

Milestones

THE FITZ@15

Fitz@15 marks Franklin Pierce’s year-long celebration of the Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication’s 15th anniversary. Multiple programs will showcase the Center’s importance to the campus community and its impact on the region and the nation.

It all began with a capital fundraising campaign in 1998. Within a few years, funds exceeded \$6.8 million, well above the planned \$4.5 million. The 12,000-square-foot attachment to the library opened in May 2002 and ever since, has been laced with milestones.

In 1999, the University’s first polling center gave opportunities for students to get involved in the presidential primary process. In 2008, the University partnered with pollster R. Kelly Myers and WBZ-TV, and then in 2016, with the *Boston Herald*.

The Center’s impact reached the national stage last year when the Franklin Pierce/*Boston Herald* Poll showed Bernie Sanders beating Hillary Clinton in the New Hampshire primary race for the Democratic presidential nomination (See page 16). The Associated Press Media Editors recognized the University partnership with the *Boston Herald* with an honorable mention for community engagement.

This year, the seasoned political reporting unit PoliticsFitzU attended the Iowa caucus, marking a first in the Center’s history. PoliticsFitzU members also attended the 2016 Republican and Demo-

cratic National Conventions. The Center welcomed a number of presidential candidates. Republicans included Texas senator Ted Cruz, South Carolina senator Lindsey Graham, Ohio governor John Kasich, Kentucky senator Rand Paul, Former HP CEO Carly Fiorina, and former Florida governor Jeb Bush. The Fitz also hosted two Democratic candidates, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders, and Maryland governor Martin O’Malley.

A grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation allowed the Center to host teams of students from five N.H. high schools to the Presidency and the Press program, where C-SPAN taped several segments for its American History TV programming, including one with *New*

Hampshire Union Leader Executive Editor Trent Spiner ‘07 interviewing Marlin Fitzwater, press secretary to Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, for whom the center is named.

FITZ@15 EVENTS

October 2016
Fitzwater Forum: Civility in Presidential Discourse
At the Newseum in Washington, D.C., on the Rindge campus, and via live webcast

March 2017
The Medallion Lecture
On the Rindge Campus and via live webcast

April 27, 2017
The Fitzwater Honors
On the Rindge campus and via live webcast

“One thing that I always found so special about Franklin Pierce was the amount of freedom that students have to get involved,” said Fitzwater. “I’ve been here several years, and every time I come, there’s a different person behind the camera, and I love that, that they’re involved and taking initiative.”

Co-chairs of the Fitz@15, Trent Spiner ‘07 and Frank Blais ‘05, MBA ‘07, encourage alumni to continue celebrating the Fitzwater Center’s success. Ways to get involved include attending events, reaching out to current students with internships, extending contacts, and offering to speak on campus or participating with a gift at franklinpierce.edu/fitzfund.

— Alyssa Borelli ’15

