

LOCAL NEWS

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EDUCATION

Fitchburg State touted for social mobility help

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Once again, Fitchburg State University has been recognized for upward social mobility in U.S. News & World Report's annual ranking of colleges and universities, according to the university.

The ranking among

regional universities reflects Fitchburg State's success in enrolling and graduating large numbers of economically disadvantaged students. Fitchburg State's ranking in its category was among the highest in Massachusetts, according to the university.

"Two of the pillars of

FSU » 4A

FSU

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Fitchburg State's mission are access and affordability," University President Richard S. Lapidus said. "We are proud of our continued success in creating opportunities for all students and helping them move forward in pursuit of their academic and career goals."

Lapidus said the univer-

sity's success in creating upward social mobility is tied to the work Fitchburg State is continuing in its latest strategic plan, whose three pillars are educational justice, being a student-ready campus, and inclusive excellence.

Fitchburg State also ranked in U.S. News' listings of top public schools among regional universities.

To learn more about the U.S. News & World Report rankings, visit <https://bit.ly/3zswms3>.

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TELEVISION

FSU grad Gregg Swiatlowski wins Emmy

Won for sound editing for 'The Queen's Gambit'

By Matthew Bruun

Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG » Gregg Swiatlowski, a 2006 graduate of Fitchburg State University, won the Emmy Award for outstanding sound editing for a limited or anthology series for the Netflix phenomenon "The Queen's Gambit" at the recent Creative Arts Emmy Awards.

It was the first win and second

nomination for Swiatlowski.

"I couldn't attend that first Emmys because it happened to fall on the same night as my wedding," he said. "I chose to get married."

This time, Swiatlowski was able to attend the Creative Arts Emmys on Sept. 11 in Los Angeles.

"The Queen's Gambit," the adaptation of the Walter Tevis novel about a groundbreaking chess phenomenon played by Emmy nominee Anya Taylor-Joy, was a hit for Netflix and cast

a wide shadow over pop culture during the pandemic. "It landed at a really good time," Swiatlowski said. "It was a good, bingeable show."

It was also a great professional experience for Swiatlowski, who has worked in feature films and TV shows throughout his career since graduating from Fitchburg State.

He finished his undergraduate studies in 2006 with a full-time internship on an independent feature film.

"It was a really great learning experience," he said, adding that he got to

EMMY » 6A



COURTESY OF
FITCHBURG STATE

Gregg Swiatlowski, left, a 2006 graduate of Fitchburg State University, poses with fellow Emmy winner Eric Hirsch and the statuettes they collected for sound design on 'The Queen's Gambit.'

Emmy

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spend time at George Lucas's Skywalker Ranch for the final stages of post-production on the film.

Working behind the scenes has always appealed to Swiatlowski, who made movies with friends while growing up in Palmer.

"There was something about Fitchburg State that really connected with me," he said. "It was a smaller department, but it had good professors, and students got to work with equipment right away. It was a no-brainer for me. It turned out to be exactly what I thought it would be, with a lot of hands-on experience."

He recalled Professor Gunther Hoos, the late faculty member who was a major figure in the growth of the university's Communications Media Department, asking first-year students what they wanted to do in film.

"We can't all be directors," said Swiatlowski, who cited the importance of mentors in the department including Professors Bob Harris and Charlie Roberts, and his adviser Jeffrey Warmouth. "I decided to take the road less traveled."

That turned out to be a good road for Swiatlowski, who has accrued a resume of successful projects. For "The Queen's Gambit," Swiatlowski was part of the team that created and manipulated every sound

heard on the program, except the music. "We take the same sort of care and detail you would use in (creating sound for) a swordfight, just with chess matches," he said. "It feels great that people noticed the subtleties and recognized the work. The story was firing on all cylinders and it's nice the whole piece gets recognized."

He was optimistic as his category approached during the show, as the series had already garnered numerous technical accolades. "We were toward the end of the program, and we were hoping we wouldn't ruin the show's run," he said.

And he needn't have worried. He shared the award with a number of additional crew members from Gold-

crest Post in New York and 24/7 SND in Los Angeles.

Swiatlowski, who plans to keep his Emmy trophy in a studio he is building at the home he shares with his wife in the Catskills in upstate New York, is already hard at work on his next project, working on the fifth season of the Showtime series "Billions." The sixth season is approaching, and he has another show he will be working on into the middle of next year.

His advice to today's students is to follow their passion. "Find something in the industry that you like, and stick with it," he said. "I found it rewarding to find my niche, and stick with it."

Matthew Bruun is the director of public relations at Fitchburg State University.

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FSU marks Hispanic Heritage Month

Programs, events start today

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from today till Oct. 15 with a series of events and programs organized

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FSU

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around the theme “Be proud of your past, Embrace the future,” according to an announcement from the university.

From a parade of nations represented in the university campus community to thought-provoking discussions featuring faculty members and invited guests including celebrated journalist Maria Hinojosa, the month’s offerings will engage and inform, as well as entertain. Most of the programs are free and open to the public, though face coverings are required at indoor events, according to the university.

Beyond the events listed below, there will be a display of Latinx books in the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library throughout the month.

Among the highlights of the month:

■ The programs begin with a parade of nations at 3:30 p.m. today on the main quad, showcasing the diversity of the campus community. The program will also include a performance by the university’s concert choir.

■ At 3:30 p.m. Thursday, professor Ben Railton from the English Studies Department will present a

talk titled “Why We Should All Read Mexican-American Author Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton.” The discussion, in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, will look at the author and how her work can enlighten all of us.

■ There will be a virtual discussion on Leading for Change at Hispanic Serving Institutions at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 22 featuring Dr. Gina Ann Garcia, a leading scholar on Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), which are colleges and universities that enroll at least 25% Latinx undergraduate students. She is a scholar activist committed to disrupt the status quo of post-secondary education by bringing attention to the ways higher education has historically been committed to whiteness and regularly reinforces white narratives and white standards. The discussion can be joined online at <https://meet.google.com/nab-sdro-dxp?authuser=0>.

■ The history of Latinos in Massachusetts will be spotlighted when guest speaker and radio host Jose Masso presents “We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants” at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 30 at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.

■ The university’s Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness will host the latest installment of Fitchburg

State’s series of Courageous Conversations at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 5 with an analysis of the film “In the Heights,” focusing on media representation of Black people and anti-blackness in Hispanic Latinx cultures. The program will be held in the main lounge at Hammond Hall.

■ The evolution of the term “Latinx,” and its value and limitations in cultural politics and representation, will be explored in a virtual talk presented by assistant professor Karina Bautista of the Humanities Department and assistant professor Diego Ubiera of the English Studies Department at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 8. The event will be held online at <https://meet.google.com/tgr-hnvf-met?authuser=0>.

■ The month’s events close at 7 p.m. Oct. 15 with award-winning journalist Maria Hinojosa and her presentation “At the Root of Things: Breaking the Invisibility of Latinos/as/xs in Our Society.” Tickets are required for this event, being held at Weston Auditorium, and will be available for free at the information desk in Hammond Hall. The university choir will also perform at the event. Hinojosa is the anchor and executive producer of Latino USA on National Public Radio, and the founder, president and CEO of Futuro Media Group.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

READY TO SERVE



DANIELLE RAY / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Fifteen police recruits graduated on Friday from the Fitchburg State University fourth Recruit Officer Course with an undergraduate degree in criminal justice.

Recruits graduate from both university and police academy

By Danielle Ray

dray@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG » Police recruits graduated on Friday from the Fitchburg State University fourth Recruit Officer Course with an undergraduate degree in criminal justice.

Dozens of undergraduates filed into Weston Auditorium ahead of the 15 police academy graduates, who were dressed in crisp navy police uniforms and white gloves. The space was packed with row upon row of family and friends as well as officials including state Rep. Michael

POLICE » 8A

‘This is all to prepare them to become future police officers who are educated, professional, well trained, and who conduct themselves with honesty, integrity and discipline.’

— Lisa Lane McCarty, FSU Police Program Academy director



DANIELLE RAY / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Fitchburg State University Police Program Academy Director Lisa Lane McCarty addressed the recruits and their families and friends gathered for graduation.



DANIELLE RAY PHOTOS / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Row upon row of family and friends packed Weston Auditorium at Fitchburg State University on Friday for the police academy graduation.

Police

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Kushmerek, D-Fitchburg, and City Councilor Beth Walsh. The Massachusetts Department of Correction honor guard took the stage to present the flags, a moment of silence for 9/11 was held and the national anthem sang, and a montage of photos and videos of the recruits going through training was shown.

FSU Police Program Academy Director Lisa Lane McCarty acknowledged the family members when she spoke, some who had traveled from far away to attend the graduation ceremony. She said this was the first police academy class she has been with all four years since she came on the job in January 2017.

“We have grown together as this program has evolved and changed,” McCarty said. “This is your day. This is your accomplishment.”

McCarty, the daughter of a police officer, was one of several speakers to address the crowd, including Worcester Police Chief Steven Sargent.

“Your family always comes first,” she said. “Always”

The FSU police program began in 2016, a partnership with the Municipal Police Training Committee that enables FSU to run the program and academy. Students come in as freshmen and then two days after their senior year commencement they enter the police academy, graduating 17 weeks later with a certification to become a full-time municipal police officer in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and other surrounding states.

McCarty said the graduates “have essentially been police recruits” during their four undergraduate years, following all the academic, conduct and uniform requirements that traditional recruits follow for a much shorter time period.

“They followed all of the rules that a traditional recruit only has to follow for 20 to 22 weeks for four years,” McCarty said. “This illustrates their unwavering commitment to their



Evangeline Cakounes, second from left, was joined by her father and mother, Leo and Andrea Cakounes, and Orange Police Chief James Sullivan at her Fitchburg State University police academy graduation on Friday.

goals and their passion for their chosen profession of policing.”

The police academy counts as 12 credits toward a master’s degree in criminal justice, and as such graduates have the option to continue on to a master’s program and take 24 additional credits to receive a master’s degree in criminal justice.

“Most do go on to receive their master’s in criminal justice,” McCarty said. “They can take up to three fall classes, three spring classes, and two summer classes to finish in about a year, or they can take the classes at their own pace.”

She said all classes in the FSU master’s program are online, giving the new police officers flexibility since they will be working evenings from 3 to 11 p.m. or overnights shifts, from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

“Online classes allow them the flexibility to continue with their advanced degree,” McCarty said.

Police officers from several towns and cities in the region work with the recruits as drill instructors.

FSU President Richard Lapidus said at the graduation ceremony that while the Recruit Officer Course is difficult, “the rigor is necessary” as the officers will face challenges as a police officer. “I have been at every start and graduation,” Lapidus said of the police academy. “I could not be prouder of the outcome.”

McCarty said their mod-



Dozens of Fitchburg State University police academy undergraduates filed into Weston Auditorium ahead of the police academy graduates at the ceremony held on Friday.

el of combining education with police training in a university setting is the only one of its kind in the country, and that because of their partnership with the Municipal Police Training Committee about one quarter of the Recruit Officer Course curriculum “is embedded into some of our undergraduate criminal justice courses.”

Police students wear a police uniform and begin to learn academy-related procedures such as drill and ceremony and writing memorandums during their undergraduate years.

“They are held to higher academic, conduct and appearance standards than other students on campus,” McCarty said. “This is all to prepare them to become future police officers who are educated, professional, well trained, and who conduct themselves with honesty, integrity and discipline.”

Many of the graduates have already been hired by police departments across the state including Northboro, Middleboro, Har-

wich, Hopedale, Auburn and FSU.

Harwich native Evangeline Cakounes was able to begin the master’s program at FSU a semester early since she graduated in December and will start her new job as a police officer in Orange within the next two weeks.

“I have always wanted to become a police officer since the age of 2,” she said. “No one in my family has anything to do with law enforcement so I really do not know where I got the idea from, but it has never changed.”

Cakounes said she was proud to be graduating and have her parents and Orange Police Chief James Sullivan there to witness the big day.

“It is something I have always dreamed of,” she said. “Little kids plan and dream about their wedding, I dreamed about my graduation. I am really excited about the opportunity in Orange as well, it is a wonderful department. I am excited to begin my career.”



The Massachusetts Department of Correction honor guard present the flags at the Fitchburg State University police academy graduation.

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HAMMOND HALL



FRED HATT / COURTESY OF FITCHBURG STATE UNIV.

Yuko Oda's 'Invisible Hour' drawing is representative of the works she is exhibiting at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery at Fitchburg State University through Oct. 8.

College presents artwork of Yuko Oda

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Fitchburg State University CenterStage will feature the sculptures, drawings and animations of artist Yuko Oda at the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Oct. 8, according to an announcement from the university.

The exhibit, entitled "The Heaviness and Lightness of Being," is a retrospective featuring more than a decade of sculptural installations that investigate the coexistence of nature with the synthetic and the human-engineered,

ODA » 4A

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Oda

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according to the university.

There will be an artist talk and reception at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at the gallery, located in Hammond Hall at 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the

public, though face coverings are required for all visitors.

Oda describes the respect and awe she feels for nature as inspiration for her work, with those emotions complicated by a realization that humans have indelibly transformed the natural world.

The intersection of the natural and the manmade are explored through the artist's sculptural installations, drawings and animations.

The works included in "The Heaviness and Lightness of Being" exhibition place 3-D printed plastics next to organic materials such as soil, rocks and leaves. Standing at the intersection of technology and fine art, Oda utilizes methods such as 3D modeling and 3D printing seamlessly with the hand-

made-plaster carving and installation art. By juxtaposing traditional art with unexpected material choices and approaches, Oda seeks to break boundaries to create a new aesthetic.

The exhibition is presented as part of the Fitchburg State University CenterStage arts and culture series. CenterStage events feature national and international artists as well as collaborations with student and community groups. Its concerts, art exhibits, films, lectures and theatrical performances are a great resource for members of both the campus community and those who reside in the cities and towns of the region.

To learn more and to keep up to date with the series offerings, visit fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Congressional Luncheon slated

Hear US Reps. McGovern, Trahan speak on Oct. 14 at Great Wolf Lodge

Staff Report

FITCHBURG » The North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce will host its annual North Central Massachusetts Congressional Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 14, featuring the U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern and U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan.

The program, sponsored by Fitchburg State University, runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Great Wolf Lodge, 150 Great Wolf Drive.

“The Congressional Lun-



McGovern



Trahan

cheon is a great opportunity for our members and community leaders to directly connect with our federal delegation, ask questions and learn more about the national issues affecting our region’s economy and

CHAMBER » 5A

Chamber

FROM PAGE 3A

quality of life,” said Roy Nascimento, president and CEO, North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce, in making the announcement. “Thank you to Congressman McGovern and Congresswoman Trahan for their participation in this popular, annual program.”

“Civic engagement is a core principle of Fitchburg State University, and we are honored to continue our sponsorship of this invaluable opportunity for our local business and civic leaders to interact with their legislative delegation,” said Richard S. Lapidus, president of Fitchburg State University. “I also thank the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce for organizing this event to help bring topics of concern from our region to the attention of our local, state and federal representatives.”

First elected to Congress in 1996, McGovern serves as chair of the influential

‘Civic engagement is a core principle of Fitchburg State University, and we are honored to continue our sponsorship of this invaluable opportunity for our local business and civic leaders to interact with their legislative delegation.’

– Richard Lapidus, president of Fitchburg State University

House Rules Committee, which sets the terms for debate and amendments on most legislation, and as a member of the House Agriculture Committee. In 2014, McGovern was named as a Democratic ranking member on the House Committee on Agriculture’s Subcommittee on Nutrition. The subcommittee’s jurisdiction includes policies and statutes relating to nutrition, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiatives. Before his election to Congress, McGovern spent 14 years as a senior aide for the late U.S. Rep. John Jo-

seph Moakley, D-Mass.

Trahan was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018. In her first term, she served on the House Committee on Education and Labor, as well as the House Armed Services Committee. Currently, she serves as a member of the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce. She was instrumental in securing the federal designation of the Nashua River as a scenic waterway, and filed legislation addressing the opioid epidemic and supporting career readiness programming in public high schools. As a member of the largest female caucus elected to the

U.S. Congress, she holds the distinction of being the first Portuguese American woman ever to serve on Capitol Hill.

Preregistration is required and can be done online at www.northcentral-mass.com. The cost is \$42 for members and \$55 for nonmembers. Contact Kathleen Deal at 978-353-7600, ext. 235, or via email at kdeal@northcentral-mass.com for more details.

Additionally, to ensure a safe environment for all, attendees are asked to abide by the COVID-19 mask advisory issued by the state’s Department of Public Health which advises those who are fully vaccinated wear a mask or face covering if they are at increased risk for severe disease because of age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in their household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is an unvaccinated adult.

Visit northcentral-mass.com for the Chamber’s COVID-19 event protocols or to stay informed on any changes to local or state health protocols.