Federal Grant Helps Students of Nursing Overcome Economic Challenges to Academic Success

By Emily Sullivan

Most college students never have to choose between buying books and paying rent, but for those faced with such a difficult choice, there is a ray of hope: The College of Nursing and Health Sciences’ (CNHS) Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program has received a very generous federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for a second straight year, ensuring that fewer students will have to choose between basic necessities and their education.

HRSA, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, seeks to improve healthcare in underserved communities by addressing many problems within the healthcare field, including economic disparities among medical students which contribute to the current nursing shortage in the U.S. With an estimated 20% of full-time nursing students considered economically disadvantaged, these scholarships can mean the difference between graduating and dropping out.

“In the past we’ve literally had students living out of cars,” says Deborah Mahony, director of student affairs and associate professor of nursing, who over saw this year’s grant application. “To apply to the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Pro gram, students must first register with the university’s financial aid office to make sure they can receive federal funding. Once need has been established, the scholarship committee also takes into account the number of hours a student works outside of school, because, as the grant application states: “Success in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is inversely related to the number of hours spent working outside of the college.”

Given the college’s demanding workload, many students simply can’t succeed while working full time. “We’ve had students fall asleep during lectures not because they’re bored, but because they’re exhausted,” explains Mahony.

Initially, the HRSA program wasn’t a large source of funding, granting just $5,000 in 2005 and $15,000 in 2006. Then, in 2007, CNHS dean Greer Glazier discovered that the program was a major funding source for other schools. In response, Mahony and student affairs specialist Peter Terres began a major effort to pin down statistics about the economic challenges facing many nursing students. Collecting this data became a schoolwide effort, and led to a much better understanding of the nursing program’s student body. The response and the success rate were encouraging, with about 90% of those who applied receiving some form of funding ranging from about $250 to $3,000 annually.

“Even if it is just enough to buy books, it makes a difference to these students,” says Mahony.

“UMass Boston fits really well with the HRSA’s mission,” notes Terres. An estimated 38% of the university’s student body is made up of minorities; many are first-generation college students and come from disadvantaged economic backgrounds.

UMass Boston’s commitment to providing an affordable education for people of all backgrounds is in line with the HRSA’s goal of eliminating economic diversi ties in healthcare. But even then, Mahony and Terres’ expectations were conservative. “My goal was $50,000,” Mahony laughs. Instead, they were granted $171,000. This year the award has been slightly less, $161,049, due in part to cuts in federal funding and a slowing economy, but Mahony and Terres remain optimistic for the future: “This is a very effective grant. Most students who benefit from this program go on to work in underserved communities and have a fundamental effect on their citizens,” says Terres.
Local Students Learn That News Matters

By Nanette L. Cormier

Can a photo tell a story better than words can? Yes, if it’s the right image.

How do you write about something that your community would rather you didn’t? By sitting in front of your computer and taking the risk.

How do you get the “right stuff” in an interview, but not offend the person you are interviewing? By listening well, being both casual and bold, and asking the right questions at the right time.

Those were just a few of the hundreds of lessons learned by over 400 middle school and high school students at the 6th annual Media Matters Conference, co-sponsored by the Boston Globe Foundation and the University of Massachusetts Boston on November 6 and 7.

A wealth of inspiration and experience was on hand for the budding journalists, including: Boston Globe Spotlight Team founder Steve Karkjian, Boston.com editor David Bear, Boston Herald’s Young Doctors Myrow, WZL Nightside radio host (and Boston State College alumnus) Dan Rea, and WBUR Only A Game host Bill Littlefield.

In the shadow of the John F. Kennedy Library, students from as far away as Auburn honed their observational and reporting skills by examining a middle school report card and photo of the former president at age 42. It was not lost on them that Kennedy, who became one of the 20th century’s greatest orators, earned a “C” in English.

Boston Globe Foundation director Leah Bailey said that the success of the high school conference each year led the foundation for the first time to include a full day for middle schoolers.

“Many participants this is their first experience on a university campus,” said Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Kathleen Teahan. “This is a tremendous chance not only to inspire students but also to show them the wealth of learning that college and UM Boston offer.”

Vice Chancellor of Athletics Charlie Titus, a member of the gala committee and advocate for establishing the professorship, offered another, more personal perspective.

“Like you, I deeply respect Reverend Haynes for all that he has done in his tremendous life of service,” said Titus. “But to me, the connection runs much deeper. Uncle Mike is my mentor, my role model, I am a member of his extended family—and above all else, he is my inspiration. Because of Uncle Mike, I am a better husband, a better father, a better basketball coach, and a better educational administrator. What Uncle Mike did for me, he did for countless other young people in the inner city. We are all extremely proud of and grateful for the incredible gift he gave to each of us.”

The Office of University Advancement is working to continue the fundraising for the Haynes Professorship.

Stephen Karkjian of the Boston Globe and Pat O'Brien of Dorchester. (Photo by Harry Brott)

Budget (continued from page 1)

By Maryann Machanic

The College of Management at the University of Massachusetts Boston has committed themselves to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). The Principles, inspired by the United Nations Global Compact, provide a framework for academic institutions to transform their positioning of work for business as a broader cause of corporate social responsibility.

The PRME were developed by an international task force consisting of the World Economic Forum, leading business schools and is co-ordinated by a Steering Committee from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), the Aspen Institute’s Business and Society Program, the European Academy for Business in Society (EABIS), the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative (GRLI), and Net Impact.

In announcing the CM’s participation, Dean Philip L. Quaglieri said, “I believe our mission, degree programs, learning objectives, teaching and research are already consistent with the Principles, and that our future will continue to focus on areas that advances the broader cause of corporate social responsibility.”

Haynes (continued from page 1)

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GCE Professor and Boston State Grad Build Colombia Partnership

By Will Kilburn

When Boston State College alumnus Raymond Saks accepted an offer to become principal of a private school in Villavicencio, Colombia, in 2007, he knew just where to turn for help. The Graduate College of Education associate professor Denise Patmon, who had worked with Saks ever since he visited GCE in the winter of 2003 when Saks was with a school in the capital, Bogotá.

“What I was looking for was to improve the English program. Teachers are not licensed in Colombia—a taxi driver is licensed; a teacher is not,” explained Saks during a recent visit to UMass Boston. Those who want to become teachers, he continued, “get the methodology, a lot of philosophy, but very little or no writing, and when they come out, they’re totally green.”

Saks, who grew up in Brighton, remembers what it’s like to be green and facing a challenging situation. When he graduated from Boston State in 1969, the then-21-year-old went straight to South Boston High, where a few of his students were older than he, and the citywide battle over busing was just around the corner.

He stuck with the Boston school system through those difficult years, but by the mid-1980s he was ready for a change of career and climate, moving with his wife and daughter to the family’s vacation home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where Saks went to work for the American Oil Company. But the classroom still called him, so in 2001, after making another move—this time to his wife’s native Colombia—Saks took a position as the bilingual coordinator at the Abraham Lincoln School in Bogotá.

Like many private schools in Colombia, the Lincoln is owned and operated by parents—in this case, both Colombians as well as American expatriates. The resulting high level of parental involvement helps make up for the relative lack of government infrastructure, said Saks, but also makes decisions subject to immediate and up-close scrutiny.

“The input is good, and if you want to make a delicate decision, you need to consult with” the parents, he said. “You need to, because if you become dictatorial, then everything is blamed on you.”

After a few years of building up the Lincoln’s bilingual program (with the aid of Denise Patmon, who has now taken four work trips to Colombia), Saks became the principal at the Neil Armstrong School, a private, 350-student school about two hours outside Bogotá where the students were falling behind in their English proficiency. The parent-owners wanted Saks to not just stop that slide, but completely transform the school.

“Ieltsa Columbia, the English language process is taught as English as a second language. At the Neil, we’re making it EEL—English Essential Language, not as a second-language law,” said Saks. “Rather than, ‘My Spanish is pretty good, but I took a little English,’ when they come out, they must be able to produce documents, conversation, vocabulary, everything, in both languages, without [mendy] translating.”

The drive for students to be truly bilingual when they receive their high school diplomas, along with the need for better and more formalized teacher training, turned out to mesh well with GCE and UMass Boston: the university for its high proportion of multilingual students and faculty, and the college for its rigorous training program.

“What we’re noticing is that there’s a globalization of education,” said Patmon. “Why? It’s fair to say that an American education is still very much sought after, because of our particular pedagogical approaches as well as our content area specialties.”

The plan, say Patmon and Saks, is to have a two-way exchange program: Students from the Neil Armstrong School would come to Boston to take classes at UMass in the summer, and faculty and students from both within and outside GCE would spend time in Colombia building and polishing their teaching techniques.

“I think that would be a tremendous benefit for our UMass Boston students, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels,” said Patmon, who speaks from experience. “I have benefited, as a professor, in broadening my understanding of how different cultures organize their schools, both public and private, and the notion of bilingualism.”

Patmon added that the partnership plans have been aided considerably by Associate Provost Oscar Gutierrez, who sees it as a chance to both raise UMass Boston’s international profile and provide a new laboratory in which students and staff can learn.

“It would be not only a show-case type of relationship, but also an example of the kind of teamwork that the Graduate College of Education can put together, to address very specific concerns thousands of miles away,” said Gutierrez. “What I like most about it is Denise Patmon’s intention to form a team of experts to go there and provide very specific advice to a growing community of academics that want to develop a nice school.”

As much as Saks wants to explore cutting-edge teaching methodology, he says he’s pleased to see the GCE faculty ranks a number of people who, like him, worked in “the trenches” of the Boston school system and know how to do things the old-fashioned way.

“That are the people that you want to inform your teachers, to teach those kids their reading, writing, and arithmetic,” said Saks. “Some of them are very traditional teachers; sometimes going back to traditional ways is not bad, because some of the other stuff didn’t work. There’s nothing wrong with using a dictionary, you know what I mean?”

Boston State College Celebration to Feature First Annual “Education for Service” Awards

By Nanette L. Cormier

The University of Massachusetts Boston will proudly inaugurate its “Education for Service” awards at the second annual Boston State College Celebration on December 4. The awards will be presented to Dr. Richard Newman ’36, Melvin H. King ’52, and Dr. Mary Grassa O’Neill ’68. The annual awards were created by the Boston State College Steering Committee, which was established to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the merger between Boston State College and the University of Massachusetts Boston in 1982.

At age 94, Dr. Newman is the elder statesman of the Boston State College family, with an academic and professional career which connects three strands of UMass Boston’s collective institutional history. Dr. Newman is a former member of the faculty at Boston State College and a retired UMass Boston professor of world languages.

Mel King has been an inspirational presence in the neighborhoods and politics of Boston for more than 53 years. An educator, youth worker, activist, community organizer, elected politician, and author, Mr. King is also a retired MIT professor. He is the founder and current director of the South End Technology Center, which supports people to both create and share knowledge through free or low-cost access and training in computer-related technology. Dr. Mary Grassa O’Neill is the new superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Boston. Dr. Grassa O’Neill is the former superintendent of the Milton Public Schools and was a longtime senior administrator in the Boston Public Schools. A national leader in the area of school administration, she also directed the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Principals’ Center and programs in professional education. Dr. Grassa O’Neill, the second-oldest child in her family of eight and the first to attend college, paid her own way to Boston State. Her focus in Catholic education is to ensure that “poor children get the same educations as rich children get.”

One year ago, the Boston State College Steering Committee honored Boston State’s legacy of education, learning, and achievement with the opening of a new Boston State College room in the university’s Campus Center. Now, in addition to this permanent home for memorabilia related to Boston State College and its predecessor institutions, Teachers College of the City of Boston and State Teachers College of Boston, the Education for Service award will keep the values of the college a prominent part of UMass Boston’s identity. “Education for Service” was the college motto of Boston State.

“We are so pleased that Boston State College alumni have chosen this venue to connect UMass Boston to the rich traditions from which this university has evolved,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “This year’s recipients illustrate the key role Boston State has played in Boston’s educational arena and beyond. Their commitment to service and their devotion and creativity as leaders are emblematic of the ideals shared by Boston State College in the past and by UMass Boston today.”

To learn more or to register for the second annual Boston State College celebration, call 617-287-5349 or go to www.alumniconnections.com.
By Kaushik Prakash

By day, Maria Lombardo’s father was a strong, quiet man—a partisan who had risked his life opposing the Nazis in Italy. By night, he whimpered in his sleep, tormented by memories of a prison camp whose walls were a line of ferocious German shepherds.

“It was very easy to learn from the history books. The challenge was to get my father’s story,” the UMBS Boston professor of history told a rapt audience on November 10. The conference, “Italy and the Holocaust: The Calabria Connection,” was a day-long event featuring Holocaust survivors and rescuers, many of whose stories are woven into the history of the Ferramonti internment camp.

For over twenty years, Lombardo, who also serves as the American representative of Calabria, Italy, has crossed the nation in an effort to shed light on one of the lesser-known pieces of Holocaust history: the Italian camps where partisans and Jews were interned, and the herosim of ordinary Italians who helped save more Jews from Nazi extermination than anywhere else in Europe.

Lombardo’s father was reluctant to speak of the horrors he survived. For many years, Maria Lombardo struggled to find what had happened to him. Then, in 1986, she met the historian Ivo Hertz. A Jew from Yugoslavia who escaped the Nazi pogroms with the help of Italian army officers. He told her that he had promised his father on his deathbed that if he survived the war, he would pay tribute to the Italians, she said. “After meeting with Mr. Hertz, I called my father and said, ‘What do you think of this?’ He said, ‘You must help that man.’”

Hertz died in 1995. But Lombardo has carried on his quest to honor the survivors and rescuers of the Holocaust in Italy. To date, she has organized 44 conferences on the Holocaust in Italy. The anti-Semitism that swept Europe during World War II was slow to take root in Italy. The numbers tell a story: In Europe overall, more than 60 percent of the Jewish population was killed in the Nazi atrocities. In Italy, 80 percent of Jews survived. With one exception—the camp in Ferramonti, in the Calabria region of southern Italy—percent of Jews survived. With one exception—the camp in Ferramonti, in the Calabria region of southern Italy—

For the last three years, the MJ Collins Award has been presented to a student/sponsor research team for outstanding work in the field of microwave chemistry. The award is open to all undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and post-doctoral students attending academic institutions in the United States. The two-page summary by Landge, a PhD candidate, was chosen as the winning entry from a pool of over two hundred applicants.

Landge and Török’s research highlighted enantioselective organocatalytic synthesis of organofluorine compounds by microwave energy at sub-freezing temperatures, and developing a flow system for the microwave production of highly volatile trifluoroacetaldehyde gas. In layman’s terms: Generally, microwave energy is associated with heating, but this project involved the use of a “CoolMate,” an instrument which transfers microwave energy kinetically rather than thermally, which allows the energy to accelerate chemicals at unusually low temperatures.

CEM Corporation, makers of the CoolMate, lent Landge and Török an instrument for two months, with which the team was able to get solid results within a short span of time, including reactions that were the first of their kind to be carried out at low temperatures. A paper associated with this project has been submitted to Advanced Synthesis and Catalysis for publication; a paper about a second project, in which highly volatile trifluoroacetaldehyde gas was generated using microwave energy, has already been published in Tetrahedron Letters.

Letters. Landge and Török’s research is still in its early stages, but both professor and student feel that there is tremendous potential for further progress. The research thus far has proven that because the time required to carry out organocatalytic reactions has reduced from several days to merely a few minutes, it will be an active research area, rigorously pursued by scientists all over the world.

“I am confident that practical applications will be seen in the near future,” said Landge.
Conference Examines Ways to Rebuild After Disasters

By Muna Killingback

Agnes was one of the success stories. A child soldier in Sierra Leone, Agnes was reintegrated into her community and completed a master's degree in law. Despite heavy stigma suffered by returning child soldiers, her father took the lead in accepting her back with the words: "Agnes, you are my daughter, and will be forever." Her mother, and then her community, soon welcomed her.

Stigma and medical and psychosocial problems endured by child soldiers in Colombia, Nepal, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and ways to reintegrate the soldiers back into civilian life were among the many topics discussed at the Conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for Children and Their Families After Disasters, held by UMass Boston from November 16 through 18. Bringing together scholars and field practitioners from universities, governmental agencies, and nonprofit organizations, the conference participants identified current challenges to rebuilding sustainable communities after disasters, and shared a wide range of analyses and practical solutions based on research and best practices.

The conference was the inaugural event of the new Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities After Disasters, part of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies.

Both the conference and the new Center are multidisciplinary, and go beyond traditional thinking about disaster recovery. Conference chair and Center founder and director Adenete Awotona explained, "Disaster is painful but also presents an opportunity for innovative solutions to problems that were there before, such as lack of participation in the political process, lack of development, poverty, and gender inequality. Planning for reconstruction must be comprehensive and holistic—taking everything into consideration. Otherwise, it won’t be sustainable."

Professor Awotona, former dean of the College of Public and Community Service, conceived of the idea for a permanent center following the success of a 2007 conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Iraq. Recognizing that many types of disasters were ravaging communities in all parts of the world, Professor Awotona envisioned the UMass Boston center as a repository for "policy recommendations, best practices, and technical expertise" that could assist local and national governments or international agencies. Along with natural disasters such as tsunamis and hurricanes, the Center defines disasters broadly to include bad governance, poverty, HIV and AIDS, and conflicts.

Professor Awotona emphasized that another key goal of the new Center is to further the expertise of UMass Boston students. Several undergraduate honors students were already active at the conference, presenting their research on the impact of the May 2008 earthquake in the Eastern Sichuan province of China, which they conducted as part of sociology professor Stephanie Hartwell's course on Environmental Justice and Human Disasters.

The need to honor and respect the dignity of disaster victims was a recurring conference theme. Fitchburg State College associate professor Diana Sukind asked participants to reflect on "how we can be more respectful of the people we care for." In contrast to a belief that "recipients of help should be happy with what they get," social scientist Dr. Evelin G. Lindner called for "The spirit of ingenuity." Prou also organized a panel titled "Attempts to Rebuild: Challenges of Mending the Tapestry," at which Keynote speaker Mark Sloan, Director of Community Emergency Response in Harris County, Texas, described how the voluntarism of thousands of ordinary citizens enabled the Houston Astrodome to become a temporary city house to house 25,000 displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina. He also noted, "In 95 percent of emergencies, bystanders or victims themselves are the first to provide emergency assistance or to perform a rescue." Professor Erickson observed that in contrast to many news reports on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, an informal rescue system revealed "stubborn courage and compassion."

Speakers from the fields of psychology and sociology spoke about post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological responses to disaster such as depression and anxiety. Yale University professor emeritus Kai Erickson noted, "People who believe that a disaster was man-made have much more difficulty recovering than victims of natural disasters."

It is often the case that communities suffering from chronic problems such as poverty and underdevelopment are the most susceptible to disasters. Angel Devlen, president of Mahila Partnerships, a grassroots women’s organization that co-sponsored the conference, observed, "Those most affected by disasters are disproportionately those who are most vulnerable: the poor, the disabled, women, and children."

Sociologists view causes of disasters as not only how the disaster’s physical effects, but also its impact on the factors that affect people’s vulnerability: physical proximity, race, ethnicity, gender, age, knowledge, social and cultural capital, and government action," observed Russell K. Schutt, a UMass Boston sociology professor and Center affiliate.

Disasters also brought out individual heroism and compassion, noted many. Keynote speaker Jennifer Radcliffe, Director of Community Emergency Response, presented a paper titled "Attempts at Re-Reunion: Manifestations." Prou also organized a panel titled "Assessing Renewal: Performance Portfolios," at which Anthony Petruzzi, Director of Writings Production Network in India at Stanford University’s Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center on October 13.

Anthony Petruzzi, Director of Writing Assessment, presented “Assessing for Understanding and Interpretation: Performance Portfolios,” at the Re-Envisioning Writings Assessment: Accountability, Diversity, and Achievement conference, which was hosted by the University of Massachusetts Six Sigma Writings Project, in Southbridge, Massachusetts, on November 1.

On October 28, Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, spoke at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., on the role of Latinas in the 2008 presidential election. She also presented a paper titled "Politics of Winning: Women's Leadership" at the Re-Envisioning Writings Assessment: Accountability, Diversity, and Achievement conference, which was hosted by the University of Massachusetts Six Sigma Writings Project, in Southbridge, Massachusetts, on November 1.

Professor David Patterson of the Community Arts, in July 2010, will present a presentation, titled “Using Second Life in a Music Course,” at the annual meeting of the New England Continuing Education Association,
Deliver Conference, held in Sarasota, Florida, made six presentations last month: “Dementia, Driving and Community Mobility” and “Improving Transportation for Persons with Dementia,” at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 6; “Dementia, Driving, and Community Mobility: Framing the Discussion” at a meeting of the Alzheimer’s Association’s Cleveland chapter on November 6; “Making Communities Dementia-Friendly” at the 5th annual Dementia Conference of the Marshfield Council on Aging/Senior Center on November 15; and “Using Naturalistic Driving to Study Dementia-Caused Crashes and Early Stage Dementia: Charting New Territory” (with Colleagues from the University of Michigan) and “Living with Dementia” at the 4th annual Adult Day Health Services in Massachusetts.” (with students Cathy Wong, Kristen Chan, Kathleen Tudisca, Billie Gastic and Billie Gastic) at the 61st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America’s annual meeting in National Harbor, Maryland, on November 23 and 24.

Arthur Eisenkraft, distinguished professor of science education and director of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education (CSME) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, has been invited to deliver the keynote address at the annual meeting of the Association for Multicultural Science Education in October.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Erin O’Brien recently gave three invited lectures in Seoul, South Korea. On October 9 and 10 she presented on her book, The Politics of Identity: Scholastic Building Among America’s Working Poor, at Yonsei University and Kwangwoon University, and on October 4, she spoke about the U.S.-election at Kwangwoon University.

In October, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Michael Johnson gave three presentations at the fall national conference of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences in Washington, D.C. “What Forested Homes Should a Municipal Property Tax Be Paid for?” (October 12, with Public Policy PhD candidate Pelina Sullivan and David Tuccurto of UMass Lowell as coauthor); “When Users Pledge to Take Green Actions, Does It Matter?” (October 15, with Carnegie Mellon University coauthors); and “OK and Public Policy in the Large: An Evolving Relationship of Formal and Informal” (October 5, 8 and 9). They presented a paper titled “Communicating Through The Arts: An Evolving Journey of Science and Society” at the National conference of the American Evaluation Association (AAEA) in Boston on September 30.

Heike Boelzig and Jen Suelveski of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented on “Partnerships Among State Systems to Improve Employment Outcomes” at the national Home and Community-Based Services Conference in Boston on September 30.

John Butterworth of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented on “Partnerships Among State Systems to Improve Employment Outcomes” at the national Home and Community-Based Services Conference in Boston on September 30.}

Heike Boelzig and Jen Suelveski of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented on “Partnerships Among State Systems to Improve Employment Outcomes” at the national Home and Community-Based Services Conference in Boston on September 30.
Lecturer Michael Femmonore of the Performing Arts Department has been cast by the SpeakEasy Theatre to play the role of Jerry Springer in their May 2009 production of Jerry Springer the Opera at the Roberts Theatre in the Calderwood Pavilion. He also shot four episodes of the current season of the Showtime series Brotherhood, which began airing on November 2.

Over the weekend of November 22-23, Professor Psychology Erin O’Brien and Professor of Economics Verstein were two of 20 artists at the Newton Open Studios Juried Art and Crafts Show at the Newton Cultural Center, and from January 3 through 29 he will be a featured artist at the Newton Free Library at 330 Homer Street in Newton. The show is titled “Wonders and the physics of Nature,” and will be celebrated at an artist’s reception at the library on Wednesday, January 14, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND PROJECTS

Associate Professor of Management Science and Information Systems Pratvish Bharti received a Sloan Foundation Industry Studies Travel Grant, which funded travel to Stanford University for research presentations and discussions on the international software services industry.

Assistant Professor Heather MacIn- dose of the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies was awarded a grant from the Boston Foundation to support her project, The Boston Area Nonprofit Study. The grant will support the data analysis and dis- semination of findings from a survey of Boston-area nonprofits concerning their use of outcome-performance measurement and their networks with other organizations.

The Institute for Community Inclusion was awarded the New England region’s TACE (Technical Assistance & Continuing Education) Center, a $272,000-per-year project. The TACE Center, which partners ICI with Assumption College, is one of 10 national centers responding to the regional needs of the vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies and their partners. The U.S. Department of Education: Rehabilitation Services Administration’s (RSA) is funding this five-year project, which began on October 1. Cecilia Gandolfo is the project director.

The Institute for Community Inclusion, the Gerontology Institute, and UMass Boston’s Human Resources Department are working together on a Commonwealth Corporation Older Worker Retention Strategies grant, which funds the development of a retention plan that will include elements such as phased retirement and post-retirement options.

The Institute for Community Inclusion has been awarded a contract for $30,000 over three years to conduct an evaluation of the City Year Inclusion Initiative. Based in Boston, City Year provides com- munity service experiences to young adults in 19 cities and is seeking to expand participation by youth and young adults with disabilities.

Assistant Professor of Psychology John Perez has received two two-year pilot grants funded by the U6. His projects are: PE: Effects of Prayer on Well-Being among Cancer Patients: A Randomized Controlled Trial ($89,000, 2008-2010), and Computer Screening among Latinos in Church- es ($103,699).

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Associate Professor MaryAnn Byrnes Foley, Lecturer at the ALS, has been appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary & Secondary Education to a seat on the Educational Personnel Advisory Council for a three-year term. EPAC is one of seventeen councils which advise the commissioner and board on matters pertinent to the imple- mentation of education reform in educator licensure.

Associate Professor Andrew Long of the College of Public & Community Service has been appointed to serve on the national advisory board of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice’s Center on Race, Crime, and Justice.

Assistant Professor of Counseling and School Psychology Laurie L. Charles has been named to the editorial board of assessors at the Journal of Family Therapy, a publication of the Association for Family Therapy and Systemic Practice in the U.K.

In August, Susan Oppotow, professor emerita of the Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolution at the McCormack Graduate School, was awarded the Morton Deutsch Con- flict Resolution Award by the Society for the Study of Conflict Resolution, Con- flict Violence at the 2008 American Psycho- logical Association Convention in Boston.

Professor of Gerontology Nina Sil- verstein received two honors recent- ly: she was named the 2008 Joseph Foley Lecturer by the Alzheimer’s Association’s Cleveland Chapter, and was named Visiting Professor Pro Tempore in the Department of Geriatrics Medicine by the Cleveland Clinic Educational Foundation.

Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Connie Chan has been elected as a fellow to the Society for the Psy- chological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues, Division 45 of the American Psychological Association. She also gave two presentations at the recent APA convention.

Assistant Professor of Political Sci- ence Erin O’Brien’s paper “Quasi- Experimental Design, Longitudinal Federal Data, and Women’s Inter- ests” has been selected to receive the 2008 Stephen Breckinridge Award for best paper presented on gender-related topics at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. The paper was co-authored with Jason MacDonald of Kent State University. Also, O’Brien received the endowed Faculty Career Develop- ment Award, an award developed by retired UMass Boston faculty to promote the professional develop- ment of tenure-track faculty.

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Wei Ding received the best poster presentation award at the 16th ACM SIGSPATIAL Interna- tional Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems. She also presented a paper, titled “Discovering Controlling Factors of Geospatial Variables,” coauthored with Tomase Stepinki of the Lunar and Planetary Institute and Christoph Eick of the University of Houston.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Wei Zhang recently received two visiting professor appointments from Nan- jing University of Science & Technol- ogy and Chien-Shiung Institute of Technology, both in Jiangsu, China. The appointments will enhance the international collaborations on fluo- rescence and green chemistry.

EVENTS

On October 31 and November 1, Francine Center of the Center for Social Policy, with colleagues from the global research and action network WIEGO (“Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing”), convened 17 national statisticians and researchers from developed and developing countries to discuss statistics on informal em- ployment. The meeting took place at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

The Graduate Business Association, a student organization in the College of Management, welcomed Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massa- chusetts Timothy Cahill to campus to hear him take on and his role in meeting the challenges of the current economic crisis facing the state, the country, and the world.

The College of Management, along with the Massachusetts Small Busi- ness Development Center and the Boston Public Library, celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Day on Novem- ber 17 with a series of activities, presentations, and mini-workshops featuring GM faculty and staff and a Big Idea Rocket Pitch contest open to all university students. Part of the celebration was a resource fair which featured ACTION USA, the City of Boston’s Department of Neighborhood Development, Kir- stein Business Library, the Mass- Small Business Development Center, and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship.

Robert Coughlin, president and John Heffernan, vice president of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, were the special guests of the monthly CM Forum, where they spoke on the biotechnology industry in Massachusetts, the role of the council in promoting the industry, and the opportunities for CM students and graduates in this exciting and expanding area of the local economy.

IN THE NEWS

Labor Resource Center director Su- san Sam’s letter to the editor regarding barriers to U.S. workers being able to join unions was published in the Boston Globe on November 5.

The Institute for Community Inclusion was featured in the September 29 edition of Education Daily, in an article about a grant received by the ICI to create transition programs for students with intellectual disabili- ties.

Veterans Upward Bound program director Barry Brodsly was a guest speaker on WGBH’s Greater Boston with Emily Rooney on November 11. Brodsly spoke about the university’s pre-college program for veterans and the university’s academic and psychological services to veterans.


A report coauthored by UMass Boston and Crittenton Women’s Union, a nonprofit group aimed at helping low-income women attain economic independence, about State single mothers attempting to enter the middle class was the sub- ject of a story by State House News

Reminder on Snow and Inclement Weather

The scene just after 3 p.m. last December 13. (Photo by Jerry Britt)

Winter is almost here, and with it comes the possibility that extreme weather may require the university to close for the safety of students, staff, and faculty.

Campus-closing and delayed-opening decisions will be made before 5:30 a.m. based on conditions and weather forecasts and will be announced by 6:00 a.m. These announcements will be carried by WUMB 91.9 FM, WBUR 90.9 FM, WBZ 1030 AM, WRKO 680 AM, WBZ TV Channel 4, WGBY Channel 5, WGBH Channel 7, and FOX Channel 25. You can also visit our web site or call 617-287-5000.

On days when the campus is open and deteriorating weather conditions warrant closing, the deci- sion will be made accordingly and announced promptly to students, staff, and faculty by broadcast email as well as the channels listed above.

Public Safety officials request that you not call your phone number as the lines must remain open in the event of an emergency.

Students, faculty, and staff are also reminded that there is no outdoor overnight parking during winter months so that parking lots can be adequately plowed for daytime use.
The Calendar of Events is published monthly by the Office of Marketing and Communications. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. From off campus, dial (617) 287-5650 or visit wwwUMB.edu for more information.

Friday 5

Reading
7 p.m., Porter Square Books, Cambridge. UMass Boston, in collaboration with Emerson College, presents MFA graduate students in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.

Monday 8

Colloquium

Tuesday 9

Business Finance & Accounting Basics
8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Copely Square Library, UMass Boston. This workshop will cover a number of business basics covering accounting, taxes, cost accounting, pricing, financial management, and accounting software, vendors, and more. For more information, contact the Mass. Small Business Development Center at 777-7750 or register online at www.mbdc.org/training.

Mahmoud Darwish Memorial Tribute
4 p.m. – 6 p.m., Campus Center, second floor, Alumni Lounge. Faculty, students, and guests will read selected poems from Palestinian poet and humanist Mahmoud Darwish in English and in Arabic. A film short based on the poem “Intensive Care Unit,” made by Darwish shortly after his death, will be shown. Refreshments will be provided. For details, email doirty.ncho@umb.edu.

Thursday 11

Celebrating the 2008 LLOP Graduating Class
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Campus Center, third floor, Bay View Conference Room. Presentations by the 2008 Class of the Gaston Institute’s Latino Leadership Opportunity Program. Student leaders will present the preliminary findings and their research proposals for potential independent projects. For details, call 7-5791.

Thursday 25

Christmas Day
University closed.

CAMPUS NOTES

Service and Marketwatch.com on November 12 and by Metro Boston and the Gloucester Daily Times on November 13.

A speech by Veterans Upward Bound regional outreach advisor Ma- rybeth O’Sullivan at East Middle School on Veterans Day was the subject of the stories in November 12 issues of Patriot Ledger and the Brattleboro Reformer.

On October 28, Chancellor J. Keith Motley served on a panel of educa- tion experts and business leaders in a discussion which was broadcast by NECN. The panel was led by NECN’s Chet Curtis and cohosted by Pogran of the Boston Foundation. He was also quoted in a No- vember 17 Boston Globe story about a report which showed that Boston public school students who went on to college graduated at a lower rate than that of their peers.

A report published by the Mauricio Gastón Institute is mentioned in an October 21 MetroWest/Daily News story about the emergence of Brazil- ians in public life in Massachusetts.

McCormack Graduate School dean Steve Crosby was interviewed by WBZ-TV’s Jon Keller on November 13 about a plan to raise tolls at the eastern end of the Massachusetts Turnpike, and quoted in the October 27 Boston Globe on a decision by the MTA to delay a planned bond offering until after the November elections.

Professor of African Literature Chukwuma Azuonye was quoted in the Daily Sentinel on November 8 in a story about the 50th anniversary of the publication of Chinua Achebe’s novel Things Fall Apart.

Associate Professor Andrew Legost of the College of Public and Com- munity Service contributed a op-ed column, titled “Casino: Creating another injustice,” to the November 9 Philadelphia Inquirer about a proposed casino in Philadelphia’s Chinatown.

The peacemaking efforts of Padraig O’Malley, the John Joseph Moakley Professor of International Peace and Reconciliation at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, was mentioned in a November 6 Boston Globe story.

Staff journalist Eduardo de Oliveira of the New England Ethnic Newswire was mentioned in a New England Public Radio story about first-time immigrant voters.

Professor of Anthropology Tom Sober was quoted in the November 5 Boston Globe in a story about a visit to Boston by a group of Cape Verdean singers.

The Veterans Upward Bound pro- gram was detailed in the Aeon Mes- senger on November 5.

Professor of History James Green was quoted in a November 3 Miami Herald story about a contract dispute between unionized workers and the management of a luxury resort.

Associate Vice Chancellor of Enroll- ment Management Lisa Johnson was quoted in an October 31 Boston Business Journal story about how student-loan debt impacts the fund- raising efforts of colleges, and in the Christian Science Monitor on Octo- ber 23 in a story about how students at private colleges are considering transferring to state colleges.

Assistant Professor of Management Maureen Scalzi was quoted in the Boston Business Journal on October 25 in a story about the College of Management’s Emerging Leaders Program.

Professor of Psychology Michael Milburn was the subject of a profile in the November 16 Boston Globe, and was quoted in the Toronto Star on October 29 in a story about the Democratic Party’s campaign efforts.

Assistant Professor of English Susan Tomlison was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 27 in a story in which she names Harriet Wilson’s 1859 Our Nig as a unique but sig- nificant example of terror in New England literature.

Professor of Public Policy Alan Clayton-Matthews was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 24 in a story about signs of an impending re- vision in Massachusetts, on October 29 about an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve, and on November 12 and 13 about how there could be a large number of layoffs in Decem- ber in Massachusetts. He was also quoted in the Berkshire Eagle on Oc- tober 22 in a story about how budget cuts could affect state spending, and in the Worcester Telegram on October 22 and 27 in stories about the state’s Republican political leaders in the state. Clayton-Matthews was also named as one of the area’s best and brightest business experts by the Patriot Ledger on October 22, and interviewed on NECN on Octo- ber 26 about projected job losses in Massachusetts.

Professor of Political Science Paul Watanabe was quoted in the Spring- field Republican on November 9 in a story about a Republican sweep in state elections in November, in the Berkshire Eagle in a November 6 story about local fiscal challenges for Mas- sachusetts governor Deval Patrick, and in the Eagle Tribune and the Associated Press about Congress- woman Niki Tsongas.

A presentation and panel discus- sion featuring Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy director Carol Hardy-Fanta was covered on C-Span on October 28 at the Center for American Progress in Washing- ton, D.C. She was also quoted on voting by Latinx women in the No- vember elections in the newspapers Las Nación (Chile) on October 29 and The Boston Globe (Massachusetts) on October 28. She was also interviewed by the news magazine Mayer in the November 16 edition of La Tercera newspaper in Santiago, Chile. In this article, she comments on the election of Barack Obama, the meaning of Hillary Clinton’s defeat in the primaries, and the likelihood of a woman president in the U.S.

Marc Prou, associate professor and chair of the Africana Studies Department, was interviewed by Emily Rooney on WGBH’s Greater Boston in the aftermath of the hurricanes earlier this year in the Caribbean to provide a context for the global dynamic between rich countries and developing countries, and promised and not delivered, and the role of remittances in contem- porary Haiti.

Donna Haig Friedman, director of the Center for Social Policy, was quoted in the Berkshire Eagle on October 26 in a story about nursing home care, and interviewed by the Associated Press about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service. Friedman was also interviewed by the news magazine Mayer in the November 16 edition of La Tercera newspaper in Santiago, Chile. In this article, she comments on the election of Barack Obama, the meaning of Hillary Clinton’s defeat in the primaries, and the likelihood of a woman president in the U.S.

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Division of Continuing and Corpo- rate Education dean Dick Messella and quadrangle and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Professor Emeritus of Economics Arthur MacEwan’s letter to the editor of the Boston Globe was published on October 24.

In November, Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Christian Welker was interviewed by the As- sociated Press, BusinessWeek, USA Today, Forbes, The Herald Tribune, the Chicago Tribune, Builder Online, and the Lakeland, Florida, Ledger. He also appeared on XM Radio’s Urban Journal and CNN.

A survey by the Center for Survey Research about the use of placebo by doctors was cited in Boston. com’s “White Coat Notes” on Oc- tober 23.

Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeo- logical Research project archaelo- gist Christina Beranek was quoted in the Waltham Daily News Tribune on October 23 in a story about recent discoveries being made at an archaeological dig in Waltham.

Laura Henze Russell, director of the Elder Living on the Edge Program at the Gerontology Institute, wrote a guest column for the MetroWest Daily News on October 24 in which she stated that a tax credit for seniors who help their grandchildren get through the winter.

Nantucket Field Station intern Kim Starbuck was quoted in the Nan- nucket Independent in a November 12 story about the disappointing season for local scallopers.

Presented by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

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