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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Winter Commencement ceremony Friday

The university will hold the winter ceremony of its 127th [commencement](#) exercises at 6:30 p.m. **Friday** in the campus Athletics and Recreation Center.

In addition to the address by President Lapidus, the ceremony will include remarks by

undergraduate valedictorian **Dylan J. Dandy** of Leominster (double-majoring in mathematics and chemistry) and Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient **Maryanne Fiorino** of Danvers (completing an MBA with a concentration in healthcare management).

The university will confer more than 400 undergraduate and graduate degrees at the ceremony, which will also be [livestreamed](#) on FATV. Graduates and guests may find additional information about the ceremony at [fitchburgstate.edu/commencement](https://fitchburgstate.edu/commencement).

[Learn more](#)

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### Registration opens for ALFA's Spring 2024 courses

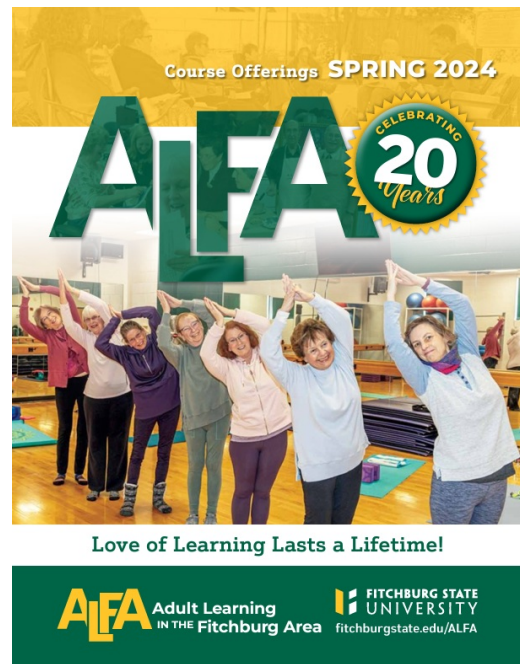
Registration is now open for Fitchburg State's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area ([ALFA](#)) Spring courses, with offerings that will include a deep dive into the promise and perils of artificial intelligence, an introduction to impressionism, a look at the history of Japan, and discussion of contemporary Irish film.

Several events are also planned to celebrate ALFA's 20th anniversary, including art shows on campus and at the Fitchburg Art Museum, and a "Love of Learning Day" celebration in May.

There are dozens of classes on the calendar, with the full program viewable online at [fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](https://fitchburgstate.edu/alfa).

[Read more](#)


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Course Offerings **SPRING 2024**

**ALFA** CELEBRATING **20 Years**

Love of Learning Lasts a Lifetime!

**ALFA** Adult Learning IN THE Fitchburg Area  **FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**  
[fitchburgstate.edu/ALFA](https://fitchburgstate.edu/ALFA)



## enrollment opportunities

The university recently received a \$40,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to support its [dual enrollment](#) program, expanding opportunities for local high school students to take credit-bearing, college-level courses.

Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the grant award this week in a letter to President Lapidus.

“We want to thank you for your commitment to increasing college participation through dual enrollment activities, particularly for low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation college students,” the award letter stated. “Through this funding and your continued support, we hope to expand access to great educational opportunities for every student in the Commonwealth.”

[Learn more](#)

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## University's journalism initiatives gain notice

The University of Vermont's Center for Community News recently [highlighted](#) the **Assistant Professor Wafa Unus** (English Studies) and her journalism students, recognizing the work they are doing to support local news.

The article highlights the collaborations between Fitchburg State students and local news outlets, and describes upcoming initiatives designed to strengthen community journalism in the area.

Unus and **Professor Paul Weizer** (Economics, History and Political Science) recently developed a new minor in [political journalism](#).

[Learn more](#)

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## Reminder: UPD hosting self-defense workshop in February

The Fitchburg State University Police Department will be partnering with the [Vanessa T. Marcotte Foundation](#) and the [Worcester County District Attorney's Office](#) to host a two-hour self-defense workshop from **5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024** at the Athletics and Recreation Center. Admission is free but space is limited. Women who wish to participate may [register online](#). This event is open to Fitchburg State students, faculty and staff.

Learn about situational awareness and how to handle a confrontation both physically and mentally. Practice realistic self-defense tactics. Have fun, learn some skills, and feel empowered!



Don't miss this! Learn about situational awareness and how to handle a confrontation both physically and mentally.  
Practice realistic self-defense tactics.  
Have fun, learn some skills, and feel empowered!  
*Please dress in comfortable clothes and sneakers.*

FOR FEMALES

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

**5 PM – 7 PM | Recreation Center**

**ADMISSION IS FREE.** Space is limited, so register today.  
Scan the QR code to register. ▶



**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Keep up with

## campus happenings on the Burg Blog

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

Among the recent articles and slideshows, see scenes from Office of Student Development's comprehensive [holiday celebration](#), students presenting their [Moderna Charitable Foundation](#) grant-funded research, a visit to campus by students in Fitchburg High's [Honors Academy](#), a look at students presenting their semester-ending projects at the [multi-camera television production](#) class at FATV, and a peek at students preparing to exhibit their [font design](#) work at the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library (and, in January, at the Worcester Public Library). Learn more about the typography exhibit on the [library website](#).



[Burg Blog](#)



### Staff Notes

**Assistant Dean for Student Support Services and Director of Counseling Services Rob Hynes** was profiled in a recent member spotlight by NASPA's Small Colleges and Universities Division. In the profile, Hynes was asked about the benefits of working at a small college/university. "Working at a small institution facilitates the development of meaningful relationships with students, faculty, and staff," he said. "It can also be easier to innovate in the small campus environment." The piece also highlighted that Hynes has been the voice of Fitchburg State Falcons football for

20 years.

### Faculty Notes

**Professor Kate Jewell** (Economics, History and Political Science) has garnered significant attention for her new book, "[Live from the Underground: A History of College Radio](#)" (UNC Press).

Jewell has been interviewed by outlets including the [Boston Globe](#), [WBUR Radio](#), and [Wisconsin Public Radio](#).



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