

LOCAL NEWS

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LEADING BY EXAMPLE AWARDS

FSU's green efforts honored

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University was honored at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' 14th annual Leading by Example Awards for outstanding public sector energy and environmental efforts, according to a release from the university.

The university was among eight Massachusetts state agencies, public higher education institutions, municipalities, and public sector individuals recognized by the Baker-Polito Administration on Dec. 18 for their leadership in promoting initiatives that reduce energy costs and environmental impacts.

Fitchburg State was recognized for a host of sustainability efforts across campus, including completion of an extensive energy project with DCAMM resulting in elimination of #6 oil combustion on campus and an expected \$9 million in lifetime energy cost savings, achieving LEED Silver Certification for three buildings, comprehensive recycling and waste diversion programs resulting in over 40% of food waste being diverted, installing their first EV charging

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station in 2019, and more.

"Our state agencies, schools, and municipalities are making tremendous efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower operating costs and I'm proud to recognize their consistent, meaningful work today," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "I commend the awardees recognized today for their commitment to making the Commonwealth a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable place to live."

"Massachusetts remains a national leader in clean energy and energy efficiency because of the efforts of state and local leaders who work tirelessly to put climate change at the forefront of their work," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "Whether it's installing a solar array on a closed landfill, or expanding electric vehicle charging, these individual and group efforts help to advance the state towards our ambitious climate and energy goals."

Fitchburg State President Richard Lapidus accepted the award at the virtual ceremony.

"Our efforts at Fitchburg State span several campus buildings and operations, including replacing dirty fuels with renewable or cleaner alternatives; green construction and renovation projects; reducing electricity use across buildings; diverting food waste; and communicating with members of our community the importance of the work we are all doing," Lapidus said. "Most of the work we have done may not be readily visible to the campus community, as it has taken place behind walls, underground, and within building systems. But all of it is having an impact on moving us forward toward reaching our sustainability goals. That work is shared across departments and represents a truly comprehensive commitment to sustainability."

Lapidus singled out Vice President for Finance and

Administration Jay Bry, Director of Environmental Health and Safety & Risk Management Leah Fernandes and Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration Mary Beth McKenzie for their leadership in the university's sustainability efforts.

Awardees were honored for policies and programs that advanced substantial energy and emissions reductions, sustainable landscaping practices, renewable energy installations, energy efficiency, waste minimization, electric vehicle infrastructure, and a host of initiatives that reduce environmental impacts and costs for state and municipal operations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's award ceremony was held virtually.

The Leading by Example program is administered by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and works collaboratively with state agencies and public colleges and universities to advance clean energy and sustainable practices that reduce the environmental impacts of state government operations. Cities and towns across the Commonwealth receive similar support and grant funding through DOER's Green Communities Division. The awards were presented by Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Undersecretary Judy Chang, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, and Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) Commissioner Carol Gladstone.

In addition to Fitchburg State, the University of Massachusetts Medical School was recognized in the higher education category. Other awards were presented to: the city of Woburn; the town of Egremont; the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Facilities; the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division; Larry Sullivan from the Town of Norfolk; and Paul Antoniewicz from the state Trial Courts.

To learn more about the Leading by Example program, visit mass.gov/leading-by-example-program.

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FITCHBURG STATE

'Moving to College' to help homeless students

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University will support homeless students as part of the commonwealth's "Moving to College" scholarship program, designed to support unaccompanied homeless youth from the state as they embark on a college degree.

Scholarships for up to 20 students are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Moving to Work program administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, with additional support provided by the Department of Higher Education, the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Commission and participating campuses, according to the university.

In addition to Fitchburg State, participants include Mount Wachusett Community College; Berkshire Community College; Framingham State University; Massachusetts Bay Community College; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; North Shore Community College; and Salem State University.

"We are proud to lend our in-

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stitutional support to this effort that will open doors of opportunity to students," Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus said. "Access and affordability are among our core institutional values, and we look forward to helping bring a college degree within reach for the students in this program."

What's Covered?: Year-round, on-campus housing; meal plans; case management and other support services.

What's Not Covered?: Tuition and fees; books and supplies; transportation; and student eligibility.

Other criteria include:

- Must be Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) income eligible. HCV uses 50% AMI for Individual Income limits. Guideline details can be found at: HUD User: Income Limits page.

- Must meet HUD's definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth or have recently aged out of foster care and meet HUD's criteria of an independent student.

- Provide a letter verifying homelessness written by applicant's school district's homeless liaison or service provider.

- Must be a US citizen (requirement because scholarships are paid using federal dollars).

Other Requirements:

- Applicant must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Applicant must provide proof of enrollment at a participating institution no later than July 1.

- Applicant must maintain full-time enrollment

For more details and application information, visit <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html>.

(12 or more credits) in a degree-seeking program and maintain passing grades in order to be eligible for a renewed scholarship. In some instances, campuses may grant a waiver to a student who, for a variety of reasons, may need to temporarily reduce his/her/ their course load.

- While there is no GPA requirement, students must maintain academic and behavioral standing as defined by the campuses where they are enrolled and (if different) reside.

- Applicant must agree to meet regularly with a member of the Moving to College support team to develop academic year, summer and post-graduation plans.

- Applicant is required to choose one of the following options during summer terms: 1. remain enrolled in at least two courses, 2. work full-time, or 3. enroll in one course and work part-time.

- Applications for the program are due March 1.

For more details and application information, visit <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html>.

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FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University nursing student Krista Flemming is shown in the nursing lab learning on a 'manikin.'

ALDEN TRUST BOOSTS NURSING LAB BY \$100G

Submitted Article

Funds will help buy technical equipment

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University's nursing simulation laboratory will receive \$100,000 worth of improvements thanks to a grant from

the George I. Alden Trust.

The funds will support the purchase of essential technical equipment that will assist nursing students in learning critical

thinking and clinical judgment skills in preparation for their health care careers.

University President Richard S. Lapidus said the Alden Trust

funds will enhance the capacity of Fitchburg State's simulation lab, including an upgraded audio-visual system and related

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programming for its "manikins," as the lifelike patient simulators are known.

The investment will allow students to enhance their clinical skills at a time when the ongoing pandemic is making it harder for students to find clinical placements.

Fitchburg State's existing simulation lab re-

'This project will positively impact our students...'

— Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus

mains in use, but will be enhanced and expanded over the next two years.

"In these unprecedented times, the university continues to provide life-

transforming educational leadership to the communities in North Central Massachusetts," Lapidus said.

"This project will positively impact our students and the thousands of lives that our nurses will care for in the future," he said.

"We are extremely grateful to the Alden Trust for their investment in ensuring our students continue to have access to the best training and equipment available," Lapidus added.

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COLLABORATION WITH HUSSON UNIVERSITY

Students at FSU can now streamline degrees

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Students at Fitchburg State University can now take advantage of new collaborations with Husson University in Maine that will allow them to complete two degrees in less time, according to a release from the university.

They can complete their bachelor's degrees in biology or chemistry along with a doctor of pharmacy degree, or their bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science along with a doctor of physical therapy degree, on an accelerated schedule. This will save students a full year of study.

"This collaboration underscores Fitchburg State's commitment to creating opportunities for students, laying achievable academic paths toward rewarding careers," said Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus. "We are grateful for the collaboration with Husson to open these doors for our students."

"This agreement is providing students with a clear trajectory

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for education beyond their bachelor's degree," said Husson University President Robert A. Clark, PhD, CFA. "We appreciate the opportunity to work with Fitchburg State. Creating a seamless transition from a bachelor's program at Fitchburg State to a doctoral program at Husson will save students both time and money."

Under terms of the agreement, students will be eligible to enroll in the accelerated programs while freshmen at Fitchburg State.

Students' first three years will follow specific programs of study, after which qualifying students will continue in a doctoral

Students' first three years will follow specific programs of study, after which qualifying students will continue in a doctoral program at Husson.

program at Husson.

At Husson, their first year's credits can be applied toward the Bachelor of Science in biology or chemistry (for the Doctor of Pharmacy program) or exercise and sports science (for DPT program).

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Commencement's on, online, for 2020 grads

Two virtual ceremonies set for this week

Staff Report

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University will celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2020 with several virtual commencement ceremonies this week.

"We are honored to recognize the singular accomplishments of these graduates, who have completed their degrees despite unprecedented challenges," FSU President Richard Lapidus said. "Every university graduate must balance the demands of their studies and external factors, but the Class of 2020 had to contend with all of those as well as a global pandemic. They truly embody the university's motto of 'perseverance,' and we are proud to honor them."

The university will have a virtual ceremony for May 2020 graduates at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and a virtual ceremony for December 2020 graduates at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

The graduates' names will be shared in individual virtual ceremonies according to the university's academic schools: School of Arts and Sciences; School of Business and Technology; School of Education; and the School of Health and Natural Sciences

The virtual ceremonies will include remarks from the corresponding undergraduate valedictorians from May and December, as well as the recipients of the Graduate Student Leadership Award for each semester.

Lapidus will deliver the keynote com-

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COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University's May 2020 Valedictorian Stanley L. Choruzek will deliver remarks in a virtual ceremony for May 2020 graduates at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

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commencement address at each ceremony.

For the May 2020 ceremony, Valedictorian Stanley L. Choruzek, who earned a computer information systems degree and lives in Lancaster, will deliver remarks, as will Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Paul Thibodeau, who earned a Master of Science degree in counseling and is from Royalston.

For the December 2020 ceremony, Valedictorian Caroline Anderson, who earned an environmental and earth science degree and is from Lunenburg, will deliver remarks, as will Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Michelle Tilden, who earned a Master of Education in occupational education and is from West Wareham.

Additional details about the ceremonies, as well as links to watch the proceedings, will be posted at fitchburgstate.edu/commencement.

Choruzek is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who enlisted as soon as he was old enough in order to join the War on Terror. When an injury during training kept him from being deployed, he turned his attention to being a full-time father while earning a college degree. He began studying liberal arts and appreciated the foundation of critical thinking it fostered.

The Worcester native graduated from Mount Wachusett Community College in 2017 and then attended Fitchburg State. In addition to his studies, he worked on campus for Information Technology. He also appreciated the diversity of students he met on campus, including fellow veterans.

Looking ahead, Choruzek sees parallels in the computer networks he helped support and the human networks that sustain all of us.

Choruzek hopes to transfer his new degree in computer information systems into a career in cybersecurity. His drive to serve and protect his fellow citizens has led him to the virtual front lines, where hackers try to interfere with social networks or elections.

Thibodeau has faced many challenges in his life but still considers his a blessed existence. After years of drug and alcohol addiction, Thibodeau got sober 25 years ago and is now committed to helping others overcome their own challenges.

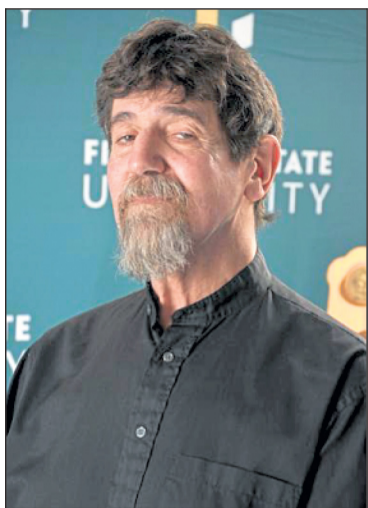
After completing his undergraduate degree in human services from Fitchburg State in 2015, Thibodeau continued his studies at the graduate level in the hopes of building a career in counseling. Those plans were interrupted after a horrific car crash in 2017 that shattered his femur and left him with a traumatic brain injury.

Despite those challenges, Thibodeau considers his a blessed life. He believes he has survived so that he can help others overcome their own adversities.

In nominating Thibodeau for the graduate award, faculty members saluted his resilience and his commitment to continuing his studies despite the challenges created by the accident — including delaying his graduation by a full year.

Thibodeau now works as a counselor for Fitchburg-based social services agency Making Opportunity Count and looks forward to getting his a license to practice on his own.

Anderson is graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average



Fitchburg State University's May 2020 Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Paul A. Thibodeau.

and a record of significant scholarship and academic achievement at Fitchburg State University.

Anderson's passion for the world around her is reflected in her major of environmental and earth science with a minor in chemistry. She has a deep interest in climate change and its impacts on the ocean.

As an undergraduate, Anderson was among the first cohort of students to participate in a grant-funded summer research program in which she worked with peers and faculty members on projects related to the local environmental and community health. The following summer, Anderson returned to the program as a peer mentor to the second cohort of researchers.

She has presented original research at conferences across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico, and interned with professor Jane Huang on a project for the Worcester County Overdose Death Response Initiative Project, an effort begun by the Worcester District Attorney's Office in response to the opioid crisis.

Anderson was also the valedictorian of her graduating class at St. Bernard's Catholic High School in Fitchburg, where she was awarded the Rensselaer Medal for excellence in math and science.

Following graduation, Anderson is pursuing graduate school to continue her studies in oceanography.

Tilden is a career educator, having worked with diverse learners for nearly 30 years. Since 2002, she has taught early education at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School in Franklin, where her students are training for employment in the field of human services.

Like many graduate students, Tilden had to balance personal and professional challenges with her scholastic demands. She overcame these hardships to complete her degree and graduates with a Master of Education in occupational education.

In being nominated for this award, Tilden's adviser cited numerous contributions to her field, including bringing students to the national SkillsUSA conference where they won fourth place. The experience led her to be one of the lead advisers for many years. She continues to coach individuals and teams of students from the early education program.

At her school, Tilden has shown herself to be a leader through service on numerous committees and training projects.

She is the vocational representative for a team of teachers and administrators who work together on bettering the educator evaluation process in their district.



Fitchburg State University's December 2020 Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Michelle A. Tilden.

The stated vision for this evaluation process is to embrace a collaborative coaching model of evaluation with an emphasis on reflective practices to promote individual and school development and growth, recognizing individual strengths and contributions consistent with continuous school improvement and the school's core values.



PHOTOS COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University's December 2020 Valedictorian Caroline Anderson will speak during a virtual ceremony for December 2020 graduates at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Fitchburg State University grad list

FSU graduates for the May and December 2020 commencement are:

Ashburnham: Amanda M. Allen, MBA, Business Administration; Adam R. Goguen, BS, Business Administration; Karin O. Gould, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Jack A. Halliday, BS, Psychological Science; Johnathan A. Levesque, BS, Industrial Technology; Sarah E. Robbins, MED, Special Education; Michelle M. Salvucci, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; and Travis W. Stewart, BS, English Studies

Ashby: Ashley M. Gravelle, MED, Special Education; Ashley M. Gravelle, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; Kristina Ruhnau, BA, Biology; and Kelsie L. Twombly, MBA, Business Administration

Ayer: Rebecca L. Ernst, BS, English Studies; Angela M. Gill, MED, Special Education; and Michelle E. Scott, MED, Curriculum and Teaching

Fitchburg: Iba S. Algarin, BSE, Business Administration; Patrick Babineau, BS, Nursing, RN to BS; Carlington C. Clarke, BS, Exercise and Sports Science; Lucia M. Collette, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; Nicholas G. Cormier, BS, Industrial Technology; Eric D. Desgroseilliers, BS, Psychological Science; Tiffany Dilling, MBA, Business Administration; Edwin J. Feliz, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Kerryn S. Fitzpatrick, BS, Human Services; Alissa C. Frederick, MED, Special Education; Dakota P. Gates, BS, Human Services; Helena J. Jackson, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Cole R. Johnson, BS, Business Administration; Jennifer L. Jones, MBA, Business Administration; Nydia Y. Leger, MED, Education 5-12; Zi Lin, MS, Computer Science; Nicole M. Maille, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Sara M. Moller, MA, English; Christie M. Mullen, MED, Special Education; Alondra Y. Pedraza, MED, Early Childhood Education; Rachel M. Perrault, BS, Biology; Jonathan M. Prescott, BA, History; Hayley Remillard, MBA, Business Administration; Florencia J. Rivas,

BS, Criminal Justice; Alex V. Rodriguez, MBA, Business Administration; Christina M. Rodriguez, BA, Biology; Bob A. Williams, BS, History; and Jasmine L. Yang, MBA, Business Administration

Gardner: Sadie R. Brehio, MBA, Business Administration; Amanda Brown, MBA, Business Administration; Glenn Butler, BS, Business Administration; Jason Carl, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Moses Gomez, BS, Biology; Kayleigh E. Laughlin, MED, Special Education; Tami M. Morin, BS, Business Administration; Nathan R. Oliva, BS, Criminal Justice; Connor M. Puchol, BS, Industrial Technology; Rebecca L. Therrien, MED, Special Education; and Emilia M. Torres, BS, Human Services

Lancaster: Amber N. Gustafson, MED, Special Education; Andrew Martinez, BS, Comp Info Systems; Matthew T. Mason, BS, Business Administration; and Nicole S. Visaggio, MS, Forensic Nursing

Leominster: Orlando P. Acero, BS, Business Administration; Nicholas M. Allain, BS, Psychological Science; Guelmari Alvarado, BS, Business Administration; David R. Barry, BS, Business Administration; Kaylin M. Basso, BSE, Early Childhood Education; Samantha M. Battaini, MED, Special Education; Victoria Berko, BS, Biology; Debra J. Bettencourt, MED, Special Education; Tyler D. Brandt, BS, Criminal Justice; Brennan E. Cuddahy, BS, Business Administration; Catherine R. Djerbaka, MED, Special Education; Cassidy A. Edwards, BSE, Early Childhood Education; Alyssa M. Fay, BS, Business Administration; Paula S. Fuentes, BS, Human Services; Emily A. Gianakis, BS, History; Zachary P. Grautski, BS, Human Services; Mary Lively, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Stefanie L. Loebertman, MBA, Business Administration; Jordan D. Long, BSE, Special Education; Elizabeth D. Marquis, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; James E. McKenna, MS, Criminal Justice; Elizabeth M. McNiff, BS, Business Administration; Peace

K. Mecha, BS, Psychological Science; Iddriss Mutari, BS, Comp Info Systems; Allie M. Pandiscio, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Derek B. Patno, MED, Special Education; Catherine M. Puskas, BS, Human Services; Mark A. Ramos, BS, Communications Media; Joseph A. Rand, BS, Computer Science; Alexa J. Russo, BS, Psychological Science; Frances L. Santos, MBA, Business Administration; Shauna M. Soroka, MBA, Business Administration; Emily R. Thibodeau, MED, Early Childhood Education; Olivia L. Tonry, BS, Psychological Science; Paula J. Valiton, MED, Early Childhood Education; Pithy Vann, BS, Business Administration; and Ciara K. Whitney, BSE, Elementary Education 1-6

Lunenburg: Caroline Anderson, BS, Environmental & Earth Science; Emily L. Bodkin, BS, Communications Media; Shannon L. Creedon, BS, Communications Media; Paul R. Della Valle, MED, Special Education; Zachary R. Haas, BS, Business Administration; Kelly A. Harvey, MED, Special Education; Michael R. Jeffreys, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Kerry E. O'Gorman, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Sofia M. Selme, BS, Business Administration; Rebecca F. Wilson, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; and Danae Young, MBA, Business Administration

Shirley: Michael K. Brown, MBA, Business Administration

Sterling: Jillian Gawlik, MED, Special Education

Townsend: Kianna M. Dutton, BS, Business Administration; Teresa Marshall Bradbury, MBA, Business Administration; Juan R. Orta, MBA, Business Administration; and Kathryn J. Schatia, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies

Westminster: Krushauna C. Bartkus, BS, Biology; Taylor M. Bourgeois, BS, Communications Media; Ebony L. Martin Early, BSE, Childhood Education; Alyssa C. Reynolds, MED, Special Education; Janet C. Smith, CAGS, Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Katharine C. Sparks, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; and Yvonne J. Wandless, BS, Biology

HIGHER EDUCATION

FSU releases names of winter commencement grads

Staff Report

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University's winter commencement ceremonies included graduates whose degrees were conferred in August.

Their names were not included in the list published earlier this week in the Sentinel & Enterprise. Those graduates are as follows:

Ashburnham: Natalie E. Arsenault, BS, Business Administration; Madison R. Tocci, BS, Exercise and Sports Science; and Symantha M. Vallee, BA, Biology

Ashby: Kristina M. Baker, BS, Business Administration; Megan J. Drummond, MBA, Business Administration; and Mitchel Plamon-

don, MBA, Business Administration

Ayer: Zachary W. Connell, BS, Communications Media; Stephen A. Ferreira, MBA, Business Administration; Andrew J. Gower, MS, Criminal Justice; and Douglas Phillips, MBA, Business Administration

Fitchburg: Andrew J. Allen, BS, Communications Media; Moise Calypso, BS, Criminal Justice; Khianna N. Del Valle, BS, Biology; Rebecca A. Goodlett, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; Ashley L. Goodman, BS, Psychological Science; Zachary D. Lapidus, BS, Game Design; Nicole Maldonado, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; David T. Oster, MBA, Business Administration; and Ashley M. Tarckini, CERG, Applied Behavior

Analysis Cert

Gardner: Samantha G. Haskins, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; Alisha E. Pierce, MED, Special Education; and Alisha E. Pierce, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert

Lancaster: Lea N. Lafond, MED, Early Childhood Education

Leominster: Lekan R. Akeju, MBA, Business Administration; Julia L. Bonica, BS, Biology; Nolan J. Brassard, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Jessica M. Caouette, BSE Elementary Education 1-6; Richard J. Christian, MBA, Business Administration; Carissa Ciccone, BS, Industrial Technology; Gianna M. Cordio, BS, Business Administration; Andrew J. Cornacchia, BS, Psychological Science; Pat-

rick A. Dolan, MBA, Business Administration; Katie P. Doughty, BS, Biology; Angela Douthwright, BSE, Early Childhood Education; Adeola A. Fasan, BS, Biology; Cheyenne L. Frost, BS, Business Administration; Michael Gauthier, BS, Game Design; Danielle M. Hebert, MBA, Business Administration; Matilda Kola, BS, Business Administration; Rebecca L. Leblanc, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Ethan P. McCaffrey, BS, Geographic Sci & Technology; Nathan J. Monat, MBA, Business Administration; Kyle M. Paskvan, BS, Criminal Justice; Courtney E. Powell, CAGS, Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Luis X. Reveron, BS, Political Science; Nicole T. Rooney, MED, Curriculum and

Teaching; Christopher C. Turner, MED, Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Jayson R. Urato, MS, Criminal Justice; Matthew D. Valeri, MBA, Business Administration; and Danielle E. Waseleski, BS, History

Lunenburg: Gerald J. Lane, BS, Computer Science

Shirley: Justine A. Carrillo, BA, Interdisciplinary Studies; Cecilia P. Somes, MBA, Business Administration; Tyler J. Warila, BS, Business Administration

Sterling: Kevin A. Chabot, BS, Business Administration; Katherine M. O'Malley, MED, Special Education; Ashley L. Rodgers, MBA, Business Administration; and Coral M. Stephenson, MED, Arts Education

Townsend: Matthew C. Beal, MS, Criminal Justice;

Karen A. DiStasio, MA, Biology; Tyler D. Dodge, BA, Interdisciplinary Studies; Eammon R. Gosselin, MA, English; Erinn B. Melus, BS, Mathematics; Erinn B. Melus, BS, Environmental & Earth Science; and Matthew T. Russell, MA, History

West Townsend: Rachel Nadworny, MS, Counseling

Westminster: Mackenzie H. Aveni, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; Mark K. Brillon, MBA, Business Administration; Haley L. DeCarlo, BS, Business Administration; Susan A. Keddy, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; Taylor E. Nelson, BS, Nursing - BS; Micayla J. Varieur, CERG, Applied Behavior Analysis Cert; and Micayla J. Varieur, MED, Special Education.

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FSU PRODUCTION

Students take on current issues

‘Our Reckoning’ available online

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » This fall, despite being in a pandemic-ridden semester, the Fitchburg State University Communications Media Department is saying, “On with the show!”

The production of “Our Reckoning” speaks for itself, in that it faces the issues of today

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head-on. The show’s individual pieces, which are mostly student-written and student-performed, aim to focus on issues surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement, PTSD, struggles with academia with ADHD, our current coronavirus pandemic and mental illness, among other important issues.

Director and professor Mary Vreeland says about the show that it is about the notion that we have to come to a collective or personal reckoning with these important issues.

The compounding stress of them weighs heavy on us, so the production is aimed to enlighten audience members on the issues and give them the strength to face them.

Professor Kelly Morgan also said the show offers opportunities to serve students professionally, but also serve the student body. This production aims to further the audience’s own understandings/dialogues, and help alleviate their own stresses and create a larger sense of community awareness.

The students and performers are excited to share their voices to spread their messages and



MATTHEW BRUUN / COURTESY OF FSU

awareness across the campus community. For many, the pieces they are performing are personal to themselves, and want to connect with others and raise their voices as well. For Fernando “JC” Santiago, who has experienced racism from both sides, or Freddie “Susan” Timmons, who is a survivor and an LGBT+ individual, among others, their pieces hope to reach out to others who

may have been in similar situations, and ask for them to listen and reach out in turn.

While the show was meant to hold an in-person audience, for safety reasons the decision was made to record, edit and post the video of the performances online for a broader audience to view. The video will be live at <https://vimeo.com/user98628342> until Nov. 16.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Virus spike prompts big changes

College switching to remote learning, closing dorms

Staff Report

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University will close its residence halls and switch to remote

learning for most of its courses later this month in response to a spike of COVID-19 cases in the city.

“These steps are being taken as a direct result of a steep rise in

COVID-19 infections in the city of Fitchburg and the surrounding areas,” President Richard Lapidus said in a memo to the campus community on Thursday morning. “This increase in infec-

tion rate has begun to impact our campus. The state’s ‘Stop the Spread’ program will soon be implemented in Fitchburg as a means of working toward curtailing new infections.”

The changes were announced after consultation with local officials and public health professionals. The university will switch to remote instruction – with the exception of a small number of pre-approved face-to-face classes – no later than Saturday, Nov. 21.

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JOHN LOVE / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus at a press conference last year. He praised the campus community’s response to the pandemic, stating, ‘Though every positive COVID-19 case is one too many, because of your efforts, we have been able to keep the number of positive cases on campus small among our students, faculty, and staff.’

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Since the campus opened in late August, the university has tested its employees, staff, faculty and students nearly 6,000 times and until two weeks ago, had only four confirmed infections.

However, in the last two weeks, an additional 12 members of the campus community have tested positive, according to information the university’s COVID-19 dashboard.

Residence halls will close for the semester at midnight Nov. 22. Students in pre-approved, face-to-face classes and those approved due to extenuating circumstances may remain in the residence halls. Additional information was being shared with residential students, including adjustments to housing and dining charges. The university is continuing its weekly COVID-19 testing protocol and invited students to take advantage of testing prior to any Thanksgiving-related travel. The spring semester will start one week later than originally planned, with classes beginning Jan. 25. The spring recess scheduled for March has been canceled, though four “wellness days” have been added to the academic schedule.

In his memo to the campus, President Lapidus praised the university community’s response.

“The COVID-19 pandem-

Residence halls will close for the semester at midnight Nov. 22. Students in pre-approved, face-to-face classes and those approved due to extenuating circumstances may remain in the residence halls.

ic, while challenging and stressful for all, has also demonstrated the outstanding character and caring nature of our campus community,” Lapidus said. “People have shown compassion, empathy, and a heightened sense of responsibility for the well-being of others. I am proud that so many members of our community have stepped-up and acted in a safe and responsible manner this semester.

“Though every positive COVID-19 case is one too many, because of your efforts, we have been able to keep the number of positive cases on campus small among our students, faculty, and staff,” Lapidus continued. “By further de-densifying our campus, we are better able to preserve the health and safety of all.”

Fitchburg State to finish term remotely

By **Scott O'Connell**
 Worcester Telegram & Gazette
 USA TODAY NETWORK

FITCHBURG – Citing the worsening virus trend, Fitchburg State University on Thursday announced it will close its campus a month ahead of schedule this semester.

Originally Fitchburg State's plan was to bring students back to campus after Thanksgiving break to finish out the semester, which ends mid-December. Residence halls were scheduled to close for the winter break on Dec. 17.

According to a memo the school's president, Richard Lapidus, sent to staff and students Thursday morning, Fitchburg State now will move most classes to remote formats by Nov. 21, and close dorms to all but a few approved students by Nov. 22.

"These steps are being taken as a direct result of a steep rise in COVID-19 infections in the city of Fitchburg and the surrounding areas," Lapidus said. "This increase in infection rate has begun to impact our campus."

According to the university's COVID-19 data dashboard, there were 12 positive tests on campus for the week ending Nov. 8; two of those individuals are in isolation.

Since Fitchburg State began running tests in late August, there have been 16 positive COVID cases in total.

The university still plans to reopen campus for in-person learning and living on Jan. 25 for the start of the spring semester, but that date is one week later than previously scheduled. Fitchburg State leadership also has eliminated spring break this year, and instead scheduled four "wellness days" throughout the semester.

This semester, there were approximately 1,000 students living on campus, only 150 of whom will be allowed to stay through December, according to a university representative.

In his message, Lapidus credited students and staff for following COVID prevention protocols while



FITCHBURG – A sign of support seen at Fitchburg State University as daffodils bloom on an empty campus Thursday, April 16. [T&G STAFF/ASHLEY GREEN]

FITCHBURG

From Page A1

on campus this fall.

"Though every positive COVID-19 case is one too many, because of your efforts, we have been able to keep the number of

positive cases on campus small among our students, faculty, and staff," he said. "By further de-densifying our campus, we are better able to preserve the health and safety of all."

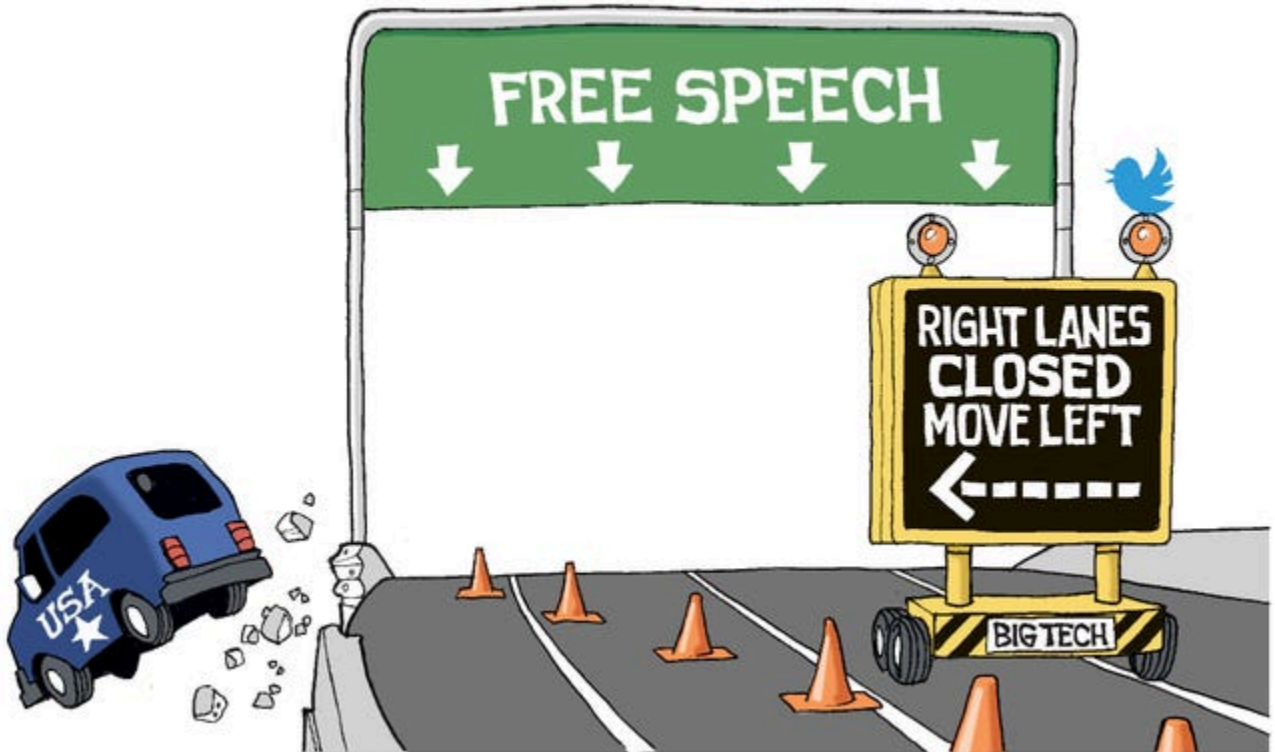
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Moody: Internet conspiracy theories have consequences. Here's what we can do about them

Kyle Moody

Lisa ©2021-13 Dist by Wash. Post Writers Group



This week was a sobering one for the American people. Between the violent attempted coup of the government, and the decision by large social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to remove outgoing impeached President Donald Trump, we have experienced much as a nation. Unless we

address our nation's issues with conspiracy theories and social media, these problems are only going to get worse.

The Americans that flooded into our nation's capital and caused destruction that left five people dead were not acting based on factual information. Rather, they were incited by frequent exposure to conspiracy theories online, and now we are seeing the consequences of this misinformation pooling around our democracy.

What comes next is going to be based on a combination of actions: our own individual and collective responses, and those belonging to Big Tech platforms like Facebook and Twitter. We can fight these conspiracy theories, but it's going to take action on all of our parts.

It's important to know why these conspiracy theories emerged. A conspiracy theory is a way to explain events that credits a small group of powerful persons, the conspirators, acting in secret for their own benefit, which goes against the common good. If you've been online at any point during the past five years, you've probably heard of conspiracy theories such as the Deep State, where a cabal of secret government workers – including President-Elect Joseph Biden – are dedicated to overturning the will of right-wing leaders such as President Trump.

Perhaps you've heard of related conspiracies such as PizzaGate, which posits that liberal government officials like former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton used a Washington D.C. pizzeria as a front for child trafficking. Maybe you even believe the intricacies of the delusional gamification of the QAnon conspiracy, where Donald Trump is actually toiling to expose the Deep State as child-molesting cannibals that are trying to overtake the country. These are patently false, but their very spreadable nature came about as a result of misinformation spread across platforms to gullible users.

As social media and technological changes grow at a rapid pace with shifts in political and social culture, the massive scale of these changes can become

overwhelming. Proportionality bias is one such way of understanding these changes, where such varying changes can be explained by equally huge causes. In this case, the creation of a fictional Deep State that is doing the bidding of “globalists” was one way that proportionality was used to wave away the shifts of society. The narrative presented by them wipes away their own culpability in the violence that transpired at our nation’s capital, and across our country.

What has been lacking throughout this administration is a solid application of media literacy by American citizens. This is infuriating to educators like myself, who provide skills to students and encourage critical thinking, research, and to identify news and information that they can trust as reliable. But the fact remains that our job will be a hard one in the coming years as we work to extricate ourselves from a glut of misinformation across the fabric of society, where users both old and young are enticed by false information narratives that appeal to their values.

There is value in learning about the information we consume on a regular basis. I regularly offer courses at Fitchburg State University on best practices for social media. Usually those include telling students of all ages that their best recourse for posting and sharing content is to slow down and check the veracity of the information they encounter.

Checking information on an independent fact-checking site like Snopes or Politifact is useful to make sure one is not engaging with false claims. Moreover, social media platforms are driven by speed and rapid information sharing. Slowing down allows us to better process the information critically and at a remove, and it requires us to take a step back. This personal strategy is a way of taking back control from conspiracy theories, which thrive on our inability to extricate ourselves from their fictive and fast-moving “reality.”

There are useful methods available to all of us when engaging with friends or loved ones that have been taken hold by conspiracy theories. Strategies for pulling them out of the disinformation abyss including talking with the person

and not the story they are parroting, or appealing to their sense of integrity, reason, and conscience.

Suggesting alternative information sources means we'll all need to examine our own habits of media consumption and bias, and thus need to expand our media diets. We have a plurality of beliefs in American society, and the onus is on us to learn where our friends and neighbors are getting their information. We will get there by improving our own collective media literacies.

Technical platforms also have a major role in shaping public discourse. This wasn't the only time the president has used his voice to rally his base into violent behavior. He was fond of his 88 million followers on the platform Twitter, which he used as his personal megaphone. Before and after the election, President Trump spread baseless conspiracy theories of voter fraud, falsely claiming the process was "rigged" and dedicated himself to overturning the results. On Friday, after nearly every other major social media platform has indefinitely suspended him for his role in inciting the attack on Washington, Twitter took the major step of banning the personal account of the president of the United States.

We will likely see more bans of accounts like this before the year – possibly even the week – is over. Social media platforms are facing continued scrutiny over their role in distributing misinformation and highlighting extremist posts that have caused violence during the Trump administration, and their role in our everyday information exchange cannot be denied.

Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube have benefitted from extreme right-wing media's migration from the airwaves to the internet, and now that the political winds in Washington are changing, we will see more of these tech giants look to regulate and reform their network policies to ensure that it never happens again – or that they can be held blameless.

We should collectively encourage this, as reformation on a massive scale is needed to make sure that publishers are held accountable for the lies and

violence they foment. After all, these were the sites where domestic terrorists were able to share lies that formed their ideologies; it's also where they organized and set up the "Stop the Steal" march that led to violence and death. Small wonder that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's famous slogan was "Move fast and break things."

The choices before us are simple: we must become more media literate as information consumers, and we must also hold these platforms to task for not acting sooner to mitigate the violence that they profited from while democracy grew more fragile.

We must encourage our legislators to begin engaging in discussions that will lead to new regulations on these platforms and hold them accountable for the misinformation that they have highlighted on their sites, including high-profile users and demagogues like Trump.

This needs to change, and soon. Only by becoming more engaged in our media consumption and distribution can we become a better citizenry.

Kyle Moody, Ph. D., is an associate professor of communications media at Fitchburg State University. He is an expert in online communities, media and information distribution, and social media production.

FITCHBURG



COURTESY MATT BRUUN

From left, Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus, Dario's restaurant owners Elmer Melendez and Delmy Melendez, and Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale visit the future home of Dario's Ristorante at 655 Main St. Melendez anticipates the new restaurant opening in spring 2021.

DARIO'S RISTORANTE INVESTING IN DOWNTOWN

Popular eatery moving from River Street to 655 Main St.

By Matthew Bruun

FITCHBURG » Elmer Melendez looks at downtown Fitchburg and sees opportunity.

“I’ve been living in this area since 2005, and for some reason Main Street in Fitchburg has always captivated me,” he said. “As an immigrant, when I drive on Main Street I really

feel it’s New England.”

Melendez, who came to the U.S. from El Salvador, has had success with his local Dario’s restaurants, and this winter he will realize a long-held dream

by relocating his Fitchburg eatery from River Street to 655 Main St. A spring 2021 opening is anticipated.

“I see a lot of talk about

DARIOS » 8A

Fitchburg's old days. That's good history, but why don't we talk about Fitchburg in 2025?" Melendez asked. "The only way to do that is we as a community — business owners, City Hall, institutions — we have to do something about it to be able to do it. I really believe this is a beautiful area. To me, Fitchburg has one of the most beautiful Main Streets for miles around."

Melendez said he's seen much stronger governmental support for local businesses, and combined with other investments on Main Street — like the renovation of City Hall and the Fitchburg State University Theater Block project — he sees a bright future.

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale said Dario's relocation builds on a strong public/private partnership in Fitchburg's Transformative Development Initiative district. The district includes major projects like the residential Fitchburg Arts Community now under construction, as well as the renovation of City Hall and Fitchburg State University's purchase and rehabilitation of the Main Street Theater Block.

The city has established a 0% revolving loan fund that is supported by Community Development Block Grant funds that is helping support projects like the Dario's move.

"I am thrilled to see Dario's relocating to Main Street," DiNatale said. "I know this undertaking is the result of much effort and planning, and I want to congratulate everyone who worked to make this a reality. Thank you, Elmer, for joining our partners and investing in the future of downtown. Dario's is a perfect dining experience that will help to make downtown a destination. I expect Dario's business will

continue to thrive."

"Dario's on Main will be a great addition to downtown Fitchburg, and complements Fitchburg State's investments in the heart of our city," University President Richard S. Lapidus said. "Our students are always looking for opportunities downtown, and Dario's could become a destination for visiting families as well as members of the campus community."

Ray Belanger and Jacqueline Mastrangelo of NewVue Communities worked with Melendez on his business plan and helped assemble a complex financing package to help turn his dream of a "showcase restaurant" in Fitchburg's central business district into a reality.

"It is so refreshing to work with an entrepreneur who exhibits the amount of passion for business, his customers, and for the revitalization of downtown Fitchburg," said Belanger, adding that Melendez and his wife, Delmy, have enhanced the neighborhoods in which their family-owned and operated businesses thrive.

"Inside their doors, the Dario's establishments reverberate with livelihood, simplicity and innovation; a modern, yet traditional setting in which conversation is king," Belanger said.

NewVue's work with small businesses in the region is funded in part by Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation.

Rick Boscardin and Jimmy Pappas, the property owners and developers of 655 Main St., have worked with Melendez the past two years on prospective downtown locations for Dario's.

"We are very pleased to have Elmer at this prominent location on Main Street where other investments are happening," Boscardin and Pappas said. "We believe Elmer's success as a regional restaurateur, his business acumen, and passion for Fitchburg is absolutely

the right fit for this location, and we are proud to have him in our building. We like getting stuff done and we have further plans for property development downtown," said the owner-developers."

Fitchburg Art Museum Executive Director Nick Capasso said Dario's on Main will help continue the revival of the city's core.

"The Fitchburg Art Museum looks forward to the opening of Dario's Restaurant on Main Street," Capasso said.

"Dario's will be a much-needed lunch and dinner venue for our Museum guests, and the growth of dining and retail establishments in In-town Fitchburg will be key to our efforts to create a state-sponsored downtown cultural district," he said.

Melendez was also supported by Athol Savings Bank in his expansion plans. In a statement, bank officials described Dario's as a well-established business. "We wish for the continued success for Elmer, Delmy and his team, and that his restaurant flourishes in its new location. Athol Savings Bank is committed to providing financing to local, profitable businesses with the goal of supporting local industry in the area."

MassDevelopment, operators of the TDI program, said Melendez's plans align with their objectives.

"MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) Fellow Francisco Torres has worked extensively with owner Elmer Melendez and other TDI partners to bring Dario's On Main to downtown Fitchburg — from scouting locations, to providing technical assistance, to delivering grant funding," said MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss. "This success highlights the unique value of our TDI program and its high-touch, collaborative, and multifaceted approach to urban economic development. The project

represents a 'win' for downtown Fitchburg and the TDI partners, and we are thrilled to have been a part of it."

"This redevelopment project shows forward movement in our larger revitalization efforts within the Fitchburg TDI Arts and Culture District and the North of Main," said Jay Bry, Vice President of Finance and Administration at Fitchburg State University and Fiscal Agent for the Fitchburg TDI Arts and Culture District. "In addition to the public and non-profit sector capital projects underway, such as the University's Theater Block, City Hall, and the Fitchburg Arts Community, private sector projects such as Dario's Ristorante complement our overall goals for bringing more residents and visitors to Main Street."

"This project is an example of what can be accomplished when cities such as Fitchburg prioritize and deliver on collaborative partnerships," said ReImagine North of Main Director Joe Ferguson. "At every level of this project, from Elmer and the property development team, to the TDI partners involved with grant and technical assistance, this project is a testament to the value of partnership."

Melendez is exploring other restaurant ideas on Main Street, and sees a synergy from further development. "We need all kinds of eateries — you need fast food, different kinds of food, everything complements each other. People don't understand that. More restaurants will have Main Street have more appeal."

"I see Fitchburg having big potential, and I want to harvest this potential now," Melendez said. "I don't want to be a chaser — I want to be a pioneer."

Bruun composed and submitted this article for Fitchburg's ReImagine North of Main.

LOCAL NEWS

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FITCHBURG

Restored 1941 film shows city of yesteryear



COURTESY OF FSU

The public is invited to look at a curated selection of clips from footage shot in Fitchburg in 1941, introduced by professor Charles Roberts, and take part in a discussion led by Fitchburg Historical Society Executive Director Susan Navarre in a virtual event at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » In November 1941, a film crew came to the

city of Fitchburg to capture local faces and places for a “slice of life” film designed to be shown in local cinemas.

The footage went unseen for

years but has now been digitized and is in the midst of a meticulous restoration under the auspices of Fitchburg State University Professor Charles

Roberts from the Communications Media Department.

The public is invited to take a look at a curated selection of

FILM » 4A

Film

FROM PAGE 3A

clips from the footage introduced by Professor Roberts and take part in a discussion led by Fitchburg Historical Society Executive Director Susan Navarre in a virtual event at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Go to meet.google.com/ujn-otbf-tat to take part.

Navarre will set the context for how Fitchburg would see itself: how people presented themselves in public spaces like Main Street or at church, the

world of men and the world of women, and a glimpse into children’s lives at school and at play. In this Fitchburg Historical Society program, she will present a few stories drawn from the reminiscences, documents and artifacts of Fitchburg residents found at the Historical Society to accompany Professor Roberts’ extraordinary film digital remaster.

Funding for this project was generously provided by the Fitchburg State Alumni Association. The talk is presented as part of the Alumni Association’s Falcon Talks series.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fitchburg history now on YouTube

By Cheryl A. Cuddahy
Correspondent

FITCHBURG » Years ago, there were programs about Fitchburg history on local television, one created by Joy Contois and the other created by Anne O'Connor.

They were a fitting sequel to the Fitchburg Historical Society's earliest educational projects, which were books on the history of Fitchburg and hour-long lectures on original research.

Because Fitchburg has been a center for education, culture and entertainment, as well as for industry and manufacturing, Susan Navarre, director of the Fitchburg Historical Soci-

ety, says their collections included the kind of surprising stories that make for interesting and educational TV programs.

"People loved them and learned a lot, and we have always thought it would be a good idea to create more television shows highlighting our collection," Navarre said. "Now that the COVID-19 pandemic has led us to close off our headquarters and library for in-person visits, it seemed a perfect time to start creating some shows again."

Navarre said that the wonderful thing is that since the society moved to the Phoenix Building on Main Street, they

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PHOTOS COURTESY FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY; SCREENSHOT, AT LEFT

Susan Navarre, above, director of the Fitchburg Historical Society, announces the society's new project, which will feature the Fitchburg Historical Society's own YouTube channel. At left, Fitchburg State University Professor Charles Roberts helped present the first video, 'Fitchburg on Film in 1941,' of the Historical Society's new YouTube channel.

History

FROM PAGE 1A

have been creating exhibitions, talks and new publications that all feature new research and new documents, pictures and objects in their collection.

“In addition, we have been given many new collections in the last 10 years, because of our visibility on Main Street,” she added. “We are researching on those and working with the historians who have been researching here in recent years, to make their new ideas and research available to the public in an entertaining form on videos.”

Navarre is excited to say they have finished up another project that will feature the Fitchburg Historical Society’s own YouTube channel.

“This project could not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the society’s staff and volunteers,” Navarre said. “Many of our volunteers, or one-time community experts, like professors from Fitchburg State University who are used to doing Zoom recording and are helping out in their fields of expertise, are being filmed to create the programs. Board member Jessie Olson created the YouTube channel and is helping the society load content up onto it.”

Their first approach is to turn that new information into new shows and short films that they can share with the public on a YouTube channel.

“This way, people all over the world can connect with Fitchburg again,” Navarre said.

Another great benefit, she said, is that people who are not able to come out and see the society’s talks and exhibitions in person (in normal times) can take advantage of them from home.

“It has always been important to us that both people who live far away but still care about Fitchburg can connect with the city through us,” she said. “And people who are older or ill can use local history as a wonderful form of entertainment that is also very educational and thought provoking.”

The Fitchburg Historical Society will be sharing the television shows that they are making now as well as older videos and films that they have in their collection about Fitchburg history.

“The first two shows that we have loaded up are a ‘Falcon Talks’ talk created by Fitchburg State University Alumni Relations office with professor Charles Roberts and me,” Navarre said. “We will be discussing a fascinating movie filmed in Fitchburg in 1941, just before the attack on Pearl Harbor pulled the United States

Another great benefit, Navarre said, is that people who are not able to come out and see the society’s talks and exhibitions in person (in normal times) can take advantage of them from home.

into World War II.”

Navarre credits Roberts’ creation of a new digital master of the film that “looks beautiful.”

“Also, as a film expert, he is able to analyze how the movie was made, who filmed it, etc. in a really fascinating way,” she said. “Since the program started airing, people have contacted us that they recognize people that you can see in the 1941 footage — it’s really exciting.”

The YouTube channel is now live, with two programs loaded so far. More are expected by mid-January.

“They can be watched at any time online,” she said.

Also, the new “I Remember When...with the Fitchburg Historical Society” television show can be watched on Fitchburg Access TV or on the society’s website at fitchburghistoricalsociety.com.

The show airs at 11 a.m. Mondays, 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, and plans are in the works to also load them up on the society’s YouTube channel, for added access.

Program funding is provided by the Fitchburg Historical Society members and donors to the Fitchburg Historical Society year-end appeal.

The project is also funded by a grant from NEH Cares program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Fitchburg Historical Society is also partly funded by grants from MassHumanities, Mass Cultural Council, Fitchburg Cultural Council and Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority.

“We are looking forward to sharing lots of Fitchburg history content there,” Navarre said. “We invite the community to visit us frequently and share with your friends and family. We figure that we are taking the lemons provided by the pandemic and making lemonade. And we hope it will be really delicious lemonade!”

The Fitchburg Historical Society is located at 781 Main St. in Fitchburg. For more information, call 978-345-1157 or visit fitchburghistoricalsociety.com.

LOCAL

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Fitchburg State student-athlete shot dead in Tulsa

By Craig S Semon

Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

FITCHBURG — A first-year student at Fitchburg State University, a member of the school's football team, was fatally shot Friday night at a house party in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, according to authorities.

Desmond Clayton, 19, was shot multiple times and died at the hospital, Tulsa police said.

Matthew J. Bruun, director of public relations at Fitchburg State University, confirmed Clayton's status at the college.



Clayton

“Our campus community mourns the untimely passing of Desmond Clayton, a first-year student and member of our football team. We have been in touch with Desmond's family to offer our condolences and support during this difficult time, and we ask our entire community to keep his family and friends in their thoughts,” Bruun said in a statement.

FSU football coach Scott Sperone said Desmond was a confident and outgoing member of the team whose big personality would light up any room. In his first year as Fitchburg State's head football coach, Sperone called a virtual team meeting on Saturday morning and encouraged the players to support one another in these difficult times.

The university reminds students that counseling services staff are available to them as they process this tragedy.

According to the Tulsa Police Department, the shooting happened around 10 p.m. Friday at an Air BnB rental where a party was being held. Police said about 25 people were at the party at the time of the shooting.

Homicide detectives asked anyone with information that could help their investigation to call Tulsa Crime Stoppers at (918) 596-COPS. Calls are anonymous and callers may be eligible for a cash reward.

LOCAL NEWS

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FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Adult Learning sign up begins

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Brush up on

your conversational French or Spanish, learn about scientific principles that affect our daily lives, get tips on how to de-clutter your life or learn how to play the ukulele through

FSU » 4A

FSU

FROM PAGE 3A

Fitchburg State University's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area (ALFA) program.

Registration is now open for ALFA's spring courses, which will be offered in remote format. Visitors may register online at marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa. Most courses are just \$40 (and free for students over age 90). ALFA is a lifelong learning institute that serves adult learners in

Fitchburg and the surrounding communities. ALFA is sponsored by the School of Graduate, Online, and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State University in collaboration with volunteer members of the community. We offer non-credit daytime classes, trips, special events, and a free speaker series. ALFA students are encouraged to volunteer and participate in program leadership and development, as well as social and recreational activities. A limited number of scholarships are available.

This spring's varied offerings include crosswords

for beginners, Native American basketry, an introduction to yoga, a guide to winter botany, and the history of folk music, along with classes on creative writing, the art and culture of Islam, ancient lore in modern times, and the cinema of Oscar-winning director Bong-Joon Ho, among many other topics. There will also be a free "Food for Thought" lecture on March 30 about abolitionism, emancipation and Civil War memory in Central Massachusetts in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries.

For the full list of pro-

grams, and information about the instructors and schedule, please visit fitchburgstate.edu/alfa.

Also, ALFA is always on the lookout for new instructors and new subject matter to share with its students. Anyone with a specialty that they think others would be interested in should contact the program directors at alfa@fitchburgstate.edu for details about becoming an ALFA instructor. Also, direct any questions to the ALFA office at 978-665-3706, or email at alfa@fitchburgstate.edu.