

## FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY WINTER COMMENCEMENT

# AN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

Master of Business Administration recipient Bianca Allyyah Brunache claps during President Richard Lapidus's speech at Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement Friday night.

## Winter ceremony of 126th commencement exercises held Friday

Fitchburg State University held the winter ceremony of its 126th commencement exercises Friday night in the Athletics and Recreation Center.

The ceremony featured students receiving both graduate and undergraduate degrees. President Richard Lapidus delivered the commencement address. Others who spoke included Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Spencer Fuller, who completed a master of science degree in criminal justice, and undergraduate valedictorian Helen "Hallie" Dyer of Westwood, who completed a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. Both student speakers have been a part of the university's police program.



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

Graduates show their personality through decoration of caps during Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement Friday night.

**+** More inside: Additional photos from Fitchburg State University's winter commencement ceremony appear on [PAGE A8](#), and a list of all graduates appears on [PAGE A5](#).

## FSU fall 2022 graduates

The following students graduated Friday night from Fitchburg State University during the winter commencement exercises:

**ASHBURNHAM:** Chandler A. Behring, BSE Technology Education (5-12); Sarah M. Craig, BS Exercise and Sports Science; Donald H. Fallon, BSE Technology Education (5-12); Riley D. Hess, BS Exercise and Sports Science; Michael L. Solominsky, MED Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Lawrence M. Szalay, MED Curriculum and Teaching.

**ASHBY:** Scott M. Berube, BS Political Science; Jasmine R. Martens, BS Biology.

**AYER:** Jonathan W. Bremer, BSE Special Education; Deanna M. Gardner, MBA Business Administration; Hannah Levensallor, MED Special Education; Devin J. Muldoon, BS Criminal Justice.

**BILLERICA:** Amanda E. Brooks, MED Special Education; Kileigh C. Glavin, MED Curriculum and Teaching.

**BOLTON:** Julia Barshak, MED Elementary Education (1-6).

**BURLINGTON:** Cheryl A. Herlihy, BS Nursing, RN to BS; Tushar Patil, MS Computer Science.

**CHELMSFORD:** Olivia A. Beauregard, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Naimisha Daddi, MS Computer Science; David E. Kelley, BS Engineering Technology; Michael J. Marino, MBA Business Administration.

**CLINTON:** Brenda Acero, MBA Business Administration; Jake R. Armstrong, BS Interdisciplinary Studies; Karina Bozerra, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Caitlin Diver, MED Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Meghan L. Laughlin, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Emelly F. Peralta Jaquez, BS Business Administration; Risheyra Schotborg, BS Human Services; Emily E. Sidoti, BS Business Administration.

**DRACUT:** Miwaura A. Giglio, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Samuel M. Mwaura, MBA Business Administration; Kelly J. Wilkey, MED Education (5-12).

**DUNSTABLE:** Rebecca Pincott, MED Special Edu-

cation.

**FITCHBURG:** Justin P. Badagliacca, BS Psychological Science; Zachary A. Barbagallo, BS Communications Media; Jun Louie A. Basan, BS Environmental & Earth Science; Joseph A. Bourgeois, MBA Business Administration; Dianna S. Castro, BS Business Administration; Ashish Chitkalka, MS Computer Science; Venkata Narayana Prudhvi Damaraju, MS Computer Science; Lacey M. Eaton, MBA Business Administration; Allissa M. Escobales, BS Communications Media; James C. Farrell, BS Comp Info Systems; Rebecca M. Fluet, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Ryan M. Gaetz, BS Communications Media; Kwajelinn Gibbs, MED Early Childhood Education; Lydia M. Gnoza, BSE Early Childhood Education; Kelsey E. Grant, MED Curriculum and Teaching; John Heimo, BS History.

Jazmin M. Howard, BS Business Administration; Kennedy A. Jackson, BS Criminal Justice; Breanna Marks, MBA Business Administration; Kaela R. Martinez-Niemeala, MED Special Education; Deepdeeya S. Naganda, MS Computer Science; Elizabeth V. Nalbandyan, MBA Business Administration; Veronika Sai Samanth Odidi, MS Computer Science; Marcus Peria, BS Engineering Technology; Darius D. Pitre, BSE Elementary Education (1-6); Pilyl J. Polanco, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Nayelis Ramos, BS Criminal Justice; Ankit Rathore, MS Computer Science; Isabelle M. Ream, BS Psychological Science; Isabelle M. Ream, BS Criminal Justice; Rajesh Repala, MS Computer Science; Jessica C. Robey, MED Arts Education.

Justine Ruiz, BS Interdisciplinary Studies; Torah F. Smith, BS Business Administration; Manikant Reddy Taduru, MS Computer Science; Katty M. Taveras, BS Human Services; Sai Sharath Kumar Thirunagari, MS Computer Science; Michaela K. Valois, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Maylynn J. Velazquez, BS Political Science; Carlie J. Vicente, BS Interdisciplinary Studies; Uday Kumar



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

Alexander Paul Chang, left, is greeted by family after receiving his Master of Business Administration during Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement Friday night.

Vurukonda, MS Computer Science; Chou C. Yang, MBA Business Administration; Keith Yang, BS Business Administration.

**GARDNER:** Melissa S. Bennett, MED Education (5-12); Chad Blouin, BS Business Administration; Sean M. Daley, MED Special Education; Andrew R. Doiron, BS Exercise and Sports Science; Kayla J. Doucks, BS Nursing, RN to BS; Mynor G. Gamez, BS Applied Science & Technology; Sedona K. Harris, BS Biology; Sarah V. Kulczyk, BS Business Administration; Emma C. Mierzejewski, BS Exercise and Sports Science; Amanda N. Pawlikowski, BS Psychological Science; Kelsey D. Robillard, BS Criminal Justice; Nathaniel P. Sandoval, BS Business Administration; Sklynn Torres, BS Business Administration.

**GROTON:** Deryn Copeland, MED Curriculum and Teaching.

**HOLDEN:** Gianna E. Carlson BS Nursing, RN to BS; Timothy D. Lebraton, BS Criminal Justice.

**JEFFERSON:** Jennifer E. Beck, MBA Business Administration.

**LEOMINSTER:** Veronica Alejandro, BSE Early Childhood Education; Emma J. Barnaby, BSE Elementary Education (1-6); RIF R. Beebe, BS Educational Studies; Sadie A. Bodkin, BS Communications Media;

Cheri L. Brown, BS Human Services; Antonio L. Centofanti, BS Business Administration; Chelsea M. Darrigo, MBA Business Administration; Connor Havey, MED Education (5-12); Connor P. Keating, BS Human Services; Riley M. Macklin, BS Business Administration; Ramya Marjetti, MS Computer Science; Patrick A. Marotta, MBA Business Administration; Gregory J. Maynard, MED Special Education; Sara J. Melanson-Paine, BS Psychological Science; Mason W. Nickoloff, BS Psychological Science; Muchafara G. Punungwe, BS Business Administration; Lance E. Savage, BS Business Administration; Aimee M. St. Jean, BS Nursing, RN to BS; Aimee M. Studders, MED Educational Leadership/Mgmt.

**LITTLETON:** Hannah R. Montemagno, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Jessica M. Wile, MED Special Education.

**LOWELL:** Corey P. Bourassa, CAGS Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Allison R. Eacrett, CERF Applied Behavior Analysis; Cert Lorena Ortiz, MBA Business Administration.

**LUNENBURG:** Michael O. Adomako, BS Economics; Sarah D. Barrett, BS Interdisciplinary Studies; Kevin R. Boussom, BS Communications Media; Jesse R. Fortin, BS Engineer-

ing Technology; Yanina N. Fusaro, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Nicole E. Hennessy, MED Special Education; Daniel M. Hill, BS Game Design; Savannah M. Nash, BS Interdisciplinary Studies; Chloe R. Petersen, BS Psychological Science; Rebecca A. Piselli, MED, Special Education; Zachary R. Stillman, BS Criminal Justice; Thomas S. Thurston, BS Business Administration.

**NORTH BILLERICA:** Joseph W. Dinsmore, BS Industrial Technology.

**NORTH CHELMSFORD:** Prashant R. Barfate, MS Computer Science; Rebecca P. Bombard, BS Mathematics; Lindsey M. Pratt, MED Educational Leadership/Mgmt.

**PAXTON:** Elizabeth A. Rose, MBA Business Administration.

**PEPPERELL:** Jenna R. Crocker, MBA Business Administration; Amber M. Edmunds, MED Curriculum and Teaching; Katie L. Graze, BS Economics; Jillian V. Lundstrom, MED Special Education.

**RUTLAND:** Briar C. Panagakis, MED Curriculum and Teaching.

**SHIRLEY:** Kayla M. Paradis, MBA Business Administration; Megan R. Strout, BS Psychological Science.

**STERLING:** Rebekka O. Brik, MBA Business Administration; Cameron D. Cutter, BS Business Administration;

Cody M. Fanion, BS Business Administration; Kelly A. Gorham, BS Psychological Science; Josue E. Salcedo, BS Biology; Dustin Vinci, MBA Business Administration.

**TWICKSBURY:** Devynn M. Fitch, BS English Studies; Jolene C. Mocusker, MBA Business Administration; Sarah A. Paquette, MED Special Education.

**TOWNSEND:** Nicole E. Burdick, BS Biology; Conor A. Gray, BS Communications Media; Alexis N. Robinson, BS Psychological Science; Alyssa D. Stevens, BS Business Administration; Irene M. Vega, BS Business Administration.

**TYNGSBORO:** Mark R. Lemay, BS Occupational/Vocational Edu.; Jessica H. Nadworthy, BSE Early Childhood Education.

**WEST TOWNSEND:** Jesse E. Breen, BSE Early Childhood Education; Hollie R. Shattuck, BS Human Services.

**WESTFORD:** Jill Candler, MED Special Education; Christina Flaherty, BS Nursing, RN to BS; Deepa P. Talwalkar, MED Education (8-12).

**WESTMINSTER:** Corey R. Dandy, BS Engineering Technology; Lauren J. Davis, MED Education (5-12); Carolyn Gifford, MBA Business Administration; Lisa J. Gifford, MBA Business Administration; Kimberly A. Osborne, BSE Elementary Education (1-6); Karissa J. Tammaro, MED Education (5-12); Dominique R. Tavara, BS Business Administration.

**WILMINGTON:** Tyler J. Harris, CERF Supply Chain Management.

**WINDHONEN:** Olivia A. Chlebeck, BS Interdisciplinary Studies; Jared R. D'Arcy, MED Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Anna S. Dexter, BS Business Administration; Alexander Emerson, MED Education (5-12); Elena L. Mariani, CAGS Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Mena G. Salame, BS Business Administration; Emily R. Semenza, BSE Early Childhood Education; Kara A. Theall, MED Special Education; Christina Wolksi, BS Nursing, RN to BS.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

# WINTER GRADUATES



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

Graduates process into Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement Friday night.



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

Papa Elf, aka Chuck Dillon made it all the way from the "North Pole" for Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement Friday night.



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Patricia Marshall delivers the call to order for Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement Friday night.



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

A graduate rushes upstairs before Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement Friday night.



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

Helen R. Dyer delivers her Valedictorian Address during Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement Friday night.



PHOTO — ALAN ARSENAULT

Graduates Tiffany Carrazedo-Pimentel, left, Kaitlyn Powers, center left, Kwajalein Gibbs, center right, and Stephen Chen wait for Fitchburg State University's Winter Commencement to start on Friday night.

# LOCAL



The Theater Block on Main Street in Fitchburg. RICK CINCLAIR/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

## Fitchburg State gets \$2 million for downtown theater project

The funding was secured by U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan

**Kinga Borondy**

Worcester Telegram & Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

FITCHBURG - The ongoing renovation of the dilapidated downtown theater purchased by Fitchburg State University in 2016 will get an infusion of \$2 million in federal funds this coming year.

The funding, secured by U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan, D-Westford, has been earmarked for the construction of a black box theater, a smaller performance venue.

The new space will be constructed alongside the existing theater, affording the university more versatility in the number and nature of future productions. The restoration of the historic (old) theater is scheduled for some time in the future.

The theater, which opened in 1929 for vaudeville acts, closed as a three-screen movie complex in 1988.

**University officials thank the federal congressional delegation for securing the funds**

"We are extraordinarily grateful for the support of Congresswoman Trahan in securing funds for this transformational project and recognizing the importance that the performing arts center will have on our students and the cultural enrichment and economic development for the city and region," said Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus.

The complex, at 717 Main St., has already seen major changes. The university has already built a game studio where Fitchburg State students in the school's game design program complete their capstone semesters.

The complex is also home to the interdisciplinary ideaLab, used for small business training and other functions.

The university purchased the theater block, vacant for nearly 30 years, for \$350,000; in part to expand the school's footprint in the downtown area. The goal was also to create opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary

learning and studies in business and entrepreneurship.

**University officials expect vibrant, innovative complex**

The complex sits amid other storefronts that are also being renovated to accommodate commercial space, art galleries and even shops and restaurants with funds from municipal, state and federal allocations.

Already accomplished was the renovation of 7,000 square feet on the second floor that now houses a computer lab, co-working space for the game design program and the ideaLab. There is also event and meeting space.

Some 6,000 square feet on the first floor have been designated to house retail, development of student-led businesses and restaurant and other retail ventures. Last on the list of projects is the restoration of the 25,000 square feet of theater space; a 1,600-seat venue that will host shows and be open for use by community organizations.

# Fitchburg State will receive \$2M for Main Street theater project



IMAGE | COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University will receive \$2 million in federal money for a new downtown black box theater.



By Timothy Doyle

**F**itchburg State University will receive \$2 million in federal money for a new downtown black box theater.

The new theater will be used for university productions and the public, according to a Tuesday press release from the university. It will be adjacent to a 1,200-seat historic theater Fitchburg State is renovating.

The money is part of the \$1.7-trillion omnibus spending bill signed into law by President Joe Biden on Friday.

FSU purchased the theater block at 717 Main St. in 2016. It is home to a game studio for Fitchburg State game design students and ideaLab, a resource for entrepreneurs.

Additional storefronts in the building are being renovated for commercial and gallery space using previous municipal, state and federal allocations, according to the press release.

Boston's ICON Architecture is the architect for the theater block renovation.

The project is a major piece in the [culturally focused redevelopment](#) of Fitchburg's downtown, which includes new gallery and studio space on Main Street and the redevelopment of a former school complex for artist-preference affordable housing.



## Editorial

# *Federal funds fuel FSU's city renewal vision*

Fitchburg's complementary town-gown relationship just received a \$2 million boost of confidence.'

That sum, part of \$20.7 million in federal funds earmarked for the 3rd Congressional District, will be used to construct a smaller performance center adjacent to the main downtown theater building.

The new venue will give FSU added flexibility in the number and nature of future productions.

The restoration of the historic theater, which opened in 1929 for vaudeville acts, will occur sometime in the future.

The performing-arts complex at 717 Main St. has already seen major changes. The university has already built a studio where FSU students in the school's game design program complete their capstone semesters, when students demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of their course major.

The complex is also home to the interdisciplinary ideaLab, used for small business training and other functions.

That's part of an already completed 7,000-square-foot renovation on the second floor.

The university purchased the theater block, vacant for nearly 30 years, back in 2016 for \$350,000, in part to expand the school's downtown footprint.

The goal was also to create

opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary learning and studies in business and entrepreneurship, in the hopes of increasing skilled employment opportunities in this gateway city.

The theater complex lies among other storefronts undergoing renovation to house commercial space, art galleries and even shops and restaurants, thanks to funding from municipal, state and federal sources.

Also on the drawing board are plans to turn 6,000 square feet on the first floor into retail space and student-led business ventures.

The ultimate — and most ambitious — goal involves the restoration of the 25,000 square feet of theater space, a 1,600-seat venue suitable to host shows and events by community organizations.

Many universities insist that simply by their presence, they provide an economic engine for their host communities.

Other institutions of higher learning, such as FSU and UMass Lowell, provide direct investment that generates tax dollars and business opportunities.

That's the type of mutually beneficial relationship that most college towns aspire to.

## FITCHBURG STATE

## FSU welcomes future educators

By Matthew Bruun

Fitchburg State University

**FITCHBURG** » Recently 50 local high school students were welcomed to Fitchburg State University to take part in its Future Educator Academy, offering day-long training sessions that ultimately result in earning a Leadership Certificate from the university.

Future educators engage in introductory coursework and experiences to show them the opportunities available as teachers of tomorrow.

Participating students from Fitchburg High School, Goodrich Academy, and Leominster High School received certificates for the coursework they completed. Offerings included cardiopulmonary resuscitation, facilitated by University Police Officer Timothy Grant; supporting mental wellness in the classroom, facilitated by Coordinator of Field Placement, Partnership & Recruitment Lourdes Ramirez of the university's School of Education; and working with students who are underserved, traditionally marginalized, and disenfranchised, facilitated by Assistant Professor Scott Tyner of the School of Education.

The students also got to enjoy lunch in the university's dining commons.

"I really enjoyed the experience," said Leominster High School freshman Ra-leah Barneus, who learned about the academy from a guidance counselor. "The information was great."

Venetia Boss, a ninth-grader at Fitchburg High School, said she is consid-



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE

High school students participate in the Future Educator Academy offered by Fitchburg State University.

ering a career in education. "I give today a solid 10," she said.

Emily Walls, a sophomore at Leominster High School, said she enjoyed the CPR class for its relevance to her future interest in a "helping field," such as medicine.

Nicholas Newell, also from Leominster, said the experience boosted his interest in teaching. "I enjoy working with people and helping them understand topics that I'm interested in myself," he said.

The university conducted a survey after the training, and 100% of respondents said they would recommend the Future Educator Academy to other high school students.

The Future Educator

Academy, launched in 2021, is designed to address ongoing demographic shifts by recruiting and training future educators from traditionally underrepresented populations. According to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, about 40% of the state's public school students are of color, but only 10% of their teachers come from minority groups, noted Lourdes Ramirez, coordinator of field placements, partnerships, and recruitment for Fitchburg State's School of Education.

"We want to offer relevant programming that will provide high school students with marketable skills, while

seeing themselves as future educators and change makers," Ramirez said. "This is a very exciting initiative and we have received strong support from the high schools and district-level administrators."

The Future Educator Academy's participants also get access to free, credit-bearing university courses they can apply toward their degree as part of early college engagement. The academy focuses on culturally relevant education that values students' cultural, linguistic, and ethnic contributions as future teachers.

To learn more about the program, contact Ramirez at 978.665.3685 or by email at lramirel@fitchburgstate.edu.

## Fitchburg State's Future Educator Academy addresses need for diversity in education



PHOTO | COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Students participating in Fitchburg State University's Future Educator Academy

By Timothy Doyle

**S**tudents from Fitchburg High School, Goodrich Academy in Fitchburg, and Leominster High School, 50 in all, took part in Fitchburg State University's Future Educator Academy which recruits and trains students from traditionally underrepresented populations.

The Future Educator Academy, launched in 2021 brings students to the campus to earn certificates during a series of one-day programs. The most recent offerings include cardiopulmonary resuscitation, facilitated by University Police Officer Timothy Grant; supporting mental wellness in the classroom, facilitated by Coordinator of Field Placements, Partnerships & Recruitment Lourdes Ramirez of the university's School of Education; and working with students who are underserved, traditionally marginalized, and disenfranchised, facilitated by Assistant Professor Scott Tyner of the School of Education.

"We want to offer relevant programming that will provide high school students with marketable skills, while seeing themselves as future educators and change makers," said Lourdes Ramirez in a Monday press release.

According to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, about 40% of the state's public school students are of color, but only 10% of their teachers come from minority groups.



Tuesday, December 6, 2022 » MORE AT FACEBOOK.COM/SENTINELANDENTERPRISE AND TWITTER.COM/SENTANDENT

## FITCHBURG

# Fitchburg State University receives state grant to better support students

By Matthew Bruun

Fitchburg State University

**FITCHBURG** » The state Department of Higher Education has awarded Fitchburg State University a grant worth nearly \$75,000 to fund institutional efforts to better support students, including training for faculty and staff.

The grant came from the state's Higher Education Innovation Fund. The project builds on the university's implementation of Dr. Paul Hernandez's "Pedagogy of Real Talk," which focuses on engaging, teaching and connecting with students at risk. The approach relies on an understanding of the student as a human being and seeks to create an inclusive, relationship-rich and student-centered learning environment.

The PRT model is embedded in FSU's Faculty Academy, in which cohorts of faculty from across disciplines meet to examine their own practice and incorporate these approaches to dismantle the barriers between faculty and individual students. Members of the faculty academy have published their own paper on the adoption of PRT and report an increased sense of belonging among students.

"Research has shown that this approach helps students feel as though they are part of a community of scholars within the classroom," said Fitchburg State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Patricia Marshall. "When students feel they can contribute to the discussion, they know they belong



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW BRUUN

Fitchburg State University Professor Sean Goodlett and Associate Professor Kori Ryan at a recent Faculty Academy meeting. Goodlett and Ryan both played an integral role in securing a \$75,000 grant for the university "to better support students, including training for faculty and staff." From left to right: Goodlett, Ryan.

and can thrive in that environment."

Professor Sean Goodlett of the university's Economics, History and Political Science Department, the grant's lead author, said the program aligns with the 2023-2033 Strategic Plan for Racial Equity advanced by the state Department of Higher Education as well as Fitchburg State's own strategic plan.

The latter plan cites the need to provide all members of the campus community equitable access to opportunity and to eliminate barriers to the retention, participation and advancement of talented students, faculty and staff from historically excluded or under-represented populations. Fitchburg State's student population is becoming increasingly diverse, Goodlett added. Associate Professor of Behavioral

Sciences Dr. Kori Ryan is the principal investigator for the grant.

She said the program, aligned as it is with the state's Strategic Plan for Racial Equity, has been transformative. "The Faculty Academy addresses issues of equity from a place of respect and care for our students, and understanding the perspectives and experiences they bring to the classroom, but from a strengths-based model," Ryan said.

"Historically, many of our students have experienced trauma in their lives, but also in their educational experiences. The racial equity plan specifically addresses this in a variety of ways." These include acknowledging and including the experiences of students, providing more holistic support services, increasing a sense

of belongingness not just of students but of faculty and reducing harm in the classroom, Ryan said.

"The Faculty Academy, and the soon-to-be Staff Academy, provide faculty with a mindset and tools to see our students as true partners in education," Ryan continued. "It's a simple, but not simplistic model with demonstrated efficacy for students. The faculty and staff at Fitchburg State are really fortunate to be a part of this work because it is a tangible way for us to improve the experiences of our students in partnership with their success."

The newly announced grant will allow the faculty academy to be expanded through the adoption of a "train the trainer" model within the institution, as well as the creation of a staff academy. The long-term vision for the program would incorporate the approach to other state universities.

"Every member of the Fitchburg State student body, faculty and staff must feel respected, heard, affirmed, supported, and valued," Goodlett said, quoting from the strategic plan. "Training faculty to broaden the implementation of this approach, and training staff members to contribute to this work, will further support students."

Goodlett also cited the contributions of Jeanette Robichaud and Megan Boyd from the university's grant center in securing the funds, as well as faculty colleagues including Assistant Professor Wafa Unus from the English Studies Department.

FITCHBURG STATE

## Training leaders of international business

FSU professor works with Gardner company as it eyes growth

By Matthew Bruun  
Fitchburg State University

**FITCHBURG** — Seaman Paper, headquartered in Gardner with operations across the globe, is a leading supplier of value-added specialty lightweight papers.

During its 75 years of operation it has continued to innovate, today encompassing instantly recognizable products like the paper “plumes” that adorn millions of Hershey Kisses every year, along with custom confetti for buyers including the National Football League and Taylor Swift.

When the company was looking to grow its internal human potential, it looked to Professor Michael Greenwood, chair of the Business Administration Department at Fitchburg State University, who brings more than 30 years of national and international business experience. Professor Greenwood presented his “One Voice High-Performance Leader” curriculum to the Seaman cohort.

Sadie Brehio, a human resources generalist and executive administrator at Seaman, had taken classes with Professor Greenwood during her graduate studies at Fitchburg State and had also experienced his leadership training programs at a previous job.

“After going through the training, it will stick with you forever,” Brehio said. “It gives every team member a

chance to work with each other on a whole different level. What I got out of it was understanding people a little bit better, understanding personality traits. It's just a positive experience overall for the team.”

Earlier this fall, Greenwood led a total of 30 Seaman employees through a customized, ten-week online training program designed to build a team that can speak and act with one voice.

Central to the training is the understanding that individuals in information-driven organizations cannot complete their jobs on their own, Professor Greenwood said. But too often, the multifunctional teams that are created are not effective at cooperation. “High-performing teams are most effective when they are carefully designed, trained, and empowered,” he said.

The experience, participants said, was transformative.

Brian McAlary, Seaman's vice president for market development in the Americas, said companies that succeed must be able to build cross-functional teams. Professor Greenwood's curriculum focused on building that capacity.

“Getting people together who are not necessarily working together on a regular basis, in an experience-based program, really gives you an opportunity to look outside of yourself,” McAlary said. “It's well worth the



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

At a celebration marking the end of Seaman Paper's leadership training program with Fitchburg State University Professor Michael Greenwood, from left to right: front row: Ryan Lichwell, Chad Leblanc, Irene Graeff, Sandy Boudreau, Audrey Tepe, Sadie Brehio, Chris Salemi, Elizabeth Conner, Sharon Boudreau, Cyle Howe; back row: Eric Gensler, Lee Chauvette, Tadas Stukas, Sam Kowalczyk, Kaja Stancombe, Adam Christie, Ken Winterhalter, Scott Trudeau, Professor Michael Greenwood, and Chris Rowal.

it. Everyone can benefit from the course, from the new leaders we have in the company to our established leaders.”

Lee Chauvette, Seaman's regional director of human resources, said the training gave him an opportunity to interact with colleagues in a new and productive way. When he joined breakout session in the training with members of his sales team, for example, there was an enhanced understanding of each other's roles in the company and its success.

“We got on the subject of attracting candidates, and out of that discussion I'm going to hold an online session on current trends in hiring,” Chauvette said. “It will give everybody in the

sales team a different look at what we're going through trying to attract people.”

“That enhanced sense of a shared objective was a powerful takeaway from the training experience, Chauvette said. “We all got a lot out of it. It built a level of camaraderie that otherwise might not have an opportunity to develop. It's all about bringing empathy and compassion and teamwork training not so much to be a manager but to be a leader. How to mentor people, how to get more out of people by focusing on the positive aspects of their career.”

“Having Dr. Greenwood's program really gave us a sense of putting together a team, having that team pull the company forward,”

Chauvette continued. “He used a great analogy of driving the bus. You can drive the bus all day, but you need to get the right people on the bus. That really hit home.”

“We're trying to move forward together, and to do that we need to be on the same page,” added Brehio.

McAlary said he appreciated the opportunity for self-awareness that came with the training. “A lot of times you can go through an entire career and not get this type of feedback,” he said. “This is an opportunity to get some of that feedback very early on, and I just think it's very valuable.”

Looking ahead, Chauvette said he hopes the training will help Seaman

and its people continue to evaluate their own roles and contributions, while treating the people way they'd wanted to be treated themselves. “Being the company that people want to work for, this training was a great start,” Chauvette said. “Now it's up to those of us who were part of that training to bring it forward.”

Seaman plans to continue the training with another cohort of leaders in 2023.

To learn more about business training and consulting opportunities available through Fitchburg State's Business Administration Department, contact Professor Greenwood at [mgreenw@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:mgreenw@fitchburgstate.edu).

## FITCHBURG STATE

## Registration open for adult learning

By Matthew Bruun

Fitchburg State University

**FITCHBURG** » Registration is now open for Fitchburg State University's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area spring courses, with offerings that will include an exploration of how the production and leveraging of data is affecting society to a look at water resources in the era of climate change.

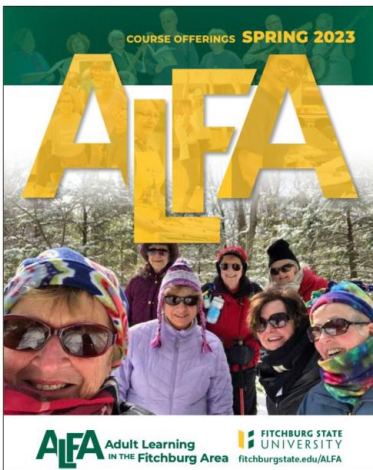
There will be reading groups on great American short stories of the past and present as well as deep dives into Nobel laureates in literature. Learn how to de-clutter your home room-by-room, brush up on conversational French, or learn how to play the ukulele or harmonica. There are dozens of classes on the calendar, with the full program viewable online at [fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](http://fitchburgstate.edu/alfa).

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 in collaboration with volunteer members of the community. It offers 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. Most courses are just \$40 (and free for students over age 90). A limited number of scholarships are available.

The spring courses include fitness offerings like yoga and



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

The cover for Fitchburg State University's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area spring 2023 offerings.

barre stretch and tone, a survey of the history of Verona, Italy, and a look at great American plays and their adaptation into films.

The season will also include the ALFA Salon: Continuing the Conversation, an informal online gathering held every other week where presenters will lead engaging discussions on a variety of topics and issues. The spring salon will host Fitchburg State professors as well as expert guests from beyond campus.

See the complete course

listing and register online at [marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](http://marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa).

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](mailto:alfa@fitchburgstate.edu) for details about becoming an ALFA instructor. Also, direct any questions to the ALFA office at 978-665-3706, or email [alfa@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:alfa@fitchburgstate.edu).

# SPORTS



Fitchburg State University men's hockey coach Dean Fuller will be behind the Falcons bench for his 1,000th game for Fitchburg State on Thursday. PHOTO/FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

## GRAND MILESTONE

Fitchburg State hockey's Dean Fuller coaching 1,000th game Thursday night



### Colleges

Jennifer Toland  
Worcester Telegram & Gazette

In 1982, **Dean Fuller** had just graduated from Fitchburg State, where he was a four-year forward on the ice hockey team, when coach **Jim Gorman** hired him to join his staff.

Fuller learned the finer points of game management and practice prepa-

ration from Gorman, and in 1984, Fuller took over as coach.

Almost four decades later, Fuller and the Falcons program are still going strong.

At 7:40 p.m. Thursday, Fuller will coach his 1,000th game when Fitchburg State plays at Framingham State.

"I think it's pretty cool to coach 1,000 games at Fitchburg State," Fuller said this week, "but to be honest, I'm just focusing on the regular season right now."

Fitchburg State (6-5-2, 4-2-2 MASCAC) has battled some injuries and illness this season — COVID sidelined five

players last weekend, but the Falcons skated past Salem State, 3-1. Freshman **Jeremy Maillet** of Leominster scored Fitchburg State's first goal.

"It was a nice win, and I like the team," said Fuller, who expects the team to be at full strength for Thursday's game.

Fuller, who has 584 victories in his 39 years at Fitchburg State, entered the season ranked third in wins among active Division 3 coaches and seventh all time in Division 3.

See TOLAND, Page 2B

As Fuller said, 1,000 games are a lot, and it was hard for him to pick a most memorable. What has always stood out to him are his teams, like the 1990-91 Falcons, who won the ECAC North and set off a dominant decade. Five of Fuller's teams in the 1990s won 20 or more games. The Falcons finished first in the ECAC Central five straight seasons and tied for first in the ECAC Northeast in 1998-99.

More recently, Fitchburg State won the MASCAC Tournament in 2010-11 and the conference regular-season crown the next season, and in 2017-18, the Falcons earned their first bid to the NCAA Division 3 Tournament.

Fuller was the 2021-22 MASCAC Coach of the Year after guiding Fitchburg State to an overall record of 17-6-1 (14-3-1) and the second seed in the MASCAC tourney.

"We take it one year at a time, seriously," Fuller said, "one practice at a time, just making sure we do a good job as a coaching staff and getting everybody ready to go."

Fuller registered his 500th win during the 2015-16 season, and by the end of this year, he will be closing in on another milestone.

It's the "whole experience," Fuller said, that keeps him coming back year after year.

"I like the whole package of recruiting, putting teams together and practicing," Fuller said, "and I love the winning. I really do. That's what drives me. I like putting teams together that can win championships."

## FITCHBURG

# Grant to support pop-up shops

City awarded \$10G from North Central Mass. Development Corporation

By Jacob Vitali

[jvitali@lowellsun.com](mailto:jvitali@lowellsun.com)

**FITCHBURG** » The city has been awarded a \$10,000 grant by the North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation to support the development of pop-up shops for local artisans, crafters and entrepreneurs to sell products in the community.

In a press release, NCMDC said the pop-up shops are expected to start in December. To prepare, InTown Fitchburg has been working with the city to identify feasible locations including vacant storefronts downtown. The goal is to choose locations which can generate economic activity for the properties and interest in the storefront.

From Dec. 1 to Dec. 23, InTown Fitchburg will be partnering with Bonfire Books to lead a retail pop-up market. The pair will also offer a post-holiday week event with additional discounts from Jan. 2 to Jan. 6. The pop-up will be located at 37 Boulder drive.

Throughout the pop-up, Bonfire Books will be selling new and used books. The store will also host vendors who will be fea-



Pictured left to right in the picture are Travis Condon, public affairs manager for the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce; Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale; Roy Nascimento, president & CEO of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce and the North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation; Richard Lapidus, president of Fitchburg State University; and Joe Ferguson, director of InTown Fitchburg.

COURTESY NCMDC

CEO of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce. "This funding will help support the ongoing revitalization efforts of the downtown Fitchburg area by bringing together local small business owners to share their work with the community."

NCMDC also said placing pop-ups in existing businesses has the potential to attract and new customer base and could lead to future collaborations with those featured.

"As we continue our work to revitalize the downtown area, we are excited to open up our vacant storefronts for our local small business owners to share their products with the community through this program," Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale said. "It's always wonderful when organizations come together to create unique opportunities for our business owners, and through this collaboration with the city, InTown Fitchburg, the North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation, and the property owners willing to participate in the program, we are able to provide spaces for local artists and entrepreneurs to grow their business while we grow our downtown."

Additional details, including opening times and updates for these pop-up shops, can be found by visiting [intownfitchburg.com](http://intownfitchburg.com) or following Bonfire Books on social media.

tured throughout the pop-up schedule. Vendors will include local paper artists, stationery and stickers, locally made soaps, and candles, and those selling

winter accessories, custom cards and calendars, stationary and stickers, locally made soaps, and candles, and those selling

books, and other art, gift and craft items.

"A pop-up shop provides a tremendous benefit to the

business owner while also helping to develop vibrant downtown areas," said Roy Nascimento, president and

## JOURNALISM

## Adam Reilly to speak to journalism students

Will speak as part of Fitchburg State's ongoing 'Good News, Bad News' series

**By Matthew Bruun**

*Fitchburg State University*

**FITCHBURG** » GBH News political reporter Adam Reilly is the latest speaker set to speak to Fitchburg State University students Thursday as part of the continuing "Good News, Bad News" series on the state of journalism.

Reilly's talk will be at 2 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public.

Reilly will discuss the often problematic ways in which international politics influences the practice of journalists. He will draw from recent examples of the coverage of Ukrainian refugees and discuss deeper systemic issues in the field.

Reilly is a regular contributor to GBH News pro-

grams including "Greater Boston" and "Boston Public Radio" and was a frequent guest on "Beat the Press." Before joining GBH, Reilly covered media and politics for the Boston Phoenix. He is a graduate of Carleton College and Harvard Divinity School.

The talk on Dec. 1, hosted by the university's Honors 1020 Current Events and Service Learning class, is part of a semester-long series on contemporary issues in journalism organized by Assistant Professor Wafa Unus.

Previous speakers in the series included Harvard Press Managing Editor John Osborn, Leominster Champion Editor David Dore, Telegram & Gazette Web Editor Mike Elfland, and Sentinel & Enterprise City Editor Jacob Vitali.



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

GBH News political reporter Adam Reilly.

## FITCHBURG

## Jacob Vitali: local news 'vital' to our communities

Editor talks with young journalists about the future of print

By Shane Rhodes

srhodes@lowellsun.com

**FITCHBURG** » Local news is important news — and Sentinel & Enterprise City Editor Jacob Vitali did his best to make that clear to the next generation of journalists Tuesday afternoon.

On Nov. 15, Vitali made his way to Fitchburg State University's Hammond Hall Campus Center, where he discussed his work, the state of local journalism and more with FSU students and faculty. After a brief presentation, Vitali, a Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts graduate that served as a reporter for the Lowell Sun prior to his role with the Sentinel & Enterprise, fielded questions from the audience.

Throughout the session, Vitali touted the importance of local news to its respective communities and, later, called that news "vital" to the health of those communities.

"Strong features writing is part of the fabric that binds a community together and reflects our history," Vitali said. "Strong government reporting gives people good information to make informed decisions in their communities."

"Local news is vital to the health of our communities,



SHANE RHODES — SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise City Editor Jacob Vitali met with Fitchburg State University students and faculty at FSU's Hammond Hall Campus Center on Tuesday, Nov. 15, to discuss his work, the state of local journalism and more.

especially in this era where disinformation can spread like wildfire," he said.

The largest topic of discussion concerned Vitali's work with the Sentinel & Enterprise, the local daily newspaper for Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Ashburnham, Ashby, Lancaster, Shirley, Townsend and Westminster, as well as the manager of the Nashoba Valley Voice, a weekly newspaper for Ayer, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Pepperell, Shirley and Townsend.

In a world where print journalism has continued to decline in favor of news sourced online, Vitali said the most important part of his job was finding the balance between stories that "people really want to read" and those that make

the "biggest impact" in local communities.

"For me, the real challenge is cultivating and maintaining readership," Vitali said. "Like, why would people want to read our paper over other local or national outlets? It's my job to figure that out."

"I don't have any 'magic elixir,' but what I've tried to push for is a focus on stories that can't be read anywhere else. We want to publish the kind of content that can reach the most people and that people want to read, but also important information that people can trust," he said.

Vitali also touched on the differences in the "environment" and "urgency" of the two papers, given their daily versus weekly release schedule, respecti-

tively. "When you're in a weekly environment, it's really well suited for features reporting, taking a more extended look at things," he said, "but, in a daily media environment, you have to feed the beast, you're constantly trying to make sure you're getting stuff out there as quickly as you can."

The "power" of local journalism was also discussed, as Vitali praised a recent story written by Sentinel & Enterprise Reporter Danielle Ray about Fitchburg High School student Asa Oywech.

Ray spoke with Oywech, a 15-year-old boy that was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia back in August, about his fight with and determination to beat cancer. A week later, Oywech met his "political

idol," former Boston City Council President and soon-to-be Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell, after the story landed on her desk.

"That was just a special moment, one that really drives home what the power of a local newspaper can be," Vitali said. "But even if it's just putting a smile on one person's face for a day, I think that's just so worth it."

The future of the Sentinel & Enterprise — and print media on the whole — was another topic of conversation. Despite negative developments in the industry over the last decade or so, Vitali said "physical print was still a viable medium" but admitted that "serious work" needed to be done to improve the industry's business model.

He also said, regardless of the medium, that he thought the Sentinel & Enterprise would exist "for a long time to come."

"People don't want to pay for local news a lot of the time, but we've got to let our people eat, get a roof over their heads, so we've got to sort of work on that business model to continue to be viable." He added that the "Sentinel & Enterprise will always exist in some form — at some point, the medium might shift or we might go completely digital, but I think the paper is going to be around for a long time to come."

Vitali cited his concerns for the future of the industry, primarily the growing distrust in the media

and the increasing lack of "news literacy" throughout the country.

"This is a weird moment in media, because of an increasing distrust in news providers," he said. "More and more people are getting their news from social media, which is really concerning to me because there's just no way to verify what's out there."

"We have people that can't tell the difference between an opinion article and a news article. We've got to get people to think critically, to be able to judge the information that's been put in front of them," he said.

In closing, he also stressed the importance of objectivity, as difficult as it can be at times, as well as the sense of "responsibility" and accountability that can come with local journalism.

"I don't think we're ever going to have 'true objectivity' until (artificial intelligence) is able to write news stories, but you have to sort of separate yourself from you work," Vitali said. "And we're just people, so that can be very hard to do in some cases — but, in local news, you have to take the proper care of the responsibility that's been entrusted to you."

"Sometimes, being friends with a journalist might seem like being friends with a crocodile. You can keep feeding it raw chickens and it might leave you alone, but, someday, it might come after you — and we will hold you accountable," he said.

# 'Forever Motown' comes to town

Show will be presented Dec. 9

By **Matthew Bruun**

*Fitchburg State University*

**FITCHBURG** » The Fitchburg

State University CenterStage arts and culture series invites you to ring in the holiday season with Forever Motown on Friday, Dec. 9.

Direct from New York, see the original cast of Forever Motown in their rocking and

rolling holiday special event with nine all-star performers featuring G.C. Cameron, former lead singer of The Spinners, Glenn Leonard, former lead singer of The Temptations, and Traci Robinson, former lead singer of The

Marvelettes, accompanied by an all-star band. This is a full stage production that will feature all your favorite holiday songs from all the Motown Legends. A sell out in every market, this show is not to be missed.

Forever Motown will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St. Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$25 for seniors and Fitchburg State alumni and staff; and \$5 for students and guests un-

der 18. Tickets may be purchased online at [fitchburg-state.edu/centerstage](https://fitchburg-state.edu/centerstage) or by calling the Weston Box Office at 978.665.3347. The box office is open from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday.



## ART

# Fitchburg State to present 'Chroma' exhibition

By Matthew Bruun

*Fitchburg State University*

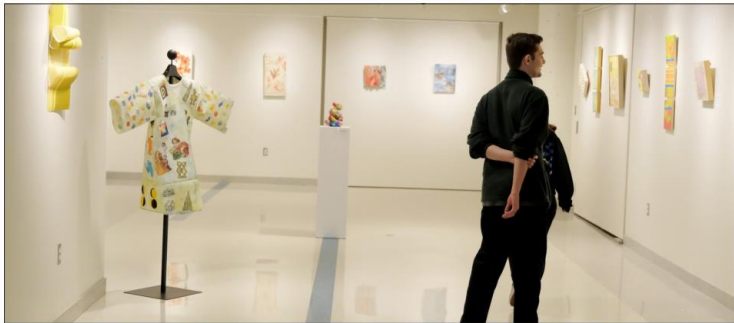
**FITCHBURG** » The Fitchburg State University CenterStage arts and culture series presents "Chroma," a gallery exhibit by New England Wax, through March 3 in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery, 160 Pearl St.

There will be an artist talk and reception at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at the gallery featuring New England Wax members Trina Abbott and Pamela Dorris DeJong. Admission is free and open to the public.

New England Wax is a lively and growing professional organization connecting artists in the six New England states who work with encaustic and other wax-based mediums.

The works in "Chroma" use color pigments that are suspended in either encaustic or cold waxes. The exhibition, on display during the depths of a New England winter, is intended to provide a colorful oasis for students and visitors alike.

To learn more about the university's arts and culture offerings, please visit [fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage](https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage).



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE

Fitchburg State University CenterStage arts and culture series presents "Chroma," a gallery exhibit by New England Wax, through March 3 in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery, 160 Pearl St.