The university's Moot Court representatives include, from left to right, back row: Paul Weizer, Robert Sivazlian, Shane Martin, Mary Gallant-Cote, and Matthew Costello; front row: Edwin Pacheco-Diaz, Chanel Friedman, Sydney Kirsch, Angela Szymcik, and Sultan Ahmed.

Two teams from the university's Moot Court program will be heading to the national tournament in January after a strong showing at last weekend's regional qualifier. Students Matthew Costello, Sydney Kirsch, Angela Szymcik and Edwin Pacheco Diaz will represent Fitchburg State at Chapman University Law School in California.

The university hosted the American Collegiate Moot Court Association eastern regional undergraduate qualifying tournament on Nov. 18 and 19. The event brought more than 40 teams from 17 colleges and universities up and down the eastern seaboard to Fitchburg, including first-time participants Duke University and McGill University.

The moot court program puts students in the position of attorneys arguing the merit of a fictional Supreme Court case. This year, the students argued both sides of a case in which a man was arrested for threatening to assassinate the president. He was charged for aiding and abetting threats made by others on an Internet chat room he controlled.

During the tournament, students presented their cases to the court, embodied by members of the local legal community and other dignitaries. The tournament was sponsored by Fitchburg State and the North Worcester County Bar Association.
Celebrate Fitchburg First Thursday downtown on Dec. 1

Park once and get all your holiday shopping done - with unique, unforgettable gifts - in downtown Fitchburg on Dec. 1 during the city's First Thursday celebration. Original artwork, books, and other gift items will be for sale, and there will also be entertainment for the whole family.

Experience for yourself the range of shopping and entertainment options that already exist on Main Street, and be a part of the city's renaissance at the same time.

The Fitchburg Public Library (610 Main St.) will present the Friends of the Library book sale from noon to 7 p.m. Items for sale include donated books-on-tape, Christmas craft books, VHS movies and DVDs. At 5:30 p.m. there will be a reading of "The Shoemaker and the Elves," with crafts and snacks available.

Riverfront Studios/Cornerstone Performing Arts (454 Main St.) will host an all-ages holiday sing along at 4 and 4:30 p.m. From 4 to 6 pm. the space will be selling Soapy Green natural skin care products, Fitchburg Artstree works, Pearls for Girls, and children's puppets by Button Box.

The Rabbit Hole (805 Main St.), the city's independent book and record store, will present its big holiday sale from 4 to 8 p.m.

Design at 639 (639 Main St.) will feature an art show of nature paintings from 4 to 8 p.m. The show, called "ELEMENTAL," is two-man exhibition of representational paintings by local artists Victor Dupuis and David Prokowiew.

The Boulder Art Gallery (960 Main St.) will host its fourth annual holiday art sale from 4 to 8 p.m. The gallery will offer 10 percent off all artwork and 15 percent off all vintage artwork. Check out the unique and interesting gifts from local and regional artists. Original art makes a great gift.

The Fitchburg Art Museum (25 Merriam Parkway) features kidZart, original works by children from the Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster. There will also be a raffle of 10 original works of art donated by community artists. The raffle is sponsored by TD Bank and raffle tickets may be purchased online at www.bgcmca.org/childrensart. The museum will offer free admission from 4 to 8 p.m.

The New Players Theatre Guild will bring their vocal talents to sing Christmas carols to strolling shoppers. Look for them at 5 p.m. near the library, Rollstone Studios and Design at 639.

Rollstone Studios (633 Main St.) will offer an egg-decorating workshop from 5 to 7 p.m. Learn to decorate your own unique and beautiful Pysanky egg in this session, led by Joanne Quatrare. Participants will take home their own egg masterpieces and learn the techniques for this historical art. The session is $35 and includes kits for up to four eggs, and pre-registration is required. Call 978-348-2781 to reserve your place. The studio also welcomes back Paula Murphy, who will teach how to make your own boxwood kissing ball for holiday decorating. The kissing ball session is $18 and includes supplies. Pre-registration is also required for this class, and can be done by calling 978-348-2781.

Café Chaibo (13 Cushing St.) will feature its famous chocolate fountain for free from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

There will be a drumming circle inside First Parish Church (923 Main St.) from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Drummers are invited to bring their drums, bells, shakers, or a pot and wooden spoon. All levels of drummers are welcome. This is the same drumming circle that was held on the Upper Common during the warmer months, but now will be in the warm confines of the church.

The Stratton Players will conduct a Christmas program at FATV (175 Kimball St.) at 7:30 p.m. Join them in the studio!

Destaré (320 Main St.) will offer a wine tasting at 8 p.m. Discount tickets will be available at Rollstone Studios. Let your evening segue into enjoying the sounds of the Jazz Depot.

Falcon Players present "Brilliant Traces" Dec. 1-4

The Falcon Players, Fitchburg State’s student theatre troupe, will present the riveting one-act play "Brilliant Traces" by Cindy Lou Johnson on Dec. 1 through 4.
The captivating story revolves around feelings of isolation and the need to be understood when one is alone in the world.

The cast includes Fitchburg State students Justin Nelson and Erika Haynes.

The Falcon Players ask audience members to “pay what you can” to support the student-run organization.

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**CenterStage at Fitchburg State arts and culture events**

The CenterStage at Fitchburg State University arts and culture series invites you to usher in the holiday season with the unforgettable voice of tenor John McDermott on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

McDermott, no stranger to CenterStage, returns to Fitchburg with an evening of well-known favorites.

Tickets are $32 for adults and $10 for students. The Weston Box Office is open 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Wednesday through Friday and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets may also be ordered online at www.fitchburgstate.edu/cultural.

“Legend” is not a title John McDermott would readily embrace, but his accomplishments have become legendary in recording industry lore. He calls Toronto and Boston home, but he has also found a home as an international recording star and household name known as much for his successful musical career as for his commitment to veterans’ causes. He is a long way from the man for whom singing was once just a hobby. John was discovered quite by chance, when working as a circulation sales representative for the Toronto Sun, he belted out an impromptu rendition of “Danny Boy” at a company party.

John’s first album, Danny Boy, was originally recorded as a very private and personal 50th anniversary tribute for his parents. Its quality could not be ignored and it eventually found its way into the hands of EMI Music Canada. Danny Boy subsequently garnered strong sales for a debut release in the U.S. and Canada; it even reached number one on New Zealand’s album charts, and was certified double platinum in that country.

This success, in addition to a fast growing North American fan base earned through a tireless touring schedule, led to his participation in the PBS phenomenon, The Irish Tenors. John’s presence helped generate a U.S. gold record, three U.S. tours, and a high-profile media schedule, including appearances on “Good Morning America” and “The Today Show.” In November 2001, he taped “John McDermott - A Time to Remember” at the Living Arts Centre outside Toronto. This, his first solo television special, began airing in March 2002 on PBS affiliates across North America.

The outcome of that fateful performance has catapulted him into a musical career that includes three Canadian platinum records, five Juno nominations, a solid international touring schedule,
and many more albums including Songs of the Isles - Ireland and Songs of the Isles - Scotland, Images of Christmas with John McDermott and Friends, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Stories of Love, Just Plain Folk and On A Whim.

His success has allowed him to express his commitment to veteran's causes, for which he has been honored by the U.S. and Canadian governments. It is a theme he revisits on his current CD, Journeys, which pays tribute to the fallen. One track, "The Dreamer," is dedicated to McDermott's friend, the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, at whose memorial service he performed at the request of the family.

John McDermott is an artist whose sense of respect for tradition and understanding of the sentiment behind the music resonates worldwide.

Faculty Notes

Eric Budd (Economics, History and Political Science) attended the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association in Philadelphia Nov. 17-19. He was the chair/discussant for a panel on Third World Development, moderated a panel discussion called "Looking Towards 2012," and ran the business meetings in his role as the association's president. Budd was accompanied by undergraduate student Dmitry Berman, who presented research on trans-national terrorism. Budd is now the immediate past president of the association.

Michele Caniato (Humanities) had his article "From Popular Song to Jazz Composition: Thelonius Monk's Ruby, My Dear" published in the Annual Review of Jazz Studies #10, Scarecrow Press, Rutgers University. It was identified as essential reading by top scholars in the field and is cited as a must-read resource on jazz on the Oxford Bibliographies Online. Also, on Nov. 14, Caniato conducted the Metropolia Big Band (Helsinki, Finland) in a concert of big band classic repertoire and two original compositions.

Archived editions of Fitchburg State University Today can be found online at www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations/fsctoday. For questions about Fitchburg State University Today, contact the Public Relations Office at (978) 665-4694. To submit to Fitchburg State University Today, visit the Public Relations site at www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations and click on Request for Publicity.