

127TH COMMENCEMENT

'BURNING BRIGHTER THAN EVER'

Fitchburg State University celebrates grads at Winter Commencement



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduates at the Fitchburg State Winter Commencement ceremony decorated their caps with inspirational messages and designs.

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » More than 400 graduate and undergraduate degrees were awarded during Fitchburg State University's 127th commencement ceremony recently on Dec. 22.

The ceremony included speeches by undergraduate valedictorian Dylan J. Dandy of Leominster and Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Maryanne Fiorino of Danvers.

Dandy graduated with a dual major in mathematics and chemistry. In his remarks, he thanked members of the faculty who had taken him under their wing and offered guidance and mentorship through his studies. He singled out Professor Gerald Higdon of the Mathematics Department for overseeing his capstone research project.

"Through him and my capstone project, my passion for mathematics truly began burning brighter than ever," Dandy said. "So, for all of that, and some directions for the future, I want to thank him and the other professors who got me to this point by pushing and be-

lieving in me. I hope that all of you have someone or something that can do that for you."

Dandy plans to pursue his PhD in mathematics.

Fiorino, a nurse for the past 27 years, completed a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in healthcare management.

"Leadership, as I've come to understand, is not confined to titles; it's a way of life. It's about guiding, supporting, and nurturing, even when the world sleeps," said Fiorino. "To all those facing challenges, remember, you can persevere. Keep pushing through, stay positive, and smile, even in the face of adversity. It's an integral part of life.

In his keynote remarks, Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus highlighted several graduating students for embodying the University's motto of "perseverantia," meaning persistence. They included:

- Nathacha Santiago-Prado of Leominster, who completed a bachelor's degree in education, and looks forward to being an inspiration to future stu-



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate valedictorian Dylan J. Dandy, of Leominster, delivers his address during the Winter Commencement at Fitchburg State University Dec. 22, 2023.

dents of color by showing them they can lead their own classrooms.

- Mary Nankya, a native of Uganda who left her young family to pursue her dreams of an advanced education and build a better life for them. She completed a Master of Science in computer science.

- Stephen Wells of Ayer, who completed a bachelor's degree in English Studies at the age of 70, overcoming serious illness

to complete a long-held ambition. He plans to continue his studies in graduate school.

The ceremony also included the presentation of the Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Student Leadership Award to Christopher Shaddock of Ayer. A veteran and cancer survivor, Shaddock completed a degree in interdisciplinary studies and plans to continue his studies at the graduate level with an eye toward becoming a counselor.

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FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

FSU joins pilot to rethink law school readiness

LSAT alternative to help more pre-law students succeed

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » As the longtime advisor to its pre-law program, Fitchburg State University Professor Paul Weizer has seen many former students go on to successful careers in the law. He has also seen otherwise successful students struggle with the standardized test that can qualify them for law school.

This year, Weizer led the effort for Fitchburg State to join a pilot program of five institutions nationwide to try an alternative to the Law School Admission Test, better known as the LSAT.

Weizer said many institutions are rethinking standardized tests in general — Fitchburg State is one of many colleges and universities that made the SAT largely optional as part of the undergrad-

uate admissions process, for example — and now law schools are engaging in similar discussions.

Fitchburg State is launching its pilot of LawReady this semester, in collaboration with the Law School Admission Council.

The program is designed to meet students earlier in their undergraduate studies, providing a roadmap to law school readiness with academic skills development

FSU » PAGE 8



Fitchburg State University campus.

COURTESY
FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY

FSU

FROM PAGE 1

aligned with courses already taking place on campus, resources to assist navigating the pre-law process, and community support along the students' journey

to a legal education.

"This is an alternative to the LSAT, wherein students may build a portfolio that demonstrates they have the skills to succeed in law school," Weizer explained.

The program is launching with four courses in Fitchburg State's pre-law track, covering top-

ics including argumentative writing, ethics, and the law. The pilot is being funded through an Academic Innovation Fund grant from the university.

Weizer said he hopes the LawReady program will help students who are considering law school but may not perform as well on

standardized tests. "It really should level the playing field, because it takes standardized testing out of the equation," he said.

Weizer noted he has had several former students who struggled with the LSAT but later went on to successful careers as attorneys. Their journeys would

have been streamlined had they been given the option of a portfolio-based assessment, he said.

Fitchburg State's pre-law offerings include a partnership with the UMass Dartmouth School of Law, wherein students may complete their bachelor's degrees and law de-

grees within six years (saving a year of undergraduate tuition and fees). Weizer is also the advisor to the university's lauded moot court team, wherein students compete at the regional and national levels.

—Fitchburg State University

LivingArts

By James Sullivan
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Kate Jewell wasn't too surprised to learn that her most-streamed artist of 2023 was a band she'd loved back in her days as a college radio DJ. From 1997 until 2001, the Vermont native cohosted a show on WRVU, the student-run station at Vanderbilt University, where she was an undergrad.

Those were banner years for Sloan, the Nova Scotia power-pop band that has remained one of Jewell's favorites.

"I still like the comforting sounds of yore," she says.

But "comforting" may not be the first word that comes to mind when discussing college radio. Since at least as far back as the 1960s, college radio has challenged its listeners to stretch their ears beyond the limited playlists of the commercial airwaves. From punk and hip-hop to ethnic and avant-garde music, student-run radio stations have been "a place where ordinary Americans can come together and discuss what they want the nation to sound like," says Jewell, a history professor at Fitchburg State University.

The author of "Live from the Underground: A History of College Radio," a new book from the University of North Carolina Press, Jewell was moved to write a definitive history of the medium after her old station, WRVU, sold its broadcasting license to a local public radio station in 2011. It was one of several stations with university ties, including KUSF in San Francisco, to decide that decreasing listenership — instigated by the rising popularity of streaming services — made the stations expendable.

That attitude, as Jewell points out in her meticulously researched book, does a disservice not only to students hoping to learn the art of broadcasting, it also ignores college radio's long history of new music discovery and critical community programming.

"We need institutional support for cultural production, whether or not it has market value," she says.

The Boston area plays a prominent role in Jewell's book, which is out Tuesday. Launched in 1975 at



LIZ LINDER

A Fitchburg State professor's new book traces left-of-the-dial history of college radio

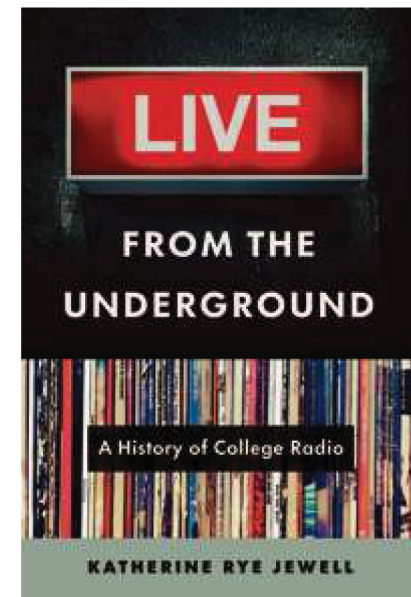
MUSIC

MIT's WTBS (now WMBR), the program that came to be known as "The Demi-Monde" has been widely cited as the first in the country dedicated to punk rock. The show's host, Oedipus, was the first DJ to interview the Ramones on the air, in 1976, when the band traveled for the first time outside their native New York. Within a few years Oedipus, of course, would become program director at WBCN.

Other stations breaking new ground in the Boston area included Emerson College's WERS, which for years ran nighttime shows dedicated to reggae ("Rockers") and hip-hop ("88.9 at Night"); Harvard University's WHRB, which launched a country music show, "Hillbilly at Harvard," way back in the 1940s; and

Boston College's WZBC, which hosted two members of Nirvana on the day their epoch-making "Nevermind" album was released in 1991.

In Boston, "the club scene was so close to the college scene," explains Jewell, who earned her PhD at Boston University. "There were so many different types of stations in a small metropolitan area, they all had to distinguish themselves from each other."



UNC PRESS

"Live from the Underground" author Katherine Rye Jewell (left) at Village Vinyl and Hi-Fi in Brookline.

But the stations sometimes worked in solidarity, too — organizing boycotts, for instance, when a few record labels tried to institute subscription fees for their new releases. In 1978, Robert Haber, a Brandeis University graduate and alum of its radio station, established CMJ (College Media Journal), the industry tip sheet for college radio programmers. With its annual Music Marathon in New York City, the company enjoyed considerable influence as the college radio of the '80s evolved into the "alternative" rock radio of the '90s. ("Alternative, ugh, I hate that word," former WFNX DJ Kurt St. Thomas says in the book.)

After growing up in rural Vermont, where radio choices were few and far between, Jewell arrived for school in Nashville a blank slate.

"I came into college radio without any preconceived notions," she recalls. All she knew was that WRVU — where fellow DJs hosted programs for gay and goth audiences — felt like a haven for the counterculture.

"I was never fully of it," she says, adding, unsurprisingly: "I was always kind of observing."

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STUDENT FILMMAKER



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University junior Isaiah Manuel, right, poses at the Student Media Summit with fellow student Adam Fournier.

Fitchburg State junior takes top honor in statewide summit

Student media summit hosted 14 schools last month

Submitted Article

BOSTON » Fitchburg State University student filmmaker Isaiah Manuel took first place in the recent Student Media Summit, where he competed against students from 14 institutions of higher education, including Emerson College, Northeastern University and Boston University.

In addition to networking opportunities, the summit, held at Emerson College on Oct. 27, included a “pitch contest” where student filmmakers had two minutes to articulate their vision for a narrative or

documentary film project.

Manuel, a junior from Leominster, submitted a proposal for his documentary “Thrown Away,” about where Massachusetts’ trash goes once it is shipped out of state. It was one of 77 submissions to the contest, from which 14 were selected for oral pitches at the summit. From that pool, he won the \$1,000 cash prize, with additional funds for equipment rental to produce the film.

“I was surprised, especially because most of the other projects were narrative films,” Manuel said. “It was a great experience.”

The annual contest is organized by the Massachusetts Production Coalition’s Education Consortium. In addition

Summit

FROM PAGE 3

to Fitchburg State, participating colleges included Bentley University, Boston University, Bridgewater State University, Emerson College, Endicott College, Lasell University, Lesley University, Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Middlesex Community College, Northeastern University, Suffolk University, Tufts University, and Wheaton College.

Manuel’s project spawned from his curiosity about the trains full of trash he saw being shipped on the tracks from Leominster. With long-held interests in photography and trains, the documentary film project started to take shape in his mind.

“I took (Associate Professor) Kevin McCarthy’s documentary development class last spring, and I spent the whole semester learning about something I really wanted to know more about,” Manuel said.

His research included

finding out that vast quantities of waste produced in Massachusetts is shipped to a landfill in Uniontown, Ala., where more than half the population lives below the property line, and that raised additional questions in his mind about societal habits toward waste and recycling, and how those attitudes have an impact extending far beyond the trash cans in our driveways.

Manuel said he hopes to pursue a career in film or television. This fall, he has enjoyed McCarthy’s multi-camera television production class that is taught in collaboration with Fitchburg Access Television (FATV). The class includes work in the FATV studios downtown, and additional hours as a member of the production crew in community settings, including scholastic sports and election coverage.

“It’s been really interesting,” Manuel said. “It’s what I look forward to doing for my career.”

Courtesy Fitchburg State University

FITCHBURG STATE

Teacher training at FSU nationally recognized

National Education Honor Society chapter receives ACE award

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » With its institutional roots in teacher training, Fitchburg State University has had a long-active and engaged chapter of the international education honor society Kappa Delta Pi. Through the society, future educators engage in projects that benefit children in the community and enhance their own learning through professional development and mentorship.

Each year, the organization recognizes KDP chapters that demonstrate excellence in membership, leadership development, and programming in support of the KDP's mission and strategic goals with its Achieving Chapter Excellence (or ACE) award.

In 2023, only nine chapters out of 600 chapters nationwide were selected to receive the ACE award. This fall, The Xi Psi Chapter at Fitchburg State was selected out of those nine chapters to receive the Ace of the ACE Award. Although the Xi Psi Chapter has

TRAINING » PAGE 8

Training

FROM PAGE 1

won 10 consecutive ACE Awards, 2023 is the first time the chapter was selected to receive the Ace of the ACE.

"The Xi Psi Chapter at Fitchburg State University has implemented a comprehensive and innovative membership plan that engages a diverse range of students and educators," said Joe Clemmer, KDP's Membership Experience Manager for teacher candidates in the Northeast, when he presented the award this fall. "The Chapter hosts a staggering array of programming, all aimed at elevating the profession, or serving others."

Among the KDP chapter activities recognized were its informational meetings, professional development sessions, alumni engagement and campus outreach events.

Also the chapter hosts events that benefit literacy projects in local schools like Dot Day and Read for the

Record, and projects that serve the wider community including writing letters to veterans for Veterans Day. The chapter also organized the local Special Olympics games until they were interrupted by the pandemic.

"Most impressively, the chapter has sustained a long term relationship with the Nambale Magnet School in Kenya," Clemmer said. "This partnership has allowed chapter members to visit the school, provide resources and training to the Nambale teachers, and learn from them in exchange."

The chapter was recognized along with their faculty counselors including Dean of Education Nancy Murray, Associate Professor Karen DeAngelis and Associate Professor Laurie Link.

Murray said the collaboration with the school in Kenya has been a rewarding experience for all involved. "One of the reasons we stay so connected is due to the mutual respect we have for each other and the ongoing learning that occurs," she said. "Teachers at the Nambale Magnet school were often used to

visitors sharing their expertise without seeking their knowledge and skills, which are embedded in their culture."

Erin Maida, a 2023 graduate of Fitchburg State, was delighted to hear about the chapter's recognition.

"It meant the world to know that our efforts over the past year truly made as big of a difference as we hoped for," said Maida. "KDP has granted me opportunities throughout my time at Fitchburg State that I will always be grateful for. From elementary classroom visits, to working innovative ideas, to bonding with our new members through pizza and keychain-making parties, KDP has been a significant ingredient to my positive experience at this school."

Maida was also volunteer coordinator for the chapter during her senior year, an experience she said improved her organization and event preparation skills.

"I was able to see the immediate effect our KDP members had on the community," said Maida.



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Representatives from Fitchburg State University's Xi Psi Chapter of the education honor society Kappa Delta Pi recently gathered to celebrate their Ace of the ACE award.

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NATIONAL COMPETITION

Fitchburg State hosting Moot Court Tournament

Teams from 17 colleges
and universities competing

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » The question of whether a constitutional right to privacy includes use of contraception will be among the legal issues analyzed when Fitchburg State University hosts the American Moot Court Association's Eastern Regional Tournament on Friday, Nov. 17 and Saturday, Nov. 18.

Competing students are judged on their oral and written arguments on opposing sides of legal principles, with this year's tournament case posing questions about access to contraception and the intersection of law and religious belief. During the competition, the students will present arguments and answer questions from a panel of judges, as in an appellate court proceeding.

The teams with the highest scores at the regional tournament will move onto the national finals in January.

Fifty teams of students representing 17 colleges and universities will gather for the regional tournament this month, including five students from Fitchburg State.

"My kids have worked hard," said Professor Paul Weizer of

COURT » PAGE 8

Court

FROM PAGE 1

Fitchburg State's Economics, History and Political Science Department, who founded and coaches the university's moot court program. "I'm proud to have them represent Fitchburg State and am confident that they will be ready."

Lydia Palmer, a senior from Ashby, competed in last year's tournament and hopes to advance to the nationals this year. "This class has taught me invaluable research skills, an understanding of the law that no other class could give, as well as a chance to develop my leadership skills as team captain this year,"

said Palmer, who is studying pre-law with a minor in political science. "As with representing any institution in competition, it is an honor."

Adam Quinlan, a sophomore from Westford, said he joined moot court to prepare himself for law school after completing his bachelor's degree, and that the experience has already improved his confidence in public speaking, among other valuable skills. He added that he was grateful for Dr. Weizer's support in encouraging him to give it a try.

"Honestly when I began moot court the idea of representing Fitchburg State in such a large competition was very intimidating," Quinlan said. "I felt like I was just a kid

who likes arguing, staring at this mile-tall wall that is the rest of the nation's competitors. As I have progressed in moot court I have begun to understand that I do deserve a seat at the table in a national competition, and I have felt overwhelmingly proud to represent Fitchburg State in such a large scale tournament."

Fitchburg State's Moot Court program launched in 2000 and has advanced teams to the national competition in almost every year of its existence. Earlier this year, the American Moot Court Association ranked Fitchburg State in its top 25 programs nationwide in appellate brief writing.

— *Courtesy of Fitchburg State University*



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE

Fifty teams of students representing 17 colleges and universities will gather for the regional Moot Court Tournament this month at Fitchburg State University, including five students from Fitchburg State.

FITCHBURG

STUDENTS STUDY ACROSS DISTRICTS



COURTESY MARK ARSENAULT

Several FHS students attended a symposium about genocide at Groton-Dunstable High School and shared what they are learning from the Fitchburg genocide-related curriculum.

Cross-district learning about genocide took place at symposium

By Danielle Ray

dray@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG » A group of students from Fitchburg High School traveled to Groton-Dunstable High School in November to participate in an academic symposium based on the state-mandated genocide curriculum.

FHS teacher Mark Arsenault teaches a course at the high school along with his colleague and fellow history teacher Alissa Campbell that focuses on genocide in world history and investigates the definition of genocide and possible origins of it.

Arsenault, who has been teaching at the high school for over 20 years, said the symposium was a unique opportunity for the students to interact with each other over the topic of genocide.

"This has never been done, having two schools from different socio-economic backgrounds come together," he said. "Very rarely do teachers work with their students across different districts. I'm hoping this becomes more of a trend in ed-



COURTESY MARK ARSENAULT

STUDY » PAGE 8

The group of educators involved with the academic symposium on genocide held in Nov. for Fitchburg and Groton-Dunstable high school students. Left to right, FHS history teacher Alissa Campbell, Fitchburg State University professor Dr. Benjamin Lieberman, FHS history teacher Mark Arsenault, Groton-Dunstable High School social studies teacher Tammie Reynolds, and FHS history coach Dan Kirouac.

Study

FROM PAGE 1

ucation and other districts get involved.”

Arsenault said the course was launched at the school following former Gov. Charlie Baker signing a bill in December 2021 requiring “genocide or some sort of component of genocide study should be imbedded in high school curriculum.”

Several FHS students who attended the symposium shared their thoughts on it and the genocide course and what they are learning from it.

Junior Cameron Montalvo, 17, said the course is helping him “understand genocide and the concept of it.”

“I believe it gave more insight on how genocide can affect a cultural group and how it can affect the world,” he said of what he came away with from the symposium.

Senior Bella Caron, also 17, echoed his sentiments, saying that “coming together for the symposium allowed us to connect more ideas together that we learned about.”

“Each of the curriculums were different and we were able to create more cohesive ideas and concepts about what we learned,” she said of how the symposium was organized.

She went on to say that during the genocide course at FHS they are studying the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that the course is giving her and her fellow students “insight into the patterns of what leads up to a genocide and how to stop a genocide.”

Arsenault said when he and Campbell were asked by FPS Social Studies Director Dr. John Marderosian to design a course around genocide, they were happy to oblige.

“Here at Fitchburg, we

are trying to create new and innovative courses for the kids,” he said. “Alissa and I spent the summer putting together the class.”

The course syllabus includes defining genocide, looking at examples of different genocides around the world, and diving deep into why genocide happens and discussing how it can be prevented. Campbell said they are doing their “due diligence” when it comes to offering the course to students and that “the more we put into it, the more we will get out of it.”

“It’s another way for students to learn more about history and what’s going on in the world today,” she said.

Instances of genocide can be found throughout history and in today’s world. In fact, according to a recent article posted to slate.com the United Nations is currently in the midst of deciding if the level of mass deaths as a result of the war raging on in Gaza — more than 24,000 bodies is the latest estimate — amounts to genocide.

Arsenault said they plan to continue the semester-long elective class depending “on student interest and volume” and that they currently have two classes of 20 students — and more who have expressed interest.

“It’s available for students looking to fill a requirement and also learn,” he said.

Arsenault said they were joined by Fitchburg State University professor Dr. Benjamin Lieberman for the symposium. Lieberman teaches economics, history, and political science at the college, including courses on the Holocaust and Nazi Germany.

Arsenault said the symposium came about after a woman approached him one day when he was out with a colleague talking about Armenian genocide. It turned out the woman,



COURTESY MARK ARSENAULT

A group of students from Fitchburg High School traveled to Groton-Dunstable High School in November to participate in an academic symposium based on the state-mandated genocide curriculum.



COURTESY MARK ARSENAULT

Students at Fitchburg High School now have the opportunity to take a course on the topic of genocide. Left to right, FHS junior Autumn Racine, FHS history teacher Mark Arsenault, FHS senior Bella Caron, FHS history teacher Alissa Campbell, and FHS junior Cameron Montalvo

Tammie Reynolds, is a social studies teacher at Groton-Dunstable High School and was also working on a genocide course curriculum.

“Coincidentally we both had the same FSU professor, Ben Lieberman, who taught a genocide course, and he ended being a part of our symposium,” Arsenault

said, adding that during the all-day symposium the students discussed genocide and each school designed an activity component for the program.

Campbell said she thought the symposium “was a great initial program” and they were pleased with how it went.

“I think it’s important to get students from different backgrounds together to have collaborative learning in a safe space where their thoughts and ideas are fostered and encouraged,” she said of the benefits.

FHS junior Autumn Racine, 16, is taking the class and she attended the November symposium.

“I think it gave us a better way of looking at genocide and what other people thought about it,” she said of the symposium. “I found it really intriguing because we got to understand what other students thought and what Dr. Lieberman interpreted with genocide.”

She went on to say that she has learned a lot through the course and that “it’s an important class to understand what happens during a genocide and what leads up to it.”

HOLIDAY CONCERT

FSU and North Worcester Orchestra present 'A Symphonic Christmas Carol'

The past, present and future of Christmas music with over 350 musicians

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » The North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra, in partnership with Fitchburg State University, will present "A Symphonic Christmas Carol" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9 at Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

The concert will feature the music of Christmas

past, present, and future, which will be performed, over the course of the evening, by over 350 musicians from eight different musical ensembles from across the region.

The North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra will perform with Fitchburg State's Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Concert Band. In addition, the evening event will feature

the Nashoba Valley Chorus, the Westford Chorus, the Greater Gardner Community Choir, and Perfect Alibi.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$30 and may be ordered online at [nwcorchestra.org/upcoming-season/a-symphonic-christmas-carol](https://www.nwcorchestra.org/upcoming-season/a-symphonic-christmas-carol). This is a reserved seating event. Admission is free for Fitchburg State students and staff, and complimentary tickets may be ordered by contacting the orchestra

SYMPHONIC » PAGE 5

Symphonic

FROM PAGE 3

at info@nwcorchestra.org.

The North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra was founded in 2021 on the principles of access to classical, pop, jazz, musical theater, and other genres of music to culturally enrich the quality of life in the

Twin City area and surrounding region. The principal goal of the organization is to make this music accessible to everyone at an affordable cost.

At the beginning of the academic year, Fitchburg State and the North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra announced the start of a partnership between the school's musical ensembles and the regional orchestra. The partnership be-

tween the two groups was created to offer the public more performances each season that include a wider variety of musical genres and feature more musicians.

Find more information about Fitchburg State's musical offerings at [fitchburgstate.edu/music](https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/music). Learn more about the North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra at www.NWCorchestra.org/About-Us/Who-We-Are.



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

The North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra and Fitchburg State University are presenting "A Symphonic Christmas Carol" on Dec. 8-9, 2023. Pictured are the University officials and musical ensemble directors that have been guiding a new partnership between the school and regional orchestra.

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HOLIDAY SHOWS

Fitchburg State presents 'It's a Wonderful Life'

By **Cheryl A. Cuddahy**
Correspondent

FITCHBURG » Relive a classic holiday tale like never before when Fitchburg State University's Communications Media Department presents "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" this month.

Written by Joe Landry and directed by Fitchburg State Professor Kelly Morgan and student Allison Thompson, the classic movie is retold as a charming 1940s-themed radio show, including a live foley operator for sound effects. Experience the impressive vocal range of the actors as they play multiple characters "over the air."

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" will be performed at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5 through Saturday, Dec. 9, with matinees at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10 in the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road. Visitors are asked to use Entrance B to access the space. Admission is free and open to the public.

"Audiences will observe the actors performing multiple voices of the characters in the story and watching the sound technician create all the unique sound effects, so the radio audience can imagine the reality of the story," said Morgan.

The holiday show is a great way to get out, have some fun, and meet people in the community.

The production crew is in full swing, doing their best to make the perfor-



COURTESY FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Audiences attending the performance of the Fitchburg State University radio play will watch performers voice characters and use a variety of methods to create realistic sound effects in the December show."

mance come to life. "The cast captures the magic of both live theater and radio so well and the opening is such a fun time," said stage manager Colby Hairston. Part of the appeal of the production, he continued, is the off-mic work performed by the cast on stage. "In a show where the actors play actors playing voices, there's a lot that goes on in the studio while we listen to the show, and the cast has done a great job playing with that meta kind of acting."

Holiday positivity is clearly a big aspect of the set itself, even backstage.

"I'd like the readers to know that this is my favorite cast I have ever had the pleasure of working with," said cast member Chris Brennan.

"My favorite part about the production is definitely working with this amazing cast and crew," added cast member Marco Grogan. "Everyone is super talented and supportive of each other, and it's been a blast to work on this."

EVENTS

Fitchburg State presents 'Do the Right Thing'

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » The Center for Italian Culture (CIC) at Fitchburg State University will present a free screening of Academy Award winner Spike Lee's classic film "Do the Right Thing" in November as part of its year-long exploration of the Italian immigrant experience.

The series, "Nuovo Mondo: A Century of Migrations from and to Italy," will present "Do the Right Thing" (1989) at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

Lee's acclaimed comedy-drama explores the simmering racial tensions in a Brooklyn neighborhood between African-American residents and the Italian-American owners of a local pizzeria, culminating in violence and tragedy on a hot summer day. Admission to the screening is free and open to the public.

In addition, the Fitchburg State University Archives and Special Collections, the CIC, and the Fitchburg Historical Society have collaborated to present a digital exhibit on Fitchburg's Italian-American neighborhood, the Patch.

All materials were sourced from the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, the Center for Italian Culture Archives, and the Fitchburg Historical Society.

This digital exhibit was created by Ross Caputi, archival assistant at the Center for Italian Culture Archives, and Asher Jackson, archivist at Fitchburg State University, in collaboration with the Fitchburg Historical Society.

Additional information on the CIC's series can be found online at FitchburgState.edu/Nuovo-Mondo.

(Courtesy Fitchburg State University)



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.