

RECRUIT OFFICER COURSE

‘DRIVING LAW ENFORCEMENT’

Fitchburg State’s 11 police academy grads already have jobs

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » The 11 members of Fitchburg State University’s 6th Recruit Officer Course graduated on Friday and will now move on to completing their certification to work in municipal police departments in Massachusetts and other states. All 11 members of the group have already been hired by municipal and collegiate police departments.

The program was developed by Fitchburg State in collaboration with the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC). The members of the 6th ROC graduated with their bachelor’s degrees in criminal justice in May, and days later began a 17-week police academy that concluded with Friday’s ceremony and also marked the start of their master’s degrees in criminal justice.

Graduate Jonathan Revil of Bridgewater gave the class address, in which he recounted the 6th ROC’s beginnings amid the COVID pandemic, when they stood at attention in front of their computer cameras. There were 55 members of the class at that time, of whom only 11 were still in the program by the graduation on Friday. Those 11 quickly became one team, he said.

“We have been challenged physically, mentally and academically,” Revil said. “I can proudly say I would go to any call with any of the 10 brothers and sisters sitting before me today.”

University President Richard Lapidus recognized the students for successfully completing the challenging curriculum and strict standards by which they had to abide throughout their time in the program. “Fifty-five students started the program with you as freshmen, and today we grad-



GARY FOURNIER

Academy

FROM PAGE 1

uate only 11, all of which have been hired prior to this graduation,” President Lapidus said. “It’s a credit to all of you that you kept your focus through unprecedented times.”

MPTC Executive Director Robert Ferullo congratulated the graduates on their achievement and said they personify the future of the profession.

“You folks are the ones who are going to make a difference,” Ferullo said. “Go out and fix the wrongs. You guys are educated, future police leaders. You’ll be the ones who will be driving the law enforcement community.”

He noted the fact that departments were eager to hire them as well-trained officers. “You all have jobs,” he said. “What other job in the world are people knocking on your door to hire you?”

In her address, Academy Director Lisa Lane McCarty compared police officers to superheroes, whose superpower was sacrificing time with loved ones and risking their own personal safety to protect others. She recalled growing up the daughter of a police officer (retired Pepperell Police Officer Thomas Lane) and the milestones he missed in order to serve his community. “Normal people aren’t willing to do this,” she said. “Only superheroes do this.”



GARY FOURNIER

Elizabeth Scott is presented with the Academic Achievement Award. Officer Scott is from Yarmouth and she will be reporting to Yarmouth Police Department.

The ceremony included awards to members of the class, including a new award in honor of Auburn Police Officer Ronald Tarentino Jr., who was killed in the line of duty on May 22, 2016. The award was presented to 6th ROC member Parker Luther of Sudbury by the fallen officer’s parents, Ron and Sharon Tarentino, and his sister, Cait-

lin.

A special award was presented to State Rep. Michael Kushmerek, who participated in physical training with the recruits during the academy so he could learn more about how the recruits are prepared. He has been a vocal advocate for the program and its importance to the evolution of police training.



GARY FOURNIER

Graduates celebrate after the ceremony.

“He truly was a large part of the spirit and the soul of the 6th ROC,” said Lane.

At the ceremony, which was attended by guests including family and friends of the graduates as well as police leaders and elected officials, University Police Chief Michael J. Cloutier administered the oath of honor:

“On my honor, I will never betray my integrity, my character, or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always maintain the highest ethical standards and uphold the values of my community

and the agency I serve.”

The members of the 6th ROC, and the departments that have hired them, are: Joshua Barber of Sandwich (hired by Yarmouth Police Department); Noah Buentello of Hopkinton (hired by Hopkinton Police Department); Jonathan Butler of Worcester (hired by Franklin Police Department); Grace Kerr of Holliston (hired by the Fitchburg State University Police Department); Joseph Lamarca of Billerica (hired by the Billerica Police Department);

Parker Luther of Sudbury (hired by the Franklin Police Department); Andrew Morris of Ludlow (hired by the Fitchburg State University Police Department); Jonathan Revil of Bridgewater (hired by the Bridgewater Police Department); Elizabeth Scott of Yarmouth (hired by the Yarmouth Police Department); Phillip Sloan of Mansfield (hired by the Foxborough Police Department); and Martin Zimei of Leominster (hired by the Franklin Police Department).

Editorial

FSU officer grads represent higher police standard

The well-publicized nationwide examples of police brutality, and this commonwealth's stepped-up requirements in transparency and accountability for law enforcement, has put a heightened emphasis on an enhanced statewide standard of professional conduct.

For that to be realized, the next iteration of law enforcement will need the critical-thinking tools that some current police officers lack. That comes with a formal education related to that chosen field.

That's what Fitchburg State University Police Academy recruits receive. Students in that highly selective program study a demanding, police-centric curriculum over their four-year college careers.

After graduating with a degree in criminal justice, they complete a summer academy to become certified police officers, and then enter a one-year graduate program in criminal justice.

That's in contrast to most current police recruits, who are usually hired or sponsored by a municipal police department. Those individuals need only to pass a 20-week police academy to be certified.

The latest FSU police recruits reached a coveted milestone Friday, by becoming the sixth class to earn undergraduate degrees.

The 11 members of that select group will now complete their certification before moving on to municipal and university police departments from Billerica to Cape Cod.

The FSU program was developed in collaboration with the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), an agency of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, which establishes training standards, oversight and policy guidance for law enforcement professionals.

The 6th ROC graduated with their bachelor's degrees in criminal justice in May, and days later began a 17-week police academy program that concluded with Friday's ceremony; it also marked the start of their master's degrees in criminal justice.

Graduate Jonathan Revil of Bridgewater gave the class address, in which he recounted the 6th ROC's beginnings amid the COVID pandemic. Those 55 class members at that time shrunk to just 11 over the course of four years, a testament to the program's degree of difficulty.

According to Revil, those surviving 11 quickly became one team.

"We have been challenged physically, mentally and academically," Revil said. "I can proudly say I would go to any call with any of the 10 brothers and sisters sitting before me today."

University President Richard Lapidus praised the students for successfully completing the challenging curriculum and adhering to the strict standards demanded of them.

"Fifty-five students started the program with you as freshmen, and today we graduate only 11," President Lapidus said. "It's a credit to all of you that you kept your focus through unprecedented times."

MPTC Executive Director Robert Ferullo, who congratulated the graduates on their achievement, said they personify the future of the profession.

"You folks are the ones who

are going to make a difference," Ferullo said. "Go out and fix the wrongs. You guys are educated, future police leaders. You'll be the ones who will be driving the law enforcement community."

In her address, Academy Director Lisa Lane McCarty compared police officers to superheroes. She recalled growing up the daughter of a police officer — retired Pepperell Police Officer Thomas Lane — and the family milestones he missed in order to serve his community. "Normal people aren't willing to do this," she said. "Only superheroes do this."

Members of class were recognized for their achievements. Sixth ROC member Parker Luther of Sudbury received a new award, in honor of Auburn Police Officer Ronald Tarentino Jr., who was killed in the line of duty on May 22, 2016. It was presented by the fallen officer's parents, Ron and Sharon Tarentino, and his sister Caitlin.

And a special award was presented to state Rep. Michael Kushmerek, who participated in the physical training during the academy to learn more about the recruits' preparation process.

The Fitchburg Democrat has been a strong supporter of the program and of the important role it plays in the evolution of police training.

At the ceremony, attended by family and friends of the graduates, as well as police leaders and elected officials, FSU Police Chief Michael J. Cloutier administered the oath of honor:

"On my honor, I will never betray my integrity, my character, or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always maintain the highest ethical standards and uphold the values of my community and the agency I serve."

So, let's welcome these highly educated and empathetic new officers to the ranks of Massachusetts police departments:

- Joshua Barber of Sandwich (Yarmouth Police Department);
- Noah Buentello of Hopkinton (Hopkinton Police Department);
- Jonathan Butler of Worcester (Franklin Police Department);
- Grace Kerr of Holliston (Fitchburg State University Police Department);
- Joseph Lamarca of Billerica (Billerica Police Department);
- Parker Luther of Sudbury (Franklin Police Department);
- Andrew Morris of Ludlow (Fitchburg State University Police Department);
- Jonathan Revil of Bridgewater (Bridgewater Police Department);
- Elizabeth Scott of Yarmouth (Yarmouth Police Department);
- Phillip Sloan of Mansfield (Foxborough Police Department);
- Martin Zimei of Leominster (Franklin Police Department).

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WE THE PEOPLE

Talks explore racial profiling for Constitution Day

Fitchburg State programs held to celebrate Sept. 17, 1787

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » Constitution Day will be celebrated at Fitchburg State University this month with a series of programs exploring racial profiling from a variety of perspectives, from statis-

tics to social media and historical precedents.

Constitution Day is observed each September in honor of the national document's signing on Sept. 17, 1787. The university's programming is presented by the General Education Pro-

gram, with funding from the Office of Student Development and refreshments from the Student Government Association.

The programming begins Monday, Sept. 18, with a presentation by

TALKS » PAGE 8



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

In honor of Constitution Day, Worcester State University Professor Mary Fowler, a statistician, will talk at FSU about her work as an expert witness in support of making constitutional provisions effective in Massachusetts.

Talks

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Worcester State University Professor Mary Fowler, a statistician who has testified as an expert witness in support of making constitutional provisions effective in Massachusetts.

She will give a talk at 3:30 p.m. in the main lounge of Hammond Hall entitled "Racial Profiling and the Constitution: What Do Math, Maps, and the Law Have to Say?" The talk will look at a series of racial profiling cases that illustrate the development of this area of law. Admission is free and open to the public.

Fowler will also be giving a talk to university students in an advanced statistics course about her work as an expert witness in data analysis. That talk will be at 12:30 p.m., also

in the Hammond lounge.

Programming will continue beyond Monday's events, including a talk at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19 by faculty members Kyle Moody and J.J. Sylvia of the Communications Media Department.

Their talk, entitled "Social Media's Racial Filter, Activated: How Digital Media Uses Race and Platforming to Profile," will delve into racial performativity and profiling in digital platforms. The discussion will invite participants to consider how social media can both shape and reinforce racial discourse and biases. The event will be held in the main lounge at Hammond Hall.

The discussions continue at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, when Professor Ben Railton of the English Studies Department presents "Debating & Constituting 'We the People':

The Constitution, the 1790 Naturalization Act, & the Idea of America."

Railton's talk looks at the opening words of the constitution and asks, who comprises that "we"? The talk will also look at one of the nation's first laws — the Naturalization Act of 1790 — that limited the possibility of gaining U.S. citizenship to "any alien, being a free white person" who had been in the United States for two years.

Examining these two documents and their contexts helps us understand how "we the people" was debated and constituted in the founding era, and how those contested inclusive and exclusionary definitions continue to shape our 21st century community. This talk will also be held in the main lounge of Hammond Hall.

— *Courtesy Fitchburg State University*

Opinion

Italian Heritage Month is a chance to promote cultural vibrancy

By Vincent Ialenti
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As we reflect on October's Italian Heritage Month, the Center for Italian Culture (CIC) at Fitchburg State University is proud to continue its strong commitment to promoting cultural diversity and fostering global understanding among its students and the community.

The CIC was established in 1999 through a gift from Fitchburg State alumna Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio, class of 1938. The center's mission is to promote Italian language, arts, history, and culture through various educational programs, events, and activities. The CIC benefits from its structure as a university/community resource. Its combined mission greatly enhances the CIC's ability to offer high-quality educational programs as well as cultural events for the surrounding area. Fitchburg State faculty and administrators serve with community members on the CIC Board to share the goal of promoting Italian culture.

Through a diverse range of programs and events, such as lectures, concerts, film screenings, and art exhibitions, the Center for Italian Culture brings the richness and diversity of Italian culture to the local community. These programs not only enhance the cultural vibrancy of the region but also foster mutual understanding and appreciation among different cultures to promote inclusivity and diversity.

The theme of CIC's programming for this year explores the Italian immigrant experience, past and present. Find details about the year's events at FitchburgState.edu/Resources/Our-Community/Center-Italian-Culture/Nuovo-Mondo. The events begin in October and are open to the public.

In addition to community programming, the Center for Italian Culture supports education and study abroad opportunities for Fitchburg State University students. The CIC offers funding to local elementary and high schools, enabling younger students to learn about Italian language,



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

The Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State University was established in 1999 as one of the University's community outreach programs.

culture, and history. Over the twenty-five years since its founding, the CIC has provided more than \$250,000 in scholarships to Fitchburg State University students to study in Italy, most often through its annual program in Verona, but in other Italian destinations, as well.

According to Fitchburg State Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Franca Barricelli, "These opportunities immerse students in the rich cultural heritage of Italy and encourage learning that has a lasting impact on students' perspectives of the world and of themselves. The support of the CIC makes these transformative experiences possible for our students."

The CIC has also supported Fitchburg State faculty by providing travel to conferences and stipends to assist with their research and scholarly activity.

The CIC Archives, housed in the university's Gallucci-Cirio Library, works to preserve Italian-American heritage. It consists of donated materials from individuals, families, and organizations and presents archival documents and

artifacts related to the history of Italian Americans in New England, with a particular focus on Central Massachusetts.

An exciting example of this is the recent donation of the Michael Vincent Addoriso Family Collection, which includes a series of letters written by a Fitchburg sailor to his family during World War II. These letters, postcards, and medals provide a firsthand narration of a military life that was tragically cut short while serving on the USS Reid during World War II.

The partnership between Fitchburg State University and the Center for Italian Culture exemplifies the power of collaboration and the importance of promoting cultural exchange in the community. By sharing resources, promoting Italian culture and heritage, and supporting education and study-abroad opportunities, the CIC fosters global understanding, promotes diversity, and enriches the lives of FSU students, faculty, and the community.

Vincent Ialenti is the President of the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State University.

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IMMIGRANT EXPLORATION

FSU Center for Italian Culture screening 'Nuovo Mondo'

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » The Center for Italian Culture (CIC) at Fitchburg State University will explore the Italian immigrant experience, past and present, with a series of programs called "Nuovo Mondo: A Century of Migrations from and to Italy."

Through lectures, film series, food events, discussions, workshops, and more, the CIC will examine the impact and legacy of the emigration of Italians to the United States and contemporary migration into Italy.

The programs begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, with the first in a series of film screenings on the immigrant experience.

"Nuovo Mondo" recounts the Mancuso family's migration from rural Sicily, Italy to New York City at the beginning of the 20th century. The film will screen in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

The campus will present the Dr. Joseph Luzzi Residency Keynote Address: Italian Immigration to America at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, also in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall.

Dr. Luzzi, the child of Italian immigrants and an award-winning scholar of Italian literature, is Asher B. Edelman Professor of Literature at Bard College. In his address, he will discuss the subject of Italian immigration to America, with special reference to his 2014 memoir, *My Two Italies: A Personal and Cultural History*.

Additional information on the series can be found online at fitchburgstate.edu/nuovo-mondo.

Courtesy Fitchburg State University



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Fitchburg State University will be screening the films on the immigrant experience and will begin on Sept. 21 at 5:30 p.m. with "Nuovo Mondo," at Hammond Hall.