lapidus said in a statement. "Fitchburg State has committed to building on these international opportunities, and the transformative gifts we celebrate today will create countless opportunities for students."

He also thanked the Clementi Family Charitable Trust for its donation, one of the largest endowed gifts the school has ever received.

The trust is represented by Anna M. Clementi, who has served on the university's board of trustees for eight years and was one of the founders of its Center for Italian Culture.

"I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of travel for our university students," she said. "These young people return with a greater sense of purpose, direction and confidence. It is my hope that all Fitchburg State students take advantage of all the experiential travel opportunities, and that high school students looking at colleges carefully consider this great travel experience as a unique advantage."

The scholarship program will cover half the cost of a participating student's trip, according to Fitchburg State. While it's open to students in any major, the initiative is targeted at first-generation college students and students who haven't traveled outside the country before.

Landmark censorship case remembered 50 years later

By **George Barnes**

Telegram & Gazette Staff

FITCHBURG - In 1969, Fitchburg State College may have been the best place for a staff of student journalists to push the envelope and rattle cages.

The school, now Fitchburg State University, was a quiet, conservative teachers' college with a conservative president. Students working on the school's newspaper, *The Cycle*, were looking to open people's eyes to what was going on around them. What they did became a landmark legal case in federal court that is still cited as legal precedent today.

At a Constitution Day event at the college last week, John



Antonelli, editor-in-chief of *The Cycle* 50 years ago, recalled that he and members of his news staff were planning to test the limits of what

they could do. The staid Fitchburg State, and its traditional president, James Hammond, stood in opposition to the ideas of the

John Antonelli, right, talks about the lawsuit that staff members of the student newspaper *The Cycle* filed against Fitchburg State College 50 years ago. At left is Jay Sampson, who also was on *The Cycle* staff at the time. [T&G STAFF/GEORGE BARNES]

1960s were being exposed to.

When Mr. Antonelli, Jay Sampson and Mark Rice showed up for classes in the fall of 1969, they had all just gone to the Woodstock music festival. They were excited about the change going on in the world, and looking to be part of it.

"I expected, and I know we all expected, other things to be happening here," Mr. Antonelli said at the event held Tuesday afternoon in the school's campus center, which is named after Mr. Hammond. "This was 1969; the Vietnam war was raging; the civil rights movement was raging. There was so much happening in the outside world."

See CASE, A7



With Mark Rice listening, Joan Sweeney talks about her experiences at Fitchburg State College in 1969. [T&G STAFF/BY GEORGE BARNES]

CASE

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The school did have Country Joe and the Fish for homecoming that year. The rock group had risen to prominence that summer at Woodstock, but on campus change did not come easy.

At the Constitution Day event, Mr. Antonelli, Mr. Sampson, Mr. Rice and Joan Sweeney, all members of The Cycle, talked about censorship, their interactions with Mr. Hammond and the federal lawsuit they filed over censorship.

In 1969, President Hammond was an institution at Fitchburg State. He had served as its president since 1962. The school he ran was much like other colleges in the 1950s and early '60s, conservative and slow to embrace change. The newspaper staff was trying to remake the school paper from something that highlighted campus events to an activist publication modeled on some of the underground papers of the day. They and the college president were bound to clash.

"The way we got embattled with him, and he with us, was deeply personal," Ms. Sweeney said. "He believed we were morally wrong. We believed we were on a righteous path around constitutional issues, First Amendment issues, our rights to free speech, etc."

The conflict between the two sides centered on censorship of the newspaper. It came to a boil when the third issue of The Cycle was submitted for publication. In it was a reprint of an article called "Black Moochie," written for Ramparts magazine by Eldridge Cleaver, a leader of the revolutionary political organization the Black Panther Party.

What was objectionable was not so much Cleaver's radical political ideas, but graphic descriptions of a teacher Mr. Cleaver had in school, and the confrontation between him, a girl he liked and the teacher. The description bordered on pornography, at least by the standards of 1969. When the staff took The Cycle to the printers, the printer strongly objected to the language in the article. He threatened to smash his presses rather than print it. He then called President Hammond.

Mr. Hammond made it clear the issue would not be published with "Black Moochie" in it. The students were told they would lose the newspaper's funding and would require oversight if it were to publish again.

The decision to censor the paper set in motion a series of



John Antonelli, right, talks about Fitchburg State College student journalists' challenge to censorship 50 years ago. With him are others who were on the staff of the student newspaper The Cycle at the time, from left, Mark Rice, Joan Sweeney and Jay Sampson. [T&G STAFF/GEORGE BARNES]

events. The Cycle was not published by the college, but it was published in a special edition of Salem State College's newspaper. Other student publications around the country published "Black Moochie" in solidarity with The Cycle's staff. At Fitchburg State, the administration's demands that the student newspaper be submitted to an advisory board before it was published resulted in the resignation of the newspaper's editorial staff and eventually the lawsuit.

In federal court in Boston, U.S. District Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr.'s ruling on the case was in favor of the students. He wrote that "because of potentially great social value of a free student voice in an age of student awareness and unrest, it would be inconsistent with the basic assumptions of First Amendment freedoms to permit a campus newspaper to be simply a vehicle for ideas the state and college administration deems appropriate."

The ruling was that there was no right by the school administration to editorial control of The Cycle, and that the school administration failed to show instances where where it would be necessary to take more restrictive measures than generally permitted under the First Amendment.

After the ruling, while major publications like Time magazine heralded their effort, students on the newspaper's staff kept a low profile. Mr. Antonelli and Mr. Rice never finished their degrees at Fitchburg State.

"I knew it was the end of my Fitchburg State experience because of all that happened,"

Mr. Antonelli said.

Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Sampson graduated. Ms. Sweeney later earned a doctorate, and continued to work on social issues. She said that returning after 50 years puts the college in a different light for her.

"To (the lawsuit) be the focus on the 50th anniversary, I'm very proud of it and very proud that the university has grown and there is an openness and a climate to have a conversation that wasn't present here when I was a student," She said.

Jay Sampson married and moved to Oregon, where he later became a teacher. He was editor of the college's yearbook in his senior year, but the yearbook also saw censorship and the issue he worked on never came out until after graduation, preventing many people from receiving a copy. He found it difficult to get his Fitchburg transcripts to apply for jobs. All that made his relationship with the college difficult. He would make frequent trips to the Fitchburg area to visit friends, but the experience created a wall between him and the college.

"I couldn't drive by the campus for 25 years," he said.

Mr. Rice, a freshman at the time of the lawsuit, spent three years at the school, serving as head of the student government association in his junior year before leaving for another college. Although the Hammonds were family friends, he never had a conversation with Mr. Hammond about the case.

"If he was here today, I would say let bygones be bygones," he said. "But I am 68 years old saying that, not 18."

TIMELY SPEAKER

Bernstein shares his thoughts in Shirley

Nationally renowned journalist speaks in front of crowd of 300

By Prudence Brighton
Correspondent

SHIRLEY » The last question asked of Carl Bernstein on Sunday afternoon caused a collective intake of breath among his large audience at the Bull Run Restaurant.

Bernstein himself seemed to heave a heavy sigh when Adam Reilly, WGBH senior political reporter, asked “What are the prospects for a peaceful transfer of power (if President Donald J. Trump is defeated next year or ends a second term in office in 2024)?”

The response to the question was not reassuring.

“We’re in a very dangerous situation and a potentially explosive environment,” Bernstein warned.

Bernstein, one of the most prominent names in American journalism, was speaking to an audience of 300, which included Fitchburg State University journalism, English and history students as well as local residents. His topic for the afternoon was fake news.

Currently a political analyst for CNN and a contributing editor at Vanity Fair, Bernstein gained fame as one half of the Washington Post reporting team whose work contributed significantly to the resignation of Richard Nixon in 1974.

The other half of the team was Bob Woodward.

Bernstein came to the podium and began by saying dryly, “Well, your timing is good.”

Shortly afterwards, almost on cue, his cell phone rang.

“CNN. Must be news,” he said. He turned the phone off, remarking that it was CNN’s booker and

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Bernstein

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that CNN would just have to wait.

Following the advertised format for the event, Bernstein spoke for about 25 minutes, took questions from Reilly, then questions from the audience and then that one final question from Reilly. On the topic of fake news, he spoke of an “inability to reflect, appreciate and factor in the complexity of our culture.” The outcome has been to put politics and journalism “in a box” separate from the wider culture.

“We have two notions,” he said. “The first is that the press exists for the public good. The second is that we give our readers and viewers the best obtainable version of the truth. This is difficult to achieve and particularly elusive in the age of social media.”

Defining some of the differences between the Watergate scandal and today’s scandal, Bernstein said that when he and Woodward began reporting they were alone in their pursuit of the story. Several months later the New York Times started reporting on the burglary that cost Nixon his job.

“Today, we have 12 to 15 news organizations breaking great stories every day.” He listed the Washington Post, New York Times, Reuters, the Associated Press, CNN and even the Wall Street Journal, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch’s News

Corporation also the owner of Fox News.

As the Trump White House becomes more embroiled in a rapidly developing scandal, “There’s no big crack in the Republican wall in Congress,” he said. He added that in a recent conversation with Woodward—the two talk frequently—his former partner said, “Some Republicans are choking.”

They’re not choking soon enough to satisfy Bernstein, who charges GOP officials with “a craven irresponsibility” in the face of what is emerging as “a real conspiracy” led by the President of the United States.

“We are in a very, very scary moment,” he said, forecasting his answer to Reilly’s final question.

Bernstein is a fair and even-handed journalist, however, and has opinions that show his balanced approach. Hillary Clinton, for example, bears some of the responsibility for “who the current president is.” Also, “Hunter Biden is as legitimate a story as are the conflicts of interest that Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Eric Trump have.”

He advised that people need to be open to the truth, but often rely on stories that confirm their biases. “How many people in this room voted for Trump? Raise your hand.” In a room of 300 people, no one did. “I rest my case,” he said.

He repeated the need for “openness to truth” when a 5th grade teacher asked him what she should be teaching her students.



PRUDENCE BRIGHTON / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Carl Bernstein speaks at the Bull Run in Shirley on Sunday.

HELPING COPS COPE WITH WHAT THEY EXPERIENCE

Chief: 'You deal with it by talking about it'

Fitchburg State Police Academy teaches officers to prioritize their mental health

By Nicole DeFeudis

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FITCHBURG It's not always the major incidents that take a toll on police officers' mental health, Berlin Police Chief Thomas Galvin said. Sometimes, it's the daily cases: a car accident, a domestic dispute, a drug overdose. Over and over again.

"We see people on their worst day," Galvin said. Day after day.

When Galvin was a Wayland police officer, some coworkers would invite him to "have a beer" after a tough day. "There was a certain level of machismo," in some police departments back then, he said. Some officers felt pressured to conceal their emotions.

Now, as a Fitchburg State Police Academy instructor, Galvin seeks to change that perception.

"Just because you're not fine, doesn't mean you're weak," he said. "You deal with it by talking about it."

Over the course of the summer-long police academy, Galvin and other instructors stressed the importance of mental well-being to the nine recruits, all of whom graduated in May from Fitchburg State University. This Friday, they will be sworn in as certified police officers.

But just because they wear the badge, doesn't mean they should bottle emotions, Galvin said.

A 2010 study by the Minnesota-based Butler Center for Research

showed that 11% of male officers and 16% of female officers consumed alcohol at levels considered "at-risk" by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

According to Blue H.E.L.P., an Auburn-based nonprofit organization, there were 25 confirmed law enforcement suicides from January 2016 to June 2019 in Massachusetts. More police officers die from suicide than are killed in the line of duty, according to a study by the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

Fitchburg State Police Academy instructors encourage future police officers to recognize the warning signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, support coworkers, and seek counseling or other therapies when needed.

"When they (police officers) aren't able to process and talk about these things (traumatic



NICOLE DEFEUDIS / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Berlin Police Chief and Fitchburg State Police Academy instructor Thomas Galvin, right, gives feedback to recruits Matthew Beal, of Townsend, at left, and Madison Medina, of Pelham, N.H.

events), they hold onto them," said Eugene Lawrence, a substance use disorder specialist with a private practice in Lowell. "A lot of the time, they'll blame themselves," if something goes wrong while on duty, he said.

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Police

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Oftentimes, police officers experience PTSD symptoms without even realizing it, both Lawrence and Galvin stressed.

Galvin tells recruits to watch for changes in behavior. These can include symptoms of depression, more frequent use of alcohol or drugs, or new eating habits, Lawrence said. Those with PTSD may seem agitated, jumpy, or even violent in some cases, he explained.

"The really disturbing part about PTSD is the silence. They withdraw. They become isolated," Lawrence said.

Alanna Duquette sees many officers struggle with these symptoms at On-Site Academy, a nonprofit inpatient treatment center for first responders in Westminister. There, officers, firefighters, veterans and more discuss and learn to cope with PTSD and substance abuse issues — together.

On-Site Academy was founded in Gardner in 1992, and moved to Westminister in 2007. Around 7,000 patients have gone through the programs, and 90% of them returned to duty, according to Duquette, business manager and peer.

"Still there is that stigma out there," that prevents first responders from opening up," Duquette said.

During their stay on the nearly 30-acre farmland, patients learn about the effects of critical incidents on



PHOTOS BY NICOLE DEFEUDIS / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Fitchburg State Police Academy recruits, from left, Jayson Urato, of Leominster, and Matthew Beal, of Townsend, perform a mock arrest during a training scenario.



Fitchburg State Police Academy recruit Madison Medina, of Pelham, N.H., practices calling dispatch during training.

the brain, relax with yoga and acupuncture, hike wooded trails, and most importantly, connect with others in the same situation and certified mental health counselors.

"It's like we carry a backpack, and over the years we keep throwing rocks in that backpack," said Duquette

who once worked in the back of an ambulance.

"I wish that every single person... is made to go through a program of health and wellness before they are made to put on that uniform," she said.

Galvin advises new recruits to look out for each other. "We have to do a bet-

"It's like we carry a backpack, and over the years we keep throwing rocks in that backpack."

— Alanna Duquette

ter job at teaching (that) at this (beginning) level," he said.

"Keep that line of communication open," especially with family members who are more likely to notice changes in personality, he said.

It has to be "a team effort," Galvin stressed. Day after day. One day at a time.

PREPARED FOR ACTION

Former recruits ready to get to work

Nine graduates leave Fitchburg State Police Academy to start careers

By Nicole DeFeudis

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FITCHBURG» “Officer Medina to dispatch,” says former Fitchburg State Police Academy recruit Madison Medina as she reports a car for speeding.

The Pelham, New Hampshire, native approaches the vehicle from behind. She requests the driver’s license, then retreats to the police car, glancing behind her as she walks. Just like she was taught.

Upon running the license through dispatch, Medina

discovers it is invalid. What happens next is up to her.

Medina confirms a passenger’s license is valid, and permits him to drive the car home. Then she writes the driver a citation — only the citation isn’t real. The driver is a police academy instructor. The car belongs to another recruit.

The mock situation was an exercise to prepare nine Fitchburg State Police Academy recruits for graduation.

After walking the stage Friday, Medina is no longer a recruit. She and her teammates are now

certified police officers. And the next car she pulls over will be a real one.

“As proud as I am to send you on your way to do great things in this world, I am also a little sad. I am going to miss you terribly... I genuinely think the world of each and every one of you,” Academy Director Lisa Lane McCarty said from the podium in Weston Auditorium during the graduation ceremony.

The recruits entered the police program as freshmen at Fitchburg State University. They

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JOHN LOVE / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Matthew Beal, of Townsend, gets his badge pinned on by his dad Thomas Beal during graduation for the Fitchburg State Police Academy’s class on Friday.

Graduates

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studied a third of Municipal Police Training Committee curriculum as undergraduates, and earned bachelor's degrees in criminal justice in May. Then began the 17-week summer academy.

"It's mentally hard, and physically hard," Glenn Ferreira said proudly as he waited to watch his daughter, Jessica, graduate from the academy. The family lives in Attleboro.

Day after day, recruits sweat through physical training, scribbled notes during hours of class and practiced deescalation during defense tactics training.

"For four years they have followed all the rules, made all the grades, followed all of the instructions, listened to all of the advice and stayed single-mindedly focused on their goals... It's remarkable. They are remarkable," McCarty said.

Four of the recruits graduated with full-time positions lined up in local police stations.

"I'm definitely proud of everyone in the academy, all the staff. We've definitely come a long way," said recent academy graduate Matthew Beal, of Townsend, who will soon join the Groton Police De-

partment. "It feels like the academy crawled by, but I'm really happy that we're finally here," he said before the ceremony.

"It was probably one of the best experiences of my entire life," said former recruit Andrew Gower, of Acton, who was hired by the Sudbury Police Department. "The teamwork and camaraderie in the academy is really unbelievable."

Cameras flashed as recruits saluted the drill staff and received their certificates. Then parents came forward to pin uniforms. The recruits, most of whom kept serious faces throughout the ceremony, grinned with the corners of their mouths as family members pinned their shirts.

"I'm trying to hold it together," said Kim Kendall, mother to former recruit Jayson Urato, of Leominster. While Kendall is nervous for Urato to enter such a dangerous profession, she is every bit as proud. "I think he's ready," she said. "It's been a great program."

To conclude the ceremony, Fitchburg State University Police Department Chief Michael Cloutier led the newly certified officers in the law enforcement oath of honor.

"I will always maintain," Cloutier said, finishing the oath. "I will always maintain," the recruits repeated.

"The highest ethical standards..."

"The highest ethical standards..."

"And uphold the values..."

"And uphold the values..."

"Of my community..."

"Of my community..."

"And the agency I serve..."

"And the agency I serve..." the recruits vowed.

The academy may be over, but the recruits plan to keep in touch. They're more than a team. Now, they're family. "They're very encouraging," Kendall said about the team. "There's a lot of support."

Going forth, McCarty hopes to keep expanding enrollment. There are currently 77 freshmen in the police program. "We want more students in this program, because it's so innovative," she said.

Typically, a recruit must be hired or sponsored by a police department before enrolling in a 24-week academy to be certified. Through the Fitchburg State Police Program, recruits are certified the summer after earning undergraduate degrees, then pursue a one-year graduate program in criminal justice.

Most of the recruits have dreamed of becoming police officers since they were young.

"Today is the fulfillment of that dream," McCarty said.

LOCAL NEWS

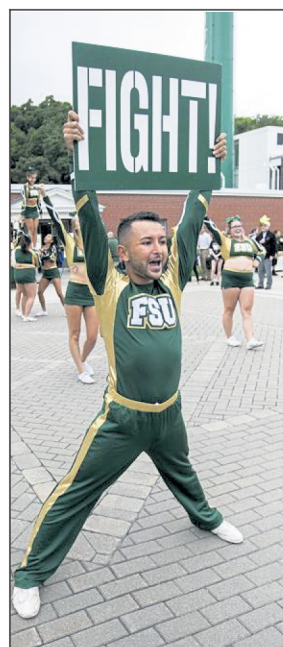
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Fitchburg State Rocks the Block



PHOTOS BY JOHN LOVE / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

The annual Fitchburg State University Rock the Block is an event to showcase student clubs and campus organizations along with some off campus jobs students could apply for to earn extra money. FSU's Freddie the Falcon fist bumps future student Keegan Croteau at the Rock the Block. Keegan's mom works at the university.



Falcon cheerleader and senior Nicholas Monsalve from Holyoke helps entertain the crowd.



Sitting in a very large chair and getting their picture taken at the Rock the Block are senior Taylor Rutherford from Worcester, senior Sade Comiska from Worcester and senior Tess Angelosanto from Stoneham.



Playing some pingpong with friends at the Rock the Block is freshman Cob Hawthorne from Peabody.

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COMMUNITY READ

FSU diving into graphic novel 'Maus'

Panel discussion opens Sept. 26

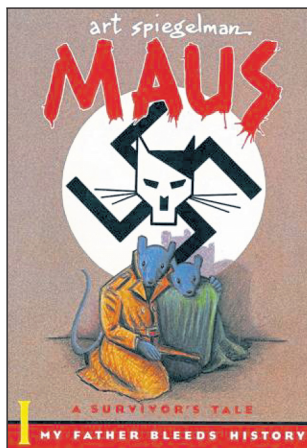
FITCHBURG » Art Spiegelman's groundbreaking graphic novel "Maus" is the subject of Fitchburg State University's Community Read for 2019-20.

This year's exploration of the text launches with a panel talk at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public.

Maus tells the story of the author interviewing his father about his experiences as a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor.

It is part memoir, biography and history.

On Sept. 26, a panel of English studies faculty



COURTESY IMAGE

This year's Fitchburg State University community read will focus on the graphic novel "Maus."

will discuss the work from the Jewish literary, graphic novel, and pedagogic uses perspectives. Professor Lisa Gim will moder-

ate the panel that will include Professors Michael Hoberman, Heather Urbanski and Katharine Covino.

Other upcoming events include:

- A panel discussion titled, "Nazi Symbolism and Propaganda: From Medieval Times to the Present," will be held at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. In this program, Professors Katherine Jewell, Ben Lieberman and Kisha Tracy will discuss the medieval origins of Nazi symbolism and propaganda, and its historical and contemporary uses from Nazi Germany to modern day Nazi Culture in the United States.

- A hands-on workshop titled, "(Mis)appropria-

tion of the Middle Ages: Confronting Misuses of History in the Age of the Meme," will be held at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 in the library instruction

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Novel

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lab of the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library. In this program, attendees will analyze pre-selected artifacts that represent the misuse of history by the KKK, Nazis, and other groups to articulate their messages. Visitors will learn research techniques to fact check these memes.

- There will be a Community Read book discussion at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 in Room 210B of the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library led by students from Fitchburg State's English Honors Society

The Community Read, now in its seventh year, is a community-wide collaboration to celebrate not only the act of reading but to also to explore themes in the book through a series of panel discussions, lectures, film screenings and exhibitions.

The Community Read

program is a collaborative effort between Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg, Leominster, and Lunenburg Public Libraries, Fitchburg High School and the Lunenburg Council on Aging. Maus is available to borrow at the Fitchburg, Lunenburg, and Leominster public libraries, as well as the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University. To learn more, visit [fitchburgcommunityread.com](https://www.fitchburgcommunityread.com).

The Community Read is also part of Fitchburg State's 125th anniversary celebration. Throughout the 2019-20 academic year, Fitchburg State will host a series of events and exhibits commemorating its evolution since its founding in 1894 as a teacher-training school and based around the theme of "125 Years of Changing Lives."

Learn about Fitchburg State's history and keep up with anniversary year events at [fitchburgstate.edu/125](https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/125).

LOCAL NEWS

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TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

FSU to administer voke grant program

ANDOVER » As industries across the country bemoan the lack of qualified employees, Fitchburg State University is partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and area vocational and technical schools to help teachers prepare workers for the evolving workforce.

Cheri Lewis, who teaches biotechnology at Greater Lawrence Technical High School, spent part of her summer at Straumann Group's North American headquarters in Andover. The dental device manufacturer has long enjoyed a robust partnership with Greater Lawrence Tech, hosting students in paid co-ops and offering frequent tours to students interested in careers in the biotech industry.

Lewis completed a paid externship at Straumann thanks to a state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-funded grant admin-

istered by Fitchburg State. In the two years Fitchburg State has run the externship program, more than 90 area vocational/technical high school teachers have been embedded in industrial and commercial sites for a minimum 50 hours each summer.

The participating teachers keep journals of their experiences and Fitchburg State helps them translate those accounts into lesson plans that can be shared with educators across Massachusetts.

On a recent weekday, Lewis joined FSU faculty members and representatives from DESE to tour the Straumann facility and describe the summer externship experience.

"It was really interesting for me to see the other side," said Lewis, who began teaching 13 years ago after a career in the biotech industry. "I've been out of the industry for 13 years, and

this experience reminded me what's going on in the field and about the tools they use."

"We're huge believers in vocational ed and co-operative internships," Straumann Vice President of Operations Douglas Fogg said: "It's been super critical, and we've become a teaching and training facility."

Lewis spent time in several areas of the Andover facility, learning production and quality control processes, and saw the value the company places in education and training.

"For the students, the experience they get here is amazing," Lewis said.

"I learned so much, too."

"It was wonderful to get an up close view of the power of policy and partnerships between educators across the Commonwealth, industry leaders, Fitchburg State and DESE," said Kerry Akashian, Ph.D., DESE Career Development Education Lead.

"The initiative was successful at improving educator effectiveness by allowing the time and space to strengthen curriculum and develop authentic lessons connected to life after high school."

Fitchburg State Professor James Alicata supervised the externship program. "This program gives companies familiarity and confidence in the high quality level of instruction that's taking place in our vocational programs," Alicata said. "The teachers, meanwhile, are reinforcing and increasing the valuable skills that are being offered at the high school level."

The university, celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2019-20, established a practical arts program more than a century ago that has evolved into an engineering technology department that prepares graduates for a variety of careers.

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Grant

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Professor Sanjay Kaul is

chairman of FSU's Engineering Technology Department. "Preparing students with hands-on experiences has been central to Fitchburg State's programs since

our founding," he said. "This partnership extends our commitment to preparing students for rewarding careers across disciplines."

Professor Nirajan Mani

from Fitchburg State's Engineering Technology Department served as co-project manager of the externship program.

"This program offers a common platform for professional development of high school teachers by connecting the classroom to the workplace," Mani said. "It provides actual field experience in which teachers spend time in a workplace to learn through direct experience about current

"I've been out of the industry for 13 years, and this experience reminded me what's going on in the field and about the tools they use."

— Cheri Lewis, biotechnology teacher

technology, trends, required order to enrich and skills, opportunities and strengthen their teaching challenges in industry related and bring relevance to student learning."

FSU'S HOUSING INTERN HONORED



JOHN LOVE / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

The Fitchburg Housing Authority, in collaboration with Fitchburg State University, created a joint college intern program in April 2019. Nathan Walker was the first intern selected for the program and worked at the FHA this past summer. The FHS and FSU honored Walker and his parents on Wednesday, at the C.J. Durkin Apartments in the city. From left at the ceremony, are Andrew Skoog, the deputy director of FHA, Andrew Van Hazinga, the commissioner of FHA, Doug Bushman, executive director of FHA, Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale, Nathan Walker, Cathy Walker, Barry Walker, Linda Byrne, chairperson of the FHA Board of Commissioners, Mary Giannetti, vice chairperson of the FHA Board of Commissioners and Dr. David Weiss with FSU Crocker Center for Civic Engagement.