

Fall Semester 2023



Incoming Undergraduate Class

- Enrollment
- Diversity
- Residence Halls



Graduate Education

- Enrollment
- Diversity
- Modality



Admissions Updates

- Expanded campus visit opportunities. Event calendar for the next academic year
- New viewbook with the theme of “It’s About YOU”
- Enhanced campus virtual tour
- Virtual series, “College 101 - for Parents.” Topics include financial aid, student life, wellness, transition to campus life, and success.
- Continue expanded travel, accelerated application cycle, and enhancements to scholarship notifications
- Tuition Equity (MGL change) - undocumented students

Financial Aid Updates

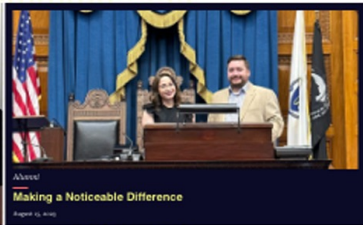
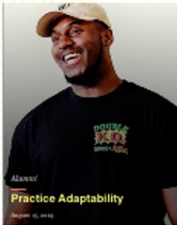
- FAFSA simplification
- Expanded education and counseling for both new and current students to reflect the changes to the federal and state financial aid resources
- Development of new awards and packages as well as the adaptation to the new timeline established by FAFSA simplification

Marketing Updates

- Renewed efforts to offer options to all university partners to ensure brand awareness and usage guidelines
- Refinement of services provided by Print Services as they transition to the Division of Enrollment Management
- Continued expansion of new social media platforms; the launch of a new university THREADS account and expansion of existing platforms
- Further expansion of visual elements stemming from drone certification of our campus photographer
- Development and launch of the new digital magazine, and expanded use of this branded storytelling

FITCHBURG STATE MAGAZINE

FALCONS ARE SOARING



FITCHBURG STATE MAGAZINE

Class Notes

Name: Search

1950s

Barbara (Benham) Campbell '59
was selected as the Grand Marshal for the 2023 Rutland 4th of July parade.

1970s

Mary F. Cringan '77, '84
has been selected as one of the 2023 Commonwealth Heroines. The Commonwealth Heroines Celebration is an opportunity to recognize the women who don't always make the news but who are truly making a difference in their communities, businesses, or volunteer endeavors.

1980s

 **Robert A. Hall '80**
has published a new book, *Quotes for the Conservative Heart*.  **Do**
was

In Memoriam

Name: Search

Issue: Summer 2023 Decade:

1940s

Claire E. (Letendre) Formwalt '45 of Fayetteville, Ga., on December 28, 2022. Read an obituary for [Ms. Formwalt](#).
Patricia M. (Supple) Going '44 of Leominster, on August 25, 2022. Read an obituary for [Mrs. Going](#).
Rev. Bertrand H. Steeves '49 of Newburyport, on September 18, 2020. Read an obituary for [Rev. Steeves](#).

1950s

Robert "Bob" E. Bloomfield '54 of Amherst, NH, on February 10, 2023. Read an obituary for [Mr. Bloomfield](#).
John P. Capuano '58 of Worcester, on December 5, 2022. Read an obituary for [Mr. Capuano](#).
Barbara (Westerman) W. Finkel '57 of Springfield, in February 2023. Read an obituary for [Mrs. Finkel](#).
Judith A. Clarke (Maculiewicz Or) Grabenbauer '57 of Sebastian, Fla., on May 13, 2023. Read an obituary for [Mrs. Grabenbauer](#).
Richard Mantyla '58 of Sarasota, Fla. on May 22, 2022. Read an obituary for [Mr. Mantyla](#).
Norman W. May '50 of Denton, TX on April 24, 2023.
Stuart "Bob" McDermott '58, '63 of Fitchburg, on January 28, 2023. Read an obituary for [Mr. McDermott](#).
Donald R. O'Connor '59 of Westfield, on January 4, 2023. Read an obituary for [Mr. O'Connor](#).

FITCHBURG STATE MAGAZINE

A Passion for Science

Alumni • Summer 2023 • August 15, 2023 • By Matthew Bruun

Crystal McKinnon '11 found lifelong mentors at Fitchburg State.



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For Crystal McKinnon '11, who would become the first member of her family to complete a college degree, the path was not always clear. She graduated from Gardner High School with strong grades and numerous college acceptances, but had to find a way to balance school and the three jobs she was working to pay for it.

"Fitchburg State was the one school I could afford and still live my life," she said. "There, you can do it, and people understand."

She wasn't sure where her dawning educational journey would take her, though she sometimes thought about becoming a high school French teacher. "I had no idea what I wanted to do when I started at Fitchburg State, but I enjoyed the courses," she said. "I didn't have a declared major until halfway through my sophomore year."

That's when her love of science crystallized and a track presented itself. "All of the faculty there are doing what they love, and they're passionate about what they're doing," said McKinnon, who has kept in touch with several of her former professors and still counts them as mentors.

Practice Adaptability

Alumni • Summer 2023 • August 15, 2023 • By Matthew Bruun

Denzel Weatherspoon '19 having "unreal" experience in professional game design

Even if you don't play video games, you've probably heard of the immensely popular online game Fortnite. Developed by Epic Games, Fortnite boasts more than 250 million average monthly players as of 2023, with more than 25 million people playing it every day.

This Spring, Epic Games announced the new Unreal Editor for Fortnite (UEFN), which will let content creators within Fortnite do even more to build interactive worlds shared between players.

Among the team members who worked on the new Unreal Editor were 10 graduates of Fitchburg State's game design program, including Denzel Weatherspoon '19. Weatherspoon has worked for Epic Games since 2021, most recently as a quality assurance analyst.



FITCHBURG STATE MAGAZINE
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Alumni

Flying High but Staying Grounded

Paul Cormier '93 doesn't forget where he came from

Just Keep Moving

Student Stories • Summer 2023 • August 15, 2023 • Matthew Bruun

Christopher Shaddock '23 is a survivor.

Christopher Shaddock believes in the importance of forward motion and has learned not to let obstacles derail him.

A self-described "late, late bloomer," Shaddock has followed a winding path toward his degree.

He had worked jobs in radio and food service when he decided, at age 28, to enlist in the U.S. Army (he celebrated his 29th birthday in basic training).

"I always like a challenge," he recalled. "I get bored."

Shaddock spent eight years in active duty for the Army, including assignments in Kentucky and Germany before his reactivation following the terror attacks of 9/11 led to deployments to Iraq and Kuwait.



Following his discharge, Shaddock continued seeing the world. He lived for 11 years in Iceland, where his then-wife was from, and eventually moved back to the U.S.

"I kept going despite wanting to give up, and a few times I almost did."

Christopher Shaddock '23

A tinkerer since his youth, Shaddock began studying automotive technology and applied science at Mount Wachusett Community College, where he graduated in 2020. In the midst of his studies, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer.

FY24 State Budget Highlights:

- **Line items (all numbers are aggregate and do not reflect the campus allocation):**
 - \$175,650,000 for the state scholarship program
 - \$1,000,000 for the state university internship incentive program
 - \$2,000,000 for state universities mental and behavioral health services
 - \$9,820,456 for the state university funding formula
 - \$5,000,000 for the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative
 - \$15,150,000 for early college development and initial implementation
 - \$12,600,000 to fund early college/dual enrollment programs
 - \$1,000,000 for public higher education hunger-free campus initiative
 - \$300,000 for PACE

FY24 State Budget Highlights (Cont.):

- **Line items funded by Fair Share dollars (all numbers are aggregate and do not reflect the campus allocation):**
 - \$84,000,000 for scholarship program for public higher education students
 - \$50,000,000 for deferred maintenance
 - \$20,000,000 for MassReconnect
 - \$25,000,000 for high demand scholarships for public higher education students
 - \$5,000,000 for state universities endowment incentive program
 - \$5,000,000 for the expansion of early college, workforce, technical and innovation pathway programs
 - \$12,000,000 for capacity building efforts for free community college
 - \$18,000,000 for community college nursing student scholarship.

Institutional Advancement

- Raised from gifts, grants, pledges and bequests nearly \$6.6 million
 - \$4.3 million in grants from state, federal and private foundations (\$3.24 million in FY22)
 - Received 2,138 contributions from 1,193 donors for a total of \$2.3 million (\$1.67 million in FY22)

Institutional Advancement (Cont.)

- 21 New endowments incentivized by state match program were created this year for a total of about \$1.3 million received with another \$1.3m pending
- 248 awards given at Convocation totaling \$250,285 in scholarships
- Travel grants through the CIC scholarship and Global Ambassador have assisted over 50 students traveling to Japan, Germany, Peru, Italy, Puerto Rico and Spain for \$119,350 awarded
- Payroll deductions from faculty and staff have hit the \$10,000 mark this year
- 57 alumni events; 30 on campus; 27 across the country, engaging 1,306 alums through these events.
- During "Go Falcons Challenge" 75 student athletes contacted over 1,000 former athletes and friends/families to secure over \$17,000 for their respective programs from more than 300 unique donors.

State Audit Results

- Areas of review:
 - Distribution of Pandemic Relief Funds - No findings
 - Cyber Security Practices - One minor finding regarding tracking of training participants. Concern has been addressed



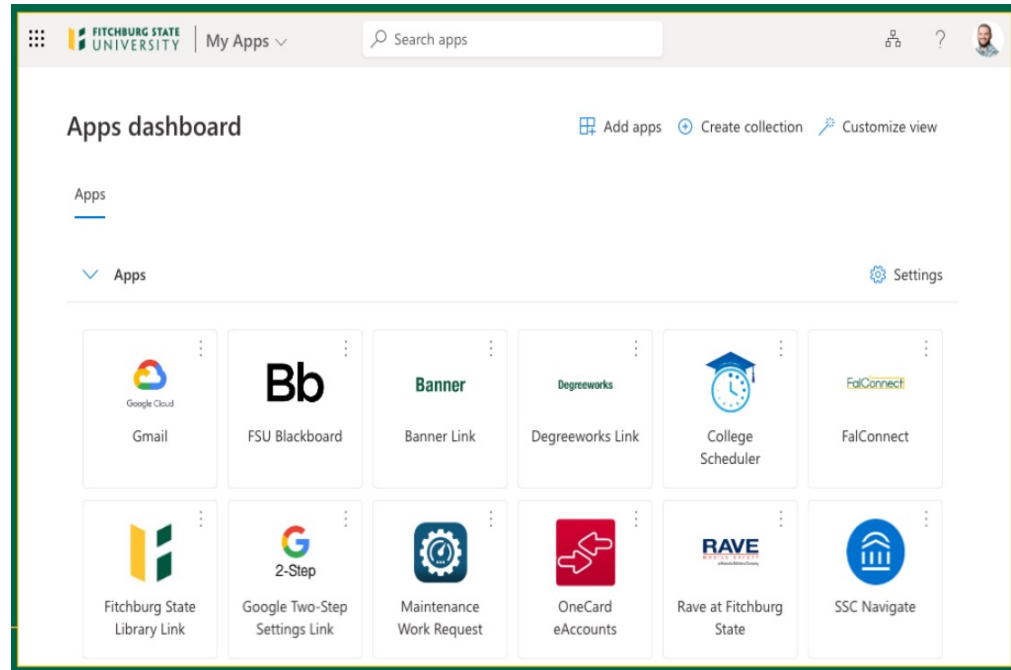
Financial Sustainability Task Force - Phase 2

- Academic Efficiencies
- Administrative Efficiencies
- Entrepreneurship and Revenue
- Property and Infrastructure
- Student Services

Single Sign-On Login Portal

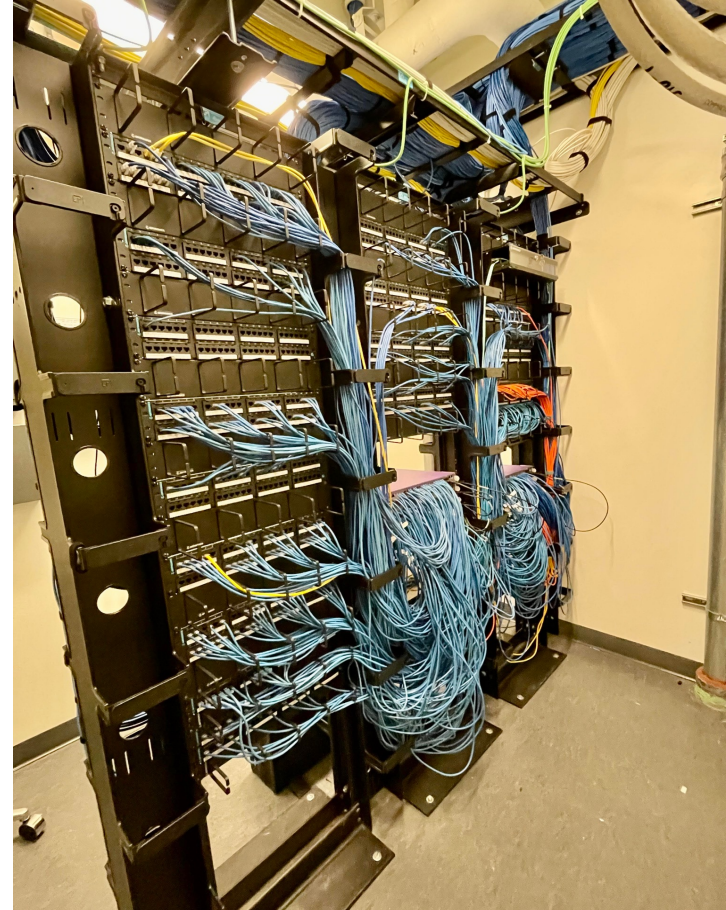
<https://login.fitchburgstate.edu>

- Centralized hub for accessing SSO applications via Microsoft Authentication
- More applications will be added in the future (e.g., Banner, Degreeworks, and SSB)
- This platform is presently accessible to faculty, staff, and students, with our student-focused marketing efforts just beginning.
- MFA will be enforced for students on October 10th and Faculty and Staff on February 13th
- Google MFA will no longer be a requirement



Network Refresh Highlights

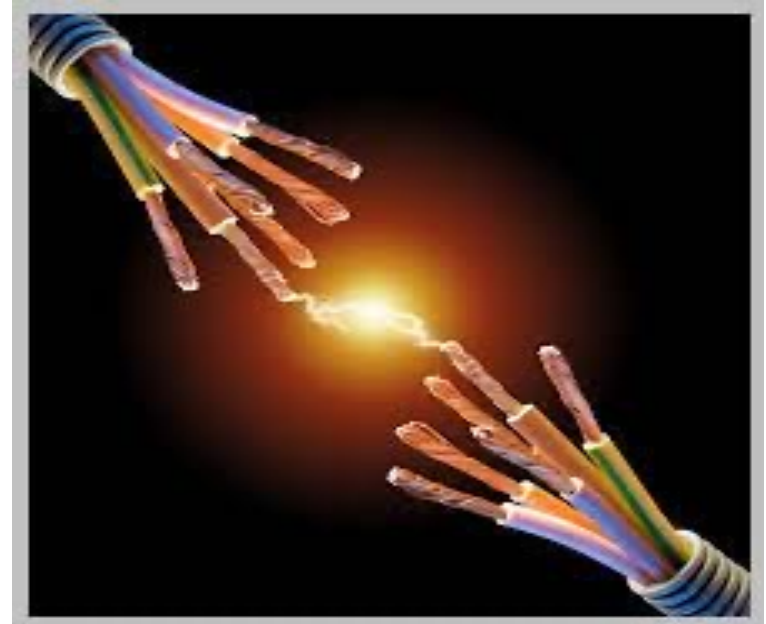
- Comprehensive upgrade encompassing the replacement of all network building stacks and Wireless Access Points (WAPs)
- The newly implemented building network increases uplink speed 10-fold, while Wi-Fi performance has been enhanced threefold
- Will be introducing Wi-Fi 6E SSIDs in the fall season with an even more accelerated Wi-Fi experience for compatible devices
- Wired ports were minimized resulting in cost optimization.



Campus Infrastructure

Projects completed:

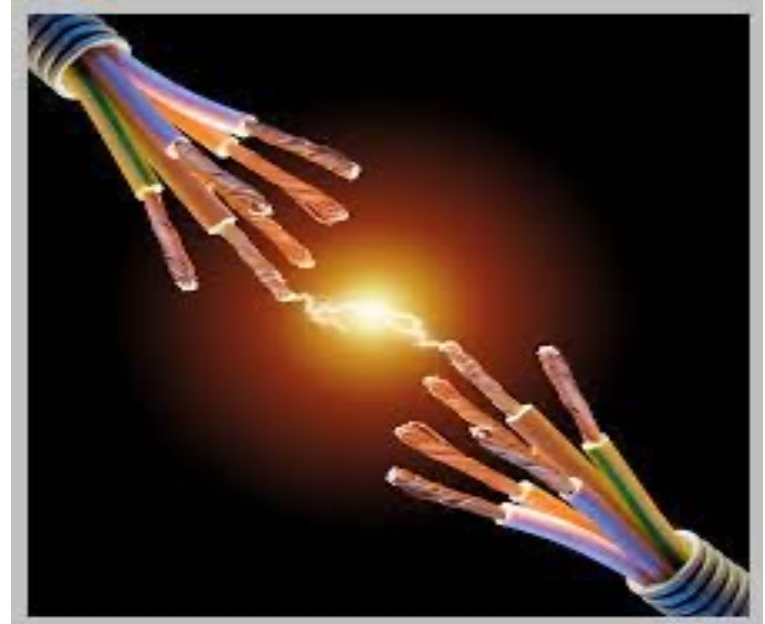
- Thompson Hall renovation first and second floors
- Residence hall projects included new carpeting and interior painting completed in Townhouses 1-7, repainting of Mara Village units 1-5
- New hot water systems in Cedar House and Simonds Hall



Campus Infrastructure (Cont.)

Projects in progress:

- A new roof and other improvements at Weston Auditorium
- A new roof at Holmes Dining Commons
- Upgrades at the Edgerly data center
- A building study in anticipation of major renovations to Conlon Hall



Medical Abortion Bill

- Medication Abortion is an act that expands protections for reproductive and gender-affirming care. It requires the institution to develop a Medication Abortion Readiness Plan.
- MOU with Planned Parenthood
 - Four locations (Boston, Worcester, Springfield & Marlborough)
 - Provide in-person and telehealth abortion services
 - Provide on-going support
 - Provide patient navigation services (transportation, cost of care and others)

Campus Resources

- CARE Team (Community Assessment and Risk Evaluation)
 - Report students of non-academic concern

- Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT)
 - Incidents impacting students, employees, and guests

- Falcon Bazaar Food and Necessities Pantry

- Community Health Connections
 - Campus health partner

- Counseling Services
 - Virtual and in-person sessions. Extended evening hours.

- Falcons Care Website
 - Information about emergency loans and support offices dedicated to helping students navigate barriers



Dates to Remember for Fall Semester

- Rock the Block (9/12 @ 3:30pm)
- Open House (10/14, 10/28, plus other events)
 - Sessions for First Gen students
 - Stem students
 - Honors students
 - Increased weekend and evening info sessions to include Admissions, Financial Aid and Housing
- Homecoming (11/3 - 11/5)
- Lighting of the Campus (11/30 @ 4:30pm)
- Holiday Gathering (12/14 @ 3:30pm)
- Winter Commencement (12/22 @ 6:30pm)



Award for Caring
Curtis Kelley

Performance Recognition Awards



- Summer Fetterroll
- Laura Garofoli

EMPLOYEE



RECOGNITION

Service Awards

Let's Have A Great Semester!

