Leaders of Divided Cities Sign Agreement of Union at McCormack School Conference

By Olesia Plokhii

Before leaving Boston to head back to the divided cities of Mitrovica, Nicosia, Kirkuk, and Derry/Londonderry, all 30 delegates who came to Padraig O’Malley’s “Forum for Cities in Transition” conference at UMass Boston from April 14 through 16 signed an agreement to establish a permanent forum for dialogue.

O’Malley, the John Joseph Moakley Professor of Peace and Reconciliation at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, brought together Kurdish, Arabic, Turkmen, and Assyrian representatives from Kirkuk in Iraqi; Unionist, Nationalist, and Republican delegates from Derry/Londonderry in Northern Ireland; Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot representatives from Nicosia in Cyprus; and Albanian and Serbian delegates from Mitrovica in Kosovo in hopes of testing his now famous thesis for peace on a new group of divided cities.

“The people in divided societies are in the best position to help people from other divided societies,” said O’Malley, who has helped with conflict resolution in Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Iraq. Despite their unique conflicts, O’Malley believes that each city shares ethnic, religious, or nationalist divisions—a commonality which he hoped all four delegations would use to their benefit by agreeing to establish a permanent forum for discussion on the last day of the conference.

The agreement, titled “Call to Action,” states that participants from all cities affirm “to create a Forum for Cities in Transition, with those present becoming founding members, [...] that the Forum’s purposes shall be to address common problems [...] to deepen and broaden the network by taking ownership of the Forum’s future, by one city assuming the Presidency of the Forum each year and planning to host future Forum annual events in their territories in conjunction with civil society and educational institutions.”

As the single document was (continued on page 2)
Divided Cities Conference

(cont. from page 1)

passed from delegate to delegate around the table, representatives from two cities announced a desire to host the next event in 2010. “I fully support the paper and want to express our wish to host the next forum in Mitrovica,” said Sadri Ferati, an ethnic Albanian who is the Minister of Local Governance in Mitrovica, a city with a majority of Serbs in the north and Kosovar Albanians in the south. “I hope everyone will agree to that.”

Gerry Diver, mayor of Derry/Londonderry, said his delegation would happily defer hosting the first forum to make way for Mitrovica. “I’m sure I’m speaking for all of the delegation [when I say] how moved we are by the leadership demonstrated by our colleague from Mitrovica,” Diver said. “They have shown that the true value of the conference has taken root in work done over the last few days.”

“Instead of the word ‘divided’ being used, we said ‘root in work done over the last few days.’”

“It’s a reflection of the process that we’ve been through. It means we can’t portray the wrong image in Kirkuk.”

After the wording of the document was amended to reflect delegate concerns, however, every representative of the conference, including those from Nicosia and Kirkuk, signed on.

“What we learned from this conference was the problems and conflicts of other cities; we learned what the process was and how they solved their problems,” said Abdullah Sami Assi, an Arab member of the Kirkuk Provincial Council. “These problems are common with ours and we can transfer the way they solved and implemented them as a model to solve our own problems.”

Former Red Sox Goes Blue for a Day

Former pro baseball player Pumpsie Green, the first African American to play for the Boston Red Sox, stopped by the Quinn Building on April 1 to chat with Chancellor Motley. During his visit to Boston, Green was also honored in a pregame ceremony by his former team, the last in the majors to integrate when Green joined the club in the summer of 1959. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Patrick Meets with Ethnic Media

(cont. from page 1)

met with about 20 ethnic-media journalists in the Healey Library. Center director and Newswire editor Frank Herron hopes to expand on the success of the event by hosting regular meetings with newsmakers on the local, state, and even national levels.

“I look at this as a sort of editorial board get-together for the ethnic media of New England,” he said. “We would like to have a monthly newsmaker series.”

Despite the fact that he faces falling approval ratings and one of the worst state budget crises in memory, Patrick was in good spirits at the press conference, joking with reporters and circulating the packed room to extend a welcoming handshake to each of the participants.

“This is your house,” said Patrick. “I hope you have come to this meeting in that spirit. We want to have a partnership with you.”

After Patrick’s opening remarks, the reporters began lobbing an arsenal of questions, ranging from hot-button issues such as immigration reform and drivers’ licenses for undocumented immigrants to more mainstream issues, such as the spending of recovery bill hands to a proposed commuter rail extension on the Stoughton line.

For the most part, Patrick was engaged and talkative—answering questions at length, allowing the conference to run over its scheduled time, and encouraging the reporters to schedule regular meetings in the future. Patrick also broached the reporters for help promoting a 10,000-job summer work initiative that his office is sponsoring.

For many of the reporters, it was their first trip to the State House, said Eduardo de Oliveira, the health reporter for the New England Ethnic Newswire. “We don’t have many ethnic media covering the State House and politics as often as the mainstream media,” he said. “For them to have a chance to talk with the governor was really great.”

The benefits of open communication go both ways, said Herron. It’s also a way for politicians to engage communities they might not be able to reach through the mainstream press.

“This is all about access—access to the governor, but also vice versa. The governor and others need access to these professionals and the populations they represent,” Herron said.

De Oliveira agrees. The political power of ethnic communities is on the rise, and politicians would be wise to take heed, he said. “The election of Obama shows that the electoral map of America is changing rapidly,” he said. “More and more, we are part of the political discussion in this country.”

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Alert System

(cont. from page 1)

In the event of an emergency, subscribers to the UMass Boston Alert System receive text, email, and voice messages with instructions on how to stay safe. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Scriver-Agee. The test went well, but O’Connor and Agee share one concern: While everyone with an active UMass Boston email address is in the system, not everyone has entered cell phone information to receive text messages. The system is free, but normal text messaging costs apply. The university plans to use the system only for routine testing and critical emergency messages, so costs should be minimal.

“Adding your cell phone number into the system generally means you’ll get quicker access to that information through texting or mobile email,” says Agee. “Keep in mind that no system is foolproof—that’s why we test the system and employ various means of emergency communications.”

The system test itself and the efforts to promote it helped increase the number of cell phone contacts added to the system: After the test, cell phone participation jumped by 21% for students and 36% for faculty and staff.

“System tests, exercises and drills are all an important part of emergency preparedness at UMass Boston,” says O’Connor. “We plan to test this system regularly to assess its performance and familiarize members of the campus community with it, and with safety awareness in general.”

Other safety-related initiatives include a revamped Emergency Operations Plan, new automated external defibrillators located throughout campus, regular training and drills for key staff, and an upcoming year of outreach. Also, an outdoor siren and loudspeaker system may be added to augment notification capabilities.
UMass Boston Launches Live TV News Segment

By DeWayne Lehman

UMass Boston, in partnership with New England Cable News, last month launched a weekly TV news segment featuring university faculty and staff providing commentary on timely news issues.

Broadcast live from the university's studio in Healey Library, “Affairs of State” is aimed at covering a broad range of newsworthy subjects that relate to local, national, and international governmental and community issues. The intent of the weekly news segment is to enhance the exposure and reputation of UMass Boston faculty and staff as go-to media experts and provide them with experience in a live TV interview setting.

“This is a great opportunity for the university to showcase the talent and expertise of our faculty and staff and enter into important discussions of the day that affect us all,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “I look forward to seeing ‘Affairs of State’ become a weekly draw for NECN’s newscast.”

Work toward connecting UMass Boston’s video studio in the Lower Level of Healey Library via a television-grade fiber-optic connection to media outlets began in December, around the same time that discussions began with NECN to develop a news segment from UMass Boston. The resulting “Affairs of State” premiered on NECN on April 2 and has had four successful installments, including: Associate professor Paul Watanabe on the political travails of the Patrick administration; New England Ethnic Newsweek editor Frank Herron on the financial crisis facing the Boston Globe; McCormack School dean Steve Crosby on the House budget; Assistant Professor Maurice Cunningham on Mayor Menino’s announcement that he is running for a historic fifth term; and Associate Professor Alan Clayton-Matthews on the state’s worsening budget picture.

“As a 24/7 news organization, we see UMass Boston as a great partner and valuable resource providing additional insight and commentary to our news lineup,” said NECN president and general manager Charles J. Kravetz. “The ‘Affairs of State’ segment gives viewers a unique, authorita
tive perspective from the Boston area’s only public university.”

The effort to provide UMass Boston faculty a platform for live TV exposure on NECN is one of several initiatives that the Office of Communications has undertaken recently to raise awareness around media coverage and issues, including organizing media panels and training and education sessions.

Older Workers Conference Brings International Expertise to National, Regional Problems

By Muna Killingleaf

People aged 55 and over, now one-quarter of the Massachusetts population, have longer periods of unemployment and often receive lower wages or are unemployed when they do find jobs, said Eleanor Shea Delaney, interim secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs in her opening remarks at the UMass Boston symposium on older workers on April 24 and 25.

Coupled with an increasingly older population and large budget cuts for elderly services, Shea-Delaney urged participants to look for “innovative solutions.”

“Older Workers and Social Policy in the 21st Century: International, National, and Regional Perspectives,” a symposium organized by the Gerontology Institute in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, brought together internationalrenowned gerontology scholars to share the latest policy research from around the world.

UMass Boston Gerontology Institute director Maximiliane E. Sautter-Nunes are doing...The issues are slightly different and there are different approaches, but some of them are applicable here.”

Philip Taylor, professor of employment policy at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, summed up the situation in many countries: “The virtues of older workers have been extolled in the face of population aging and stressed social security systems.” He noted that until recently, public policy encouraged early retirement and “labor market policy aimed at tackling youth unemployment.”

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) senior economist Mark Reeve said that in fact, “Earlier retirement schemes don’t help. Someone has to pay. Firms have to pay and have less money to hire younger workers.”

He pointed out that early-retirement schemes also discourage firms from investing in older workers since they believe they will soon leave.

Professor Taylor and other speakers highlighted the “disadvantaged status of older workers” who face lower new-hire rates, and despite a rate of job loss similar to that of younger workers, experience longer periods of unemployment as well as “large wage losses when re-employed.”

Trends in the global economy also affect the plight of older workers, he said: “Labor shortages are forecast for the OECD countries, but global labor supply is expanding, especially in East Asia...Globalization can lead to insecurity in older workers.”

Many researchers advised a “life course approach” to employment policy, which factors in demands of caregiving at varying times of life. A phased retirement in contrast to an abrupt exit from the labor force was also recommended; this could include greater flexibility and options to adjust hours or take on different types of work.

However, for some workers with health problems or lower educational levels, extending their working lives might be difficult or impossible. Several speakers expressed special concern for lower-wage workers, who often have the most difficulty finding employment at older ages.

Dr. Stephen McNair, director of the United Kingdom’s Centre for Research into the Older Workforce, called for new approaches: “The current model of retirement is 30 years out of date.” He noted that the life phase between ages 25 and 30 is one of “high stress” characterized by heavy demands of both work and caregiving, while the phase between ages 50 and 75 includes a complex labor market exit and, frequently, underuse of skills. “Should we not rethink the distribution of activity across the life course?” he asked.

Many emphasized that older workers are a diverse group and one policy will not fit all. Sally Bould, University of Delaware Professor Emerita of Sociology and fellow of the UMass Bos
ton Gerontology Institute, said that “social policy must not be gender neutral or gender blind—data needs to be disaggregated.”

Several presenters looked at the impact of older women’s greater caregiving and community engagement responsibilities on their employment options. Quality, targeted training and more and better programs designed for older job seekers could increase their employability, it was generally agreed. Dr. Laura Romero Gordo of the Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen (the German Centre for Gerontology) found that on-the-job training was more effective than classroom training in helping older workers find new jobs.

Looking at the U.S. context, Richard Johnson, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute, reported that a survey of job demands showed that physically demanding jobs had declined between 1992 and 2002, but other jobs, including very stressful ones and those requiring good eyesight, intense concentration, and dealing with others, had increased.

Paradoxically, workers in worse health were most likely to have physically demanding jobs and those with cognitively rather than physically demanding jobs retire later. The survey also showed an increase of 121 percent in jobs “dealing with unpleasant people.”

Professor Steve Sass, associate director for research at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, found that many American employees believe they don’t have enough money to retire, and baby boomers often want to work longer even if money isn’t a concern. In the absence of mandatory retirement ages and an institutionalized process, retirement can be “disorderly and unpredictable,” creating a lot of anxiety: “Employees don’t know when they’ll be let go, and employers don’t know when these older employers will leave.”

In addition to encouraging older workers to work longer, UMass Boston professor of gerontology Yung-Ping Chen, who holds the Frank J. Manning Emeritus Scholar’s Chair in Gerontology, believes that to stem the impending worker shortage due to baby boomer retirement, more workers will need to be drawn from among young people, women, and persons with disabilities. He and Andrea Tall, a PhD student in the Gerontology Program, advocated the concept of “Universal Design,” which increases both access for persons with disabilities and improves conditions for all workers.

Both academics and policymakers took away new ideas from the symposium. “There were a lot of lessons learned that I think are very applicable to our public policy here,” said Ruth Palombo of the Office of Program Planning and Management in the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The Executive Office partners with the McCormack School on an initiative promoting the civic engagement and employment of older adults led by the National Governors Association.

Many graduate students in the Gerontology Institute, one of the largest programs in the country, also attended as well as members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UMass Boston, which offers a range of educational programs for adults age 50 and over.

May 2009 • The University Reporter • 3
By Olesia Plokhii

Rigoberta Menchú Tum, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her work publicizing the plight of indigenous Guatemalans during that country’s five-decade civil war, was warmly welcomed by an auditorium full of fans, students, scholars, faculty, and Hispanic groups at the Campus Center ballroom.

More than 500 people were on hand to hear the world-renowned Menchú, who belongs to the Quiche-Maya ethnic group, recount the horrors of what she called the genocide of more than 160,000 indigenous people—83% of all those who were killed in the civil war, the majority by the Guatemalan military.

Menchú, who fled to Mexico in 1981 after her family was killed by the military, used her time on the podium vowing to “defend the truth of the active position Nunca Mas (Never Again),” most military officers accused of committing war crimes were never tried and were granted amnesty instead.

Menchú, who is also a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, pledged to dedicate her efforts to overturning that amnesty and bringing justice to Guatemalans.

“My entire life I will fight against impunity,” a teary-eyed Menchú said in Spanish while an English translation was offered to those with headsets. “It is very important to know that although peace agreements say wonderful things, wonderful things were not done.”

Menchú, who currently serves as the president of a Mexican pharmaceutical company whose mission is to offer inexpensive generic medicines, also spoke of the need to improve health policy in Guatemala.

“Children are suffering from chronic malnutrition and 95% of indigenous women are giving birth without any professional medical assistance,” she said.

Professor Honored for Creativity in Physics Education

By Danielle Shuckra

Distinguished Professor of Science Education Arthur Eisenkraft is the 2009 recipient of the Robert A. Millikan Medal, awarded by the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) in recognition of his notable and creative contributions in physics education.

Eisenkraft is director of the Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC) at UMass Boston. Throughout his career, Eisenkraft has been dedicated to addressing inequities that often prevent students from gaining access to a quality physics education.

One of his most significant contributions to AAPT and physics teaching was his development of the Active Physics Curriculum Project, which was funded by research grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The goal of the project was to make physics interesting to students from diverse backgrounds and help students understand how what they learn in the classroom applies to their daily lives.

“It is hard to reconcile the wave of humility and sheer exuberance that I am feeling at having received this honor. It is an extraordinary recognition of the important work that involved so many of my fellow physics teachers,” says Eisenkraft.

The award will be presented at the AAPT’s summer meeting, hosted by the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

CM’S MBA Program Gets More High Marks in Global Rankings

By Andrea Goggin

The College of Management’s Master’s in Business Administration was recently selected for the QS Global 200 Business Schools 2009. The Employers’ Choice, a list of top MBA programs in the world, ranking CM as the 58th overall in North America. In addition, the MBA program’s information technology specialization received rankings of 29th in the world and 15th in North America.

The QS Global honor builds on the recognition recently by the Princeton Review, which recognized CM as a top business school for the first time last year and again this year in the 2009 edition of The Best 296 Business Schools. In the book’s profile of CM, the editors say that the school offers the best “bang for the buck,” and quote from students who call it “the most convenient part-time program and the best value in Boston.”

The recognition received by the College of Management of late is an important indicator of our growing stature and impact,” said CM dean Philip Quaglieri. “Our strategy is to become one of the nation’s top public metropolitan business schools, not just for the public relations, but because our students warrant the value represented by the recognition. Our rankings in QS and the Princeton Review attract the attention of corporate recruiters and this translates to significant payoffs for our students. We have an outstanding faculty and staff here in the College, and they continually push forward the success of our students and the overall quality of our programs.”

CM is Boston’s only public business school, with graduate programs offering mostly evening classes to allow working professionals the opportunity to pursue an advanced degree while still working full-time. CM offers five graduate-level programs: the Master’s in Business Administration (MBA), Master of Science in Accounting (MSA), Master of Science in Finance (MSF), Master of Science in International Management (MSIM), and Master of Science in Information Technology (MINT).

MSA students also have the option of choosing one or more specializations in accounting, finance, international management, marketing, Internet marketing, fundraising and non-profit management, human resources, healthcare management, environmental management, operations management, and information systems. All programs and specializations are designed to enhance students’ knowledge and understanding of the business world and lead to successful professional careers.

The College of Management’s MBA programs are internationally accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), an organization which represents the highest standard of research, curriculum design, and teaching excellence of business schools worldwide, while the MBA, MSF, MSIM, and MSIF programs enjoy preliminary AACSB accreditation under the umbrella of the College of Management’s accreditation.

With 345 students enrolled as of spring 2009, CM graduate programs continue to grow. Students enrolled in the MBA bring an average of five and a half years of work experience to the classroom, enabling CM’s graduate students to learn from the wealth of diverse experience of their peers.

Guatemalan Nobel Laureate Visits UMass Boston

Menchú stood larger than life on the stage of the Campus Center Ballroom. (Photo by Harry Brett)

similar findings disclosed by the Catholic Church’s independent truth commission Nunca Mas (Never Again), most military officers accused of committing war crimes were never tried and were granted amnesty instead.

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“Children are suffering from chronic malnutrition and 95% of indigenous women are giving birth without any professional medical assistance,” she said.

Perhaps the most anticipated part of the hour-and-a-half address was when Menchú answered public questions about her contentious autobiographical testimony, I, Rigoberta Menchú and her disappointing 2007 Guatemalan presidential bid, which only garnered her three percent of the vote.

“I am honored to be a controversial person,” Menchú said, before turning toward a more serious note. “Many people would have wanted me to die [already].”

Menchú took time out of yesterday’s address to exonerate herself of accusations by American anthropologist David Stoll that she fabricated parts of her testimony.

“His skin is a little whiter than mine,” Menchú joked less-ardently as she defended her written statements about the manner in which her mother, father, and brother died.

“What do you believe is better?” she asked. “To hear that your mother died after being thrown from a helicopter, or that her body was found shackled around a tree, tortured, and raped?”

Answering a question about her presidential bid, Menchú said her loss could be attributed to divisions in her inner circle, their lack of funds for campaigning, and the fact that she’s a woman. Menchú also hinted at a possible run in the 2011 presidential elections.

“We were not a party, we were just a movement,” she said of her bid in 2007 before announcing her intentions for the next election.

“One thing is to participate, and another is to compete.”

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“One thing is to participate, and another is to compete.”
Welcome Day 2009 in Pictures

Hundreds of accepted students and their families flocked to Columbia Point on Saturday, April 4, for a preview of what they’ll experience when they begin their studies at UMass Boston in September. University Photographer Harry Brett was there; here are just a few of our many favorite photos of the day.
By Danielle Shockra

The National Science Foundation recently funded the third stage of the Compositional Genome Project (CGP) for over $8 million. Biology professor Rick Kesseli is part of the collaborative project, along with Indiana University, the University of California, Davis, the University of Georgia, and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

The project focuses on the problem of weeds and other invasive species in agriculture, which cost farmers $34 billion per year in the U.S. alone. Some of the most damaging plants such as thistles, knapweeds and dandelions, belong to the Compositae family, better known as the sunflower family of flowering plants, which include both the invaders as well as plants used in food and medicine. To fight the damaging species while encouraging the useful ones, the CGP develops comprehensive gene catalogs and fully sequences genomes for both.

“The CGP has developed extensive resources for functional, comparative, and evolutionary genomics for species in the sunflower family,” says Kesseli. “These resources include the recent submission of over three-quarters of a million gene sequences to the National Center for Biotechnology. This will aid efforts to improve crops and to manage invaders. These resources are also letting us dissect the genomic changes that led to the rapid evolution changes that produced some of these nasty invasive species.”

The grant also includes extensive funding to support teacher education programs already in place at UMass Boston, and to support undergraduate research and internships on the campuses.

Boston Mayor Tom Menino stopped by GoKids last month to meet with Chancellor Keith Motley and film a public service announcement about the dangers of violent video games. (Photo by Harry Brett)

In April, Assistant Professor Billie Gastie of the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs served on a panel, titled “Overcoming Barriers for Latinos Reaching Higher Education,” as part of “Uniting Latinos: Exploring Contributions around the World,” a reunion of Yale Latinos held at Yale University in April.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Jalal Alamgriz delivered a paper in a panel on “Explosions of Democracy” at the annual convention of the Association for Asian Studies, held in Chicago in March.

On February 13, Assistant Professor of American Studies Lynnell Thomas was the featured speaker for the Black History Month program at The Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter School in Hyde Park. Thomas also organized and chaired the panel “New Orleans Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries: Race, Nature, Katrina, and the Re-Imaging of an American City” at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, held in Seattle, Washington, from March 22-29. She presented the paper “Constructions of Blackness in Tourist New Orleans.”

Jean Garzey, associate professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, presented papers titled “Listening Services’ Use of Ethical Theory” and “Ethical Decision-Making Models” at the Oxford Round Table, Oxford University, England, on March 23, and at the first annual UMass 5-Campus PhD Nursing Student Forum, held in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, on April 13. She will also present a paper titled “Alzheimer Family Care Giving: Past, Present, and Future Directions” at “A Map Through the Maze: Interdisciplinary Conference for Alzheimer Care Professionals,” sponsored by the Massachusetts Alzheimer’s Association and Hebrew Senior Life, in Marlborough, Massachusetts, on May 13.

Associate Professor Ehren Zeitman of the Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolution conducted a workshop on “Managing Organizational Conflict During Disasters” for the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit, held in Dallas, Texas, in April.

MaryAnn Byrnes, associate professor in the Graduate College of Education, was an invited participant in Boston mayor Thomas Menino’s Summit on Autism on April 3. She facilitated the strategy session in “Transition: Postsecondary Education and Employment.”

Jack Wiggins, director of the Urban Harbors Institute, made a presentation on the theory and application of marine spatial planning in ocean management to the Massachusetts Ocean Advisory Commission on March 4, and at the New England Aquaculture Research Society conference in Salem, Massachusetts, on April 2.

Glenn Gabbard, associate director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE), was a featured panelist during one of four keynote sessions at the Achieving the Dream Strategy Institute, held in San Francisco in February. The session, titled “Putting Equity at the Heart of Achieving the Dream: A Case Study on Navigating the Challenges,” focused on the uses of institutional data to create a robust campus-wide commitment to equity in a community college setting.

Assistant Professor of Political Science C. Heike Schotten presented her paper “Reading Nietzsche in the Wake of the 2008-09 War on Gaza” at the 2009 Nietzsche in New York conference, held April 30 through May 2. She will also give the plenary address at the first annual Nietzsche Workshop at the Centre for the Study of Theory and Social Criticism at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, on May 12. The title of her address will be “Reading Nietzsche in the Wake of the 2008-09 War on Gaza: On Masters, Slaves, and the Politics of Philosophical Consensus.”

Assistant Professor of English Scott Masiello gave a talk, titled “Des cartes avec Milton: The Automata in the Garden,” at the Humanities Research Center at Rice University in Houston, Texas, on March 27. Masiello was also an invited participant at the Northeast Colloquium in Early Modern Studies, hosted by Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, on April 4, and he presented “Speculating on Shakespeare Futures: Science Fiction and Cultural Value” at the annual convention of the Shakespeare Association of America, on April 10 in Washington, D.C.

Graduate College of Education associate dean Felicia Wilczenski and lectures Robert Gracia, Katherine Gray, and Rebecca Shumacher presented a paper titled “Urban Partnerships for Educational Equity: Networking for Successful Educational Transitions” at the annual meeting of the National Office of School Counseling Advocacy, sponsored by the College Board and held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Susan Moor, director of the Labor Resource Center, was a panelist at a forum on the gaming industry hosted by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO at the State Archives Building on March 19. Ms. Moor presented the LRC’s recent study “Gaming in Massachusetts: Can Casinos Bring ‘Good Jobs’ to the Commonwealth?”

Melissa Pearrow, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology, was a cochair of the convention committee of the National Association of School Psychologists, held in Boston in February. She also conducted two presentations with graduate students: “The School Psychologist as Researcher and Change Agent Using Participatory Action Research,” and “Youth Empowerment Programs with Urban and High-Risk Youth.”

Professor of Gerontology Nina M. Silverstein gave an invited presentation on elder driver research at the 2009 Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities, held in Nashville, Tennessee on March 30. She also gave a speech titled “The Outcome Is Mobility: The Impact of Dementia on Driving and Community Mobility” at the 2009 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference & Expo, held in Houston, Texas, from April 23 through 26.

Professor of Sociology Samak Moshkahvash presented a paper, “Unconscious Re-enactment Through Language” at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore, Maryland on March 19.

Professor Rena Flippo of the Graduate College of Education and two of her graduate students, John Fitzgerald and Kevin Tran, gave a presentation titled “The Politics of Literacy” at the 40th Annual Conference of the Massachusetts Reading Association (MRA), held in Stur-

An article by the Institute for Community Inclusion’s Heike Boettcher, Jennifer Sulewski, and Roseshoy Hasnain has been accepted for publication in the United Kingdom-based peer reviewed journal Disability & Society. Their article, “Career Development Among Young Disabled Artists,” reports on the experiences of disabled artists and advocates on the intersection between disability, imprisonment, and the arts in their educational and career pathways.

American Studies Department lec- turer Phil Chassler wrote an article, titled “Teaching: Work, Society, and Disability in Modern America,” for the spring issue of the Labor and Working-Class History Association’s (LAWCHA) newsletter.

A paper coauthored by Assistant Professor of Accounting Giorgio Gott, titled “The Effect on Financial Reporting Quality of an Exemption from the SEC Reporting Requirements,” has been accepted for presentation at the Illinois International Accounting Symposium, to be held in Catania, Italy. The paper will also be published in International Journal of Accounting.


A paper coauthored by Assistant Professor of Accounting James Grant, titled “Active Investing in Strategic Acquirers Using an EVA Style Analysis,” is the lead article in the spring issue of the Journal of Investing.

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The Calendar of Events is published monthly by the Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. From off campus, dial (617) 28 and the last five digits listed below each event. Submit events to newos@umb.edu.

**CAMPUSS NOTES**

**GIS to Develop a Geographic Education Model for Alternative High Schools.** The team also includes EEOS professors John Looney and Curtis Olsen and PhD candidate Jun Zhu. GIS units will be provided through the location in Education Program. The proposal, sponsored by the Geo- Spatial Information and Technology Association (GITA).

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Wei Ding is the co-principal investigator of a NASA grant-funded project, “Automatic Detection of Sub-Kilometer Craters in High Resolution Planetary Images.”

Associate Professor Wei Zhang of the Chemistry Department received a Joseph P. Healey Grant for a proposal titled “Development of Green Medicinal Chemistry Industry for Professionals with expertise in both health care and business management.”

**APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS**

Professor of History Vincent Can- nato has been accepted as a 2009-10 Academic Fellow with the Founda- tion for the Study of American Civilization, which chronicles the Liberian wom- en’s role in World War II.

Diann Simmons, research analyst in the Office of Institutional Research and Policy Studies, has been ap- pointed as a Fellow of the 2009 Na- tional Science Foundation Internship to be held in Potomac, Maryland, in June. The Institute is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Center for Educational Statistics, and the Association for Institutional Research.

A partnership between the Gradu- ate College of Education and Lesley University has been recognized by the advocacy group VSA arts with an “Outstanding Community Partner Award.” VSA arts is a Washington, D.C.-based group which works to increase access to education and the arts for people with disabilities.

McGovern Graduate School dean Stephen P. Crosby has been ap- pointed by Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick to lead a reorganization compensation packages of the Com- monwealth’s quasi-public agencies.

Hispanic Studies lecturer Jean- Philippe Beloeil has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by the Humanities Center at Harvard Uni- versity for academic year 2009-10. Beloeil will use the fellowship to advance his research on cultural border-crossing and identity in the Global South.

A product codenamed by man- agement and marketing lecturer Paul Delvy was recently awarded a March 2009-10 American Health Edibles Product of the Year Award. The product, the Intel Health Guide, was designed to assist health care professionals who man- age patients with chronic conditions.

Professor Roni Flippo of the Gradu- ate College of Education has been appointed to the new International Reading Association (IRA) Literacy Assessment Committee. This is a two-year appointment.

**EVENTS**

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy held its 27th Women’s Research Forum on March 24. The event included a screening of the film Pray the Devil Back to Hell, which chronicles the Liberian wom- en’s peace movement, followed by a moderated discussion with Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies Amaria El Jack. The event was cosponsored by the Office of the Chancellor, the Center for the Study of Gender, Secu- rity, and Human Rights, the African Students Union, and the Women’s Studies Department.

Professor of Psychology Ed Tromik recently led the graduation of 30 fellows in the University of Massa- chusetts Infant-Parent Mental Health Certificate Program in Napa, California. The guest of honor was Dr. Louis Sander, a world-renowned researcher on infant mental health.

**IN THE NEWS**

Joan Garity, associate professor in the College of Nursing and Health Science, was quoted in an article in the Assoc- iated Press on March 31 in stories about the Social Security system.

Michael Keating, associate director and senior fellow at the McGovern School’s Center for Democracy and Development, wrote a guest editorial for the libertarian Journal on April 1.

A tour in Haiti by CPCs professor Adeneere Awaftena and State Repre- sentatives Marie St. Fleur and Marty Walsh was a subject of a feature article in the March 19 Orangech Reporter.

A review of salaries and benefits at state agencies that is being led by McGovern School dean Stephen P. Crosby was quoted in an article in the Massachusetts State House Chronicle.

A book by professor Roni Flippo of the Graduate College of Education, Preparing Students for Testing and Dropout-free School, was reviewed in the winter issue of the journal The Reading Professor.

The Center for Social Policy report “Brokering Up: The Role of Tempo- rary Staffing in Overcoming Labor Market Barriers” was mentioned in an article in the Man- nespol Post-Graduate Star on March 31.

On April 29, Professor Randy Al- belda of the Economics Department and the Center for Social Policy was a guest on Action Speaks, a live radio- munity forum and radio broadcast conducted by WNRN, a Rhode Island public radio station. The topic was “Growing the Green Economy.”

The McCormack Graduate School’s Program for Women in Politics and Public Policy was the subject of the lead story in the April 20 Women magazine.

A study led by Associate Professor Lisa Cosgrove about financial ties between pharmaceutical companies and psychiatrists was featured in the Boston Globe and the blogs of the Wall Street Journal and USA Today, as well as in the Fierce Pharma newsletter and on All Headline News.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Alan Clayton- Matthews was quoted in March 26 Boston Globe, Worcester Business Journal, and Arlington Advocate stories about the state’s economy, government, and health care. He was interviewed by the Blogs of Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick on March 25 in stories about the Social Security system.

**MAY**