

April 3, 2006

Podcasting Takes Off at Fitchburg State

Fitchburg State's use of podcast technology has been in the national spotlight this month.

The buzz began when the Admissions Office sent a podcast to more than 1,000 accepted students for the fall 2006 freshman class. The students received an e-mail that includes a link to an iTunes podcast. It features President Robert Antonucci, who tells the recipient the good news.

The podcast acceptance letter has been mentioned in several news stories by the Telegram & Gazette, the Boston Globe, the Associated Press, USA Today, ABC Radio, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Playlist magazine and a number of New England television stations.

"It isn't just about the latest flavor and it's not about flash. There's substance behind it. It is about the college as a whole recognizing that technology can improve the way we communicate and learn," said Pam McCafferty, dean of enrollment management.

Fitchburg State faculty, staff and students produced the podcast, which was assembled by George Bohrer, interim associate dean of Graduate and Continuing Education. Paul Concemi, a stu-



Podcast Basics ■ Apple systems engineer Steve Regulevsky explains how a podcast comes together.

dent and a member of the Communications Media department staff, contributed videography and editing. Music for the project was taken from a recently released CD by Jane Fiske, professor of music.

"At Fitchburg State College we take new technology very seriously. This podcast is a good example. We integrate technology into the process of teaching and learning," Bohrer said.

The admissions e-mail isn't Fitchburg State's first brush with podcast technology. The college is joining the growing number of schools that are offering lectures and other education content on the iTunes Music Store.

The college is introducing faculty and staff to podcasting through workshops. At a recent workshop, Apple systems engineer Steve Regulevsky spoke about how to put together a podcast and explained how the technology can share photos, video, audio, text and PowerPoint files.

"The iPod can be used for more than just a music tool," he said. "It's really about how you take advantage of these iPods that have been brought onto campus."

Because of the publicity, Apple has given corporate approval to hire a student to be an Apple campus rep for Fitchburg State. There are 600 colleges selected in the United States to offer Apple student employment.

Olympian Shares Leadership Skills

Mike Eruzione learned a lifetime's worth of leadership skills from a single event – the 1980 Olympic hockey game between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Eruzione was captain of the United States Olympic Hockey Team, which beat the Soviets and moved on to win a gold medal at the 1980 Olympics held in Lake Placid, N.Y.

"If you believe something and you're willing to work hard at it, you can accomplish it," said Eruzione, who was the keynote speaker for this year's

Leadership Conference, held March 23 with the theme "Gazing Toward the Future."

In 2004, Disney turned the storybook Olympic tale into the film "Miracle" starring Kurt Russell as head coach Herb Brooks and Fitchburg State alumnus Patrick O'Brien Demsey as Eruzione.

Brooks wasn't easy on his players and led them through grueling practices. He did not want the players to simply show up; he was looking for a commitment.

"He said, 'If you don't want to be here then leave because there are thousands of people who would like to be in your shoes,'" Eruzione said.



Mike Eruzione

Eruzione encouraged the audience to take advantage to the opportunities that come their way.

"It's what you do with those opportunities that count," he said.

■ The Hammond Art Gallery is featuring Susan Phillips: Collage Paintings this month.

The exhibit includes works by Phillips, an artist who resides in New York City and Woodstock, N.Y. The work will be on view through April 19 at the gallery, located in the Hammond Campus Center.

For more information, call the Office of Student Activities at (978) 665-3162.

Phillips has been a working artist in photography, and, most recently, in mixed media collage.

■ Professor Richard McElvain directs "Summer and Smoke" at Fitchburg State on April 5 at 7:30 p.m., April 6 at 6 p.m. and April 7 through 8 at 7:30 p.m. at McKay Auditorium.

"Summer and Smoke," written by Tennessee Williams, is a bittersweet exploration of love and longing with unforgettable characters that break our hearts even as they touch our souls. This American masterpiece is Williams at his most passionate.

Admission is \$7 for the general public, and \$5 for students, faculty and seniors. Call the box office at (978) 665-3347 for more information.

Faculty News

Donna Friedman Bechis (Humanities) gave a presentation, "Form and Design in Flowers," at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens, Kauai, Hawaii, in January. The presentation included 300 projected photographic images of botanical forms, giclees, and ceramic tiles. One of these photographs, "Moreton Bay Fig Tree," also appears on the Web site of the Kukui'ula Development Company, Kauai. In addition, the Grand Hyatt Hotel Kauai has acquired photographs by Friedman Bechis of botanical forms in the Hyatt's tropical gardens.

Ronald Colbert (Education) co-presented at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Conference in San Diego, Calif. Colbert's presentation "Pitfalls and Possibilities of Teacher Work Sample and Electronic Portfolios" involved Roger Pankratz (Renaissance Teacher Work Sample), Helen Barrett (Electronic Portfolios), Jeer Carroll (Wichita State University) and Donna Gollnick (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education). The presentation was a result of a Fitchburg State faculty creative teaching award.

Benjamin Lieberman (Social Science) delivered the Asher Family Lecture at Clark University, titled "Driven off the Map: How Ethnic Cleansing Remade Modern Europe," on March 23 for the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.



Future Home Builders ■ Fitchburg State construction management students are pictured at a recent national competition.

Building Competition

A team of Fitchburg State construction management students recently participated in the National Association of Home Builders Residential Project Management Competition in Orlando, Fla.

The competition required students to plan a housing development project in Addison, Texas. The Fitchburg State team completed their plan after of 12 weeks of hard work under James Andrews, assistant professor of industrial technology. The team estimated the cost of and scheduled the construction of a 183 unit \$54 million all brick condominium project. Students were also responsible for developing the marketing plan and a full financial analysis of the project, which included the return on investment strategy.

The team includes six presenters and six backup/support students. This year's team, with only two returning members, placed in the middle of the field coming in 26th out of the 40 schools presenting. Last year's team won the Rookie of the Year award for their entry and presentation.

The number of competitors was larger than last year and the fact that the Fitchburg State team placed 26th is a real accomplishment, Andrews said.

Congress to Campus

Two former members of Congress will be meeting with students as part of the Congress to Campus program hosted at Fitchburg State.

The Congress to Campus Program addresses several aspects of the civic learning and engagement deficit among the country's college-age young people, combining traditional educational content with a strong message about public service. The program sends bipartisan pairs of former Members of Congress—one Democrat and one Republican—to visit college, university and community college campuses around the country. Over the course of two work days, the members conduct classes, hold community forums, meet informally with students and faculty, and visit high schools and civic organizations.

Steven Kuykendall (R-CA) and Butler Derrick (D-S.C.), former members of the U.S. House of Representatives will be visiting Fitchburg State on April 3 and 4.

Kuykendall served in the United States House of Representatives from 1999 to 2001 representing California's 36th Congressional District. Derrick represented the third district of South Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives for more than 20 years.

They will speak to political science and women's studies courses and teachers at the Professional Development Center on April 3, followed by a community forum at 7:30 p.m. in the Ellis White Lecture Hall at the Hammond Campus Center.

On April 4, Kuykendall and Derrick will speak to political science, peace studies, history, global issues and women's studies classes, and will have a visit with the Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area (ALFA) group in the afternoon.

International Week

International Week will showcase food, film and foreign experiences.

This year's events begin Monday, April 3 with an international festival held from 2:30 to 5 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Hammond Campus Center. Visitors can sample international cuisine, hear music, learn about crafts and view displays

On Wednesday, April 5, international students from Poland, Albania and Hungary will present a panel discussion, "Personal Reflections on Revolution in the Heart of Europe." The discussion begins at 5 p.m. in the Miller Hall Oval Room. Dr. Josh Spero, assistant professor of political science will moderate the panel. Space is limited for the event.

Later that evening, the Indian film "Bride and Prejudice" will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Ellis White Lecture Hall of the Hammond Campus Center. The film is a Bollywood parody of Jane Austen's classic romance novel, "Pride and Prejudice." Popcorn and sodas will be provided. There is no admission charge for the film.

The film "If I Never See You Again" will be shown Thursday, April 6 at 2 and 7 p.m. in the Ellis White Lecture Hall of the Hammond Campus Center. The showing is sponsored by CenterStage. The Mexican film follows a quintet of elderly men who escape from a nursing home in search of a common dream of playing their music in public. Tickets are available at the door. Admission is \$7 for the general public and \$5 for Fitchburg State College staff, faculty and seniors; \$3 for Fitchburg State students. Call the Weston Box Office at (978) 665-3347 Monday through Friday 12:30-3:30 p.m. or (978) 665-3709 for more information.



Women and Art ■ Christine Neill (right) grins as she is introduced as the speaker for the Women's History Month Tea on March 22. Neill, a professor of fine arts at the Maryland Institute College of Art, spoke about the evolution of women artists.

International Week concludes on Friday, April 7 with a global dinner in the Underground Pub of the Hammond Campus Center from 5 to 10 p.m. The meal features home cooked international cuisine and music.

Gaming Night

Students and staff will be up late on the night of April 7 as they gather for an evening of online gaming.

Thirty students and staff members are expected for the college's first Local Area Network (LAN) party from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge.

Members of the campus community are invited to bring their computers to the lounge, where they'll play "Battlefield 2," "Unreal Tournament 2004," and "America's Army."

Organizer Joel Hidenfelter had wanted to organize an online gaming night and got the college's Information Technology Department involved.

"Our goal is to have a lot of fun and to get the gaming community together. We want to help promote playing games on campus. It's a social activity," said Hidenfelter, Worcester native and senior studying computer information systems.

Hidenfelter has secured sponsorship for the gaming night. Companies such as Nintendo, Performance PCs.com and Linksys will contribute prizes for participants.

If the gaming night is successful, the college may hold more events in the future.

For more information, contact Clair Degutis in the Information Technology Department at (978) 665-4345.

Wheelchair Basketball

The Celebrating Everyone's Differences club at Fitchburg State College will be holding a wheelchair basketball game that will benefit a scholarship fund.

The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, at the college's Recreation Center. Teams playing during the evening include Mass Hospital School Chariots, an adolescent wheelchair basketball team. They will play against a team of Fitchburg State students and staff. Fitchburg State student Timothy Varnon will sing "The Star Spangled Banner" before the game.

There is no cost to attend, but organizers will be accepting donations for the Garrett Conrad Scholarship Fund. The fund was started for Conrad, who was a Fitchburg State student that passed away in 1993. The scholarship is awarded each year to a student with a disability who has shown excellence in academics, as well as a commitment to Fitchburg State and their community.

For more information about the wheelchair basketball game, contact Kayla Madsen at (978) 235-0160 or kmadsen81@aol.com.

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Editor: Azure Collier

Your announcements are welcome, and may be dropped off, sent via campus mail, or e-mailed to fscToday@fsc.edu.

Dorsey Dance Party

The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra will perform at Fitchburg State on Saturday, April 8, at 8 p.m. at the Recreation Center as part of the college's CenterStage program.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance are \$40 for the general public; \$40 for seniors, groups (\$7 for Fitchburg State students and children under 18) and are available at the college's box office or by mail order. Tickets will also be available at the door on the evening of the performance. Tickets for the 4 p.m. performance are \$15 for the general public; \$15 for seniors, Fitchburg State faculty and staff, and \$7 for Fitchburg State students. Call the Weston Box Office at (978) 665-3347 Monday through Friday 12:30-3:30 p.m. or (978) 665-3709 for more information.

CenterStage is underwritten by the Fitchburg State College Foundation. The Sentinel & Enterprise is sponsoring the Dorsey concert.

With a theme song of "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You" and crooners like Frank Sinatra, the Dorsey Orchestra played ballads like no other band and was considered the best dance band of its time. Today the orchestra is on the road again, with its signature sound created by bandleader Buddy Morrow and vocalist Walt Andrus.

The orchestra will play a one-set program at 4 p.m. At 8 p.m., guests can dance the night away to the sounds of the orchestra at a dance party, held in the Recreation Center. The event includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Venician Evening

Dr. Linda Pellechia-Stone, guest lecturer from the University of Delaware and a native of Leominster, will present a slide lecture on Venice at Fitchburg State College on Wednesday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall of the Conlon Building.

Venice is like no other city in the world. An island divided by large and small canals, its buildings seem to float rather than stand firm on the ground. Light and color mingles water to produce magical effects not seen in any other city. The Serenissima (or Most Serene) as she was called in the Renaissance looked towards the East and Byzantium more than to Rome. Thus the style of architecture in this unique city is different from those on the mainland. Pellechia-Stone will take the audience back in time to see how palaces were built, who built them and why, and what they can tell us today about how Renaissance Venetians lived.

The event is sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State. Admission is free.

Patriotic Program

Windham Hill America will perform at Fitchburg State College on Saturday, April 22 at 8 p.m. in Weston Auditorium. Windham Hill America on tour will feature Philip Aaberg, Barbara Higbie and Tracy Silverman.

Tickets, \$25 for the general public; \$20 for Fitchburg State faculty, staff, seniors and groups; and \$7 for Fitchburg

State students and under 18, are available at the college's box office or by mail order.

Call the Weston Box Office at (978) 665-3347 Monday through Friday 12:30-3:30 p.m. or (978) 665-3709 for more information.

There have certainly been numerous albums of American patriotic music. Especially in these times, Americans have enjoyed getting back in touch with their musical patriotic roots.

Windham Hill America explores a different repertoire of American root music, one coming from the folk, jazz and classical traditions by American composers. As different in style as "One Hand, One Heart" by Leonard Bernstein, and "Sophisticated Lady" by Duke Ellington are, they share a commonality with the other composers and folk songs on the album, which is truly American music.

The program includes songs such as "Summertime," by George Gershwin; "Solace," by Scott Joplin; "The Times They Are A-Changin'," by Bob Dylan, and "It Ain't Necessarily So," by George Gershwin.

The event is co-sponsored by Fitchburg Savings Bank and Worcester Magazine.

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