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NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

THE UNIVERSITY Reporter

Volume 13, Number 6 February 2009

UMASS BOSTON

GoKids Marathon Team Ready to Race

By Kaushik Prakash

Twenty-three athletes will run the 113th Boston Marathon on April 20 to raise money for GoKids Boston, the University of Massachusetts Boston's facility devoted to research and promoting healthy activity among youths. GoKids Boston this year has been included as one of the marathon's official charities by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA), the organizer of the historic annual event.

GoKids director Kyle McInnis and Nanette Cormier from University Advancement submitted a written proposal to BAA requesting charity designation. Given the fundraising potential the marathon generates, the selection process to become a charity of the Boston Marathon is a competitive one. At the time of applying there were only five available openings, and the BAA received over 90 applications. GoKids will be provided with 15 race numbers per year for the next three years (2009-2011) of the Boston Marathon.

Jacob Havenar, lecturer in the Exercise and Health Sciences Department, and GoKids Boston Marathon team members Amy Winston and Tara Paulayskas. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Greer Glazer says she believes the fundraising marathon team is a tremendous opportunity for the university to raise awareness of GoKids Boston as a center devoted to children's health. "Having runners represent us in the prestigious 2009 Boston Marathon will help in people noticing the terrific work we do," she said. "It will also help us to raise the money to allow us to do more for more children in the Boston area."

To maximize the fundraising potential, McInnis contracted fundraising specialist Susan Hurley to assist in organizing and coordinating the GoKids marathon team. Hurley, who has worked with other charity programs associated with the Boston Marathon, was able to secure additional race numbers. The runners on this year's team were handpicked from a large pool of applicants based on their running resume and their fundraising capabilities. Under the agreement with the BAA, each runner is required to raise at least $3,000 for the charity. In

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EEOS Chair to Focus on Undergraduate Research

By Danielle Shuckra

The College of Science and Mathematics has brought in new leadership for the Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences (EEOS) Department: Robyn Hannigan, who most recently taught at Arkansas State University, replaces Professor John "Jack" Looney, and will continue Looney's work of growing interdisciplinary research programs, and developing first-rate undergraduate and graduate academic programs to fulfill educational, government, and industrial workforce needs.

Hannigan, who officially started in January, is no stranger to motivating science students: She was awarded the 2007 American Chemical Society Medal for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. Her research and student mentoring have also

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Ethnic Media Honored at First Annual NEENAs

By Frank Herron

Emanuela P. Lima made it clear to the audience that the significance of the New England Ethnic Newswire Awards rested in much more than the plaques and certificates handed out in a ceremony November 20 in the Ryan Lounge.

After the *Tribuna Connecticut* of Danbury won first place in the community service category, Lima —the paper's editor—stepped to the microphone, and she acknowledged that while the victory was thrilling, it paled in importance compared to the gathering itself.

"I'm so glad the work showed through, but most importantly this is the first event that I [have] come [to] and there's other media, ethnic media here present in the room," she said. "It's almost like a support group because you guys know how hard it is. It's tough and this is wonderful."

Lima and her mother, publisher Celia Bacelar, demonstrated the "tough" and "wonderful" aspects of publishing an ethnic newspaper

Chancellor J. Keith Motley with Bill Forry, managing editor of the Dorchester Reporter, *who won a NEENA for feature writing. (Photo by Harry Brett)*

such as *Tribuna* in the community-wide multimedia program that earned them the community service award. The prize recognized the work *Tribuna* did to draw public attention to a looming partnership between the Danbury police and the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. The efforts by the newspaper, which has been published for nine years, led to the forming of a coalition known as Businesses for a Better Community and raised community awareness of many key issues surrounding immigration status and privacy.

The New England Ethnic Newswire, which is part of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies' Center on Media and Society, handed out awards in five other categories in the ceremony.

Reporters Mark Connors and Julie Masis of *INDIA New England* won a first place in the local news reporting category with stories about the mishandling of donations earmarked for tsunami

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CM Program Gives MSIS Students a Jump on International Jobs

By Emily Sullivan

A revolutionary new program based in the College of Management aims to provide students with international experience previously unheard of within the UMass system.

The Transnational Dual Bachelor's Degree program in Information Systems, spearheaded by William Koehler, graduate programs director in the College of Management, was awarded a four-year $440,000 FIPSE grant from the U.S. Department of Education. FIPSE, the Fund for the Improvement of Secondary Education, will allow students from four universities—UMass Boston, UMass Dartmouth, Fachhochschule Frankfurt in Germany, and the Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences in Kemi, Finland—to spend a semester studying at each campus. This program aims to broaden and enhance students' academic, professional, and cultural experiences while promoting cross-cultural understanding.

This grant will be directed primarily at easing the financial burden of students by covering transatlantic travel costs and living expenses; participating students need only pay tuition at the rate of their home institution. Given the inherently international nature of work in information systems, providing students with overseas experiences seemed like a perfect fit.

"We realized that many students were graduating without having any training in cross-cultural experiences—and with all the outsourcing that has been going on during the last few years, this program is really addressing a need that we have recognized for a long time," says Koehler.

The program is extremely competitive; six students from each participating university will be admitted, allowing for a greater focus on each student. While studying abroad, students will gain an international perspective on the study of information systems and will engage in real-world projects with leading corporations.

"Students will get good exposure to corporate cultures in other countries," notes Koehler.

In fact, it is this focus on collaboration with global companies that is one of the distinctive features of this program. Corporate partners such as Siemens, Ericsson, and PricewaterhouseCoopers will play an active role in the program, with Nokia already lined up as a project site for the first year. A number of guest speakers will come to all four campuses to speak to students on issues affecting the corporate world. Students will also have the opportunity to go on a number of company visits, and will participate in projects and internships within the companies.

"The idea, of course, is that some of these opportunities will lead to permanent positions afterwards," says Koehler.

In addition to gaining experience in different corporate cultures, the program will increase students' analytical and critical thinking skills as well as promote adaptability. Students will benefit from the strengths of the four institutions, which include respective core competencies in information and systems security, enterprise resource systems design and implementation, business process innovation, systems design, business analysis, IT controls and auditing, and IT accessibility.

Students will also be exposed to faculty specializations from all four institutions; the joint curriculum has been planned to maximize students' exposure to a comprehensive range of course offerings that tap into the principal emphases of each school.

Aside from gaining invaluable business experience, students will also gain horizon-broadening cultural experience. UMass students will participate in four-week language and cultural immersion programs at each campus, as well as complete a full year of German-language study prior to the start of the program. Students will also be schooled in conversational Finnish before arriving at Kemi-Tornio University. While at their surrogate campuses, students will be paired with local mentors who will help guide them through the culture, which in Europe will include culturally oriented side trips and festivals such as Finland's Vappu and Germany's Oktoberfest.

This program will also benefit faculty members from all four campuses, who will travel with students and participate in exchanges as visiting professors. Overall, this program will prepare its graduates with the business, language, and cultural skills needed to succeed in one of the most competitive and fast-paced fields on Earth. The benefits from this program will affect not only the students and faculty involved, but the entire UMass Boston community as we become more of a presence on a global scale.

EEOS Chair *(cont. from page 1)*

been highlighted by the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Science Foundation. She is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow.

"I am delighted that Dr. Hannigan has accepted our offer to serve as department chair of the EEOS Department," said CSM dean Andrew Grosovsky. "Her background and expertise will push forward our efforts to become a premier research university. And, importantly, she shares the CSM commitment to student success."

The EEOS department currently offers research opportunities in physical, chemical, geological, and biological oceanography; coastal, marine and law, policy, and resource management; GIS and remote sensing; coastal modeling and observation' and hydrology and watershed sciences. Hannigan says that getting more undergraduates involved in research will be one of her top priorities.

"I am truly excited about working with our undergraduate students to engage them in research early in their careers and show them the fun of scientific discovery and make what happens in their classrooms come alive for them," she says.

EEOS chair Robyn Hannigan (Photo by Harry Brett)

Hannigan arrives here after serving as a program director for the National Science Foundation, and as a professor at Arkansas State University, where she was the director of the Graduate Program in Environmental Science for the past two years. During her time at Arkansas, she brought students into her research on the behavior of metals in natural systems—research that resulted in several patents related to the identification of those metals. Hannigan says she's looking forward to continuing her work of combining education and research at UMass Boston.

"I am eager to work with the entire university community to strengthen our efforts in EEOS and build UMass Boston as the environmental campus," she says.

GoKids *(cont. from page 1)*

exchange for their participation on the GoKids team, the runners will receive personalized coaching, the opportunity to participate in weekly workouts on the UMass Boston campus, and other support from team membership. Many of the runners are employees of large companies in the Boston area that have promised to match their employees' fundraising.

Only two years old, GoKids has been recognized by the U.S. Surgeon General for its efforts around improving the health of children and helping them in their fight against obesity and other health issues. Studies by the American Heart Association have shown that today's kids are the first generation to have a life expectancy that is shorter than their parents', and GoKids, with its mission to improve the health, wellness, and overall outlook for adolescents, pre-teens, and teens, has made it a priority to tackle this concern.

Michael Lerra, a Somerville resident and employee of Google Inc., says he's excited about furthering his work with youths by running for GoKids Boston in the marathon. "I have worked with Boston Public Schools on projects that help kids with their health and fitness, and I am happy to be associated with UMass Boston," said Lerra. "I think GoKids Boston is a great opportunity for the young citizens of Boston to learn to eat healthy and stay fit, and I commend the UMass Boston College of Nursing and Health Sciences for pioneering this initiative."

Svea Stromme, a UMass Boston employee who works as assistant study director for the Center for Survey Research, says she's happy to be running for GoKids Boston. "GoKids Boston works on an important and often overlooked issue—childhood obesity. And this is an issue that greatly affects the health of our future generations," said Stromme. "I have been hard at work slosh-ing through the snow and ice of Boston training for the marathon and fundraising for my community here on campus."

In addition to supporting individual runners, GoKids Boston is seeking broader support for its Boston Marathon team. Businesses and individuals interested in being a part of this important program can contact GoKids Boston program coordinator Susan Hurley at charitydreams@comcast.net, or call GoKids at 617-287-KIDS (5437) for more information on how they can help.

The University Reporter

Office of Government Relations
and Public Affairs
Third Floor
Quinn Administration Building
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
617-287-5317
news@umb.edu

Peter Grennen
Senior Editor

DeWayne Lehman
Will Kilburn
Associate Editors

Sarah Weatherbee
Art Director

Harry Brett
University Photographer

Contributing Writers
William Brah
Frank Herron
Brian Middleton
Kaushik Prakash
Janis Pryor
Danielle Shuckra
Emily Sullivan

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Blue Collars on the Small Screen: Documentary Looks at TV's Influence on the Working Class

By William J. Brah

Are hard work and persistence the essential ingredients for success in America? Pepi Leistyna, associate professor of applied linguistics, challenges his students to think critically about this question.

His documentary film *Class Dismissed: How TV Frames the Working Class* examines representations of the working class from American television's beginnings to today's sitcoms, reality shows, police dramas, and daytime talk shows. Leistyna believes these images reinforce the myth of meritocracy, while his film associates unflattering television portrayals with cultural attitudes and public policies that directly affect the lives of the working class.

Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics Pepi Leistyna. (Photo by Harry Brett)

"I had been thinking for some time about how television has played a pivotal role in shaping our perceptions of the world, and in particular our understanding of social class," said Leistyna in the spring 2008 issue of *Radical Teacher*. Through his film, he shows how mainstream media largely ignores a variety of social forces such as inheritance, social and cultural advantages, unequal educational opportunity, the changing structure of job opportunities, and discrimination in all of its forms that tend to suppress, neutralize, or even negate the effects of merit in the race to get ahead. These forces of "social gravity," says Leistyna, tend to keep people in the places they already occupy, regardless of the extent of their individual merit.

Class Dismissed was conceived as Leistyna was struggling to develop Language and the Media, a course that prepares graduate students to understand the media through a critical lens. He searched for materials that addressed social class and representation to no avail, so he decided to break new ground in exploring the ways in which race, gender, and sexuality intersect with class.

Leistyna believes that corporate-managed media have constructed their own tales about the lives of everyday people. He emphasizes that the purpose of *Class Dismissed* is not to "beat students over the head" with a particular point of view but to encourage them to think through their understandings, and wonder whose interests are being served by corporate media. He encourages his students to access, make use of, and even create alternative sources of information that aid in civic mobilization to democratize global media systems, believing that it is in the public interest to have diverse voices in the news sphere in order to foster an engaged and informed citizenry.

Class Dismissed has taken on a life of its own beyond classrooms across the nation and abroad, including a screening at a film festival at the London Public Library, sponsored by Indymedia, a group of independent journalists offering an alternative to mainstream media. In his *Radical Teacher* article, Leistyna says he is "energized regarding how a little idea generated in the middle of the night can snowball into international dialogue…and play its little part in working towards global change."

Speaking internationally on issues of democracy, public education, and social justice, Leistyna's books include *Breaking Free: The Transformative Power of Critical Pedagogy; Presence of Mind: Education and the Politics of Deception*; *Defining and Designing Multiculturalism*; and *Cultural Studies: From Theory to Action*. Leistyna was the 2007 recipient of the Studs Terkel Award for Media and Journalism. "That was a really great moment for me, given the respect I have for Studs' life work," says Leistyna.

Ethnic Newswire Awards *(cont. from page 1)*

Above left: Eduardo Oliveira, health reporter for the New England Ethnic Newswire, with photography award winner Jehozadak Pereira of A Noticia. *Above right:* Tribuna *editor Emanuela Lima and publisher Celia Bacelar, winners in the community service category, with Frank Herron, director of the Center on Media and Society. (Photos by Harry Brett)*

relief in South Asia. Bill Forry of the *Dorchester Reporter* won the top prize in feature writing for his article on a pirate radio station. Jehozadak Pereira of *A Noticia* won the top prize for photojournalism for his photographs of a memorial service for a young Brazilian immigrant who was shot and killed by a police officer on Cape Cod.

Judging was supervised by the staff of the New England Ethnic Newswire (www.ethnicnewz.org). More than 125 entries were submitted in August, September, and October for the contest. Seven languages were represented in the submissions: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and Polish.

The NEENA is one of five regional press awards linked to New America Media's nationwide ethnic media award competition, which will culminate on June 4 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Winners and Finalists

Local News Reporting

First place (tie): Mark Connors and Julie Masis, *INDIA New England*; and Marcony Almeida, *Brazilian Journal*

Finalists: Talia Whyte, *Bay State Banner*; Pete Stidman, *Dorchester Reporter*; Elizabeth Mendonca Simoes, *Brazilian Times*; Luis Filipe Dias, *O Jornal*

Feature Writing

First place: Bill Forry, *Dorchester Reporter*

Finalists: Carrie Tang, *World Journal*; Adam Smith, *Sampan*; Chris Nelson, *IndUS Business Journal*; Emanuela Lima, *Tribuna*; Sue Yang, *Korean American Press*; Marcela Garcia, *El Planeta*; Heloisa Galvao, *Metropolitan Brazilian News*; Lurdes C. da Silva, *O Jornal*

Arts and Culture Writing

First place: Susan Jacobs, *Jewish Journal*

Finalists: Susan G. Lindsay, *Boston Irish Reporter*; Sung-Yoon Lee and Sue Yang, *Korean American Press*

Editorial/Commentary

First place (tie): Heloisa Galvao, *A Noticia*; Mark Puleo, *Brazilian Journal*

Finalists: Ric Oliveira, *O Jornal*; Brian Concannon Jr., *Boston Haitian Reporter*; Celia Bacelar, *Tribuna*; Alfonso Acevedo, *America News*

Photography

First place: Jehozadak Pereira, *A Noticia*

Finalist: Elizabeth Mendonca Simoes, *Brazuca*

Community Service Award

First place: *Tribuna*, a bilingual (Portuguese and English and sometimes Spanish) newspaper in Danbury, Connecticut

Finalists: *White Eagle News*, a national bilingual (Polish and English) newspaper, with New England editions; *Jewish Journal*, a community newspaper with Russian-language articles, based in Salem, Massachusetts; *Korean American Press*, a bilingual (Korean and English) newspaper, based in Woburn, Massachusetts

Barack Obama Then . . .

Following his keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, then-Senator Barack Obama was invited back to Boston for UMass Boston's 2006 Commencement, held on June 2. Below is an excerpt of his speech, as well as previously unreleased photos from on stage and backstage. Photo credits: Harry Brett (top left and right, and bottom left) and Margaret Brett (middle left, and middle and bottom right).

Excerpt from Barack Obama's 2006 Commencement Address

America is an unlikely place—a country built on defiance of the odds; on a belief in the impossible. And I remind you of this because as you set out to live your own stories of success and achievement, it's now your turn to help keep it this way.

It's your turn to keep this daringly radical but unfailingly simple notion of America alive—that no matter where you're born or how much your parents have; no matter what you look like or what you believe in, you can still rise to become whatever you want; still go on to achieve great things; still pursue the happiness you hope for.

Today, this dream sounds common—perhaps even cliché—yet for most of human history it's been anything but. As a servant of Rome, a peasant in China, or a subject of King George, there were very few unlikely futures. No matter how hard you worked or struggled for something better, you knew you'd spend your life forced to build somebody else's empire; to sacrifice for someone else's cause.

But as the centuries passed, the people of the world grew restless. They were tired of tyranny and weary of their lot in life. And as they saw merchants start to sail across oceans and explorers set off in search of new worlds, they followed.

It was right here, in the waters around us, where the American experiment began. As the earliest settlers arrived on the shores of Boston and Salem and Plymouth, they dreamed of building a City upon a Hill. And the world watched, waiting to see if this improbable idea called America would succeed.

For over two hundred years, it has. Not because our dream has progressed perfectly. It hasn't. It has been scarred by our treatment of native peoples, betrayed by slavery, clouded by the subjugation of women, wounded by racism, shaken by war and depression.

Yet, the true test of our union is not whether it's perfect, but whether we work to perfect it. Whether we recognize our failings, identify our shortcomings, and then rise to meet the challenges of our time.

And so we've broadened the American family by winning civil rights and voting rights for women and then African Americans; by choosing to welcome waves of new immigrants to our shores.

We've pushed the boundaries of opportunity by providing free education for our children and health care for our seniors and our poor; and we've won bargaining rights and wage hikes and retirement security for our workers.

None of this progress happened on its own. Much of it seemed impossible at the time. But all of it came about because ordinary men and women had faith that here in America, our imperfect dream could be perfected.

Now, there may be some who doubt that much has changed—those who doubt that things are better today than they were yesterday. To them I say take a look at this class of 2006.

More than half of you represent the very first member of your family to ever attend college. In the most diverse university in all of New England, I look out at a sea of faces that are African-American and Hispanic-American and Asian-American and Arab-American. I see students that have come here from over 100 different countries, believing like those first settlers that they too could find a home in this City on a Hill—that they too could find success in this unlikeliest of places.

All of this has occurred in the midst of a city where No Irish Need Apply signs once hung from stores. All of this in a city where, just thirty years ago, buses of black students were pelted with rocks as they pulled into schools in South Boston; where the Red Sox were once the team who refused to sign the great Jackie Robinson.

But the problem isn't that we've made progress. The problem is that progress isn't good enough. There is more work to be done, more justice to be had, more barriers to break. And now it's your generation's turn to bring these changes about.

To see a video and read the full text, go to:

www.umb.edu/obama06

. . . and Now.

While most of the UMass Boston community had to settle for watching the inauguration on television, Janis Pryor, host of WUMB's Commonwealth Journal *weekly talk program, saw it in person. Below are her reflections on the day, with photos of the celebrations on campus by Harry Brett.*

The Inauguration of Barack Obama, President of the United States

By Janis Pryor

We could talk about the crowds that were biblical in proportion. We could talk about how cold it was, but few cared. We could talk about the Hollywood constituency that added an ethereal glamour to it all. We could talk about the tears and the beaming faces, proud once again to be an American. All of this was visible and palpable.

There were the elders, the faces of the Tuskegee Airmen whose eyes held all the painful and dangerous contradictions of being black men in America. There were children and young people—finally! Now they understand what I told the children of one of my dearest friends in my eulogy for her in 2005: "Political heroes existed back then… Your mother and I grew up intoxicated by possibilities and dreams…" of bold action, of making this country better, of erasing racism and apartheid in America, of fighting all forms of bigotry, of senseless wars. We were the generation with a "face full of blood" from protests, demonstrations, and assassinations. We had *too many* definitive moments where we would always know "where we were when."

But when Barack Obama stood up to take the oath of office, a mystical kind of magic engulfed everyone and the stillness from the collapse of centuries of injustice went from being a dream to becoming a reality.

As he took the oath of office, I saw the faces of my maternal white great-great-grandfather and his wife, my great-great-grandmother from the Mississippi Band of the Choctaw Nation; the face of my African-American great-grandfather; the faces of my grandparents with the blood of three races running through their veins, and the high-yellow face of my mother, who would've been in shock.

I am old enough to have living memories of the blatant segregation in the South: the signs that said "white only" and the hypocritical segregation in the North that allowed salespeople in high-end stores to pretend they didn't see you. I am also old enough to have produced three one-hour documentaries on Jesse Jackson's campaign for president in 1984. I remember the derisive snickers when Representative Shirley Chisholm, "unbought and unbossed," ran for president in the seventies. President Barack Obama arrived at the White House through doors kicked open by Chisholm and Jackson. I don't want that ever forgotten.

The cloak of the twentieth century slipped off Barack Obama's shoulders as all of us stepped into the twenty-first century with the inauguration of this remarkable man. *But we need to keep alert.* Two days after the inauguration, in Brockton, a 22-year-old man was arrested for initiating a massacre against African-Americans, Latinos, and Jews. Our journey has just begun.

As President Obama began his speech, I could hear my grandmother telling me, "You can be anything that you want to be—but just remember, they'll never let you be all that you can be." Now, all children in America know they can be anything they want to be, including President of the United States. Thank you, Barack Obama. Thank you, America.

Janis Pryor is the host/producer of WUMB 91.9FM's Commonwealth Journal *weekly talk program.*

Music Students Explore a Virtual "Universe"

By Brian Middleton

"Creativity and ideas, voice and motion were expressed and captured digitally," was teaching assistant Timothy Lee Chuvala's summary of his experience last summer helping students prepare and present their work in the Second Life virtual world for Music 248 ("Universe of Music"), an online course taught by Professor of Music David Patterson. Or as Patterson put it, "We're all in here having an adventure."

First opened to the public in 2003, Second Life (SL) is a 3D virtual world developed by Linden Lab, a San Francisco-based technology company. Second Life is, as Linden Lab puts it, "created by its Residents," who populate the world with their avatars, develop parcels or "islands" of virtual territory, buy and sell clothing and furniture, and interact with one another.

Professor of Music David Patterson provided this screen shot of the landscape that students in his online course "Universe of Music" explore in the virtual world of Second Life. At bottom right is Patterson's Second Life "avatar," Fireman Babu Latte.

Second Life came to the attention of Katharine Galaitsis, director of online programs in the Division of Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE), several years ago at a conference held by the Sloan Consortium, a nonprofit organization that promotes innovation and growth in online higher education.

Galaitsis' first steps into the new world were tentative—"my avatar spent a certain amount of time wringing its hands on Orientation Island"—but she gradually became more adept, with help from former Instructional Design program director Mary Hopper. "Mary had the expertise that we needed to get started," says Galaitsis. "At Mary's suggestion, we made our island a place for faculty experimentation and innovation."

Among the first instructors to use this new resource in an online course was Patterson, a veteran online innovator whose popular "Universe of Music" was one of the first online courses regularly offered at UMass Boston. Patterson and Chuvala decided to offer students the option of creating a Second Life project as an alternative to writing a paper during last summer's offering of the course.

The SL component had to be optional, as Galaitsis points out, because the virtual world is much more resource-intensive for computer users than most online course activities. "You really need a good computer with a good graphics card," she cautioned. "And many of our students don't have computers like this. So I don't think we've reached the point where we can require students to do things in Second Life."

But for those students and instructors who were willing to take the plunge, the experience was unlike anything they had encountered in a college course. The learning curve is steep, especially for those with little experience of 3D gaming or simulation programs.

"We start by getting in there and meeting, looking around the island," explains Patterson. "Then we come back and play with [an array of virtual musical instruments], and remind each other that this is a dynamic space, a play space, really."

For their projects, students created objects combining sound with 3D graphics—which included everything from traditional instruments to dolphins to Ethiopian church facades—and then gave presentations on their creations to an audience of their fellow students' avatars. The presentations were recorded using an application called Screencast-o-Matic, allowing them to be archived and used as resources in future offerings of the course.

Patterson and Chuvala saw several benefits emerge for students working in Second Life. First, the open-ended nature of the virtual world encouraged students to make unexpected connections in their work, both to other cultures and to their own lives. Patterson recalls one student whose project focused on the concept of the "drone," a single, continuous tone found in music from all over the world (the Australian didgeridoo and the Scottish bagpipe are two examples). This student plays in a band that uses drones in its music, and he was able to embed a link to his band's music into his SL presentation, thus locating his own work in a context of worldwide tradition.

Second Life also facilitates social connections. Although many online courses use technological tools that allow real-time interaction among students, Patterson and Chuvala both noted that Second Life takes such interaction to a new and surprisingly lifelike level. But perhaps the most important benefit of the Second Life experience is its built-in stimulus to creativity: Students must create not only their projects, but their own avatars. Galaitsis notes that this element of self-reinvention makes SL fertile ground for research in social and behavioral science (for instance, she points out that it is common for men to use female avatars in SL, but the reverse is less often seen). A Communications Studies course scheduled for summer 2009 will explore the impact of virtual worlds, including SL, on social communication.

Both Galaitsis and Patterson hope that the loosely structured environment of SL will continue to flourish as it becomes increasingly inhabited by mainstream organizations such as corporations and universities. In an effort to help preserve that atmosphere, Patterson makes sure that the element of "playful imagination" remains a part of his students' experience—but cautions that being playful doesn't mean that it's easy.

"You have to have a real burning candle there if you want to get something done," he says, "and you work at it."

CAMPUS NOTES

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

Professor of History **Esther Kingston-Mann** was the keynote speaker at a Massasoit Community College celebration of Martin Luther King Day on January l9, and presented a paper titled "A Plot of Her Own: Women, Property Rights and Privatization in the Soviet, pre-Soviet and post-Soviet Era" at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies National Conference, held in Philadelphia on November 21.

Professor **David Patterson** of the Performing Arts Department gave a presentation, titled "Universe of Music in Second Life," for the Northeast Regional Computing Program (NERCOMP) conference, held in Southbridge, Massachusetts, on January 23.

Professor of English **Robert Crossley** led a workshop for Search Committees in English and Foreign Languages at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, held in December in San Francisco.

On December 15, **Françoise Carré**, research director at the McCormack School's Center for Social Policy, together with Professor Chris Tilly of UCLA (previously of UMass Lowell), convened a group of national researchers to discuss their research on low-wage employment and low-wage workers. The event was part of a Ford Foundation project on low-wage employment. Other members of the faculty and staff who took part include **Randy Albelda, Ramon Borges-Mendez, Arthur MacEwan, Elaine Werby**, and Public Policy doctoral student **Brandynn Holgate.**

Professor of Economics and senior fellow at the Center for Social Policy **Randy Albelda** was invited by the Women's and Gender Studies Program at the University of Michigan–Dearborn to give a talk, titled "Gender, Poverty and the Recession." She also participated in a panel discussion, titled "Women and the Economy: Obstacles to Low-Income Women's Full Participation" at University of Michigan–Ann Arbor's Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

In December, **Donna Haig Friedman,** director of the Center for Social Policy, was an invited presenter at the International Movement ATD Fourth World Movement Conference, held in Paris, France. She presented on the "Extreme Poverty, Family Ties and Gender" panel, and spoke on "Participatory Action Research for Social Change: Opportunities and Challenges."

Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolution director **David Matz** presented a master class, titled "A Different Approach to Organizational Conflict," at the annual meeting of the New England Association for Conflict Resolution (NEACR) on December 12.

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Erin O'Brien** delivered "Advancing Women's Interests: Critically Reexamining the Influence of Gender on Substantive Representation" at the December 3 political seminar series, which is sponsored by the Political Science Department.

Associate Professor of Biology **Alexia Pollack** and graduate student **Jonathan Drake** presented results of their research at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, held in November in Washington, D.C. The title of their talk was "Prior D1 Dopamine Receptor Stimulation Expands the Repertoire of Abnormal Involuntary Movements (AIMs) when 6-hydroxydopamine Lesioned Rats Are Challenged with a D2 Dopamine Agonist."

Assistant Professor **Susan DeSanto-Madeya** of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences presented a keynote address, titled "The Illness Experience: Told in Their Own Words," to a multidisciplinary

audience of nurses, social workers, students, and physicians from the Cambridge Health Alliance on December 2 as part of her role as the 2008-2009 Visiting Nurse Scholar for the CHA. Following her presentation, DeSanto-Madeya conducted rounds on a number of inpatient care units on the Cambridge campus. DeSanto-Madeya will return to CHA in the spring of 2009 to further explore with CHA nurses various means to effectively use the patient's and family's understanding of their illness in planning nursing care.

Hispanic Studies lecturer **Mark Schafer** was a panelist at the first annual Translation Forum of the Solstice Creative Writing Program, held at Pine Manor College in January.

Associate Professor of Mathematics **Alfred Noel** and Assistant Professor of Mathematics **Steven Jackson** presented their paper "Nilpotent Orbits Attached to Coxeter Cells" at the annual joint meeting of the American Mathematical Society, held in Washington, D.C., on January 8.

Geography and GIS instructor **Helenmary Hotz** will present on "Using Geographic Information Systems to Map and Analyze Distributions of *Pilayella littoralis* on MA Coastline" at the 2009 AAAS Annual Meeting, to be held in Chicago on February 15.

Hispanic Studies lecturer **Patricia T. (Ramos) Anderson** will be presenting a paper titled "Femineidad del Sexo y Marginalizacion del Genero en la Espanna Medieval" ("Woman Femininity and Gender Marginalization in Medieval Spain") at the 2009 Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, to be held April 16 through 18 in Lexington, Kentucky.

Professor of Sociology **Russell Schutt** gave two presentations in January: a talk at the Metro Boston headquarters of the Department of Mental Health on January 21 about his research on housing for homeless mentally ill persons, and another about consumer preferences on a panel at the second annual National Institutes of Health Conference on Dissemination and Implementation Research, held at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland, on January 28.

Jennifer Sulewski and **Cindy Thomas** of the Institute for Community Inclusion participated in the presentation of a Strategic Plan for Employment for Individuals with Disabilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on December 16.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Timothy J. Dransfield** has been invited by Colby College's Chemistry Department to give a talk, titled "Gas-Phase Chemistry: Still Hiding Some Surprises," on February 13.

Assistant Director of Environmental Studies **Ninian Stein** presented an invited talk for graduate students at Harvard University, titled "Real-Life Stories from the Academic Job Search," on January 8. She also presented the results of her research at the annual meeting of the American Anthropology Association, held in San Francisco in November. The title of her presentation was "Consuming It with Economy: Natural Resource Use, Archaeology and Environmental History at the Greene Farm Site in Rhode Island."

PUBLICATIONS

Associate Professor **Lisa Cosgrove** of the Department of Counseling and School Psychology cowrote an article on conflict of interest in the pharmaceutical industry for the *Psychiatric Times*. That article was also cited in the January 16 *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Research Associate **Heike Boeltzig** of the Institute for Community Inclusion cowrote a chapter, titled "Moving Toward E-Government – Effective Strategies for Increasing Access and Use of the Internet Among Non-Internet Users in the U.S. and the U.K." for *E-Government in Developed Nations: An Insight*, published by Icfai University Press, and also cowrote a paper, titled "Entering Work: Employment Outcomes of People with Developmental Disabilities," for the *International Journal of Rehabilitation Research*.

A study by Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs **Christian Weller** and doctoral student **Manita Rao,** which looked at global data on economic growth and progressive tax rates for 1981 through 2002 and found no evidence that progressive taxation adversely affects economic stability by reducing growth, was presented on Alternet.org.

Associate Professor of Mathematics **Alfred Noel** published two papers, titled "Maximal Tori of Reductive Centralizers of Nilpotents in Complex Symmetric Space" and "The Atlas of Lie groups and representations: scope and successes" in volume 467 of the American Mathematical Society's journal *Contemporary Mathematics*.

Shelley Metzenbaum of the McCormack Graduate School's Center for Public Management wrote a column about budget choices facing state and local governments for Governing.com on January 21.

Research associate **Michelle Kahan** of the Center for Social Policy wrote a review of *Who Cares for Our Children? The Child Care Crisis in the Other America* by Valerie Polakow for the August 2008 issue of the *Journal of Poverty*.

Professor of Economics and senior fellow at the Center for Social Policy **Randy Albelda** wrote an op-ed column for the November 27 *Boston Globe* that called for an economic stimulus plan that would enhance the nation's social infrastructure.

In December, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs **Billie Gastic** cowrote an article for the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, titled "Street Ball, Swim Team and the Sour Cream Machine: A Cluster Analysis of Out of School Time Participation Portfolios."

Associate Professor of Biology **Brian White** has published a paper, titled "Analysis of Students' Downloading of On-Line Audio Lecture Recordings in a Large Biology Lecture Course," in the *Journal of College Science Teaching*.

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Jalal Alamgir** published an article titled "Myanmar's Foreign Trade and Its Political Consequences" in *Asian Survey*, a peer-reviewed journal on Asian affairs published by the University of California, Berkeley.

Michael Keating, the senior fellow and associate director of the Center for Democracy and Development at the McCormack School, published an article in *RGE Monitor* about the relationship between the coup in Guinea and the world aluminum market, and also wrote an article about the current situation in Zimbabwe for *World Politics Review*.

Hispanic Studies lecturer **Mark Schafer** published his translations into English of eight poems by Cuban author José Antonio Ponte in *Island of My Hunger: Cuban Poetry Today*, edited by Francisco Morán and published by City Lights. He also published translations of thirty-two poems by the Mexican poet David Huerta in the literary journals *Poetry Daily*, *American Poetry Review*, *Oregon Literary Review*, *The Bitter Oleander*, *Web Conjunctions*, *The Antioch Review*, *Mandorla*, and *Shearsman*.

Professors of Gerontology **Nina Silverstein** and **Frank Porell**, along with gerontology PhD students **Eilon Caspi** and **Ngai Kwan**, published the article "Physician Outpatient Contacts and Hospitalizations Among Cognitively Impaired Elderly" in *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, the journal of the Alzheimer's Association.

Professor of Sociology **Russell Schutt** published a sixth edition of his book *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*; cowrote an article titled "Client Satisfaction in a Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program: The Influence of Ethnicity and Language, Health, Resources and Barriers" for the journal *Women & Health*; and cowrote another article, "Translating Research into Practice: The Participatory Expert Panel Approach," for *The Open Health Services and Policy Journal*.

Professor of Management and Marketing **Arthur Goldsmith** published an article titled "Making the World Safe for Partial Democracy? Questioning the Premises of Democracy Promotion" in the fall 2008 issue of the journal *International Security*.

Professor of Gerontology **Nina Silverstein** served as the coordinator of a special issue on older drivers for the journal *Gerontology & Geriatrics Education*, for which she also contributed an article, titled "When Life Exceeds Safe Driving Expectancy: Implications for Gerontology and Geriatrics Education."

In December, Professor Emeritus of History **Martin Quitt** published "Congressional (Partisan) Constitutionalism: The Apportionment Act Debates of 1842 and 1844" in the *Journal of the Early Republic*, and "Aging Correspondents: Adams and Jefferson on God, Friendship, and Death" in *Clio's Psyche*.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Timothy J. Dransfield** and students **Jeremy D. Miller**, **Ronny D. Rojas**, and **Xavier G. Castillo** were among the coauthors of a paper, titled "Experimental Study of the Kinetics of the Reaction of Acetic Acid with Hydroxyl Radicals from 255 to 355 K," which was recently published in *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

Assistant Director of Environmental Studies **Ninian Stein** recently served as volume collaborator on a book edited by Charles Foster, titled *Twentieth-Century New England Land Conservation: A Heritage of Civic Engagement*, published by Edwards Brothers.

Research by Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences Professor **Curtis Olsen** and doctoral student **Jun Zhu** about climate change, based on rainwater samples from the top of the Science Building, were recently published in the *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity*.

Geography and GIS instructor **Helenmary Hotz** and EEOS doctoral student **Jun Zhu** had an article, "Helping an At-Risk Population: Developing an Education Model for Alternative High Schools," published in the winter issue of *ESRI GIS Educator*.

EXHIBITS, READINGS, PERFORMANCES, AND RECORDINGS

Hispanic Studies lecturer **Mark Schafer** read from his translations of David Huerta's poetry at the 15th annual spring reading of The Writers' Room of Boston, Inc.

Paul Atwood of the American Studies Department and the Joiner Center appeared in and provided voice-over narration on the origins of the Korean War for the documentary film *Frozen Glory: The Secret Life of War Memorials*.

GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND PROJECTS

The fourth version of UMass Boston's Infant-Parent Post Graduate Certificate Program began in Napa, California, on December 15. The program, which is coheaded by Distinguished Professor of Psychology **Ed Tronick**, prepares clinicians to work with infants and children under age five and their families who are experiencing mental health disorders. A sister version of the program will begin in Boston in September.

On January 14, the Center for Social Policy at the McCormack Graduate School released the report "Brokering Up: The Role of Temporary Staffing in Overcoming Labor Market Barriers." The report highlights the impacts of the alternative staffing model. An interview with CSP director **Françoise Carré** about the report is available on YouTube.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

In January, Professor **Peter Taylor** of the Critical and Creative Thinking Program was a visiting theorist at the Center for Drug Use and HIV Research at the National Development and Research Institutes in New York, where he gave two talks on intersecting biosocial processes.

Distinguished Professor of Biology **Kamal Bawa** has been awarded the Distinguished Services Award of the Society for Conservation Biology. The award honors Bawa's extraordinary contributions to conservation in India through the establishment of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment and related activities. It will be given to him at the Society's upcoming annual meeting in Beijing, China, this July.

Professor **Adenrele Awotona,** director of the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD), has been appointed to serve on the editorial board of the international journal *Disaster Advances*.

Deputy Director of Environmental Health and Safety **Zehra Schneider Graham** has been elected the vice president/president-elect of the Academy of Hazardous Materials Managers.

Associate Professor of English **Askold Melnyczuk**'s latest novel, *House of Widows,* has won an Editor's Choice Award from the American Library Association as one of the outstanding books of 2008. The honor was announced in *Booklist* on January 1.

Hispanic Studies lecturer **Mark Schafer** is serving as the chair of the Fellowship Committee for The Writers' Room of Boston, Inc. this year.

Center for Social Policy research director **Françoise Carré** served as an external member of a dissertation jury at Quebec's Université Laval, in the Faculty for Advanced Studies, Department of Industrial Relations, on January 12.

Associate Professor of Chemistry **Wei Zhang** has been invited to be an organizing committee member for the 3rd International Symposium on Fluorous Technology, which will be held in August in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He has also been invited to give an oral presentation titled "Fluorous Technology for Green Chemistry Applications" at the conference.

EVENTS

The Boston Writing Project at the Graduate College of Education, in

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

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.

Tuesday 3

Lecture and Concert
2:30 p.m., Snowden Auditorium, Wheatley Hall. Lecture and performance by saxophonist and Berklee College of Music professor Walter Beasley. For more information, call 7-5640.

Monday 9

Lecture
5 p.m. – 7 p.m., Campus Center, third floor, room 3540. Robert Bordone, director of Harvard's Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program, presents "Designing Dispute Resolution Systems." Part of the Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolution's Colloquium Series.

Thursday 12

Big Read Launch Party
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Healey Library, 11th floor, University Club. Launch party for "The Big Read," which this year celebrates Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Sponsored by WUMB. For more information, call 7-6915.

Monday 16

Presidents' Day
University closed.

Tuesday 24

Business Strategy Basics
6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Mezzanine Conference Room, Copley Square Library. Workshop sponsored by the Mass. Small Business Development Center Network and the Kirstein Business Library and the Copley Square Library–Social Sciences Department. To register, go to www.sbdc.umb.edu/training or call 7-7750.

Film and Lecture
7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Campus Center, third floor, room 3540. Screening of *Polis Is This: Charles Olson and the Persistence of Place*, to be followed by a lecture by the film's director, Henry Ferrini. For more information, call 7-6733.

Thursday 26

Lecture
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Chancellor's Conference Room. María Idalí Torres, the new director of the Gastón Institute, presents "Si…, Pero, ...No: Culture, Cognition, and Colonialism in the Production of HIV/AIDS Disparities Among Puerto Ricans." Part of the Gastón Institute's Spring Speaker Series.

CAMPUS NOTES

conjunction with the Boston Public Library and Carlos Gill & Gil Asociados of Malaga, Spain, sponsored a free cultural event titled "Hemingway and Pamplona, a Celebration, 1959-2009," at the Raab Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square on January 24. At this event, the mayor of Pamplona, Yolanda Barcina, and Hemingway scholar Alan Josephs led a panel that includes Susan Wrynn, curator of the Hemingway Collection at the JFK Library, and Bruce Rettman of the Boston Writing Project.

IN THE NEWS

Associate Professor **Lisa Cosgrove** of the Department of Counseling and School Psychology was interviewed by *Scientific American* about an article on conflict of interest in the pharmaceutical industry that she cowrote for the *Psychiatric Times*. A paper she published in 2006 on the financial associations between *DSM V* panel members and the pharmaceutical industry was cited in the *New York Review of Books*, and she was also interviewed about her work on that topic for a documentary film, *Generation RX*, which was released in December.

In the last two months, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs **Alan Clayton-Matthews** has been quoted in such media outlets as the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald*, the *Patriot Ledger,* the *Worcester Business Journal,* the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, the Tacoma, Washington, *News Tribune,* the Ipswich (Massachusetts) *Chronicle,* and WBUR radio on numerous economic issues, such as the stock market, the state's economic forecast, recession, tax plans, and unemployment woes.

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Jalal Alamgir** was interviewed on January 6 by New York's WBAI radio on the recent national elections in Bangladesh and their implications.

Associate Professor of Political Science **Paul Watanabe** was quoted in a December 22 *Cambridge Chronicle* article about the possible creation of a majority-minority congressional district, in a January 7 *Boston Globe* article on House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi, and in the *North Adams Transcript* and the *Berkshire Eagle* on January 14, and in the *Boston Herald* on January 16 about Governor Deval Patrick's State of the State address.

Dean of the McCormack Graduate School **Steve Crosby** was quoted in the *Boston Globe* on December 23 about the political stakes involved in responding to extreme weather, and on January 11 in an article about Governor Deval Patrick's roles and responsibilities in troubled times.

Research by Professor Emerita of Political Science **Diane Paul** was cited in a December 22 *Scientific American* article about the prohibition against cousin marriage in the U.S., and was quoted in the *Boston Globe* in an article on January 19, titled "An Evolving View of Depression." The latter article also quoted College of Liberal Arts External Board member **Philip Levendusky.**

Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs **Christian Weller** spoke with WBUR about President-elect Obama's super-stimulus package on January 8 and on the same topic in the *Boston Globe* on January 11; and on CNBC about Treasury Secretary-designate Tim Geithner on January 16. His research was also cited on Austrian radio on January 16.

An op-ed column by Chancellor **J. Keith Motley**, written in response to a report about public college graduation rates, appeared in the January 14 *Boston Globe*. The Chancellor also appeared on New Tang Dynasty Television on January 12 during his attendance as a special invitee to Divine Performing Arts at the Boston Opera House; a photo of him at the event also appeared in the Australian, Taiwanese, and U.S. versions of *Epoch Times*.

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, to be built adjacent to UMass Boston, was the subject of a January 20 *Boston Globe* article.

Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs **Michael Johnson** was quoted in the *Columbus Dispatch* in a January 12 story about a city program which buys and restores neglected or abandoned property.

Former Associate Chancellor **Charles Desmond** was the subject of features in the December 23 *Salem News* and the *Eagle Tribune* and *Newburyport News* on December 29.

Research associate **Jim Campen** was quoted in the *Boston Globe* on January 14 in a story about subprime lending.

Christopher Pahud of the Information Technology Department was the subject of a January 16 *Taunton Daily Gazette* story about his first CD release.

Assistant Professor of Counseling and School Psychology **Melissa Pearrow** was quoted in a *Patriot Ledger* story on January 13 titled "In Society's View, a Double Standard on Teex Sex Abuse."

Work by the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at the Hancock-Clarke House in Lexington was the topic of an article in the December 24 *Lexington Minuteman.*

Professor and CNHS doctoral program director **Jacqueline Fawcett** was quoted in a January 12 Nurse.com story about media portrayals of nurses.

An event organized by **Barbara Lewis**, director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture, in which she interviewed novelists John Edgar Wideman and Terry McMillan at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, was mentioned in the *Bay State Banner* on December 23.

A letter to the editor by Associate Professor of Economics **Julie Nelson** was published in the December 27 *Boston Globe*.

The Veterans Upward Bound program was mentioned in a *Concord Journal* story about veterans' resources on January 21.

The Center for Social Policy's report "Brokering Up: The Role of Temporary Staffing in Overcoming Labor Market Barriers" was the subject of a *Talent Management* article on January 15.

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate was the subject of a January 20 *Boston Globe* feature.

The New England Ethnic News Awards, created by the Center on Media and Society, which runs the New England Ethnic Newswire (EthnicNEWz.org), were mentioned in the December 15 *IndUS Business Journal*.

Mark Allio, director of the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center, was quoted in the *MetroWest Daily News* in a story that also appeared in the *Milford Daily News* and the *Daily News Transcript* on December 29.

An event, titled "Hope," organized by Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and American Studies **Shirley Tang**, was featured in an article in *SAMPAN* on December 19.

A survey by UMass Boston of the health of students at Quaboag Regional was the subject of a December 31 article in the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*.

Associate Professor of History **Vincent J. Cannato** was quoted in the *Washington Post* on December 31 in the article "For Bush, Happy Trails to Crawford."

Deputy Director of Environmental Health and Safety **Zehra Schneider Graham's** election as the 2009 vice president/president-elect of the Academy of Hazardous Materials Managers was noted in the January 1 *Boston Herald*.

A viewing session at the Healey Library of President Barack Obama's inauguration was featured on WBZ TV on January 20.

The Massachusetts Small Business Development Center was mentioned in the *Providence Journal* on January 2.

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Maurice Cunningham** was quoted in a January 4 *Boston Globe* profile of State Senator Scott Brown.

The conference "Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for Children and Their Families After Disasters," held at UMass Boston in November, was featured in the journal *Monday Developments* in December.

Professor of History **James Green** was quoted on the AFL-CIO's blog on January 5 on the role of labor unions in building the nation.

Psychology Department chair **Celia Moore** was quoted in *New Scientist* on January 7 in a story about factors that may affect the development of male and female brains.

Nantucket Field Station director **Sarah Oktay** is mentioned in a January 8 Nantucket *Inquirer and Mirror* story about gray seals.

The Spoken Word Nantucket Poetry Reading Series, held at UMass Boston's Nantucket Field Station, was mentioned in the January 14 *Nantucket Independent*.

Dianne Doyle Pita, director of the Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Treatment Services program, was quoted in a January 11 *Boston Herald* story, "Need Growing for Substance Abuse Counselors."

A January 11 *Boston Herald* story featured UMass Boston's new bachelor of science in information technology program, with quotes from Associate Professor of Computer Science **Bill Campbell** and Professor Dan Simovici, director of the computer science graduate program.

A letter to President-elect Barack Obama, cosigned by Professor of English **Elsa Auerbach**, was noted in the *Daily Star Lebanon* on January 12.