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LOCAL/FROM PAGE ONE

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

## Step by step, they're raising the flag for science

### FSU student's spearheading Fitchburg walk on Saturday

By Elizabeth Dobbins  
edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — Tallie Foster is bringing the march to Fitchburg.

Foster, a junior at Fitchburg State University, is organizing the March for Science at Riverfront Park Saturday — an event which will coincide with hundreds around the world.

“We stand with science,” she said. “We want it to remain funded and in policy and not be censored.”

According to the March for Science website, the Fitchburg event is one of three in the state joining rallies and marches planned in Boston and Great Barrington.

“This is a mobilizing movement for Fitchburg because we didn't get to do a march last year, but now we're standing among those cities in the state, in the world that are,” said Foster.

The event will start at 3 p.m. in Riverfront Park with speakers including Fitchburg State University professors, the chair of the Fitchburg Conservation Commission and Leominster state Rep. Natalie Higgins. Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale will also attend.

Around 4:15 p.m., the group will march in a half-mile loop down Boulder Drive and Main



Fitchburg State junior Tallie Foster is organizing the March for Science that will be held in Fitchburg at 3 p.m. on Saturday starting at the Riverfront Park.

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Street. The road will remain open, according to Foster.

Last April, over a million people worldwide joined the first March for Science, according to the organization's website. Foster, an environmental and earth science major, attended the marches in Worcester and Boston

The event is non-partisan with a “very heavy climate change theme,” Foster said.

While many have been concerned about environmental policy changes under the Trump administration, she said the actual shifts have been mixed in the past year. The Environmental

Protection Agency has retained funding, though the withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement and the reduction of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah have some in the environmental community concerned.

Foster isn't sure how many will attend, but said the event

may continue in coming years if there is a need to “stand with science.”

“I hope it doesn't have to be annual, but if it does, then yes, we'll be in Fitchburg every year,” she said.

Follow Elizabeth Dobbins on Twitter @DobbinsSentinel.



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**ABOVE:** People display signs as they walk down Boulder Drive during the March for Science in Fitchburg on Saturday afternoon. The event was organized by Fitchburg State University junior Tallie Foster.

**BELOW:** Fitchburg State Professor Chris Picone addresses the crowd. **See a slide show from the march at [photos.sentinelandenterprise.com](http://photos.sentinelandenterprise.com).**

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE PHOTOS / JOHN LOVE

## Standing up for science

### Calls for action on climate change at Fitchburg march



**By Elizabeth Dobbins**

[edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com](mailto:edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com)

FITCHBURG — When Professor Chris Picone spoke about ongoing climate change at the March for Science at Riverfront Park Saturday, he acknowledged he was “speaking to the choir.”

But only about half of Americans believe the Earth is warming and only about an eighth of Americans believe there is scientific consensus on this issue, said Picone, who teaches biology at Fitchburg State University.

“Why is there this tremendous disconnect?” he asked the roughly 60 people

Please see **MARCH/6**



# A march for the environment

**MARCH**/From Page 1

gathered for the rally. “The science is overwhelming and clear, (but) the American public thinks we’re having a debate about it.”

The event, organized by FSU junior Tallie Foster, focused less on the dangers of climate change and more on what those present can do to help.

Picone suggested trying to find common ground with people who disagree, instead of burying them with data. He said efforts to decrease food insecurity and the dangers of extreme weather events can connect with a wide range of people.

Dr. Tatjana Kobb, a medical doctor and executive board member at the Physicians for Social Responsibility, described climate change as a health issue. She said it increases the frequency of lethal heat waves and allows insect-borne disease to spread to previously unaffected areas. Environmental issues, like bad air quality, can also have ill effects on health, she said.

Tracey Sarefield, the chair of the Fitchburg Conservation Commission, urged listeners to vote for candidates who consider data and the scientific process in their decision-making. She said residents should contact the city about volunteer-



Kathy Panagiotes, of Ashby, holds a sign during Saturday’s March for Science in Fitchburg.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JOHN LOVE

ing on local boards and commissions.

Jenn Berg, an FSU mathematics professor, emphasized the importance of data in sharing information and experiences.

The event, one of hundreds coinciding around the world, drew elected officials and political hopefuls.

Rufus Gifford and Keith St. John, both Democrat hopefuls in the 3rd District Congressional race, attended, as did Fitchburg state Rep. Stephan Hay and At-Large City Coun-

cilior Sam Squailia.

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale and Leominster state Rep. Natalie Higgins spoke at the event.

“Please continue to have these conversations at home with your friends and family,” Higgins said.

During a march down Main Street and Boulder Drive, Fitchburg resident Mary Giannetti agreed.

“Events like this can be very visible, but what we do afterward is very important,” she said.

# State justices to hold court at FSU

## Criminal appeals cases to provide real-life legal lessons

By Elizabeth Dobbins  
edobbins@sentinel  
andenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — For the first time in nearly a decade, the Massachusetts Appeals Court will hold a session at Fitchburg State University.

On Friday, April 6, three appeals court justices will hear real criminal appeals in Hammond Hall during a session open to the public and expected to take most of the work day.

For political science professor Paul Weizer, the session is an opportunity for an unusual

educational experience not often available outside of Boston.

“It’s a rare and exciting opportunity,” he said.

The Massachusetts Appeals Court hosts at least four sessions a year outside its main headquarters in Boston, according to Fitchburg State spokesman Matthew Bruun. This is the first at Fitchburg State since 2009.

Unlike criminal trials, appeals cases often deal with a defendant’s constitutional rights and the procedures fol-

lowed, or not followed, during an investigation.

“(In a criminal trial) it’s a fact-based inquiry,” Weizer said. “When you get to the appeals case there are no facts in dispute.”

Though the defendants won’t be present, attorneys for the opposing sides will each take roughly 30 minutes to present their cases, according to Weizer.

He said the session is particularly relevant to students in his criminal procedure course. Students in the class — some of whom are interested in law

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***“It’s a rare and exciting opportunity. (In a criminal trial) it’s a fact-based inquiry. When you get to the appeals case there are no facts in dispute.”***

*Paul Weizer, Fitchburg State University  
political science professor*

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enforcement, others in a legal profession — have been studying the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments.

Weizer said he is incentivizing his students to attend, but also expects to see others in from the public including local

attorneys and residents in the audience.

The Appeals Court’s online calendar lists six cases on April 6 starting at 9:30 a.m.

*Follow Elizabeth Dobbins on  
Twitter @DobbinsSentinel*



# FSU entrepreneurs make their pitches

FITCHBURG — More than a dozen enterprising Fitchburg State University students will compete for cash and other prizes at the inaugural Pitch Tank competition Saturday, April 14, starting at 9 a.m., at Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

The competition was begun by Fitchburg State junior Gabriel Gavrilov, president of the student Entrepreneurship Society.

“Entrepreneurship is a mentality,” said Gavrilov, who started his first business — detailing cars out of his garage — just after graduating high school. “When opportunity doesn’t knock on the door, build the door and then open it.”

The Entrepreneurship Society solicited proposals from students, and the 12 finalists will make their pitches to a panel of invited judges Saturday.

Each contestant will have 60 seconds to make their pitch for their idea, followed by 10 minutes for a formal presentation that includes taking questions from the judges.

The proposals include prospective apps and services that would help college students as well as members of the wider community. Monetary prizes of \$1,250, \$750 and \$500 will be awarded to the top three pitches.

Judges include James Glaser, managing partner at Jim Glaser Law; William Heitin, founding partner, chief financial officer and chief operating officer at Windrose Advisors, and a Fitchburg State alumnus; David Lowe, partner at Fireman Capital; Sandie Cataldo, manager at the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce; and Lee Ovian, manager at Mazak Corporation and a Fitchburg State alumnus.

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## Gun ownership under a microscope

### Fitchburg State University professor looks at stigma surrounding firearms

By Peter Jasinski

[pjasinski@sentinelandenterprise.com](mailto:pjasinski@sentinelandenterprise.com)

During the nine years he spent in the military, going to the shooting range was one of Justin Costa's favorite things to do.

"While you're there, you're focusing on your breathing and concentrating to get an accurate shot. You focus on that one moment in life and everything else you just forget about," he said. "Going

through the military, I always enjoyed that moment."

Costa, a Monty Tech graduate now living in Warwick, describes shooting as both a stress-reliever and a hobby, comparing it to other pastimes like woodworking or welding. But unlike those activities, it's a hobby he doesn't feel comfortable talking about around strangers.

"Do I think there are people who view it negatively? Yes, I know that. People

fear the unknown and that's natural," he said. "People think because you choose to own a firearm, you're less intelligent or you fear the world around you when that isn't even the case."

As Fitchburg State University sociology professor Zachary Miner explained, most of the gun owners he's interviewed were introduced to firearms through a familial

Please see **GUNS/5**

### LOCAL LICENSE TO CARRY PERMITS:

Leominster	2,986
Fitchburg	2,240
Lancaster	846
Ashburnham	980
Westminster	1,238

**Lunenburg:** Did not respond to request for permits

Source: The police departments from the above towns and municipalities.



# FSU professor looks at gun ownership stigma

**GUNS**/From Page 1

relationship, usually with a father.

Miner's recently completed a study titled "A Kind of Peace: The Real World of Gun Owners" delves into what he refers to as the "complex phenomenon" of gun ownership by asking who these gun owners are and why do their guns matter so much to them.

He interviewed 37 upstate New York residents about their histories with guns, covering what each subject's lives are generally like as gun owners, how they view and experience the law, and whether they think they are viewed negatively for being gun owners.

While the research only covered a small group of people living in a specific region, Miner said this kind of academic study has become especially important at a time when gun rights and gun control are at the center of so many conversations.

"We have a group of people that are doing something that is legal, that is a huge industry, that many people enjoy that we know so very little about," he said. "There are so many of them and they're so poorly understood."

As Miner explained, limited funding for research on firearms and gun owners, particularly from the federal government, has limited the number of studies that can be done and has made it hard to evaluate stereotypes that often surround gun owners.

Of all the information he learned from his interview subjects, Miner said the most interesting was the lack of stigma he said they reported feeling from people who don't own guns.

"One of the major takeaways for me was that, at least in this particular group in upstate New York, this is a very normative, natural thing for people," he said. "It was nothing they felt



Fitchburg State University professor Zachary Miner answers question following his presentation "A Kind of Peace: The Real World of Legal Firearms Owners," last week at Fitchburg State.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JEFF PORTER

they had to keep secret, it wasn't anything they felt they couldn't talk about at work. They were fine to talk about it with people who disagree with them."

The reason this was so interesting to Miner is that it runs contrary to findings of previous similar studies in California, by the University of California, and in North Carolina by Duke University, which he said highlights the need for further research on this issue.

While he said he's never had any personal experiences of people judging him for being a gun owner, Costa said he does believe the stigma exists but also agrees with Miner on the need for more research on the topic.

"It's a different subject to study and I think it's a good thing he did," Costa said, adding

that he especially agreed with Miner's notion that most people own and use guns because of a family tradition. "It's part of their heritage and their way of growing up. For a lot of people, it's about keeping that sense of familial life together."

Westminster gun owner Al Hatch agreed with Miner's notion that there is less stigma surrounding gun ownership in rural areas, but he said he finds opinions on the issue start to change the further east you travel down Route 2.

"It's like we're viewed as these baby-slaying antichrists. That's what a lot of the hard core left seem to think about the hard core right," he said.

Hatch said he believes anti-gun thinking came into play when some town residents

fought last year to close the Westminster Rod & Gun Club, which he belongs to.

The series of town meetings on the issue often became heated and public forums eventually morphed into debates on gun rights and gun control. While Hatch spoke in favor of keeping the club and against restricting the abilities of local gun owners, he admits that he's in favor of some of the same things as people on the other side of the conversation.

He's against bump stocks and allowing people under the age of 21 to buy semi-automatic assault rifles. He's also a proponent of Massachusetts' current system of background checks, but said it's become hard to talk to people about reaching any kind of middle ground.

"People need to put the com-

puter keyboard down and talk face to face. You've got to tell, don't yell," he said. "We need to have civil conversations because right now, as soon as either side starts getting heated the less listening the other side is going to do."

Though the lack of funding makes it difficult to do any academic research, Miner said he hopes to explore other areas of legal gun ownership in the future. He said he's particularly interested in the age at which it becomes acceptable to teach children about guns - comparing it to the age of being able to leave a child home alone - as well as the cultures of other groups of gun owners.

"A lot of gun owners are older white men, that's the normative group, but there are many people who are female gun owners, people of color who are gun owners, there's people of all different types that very few people have looked into," he said. "They might have very different reasons driving them to it in the first place or different things that are sustaining their interest."

Miner recently presented his findings as part of an ongoing speaker series at Fitchburg State. Sociology Professor Eric Budd, who organized the series, said he was interested in having Miner talk because it presented a different perspective on a timely issue.

"I'm very strongly for gun control, but I think we need to be better with understanding the legal firearms owners to know how they see it," he said. "Maybe we could reach some middle ground with solutions that would be agreeable to everybody. I think they're out there, but since we're so polarized, I think we are usually just talking past each other without getting anywhere."

Follow Peter Jasinski on Twitter @PeterJasinski53

# COMMENTARY

T&G/FACULTY FORUM

## *The promise, challenges and future of social media*

"Social media has connected us in ways that once seemed unimaginable, but those same platforms now appear to put privacy in danger and even undermine our very democracy. Rather than bringing us closer together, in many instances technology is exacerbating and exploiting our divisions. Where is it heading? Can social media live up to its initial promises? How should the current issues be addressed to limit the damage?" Amid a series of revelations and breaches of trust on an issue with personal as well as worldwide implications, we present several points of view in our latest T&G/Faculty Forum, an occasional feature offering perspectives from experts at Central Massachusetts colleges and universities.

### **Virtual reality as the future of social media**

Our media are already set up to potentially create divisions among communities as a result of the way their interfaces operate as economic tools rather than as open channels for democracy.



**Kyle Moody**

Social media are unique in their ability to allow us to have our own voice and give us a way to experience the world unlike anything else.

As virtual reality becomes more commonplace and integral to our awareness of the world, I foresee all media - but especially social

media - engaging us in a way that establishes new means of understanding. We are going to create the experiences of actually seeing how other people live, and these are going to push us to have more empathetic human encounters.

Social media have already changed the world, and nobody is putting the genie back in the lamp.

The initial promise has come true in that we are all connected, although those connections are more the product of serendipity of platform changes and mobile adoption in tandem with changes in the marketplace and how people use these platforms. It is better to focus on how we are all using these platforms and encourage platform holders to make changes to them based on necessary and future social

concerns. Quite frankly, we can approach social media as helpful environments to address real concerns, but only if these technologies stop segregating content for users through algorithms that we cannot understand and that only service advertisers, instead of their serving their base of users who utilize these platforms for democratic concerns.

*Kyle Moody, Ph.D. in Journalism and Mass Communication, is an assistant professor in the Communications Media Department at Fitchburg State University, and is a former program director, radio station manager and social media consultant for several businesses, and speaks on how social media and fake news intersect.*



## WEEKEND BEST BETS

# Green Day — all weekend

### FSU brings band's 'American Idiot' to the stage with timely updates

By Julia Sarcinelli  
Correspondent

**F**ITCHBURG — The Fitchburg State Falcon Musical Theater Club is ready to start a war with its first full production, Green Day's "American Idiot," this weekend.

"Expect a lot of head-banging and swearing," Daniel T. Hawkins said with a laugh. He is a sophomore who plays the role of Will, one of the main characters.

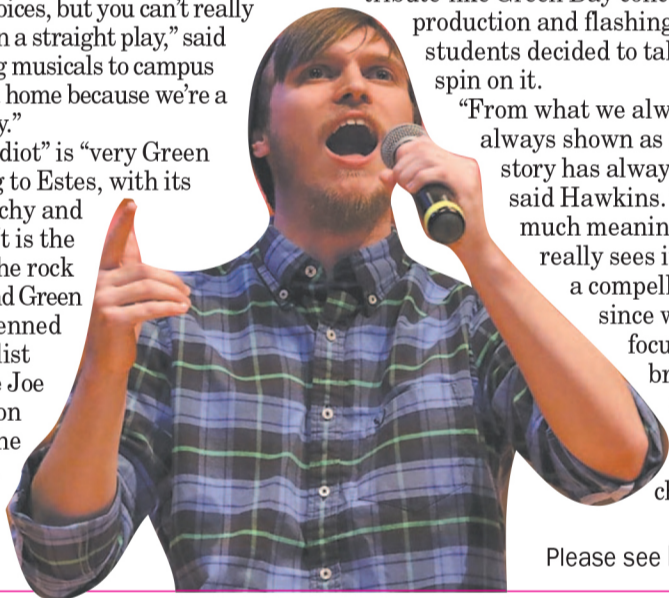
The musical will be presented today and Friday, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, at 2 p.m. The club has held a few showcases before, but this will be its first full production. Admission is \$3.

The musical group began in 2017 as a way to "show another side of theater," said James Estes, a senior and director for the play.

He added that FSU hasn't had musical theater on campus for about 25 years other than a few productions.

"There are a lot of talented people here and a lot of talented voices, but you can't really showcase that in a straight play," said Estes. "Bringing musicals to campus will give them a home because we're a very close family."

"American Idiot" is "very Green Day," according to Estes, with its themes of anarchy and fighting back. It is the adaptation of the rock opera by the band Green Day and was penned in part by vocalist/guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong, upon whom a lot of the characters and their experiences are based.



From left, FSU freshman Angelo Cosentino, 25, of Winchendon, sophomore Daniel Hankins, 20, of Abington and sophomore Ashley Jacobsen, 19, of Woburn, rehearse a song. Below, freshman Wylder Tallman, 18, of Wales, Mass., and junior Katie Williams, 21, of Gardner rehearse. SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE PHOTOS / JOHN LOVE

It follows the story of the characters Johnny, Will and Tunny and their personal struggles, whether it be with drugs, post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health or love and relationships, to name a few. The musical is usually portrayed as almost a tribute-like Green Day concert, with a big production and flashing lights, but the students decided to take a different spin on it.

"From what we always see, it's always shown as a concert, so the story has always been secondary," said Hawkins. "It hasn't had much meaning to anyone who really sees it. Obviously, it's a compelling story, but since we're kind of focusing more on bringing the story out, we're able to dig deeper into the roles of our characters."

Please see **BEST BETS/7**



### CAST OF FITCHBURG STATE'S "AMERICAN IDIOT"

**Johnny:** Ashley Jacobsen

**Will:** Daniel T. Hankins

**Tunny:** Angelo Cosentino

**St. Jimmy:** Katie Williams

**Whatsername:** Meighread Dandeneau

**Heather:** Emily Wirth

**Extraordinary Girl:** Emily O'Neill

**Favorite Son:** Makayla Hicks

**Theo:** Haven Wichelns

**Alysha:** Sarah Machado

**Men:** Kevin Daggett, Mikel

Cravatta, James Estes, Michael LaFerriere, Wylder Tallman

**Women:** Allison Brousseau, Rebecca Joseph, Alydia Le, Sydney Morin, Disa Parker, Victoria Poole

## FSU brings 'American Idiot' to stage

**BEST BETS/**From Page 6

Rather than taking place in 2002, after 9/11, with the anarchy movement in its youth, the students decided to have it take place today. They feature parts on the Black Lives Matter movement, women's empowerment, mental health, PTSD, drug abuse and more.

Playing the main role of Johnny is Ashley Jacobsen, a sophomore theater major.

Johnny is bipolar, schizophrenic and develops an addiction to drugs. Portraying St. Jimmy, the physical embodiment of one of Johnny's "inner demons," is junior Katie Williams.

**"This is how we feel. We want to get our point across."**

James Estes, director

"At the end of the day, it's very, very dark," William said of the production. "It's been difficult trying to get into, but it's been really fun."

Jacobsen said the students are also emphasizing women in the production. Johnny's manifestations are portrayed as two women rather than two men. Will struggles with his relationship with his pregnant girlfriend, and the charac-

ter of Tunny has his "military girl" help him while he goes through recovery.

"All three of us have this female backbone that's powering us," Jacobsen said. "It's led by these three males, and the women are the secondary leads, but they are the ones with the power over the men. We've kept everything true to the actual production, but the way we present it is different."

The musical offers moving storylines with some Green Day hit songs, such as "Last of the American Girl" and "Know Your Enemy."

"We just really wanted to focus on us as a generation as millennials and Gen-X," Estes said. "This is how we feel. We want to get our point across."

Email [juliasarcinelli@outlook.com](mailto:juliasarcinelli@outlook.com) if you have any upcoming events you would like to be featured in *Best Bets*.



FSU freshmen Disa Parker, 19, of Newton, left, and Allison Brousseau, 24, of Attleboro, rehearse a song.



# Weekender

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THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018

## WEEKEND BEST BETS

# 'Hate will not have the last word'

## FSU play deals with aftermath of terrorist bombing over Lockerbie

By Julia Sarcinelli  
Correspondent

**F**ITCHBURG — Students in Fitchburg State University's theater program will present a play set in Lockerbie, Scotland, about the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, and will travel to the country this summer.

"One of the lines in the play is, 'Hate will not have the last word in Lockerbie,'" said Kelly Morgan, FSU professor and director of the play, adding, "It's about how to deal with the loss of loved ones brought upon by hateful acts by one's fellow man. How does one grieve? How does one go through that process and come to continue a life?"

The play, "The Women of Lockerbie," will open Wednesday, April 11, and have performances through April 21 at the Wallace Center for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road, Fitchburg. Tickets are \$3, and proceeds will support the cast and crew's trip to Scotland in August to perform the play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The play, by Deborah Brevoort, is based on the events surrounding the terrorist bombing 30 years ago this December of Pan Am Flight 103. The play depicts a U.S. mother and the women of Lockerbie who are trying to get the U.S. government to release pieces of clothing from the plane crash that killed all 243 passengers, 16 crew members and 11 additional people on the ground in Lockerbie.

"The Women of Lockerbie" also includes a Greek-style echo chorus of seven students who add to the atmosphere, creating sounds of nature while lying unmoving on the stage floor, dressed to match the grass and water of the mountainside and representing the lives of those who died.

"Most of our props are weathered down to look as if it's been in a plane crash, so it was a lot of ripping up clothes in suitcases and burning them," said FSU senior Ami Do, the props master.

The stage design is minimal, chosen in part to make the trip to the Edinburg Fringe Festival in August easier. FSU students have been going every four years to the worldwide theater festival to perform, but this year feels much more significant because it's where the plane crash took place.



The actors researched the crash and the victims.

"Those of us who have kids, we can't express to (the students) what it's like to lose a child, so it's really intense for them to perform this," said Cap Cordeuan, tech director and designer.

If anyone thinks they won't see the play because of its serious topic, the actors highly encourage audience members to come witness their "homage," in a sense, to the victims of the bombing.

Please see **BEST BETS/8**

They are also setting up the hallway outside the auditorium with information about the crash and props.

"It will be like an exhibit. You'll be able to feel it when you walk in," said senior Beth Conte, who plays one of the women of the title.

"We really want to put them in the space," said junior Lauren Esper, who is playing Olive, another of the women from Lockerbie. "There are times we'll be through the audience because we want to involve the whole entire theater as the hills instead of just the stage. You get the whole presence of being there."

Ma'ayan Shaveet, a ninth-grader from Sizer School in Fitchburg, is playing the character of Emily. She said that although learning how to speak in a Scottish accent has been one of the more difficult parts, it was important to her to create a backstory for her character.

"I'm in the mindset of just being a young person of 8 to 15, just watching people die in front of you," she said. "It's really hard to get into that mode when you get to rehearsal."

### THE CAST

**Madeline Livingston:** Brittany Messuri  
**Bill Livingston:** Justin Katz  
**Olive Allison:** Lauren Esper  
**Woman 1:** Rachael Miles  
**Woman 2:** Beth Conte  
**Woman 3:** Sydney Lipsett  
**Woman 4:** Ma'ayan Shaveet  
**Woman 5:** Natalie Scott  
**Hattie:** Nina DiRusso  
**George Jones:** Charlie Barbera  
**Echo Chorus:** Maribelle Flint (Choragus), Felipe Ferreira, Derek Holbrook, Michael Morgan, Geoffrey Reichert, Rebecca Joseph, Nicholas Spatola Brooklyn Tawyea, Tyler Rost, Ty Campana

◀ FSU's theater program presents "The Women of Lockerbie" this month. COURTESY PHOTO

▼ FSU students, from left, junior Natalie Scott, freshman Sydney Lipsett, junior Rachel Miles, senior Brittany Messuri and senior Justin Katz, pose on stage during Monday's dress rehearsal for "The Woman of Lockerbie." SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / JEFF PORTER





THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018

# Fitchburg State Drag Show is set for April 5

FITCHBURG — The Gay Straight Alliance at Fitchburg State University will present the 13th annual Galactic Goddesses Annual Drag Show on Thursday, April 5, at 7 p.m., to build awareness and raise money for the university's new LGBTQ student scholarship.

The show will be held at the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St.

This year's program will feature dancing and cabaret-style performances by 10 stage performers, including Lady Sabrina, Mizery, Miss Kris, Vita Summers, Destiny, Roxy Brooks, G Licious G, newcomer Onyx, with Raquel Blake acting as mistress of ceremonies for the evening. DJ Scotty P will spin the tunes for the show. Special guest appearances by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will also grace the stage.

Tickets are \$5 for FSU students and \$10 for the public. Tickets can be purchased at the information desk in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., or online at [marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu](http://marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu) by selecting from the "student activities" tab.

Associate Director of Student Development Shane Franzen has supervised the development of the show since its inception on campus.

"This drag show is an important part of the fabric of LGBTQ life at Fitchburg State and surrounding communities," Franzen said. "It shows that Fitchburg State does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, color, race or identity. It solidifies the openness of the faculty, staff and community but, most importantly, the students.

"With the changing climate of the country, it is now more important than ever to show off our culture," Franzen added.

"The students of GSA work tirelessly over many months to put the show together. It is a privilege to be their adviser, and an honor to watch them grow and flourish as active citizens of the LGBTQ+ community and to share who they are to all."