
Fitchburg State University Today

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Winter Commencement ceremony Friday, Dec. 16

Fitchburg State will award approximately 425 graduate and undergraduate degrees at its winter commencement ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 at the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St.

President Richard S. Lapidus will deliver the commencement address.

The ceremony will also include recognition for Alexander Filippi as valedictorian of the graduating class.

Filippi graduated from Medway High School in 2006. From an early age he demonstrated a curiosity about how different devices worked, and nourished an ability to take them apart and reassemble them. This ability, and a love for science, led him to pursue his degree in industrial technology with a concentration in manufacturing engineering technology.

He appreciated the hands-on nature of his educational experience at Fitchburg State, where he earned a 4.0 grade point average leading to his achievement as valedictorian of his class.

After receiving his degree Friday, Filippi plans to embark on a career in engineering technology.

Also being recognized Friday night is Shea Pugh, recipient of the Graduate Student Leadership Award.

Pugh has earned widespread admiration during her time at Fitchburg State University, described as a student who is emblematic of the institution's values and a talented educator in training.

Pursuing a graduate degree in special education, Pugh believes the best teachers care about their students' lives beyond the classroom. She brings enthusiasm, care and compassion to her work, demonstrating a special talent with students who require more guidance and support that can be found in traditional settings.

She has been cited for her strength in working with students with extreme behavioral challenges. Her core belief is that all students can learn, whatever issues they face.

Beyond the teaching setting, Pugh worked as a graduate assistant in a newly created hybrid position serving the university's housing and student conduct programs. In this role she displayed an ability to relate to students in a meaningful way despite challenging circumstances, inspiring them to reflect on their choices and how it impacted



Alexander Filippi

their university experience. She was commended for treating students with compassion and respect while being firm and fair.



Shea Pugh

Students shine at technical education competition

Fourteen Fitchburg State students recently attended the Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association's eastern regional conference where they recognized in technology and communications competitions.

The technology challenge students included Corey Coleman, David Hilton, Peter Jones and Steve Ellis, For the communications competition, the students were Mikel Cravatta, Tara Dupuis, Adam Ranucci, Shannon Belski, Mariah Hammond and Victoria Floeck.



The communications team produced a video about the need for technology and engineering education teachers, as well as the need for students to pursue the field.

Graduate and Continuing Ed info session to be held Jan. 4

Learn about the educational opportunities available at Fitchburg State University when the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education (GCE) hosts an [information session](#) on **Wednesday, Jan. 4** at 5 p.m.

The free session, where attendees will have the opportunity to speak with advisors, program chairs, financial aid representatives and register for classes, will take place in Hammond Hall on the Fitchburg State campus.



GCE at Fitchburg State offers more than 45 graduate and undergraduate degree and certificate programs. Take the first steps toward achieving your educational goals and register for the information session today.

There will be special information sessions beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the LPN to BS in nursing bridge program; online RN to BSN; Master of Science in Nursing (forensic); graduate special education (dyslexia specialist, moderate, severe, guided studies, reading specialist and BCBA graduate certificate), now delivered as an online hybrid; education (early childhood, elementary and middle school); counseling; BS in early childhood education (birth to 8 concentration); and online MBA.

Those who attend the information session who haven't yet applied for admission to Fitchburg State can have their admissions application fee waived for their spring or summer 2017 applications. Applications must be received by Feb. 4 to qualify for the waiver.

Visit fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infosession to register for the information session or call (978) 665-3182 for more details.

CTL sponsors Celebration of Teaching Week in March

The Center for Teaching and Learning will hold its first Celebration of Teaching Week from March 20-24, 2017. A number of events are planned, including:

- CTL Teaching and Learning Hour at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21
- Open classroom visits (on a volunteer basis)
- Ongoing poster session highlighting our faculty's teaching
- Thank a Teacher opportunities

More details will be shared at the start of the spring semester, but interested faculty members are asked consider opening up classes to visitors during that week. Contact [Kisha G. Tracy](#) for additional information or to share suggestions on other methods to celebrate teaching at Fitchburg State.

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