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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Winter Commencement this Friday

The winter ceremony of our 126th [commencement](#) exercises will be held at **6:30 p.m. Friday** in the Athletics and Recreation Center.

In addition to President Lapidus's address, remarks will be offered by Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient **Spencer Fuller**, who is completing a master of science degree in criminal justice, and undergraduate valedictorian **Helen "Hallie" Dyer** of Westwood, who is completing a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. Both student speakers are enrolled in the university's [police program](#).



The ceremony will [stream live](#) on FATV.

[Learn more](#)

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### Game Studio postmortem today

Members of the Fitchburg State community are invited to the Fall 2022 Game Studio Post Mortem for this semester's completed games **today at 3:30 p.m.** in the Randall Lecture Hall in the Antonucci Science Complex.

These games are a result of a full-time, semester-long experience in which students work in teams to plan, design, develop, test, and prepare for publication a significant game project. The Post Mortem will include a showcasing of the final versions of their games, discussion of their development process (including regular meetings with the game company Rockstar New England), and a Q & A with the audience.

Refreshments will be served.

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### "Real Talk" initiative gets state support

The state Department of Higher

Education has awarded Fitchburg State University a grant worth nearly \$75,000 to fund institutional efforts to better support students, including training for faculty and staff.

The grant came from the state's [Higher Education Innovation Fund](#).

The project builds on the university's implementation of Dr. Paul Hernandez's "Pedagogy of Real Talk" (PRT), which focuses on engaging, teaching and connecting with students at risk. The approach relies on an understanding of the student as a human being, and seeks to create an inclusive, relationship-rich, and student-centered learning environment.



[Learn more](#)



**ALFA** Adult Learning  
IN THE Fitchburg Area  FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
fitchburgstate.edu/ALFA

[Learn more](#)

## Registration opens for ALFA Spring 2023

Registration is now open for Fitchburg State's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area ([ALFA](#)) spring courses, with offerings that will include an exploration of how the production and leveraging of data is affecting society to a look at water resources in the era of climate change. There will be reading groups on great American short stories of the past and present as well as deep dives into Nobel laureates in literature.

Learn how to declutter your home room-by-room, brush up on conversational French, or learn how to play the ukulele or harmonica. There are dozens of classes on the calendar, with the full program viewable online at [fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](https://fitchburgstate.edu/alfa).

## Innovation Fund proposals sought for 2023-24

Last week, President Lapidus announced the opening of our 2023-24 Innovation Fund requests for proposals.

Proposals will be reviewed for two separate funds, each totaling \$250,000, to support new or continuing projects.

- The [Academic Innovation Fund](#) supports faculty and librarians in developing or expanding innovative curricula and/or pedagogy that stimulates enrollment growth and supports student academic success within a framework of equity and inclusion. All full-time faculty and librarians are eligible to apply, as are full- or part-time faculty teaching in the School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education.
- The [University Innovation Fund](#) supports our staff in developing or expanding

innovative practices, programs, or services that stimulate enrollment growth, support student retention, and/or promote financial sustainability within a framework of equity and inclusion.

Proposals, which are due **Friday, Feb. 10**, should be submitted through the dynamic forms that will be shared with the campus community in the coming weeks.

## Keep up with campus happenings on the Burg Blog

Follow the [Burg Blog](#) for timely updates of campus life.

Recent articles and slideshows feature the Dance Club's [winter showcase](#), the annual [Lighting of the Campus](#), and the latest campus visit for area high school students in our [Future Educators Academy](#). Academic spotlights include scenes from a public art installation in Hammond Hall about [the origins of hip-hop](#), recognition of [Engineering Technology](#) students who took part in a competition at MIT earlier this year, nursing students [collaborating](#) with the theater program, and a [profile](#) of a recent biology graduate who is now working in the biopharmaceutical industry.



## FalconSearch



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## Coming soon: New library search tool

The [Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library](#) is launching a new

integrated library system (ILS), which includes its new cloud-based FalconSearch discovery interface, in January.

The new ILS will replace its older Voyager, Summon and Journal Finder systems. FalconSearch will provide a more seamless user experience through a single access point to many of the Library's print and electronic resources including journal articles, books, newspapers, videos, images, archival material, tech lending library, and more.

[Learn more](#)

## Sustainability Snapshot

The Sustainability Advisory Committee shares the following information for the campus community: It is estimated that heating and hot water can make up 42 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions in an urban environment in the northeastern United States.

However, according to the

Department of Energy, a typical home could reduce their carbon dioxide emissions from heating by six percent (the equivalent of planting ten trees) simply by lowering their thermostat by two degrees during the winter. The lion's share of emissions from campus comes from energy used to heat buildings and Fitchburg State has already utilized renewable sources for building heat. A geothermal heat pump makes use of the stable temperatures underground to cool in the summer and heat in winter and is in use at one of the buildings on campus.



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## Faculty Notes

**Professor Viera Lorencova** (Communications Media) was [published](#) in the book *Queer Print in Europe* by Bloomsbury Publishing, London, UK. Professor Lorencova's chapter, entitled "Sexual Difference and Queer Subjectivity in Slovak LGBTQ Print Periodicals," maps the trajectories of six print periodicals produced in Slovakia over the last three decades and explores how they reflected and shaped the agendas of LGBTI rights advocates.

**Professor Kelly Morgan** (Communications Media) directed the play *Flight Delay* by Peter Andereg, now being performed at [The Tank](#) in New York City. The play runs through Dec. 18. The play is set at a snowed-in airport, where a father meets one of his estranged middle-aged twin sons - but doesn't know which - and his son is not about to tell him, not while there's a chance to settle old scores. With nowhere to go and little to do, the son alternates identities as he pursues his father from one waiting area to the next. *Flight Delay* shows how painful letting go of ancient resentments to finally take flight can be.

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## Newsletter will return in January

This is the final edition of the Fitchburg State University Today newsletter for 2022. The newsletter will return with the start of the spring semester in January.

In the meantime, keep up with campus [news](#) and [events](#) on the university [website](#), and be sure to follow our [social media](#) channels (by clicking on the icons below).

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