Health, Community Activists Honored at Community Breakfast

By Will Kilburn

The link between a community’s health and the physical health of the people who live in that community was celebrated at the annual Community Breakfast, held at the Campus Center on March 20.

William Walczak, founder of the Codman Square Health Center, and Frederica Williams, CEO of Whittier Street Health Center, were each honored with the Robert H. Quinn Award for Community Service. Also honored was Leah P. Bailey, Executive Director of Community Affairs at the Boston Globe Foundation, who was recognized for the Foundation’s work, particularly its work with local youth.

Chancellor Keith Motley served as the master of ceremonies for the event, first noting the presence of Quinn himself, who served as the state’s attorney general, Speaker of the state’s House of Representatives, and chair of the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees.

The Quinn Awards, Motley explained, are given not only in recognition of the work done by people and institutions outside of UMass Boston, but also as a reminder of importance of work done by the university.

“Community outreach and partnerships are crucial to our mission,” said Motley. “By hosting this breakfast, we want to celebrate our mission, but we also want to honor you.”

Each of the awardees, Motley continued, had made a unique mark in the community: The Boston Globe Foundation, he said, was the single largest financial aid donor to UMass Boston; Walczak, who closed his remarks by encouraging the university and the community to continue to work together, “Together, the potential...” (continued on page 2)
By Danielle Dreilinger

When you see a canned goods donation box, it usually means a group is holding a local food drive. But in the campus center on March 27, a small donation box signaled a big vision: the state’s first-ever anti-hunger summit.

The groundbreaking event, led by keynote speaker Governor Deval Patrick, brought together scholars, administrators, and activists. Attendees included staff from the McCormack School’s Center for Social Policy, Department of Transitional Assistance Commissioner Julia Kehoe, State Representative Cory Atkins, and staff from the offices of state legislators Marie St. Fleur and Patricia Jehlen.

“This summit is so important, because hunger is a growing problem,” Boston mayor Tom Menino told the full room. According to Project Bread, in November 450,000 Massachusetts residents went hungry—one-third of them children.

The rise in food prices is only making the situation worse: Since last November, Menino said, the cost of milk rose 80 cents. A loaf of bread costs 25% more, imperiling small bakeries as well as hungry people.

Last year, U.S. Representative Jim McGovern said, he and his hunger caseworker union organizer, attendee Thomas Foster, a DTA caseworker, told him “we’ve had more new referrals in one week than I can remember who already suffer from malnutrition.”

Spokespersons emphasized the impact went far beyond individual families. “Hunger is silently stunting our children’s ability to learn,” Frank said, and thus hurts the future body politic.

Addressing hunger is “about seeing the stake for our future in the people around us,” Patrick said. “A focus on hunger and nutrition is about more than kindness, as important as that is. It’s also about good common sense.”

Society has to stop making the corrosive association between poverty and fault,” he added. “The middle class are one month away from being poor.”

Paradoxically, hunger also plays a role in the obesity epidemic, said state Department of Transitional Assistance Secretary JudyAnn Bigby. “There is an abundance of cheap, high-calorie, low-nutrition food.”

The mood in the room was serious but optimistic. McGovern, said, to applause, “Hunger is a political condition. We have the resources to end it.”

Inspiration and ideas came from a variety of perspectives. The first priority for many speakers was signing families up for food stamps. Boston saw an 82% increase in food stamp enrollment from 2002 to 2007, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Food Research and Action Center. Still, “millions and millions of dollars are left on the table every year,” Menino said.

The Center for Social Policy found last October that “about two-thirds of the households who are eligible aren’t getting food stamps,” said center director Donna Haig Friedman. A March 2007 report by the center found additional barriers among Boston’s Latinos.

McGovern advocated reaching out to grocers, who “receive over $500 million every year” in food stamp and WIC purchases; serving school breakfast at the beginning of the day, to eliminate the stigma of coming early to eat; educating health care providers; and starting anti-hunger groups in schools.

Ellen Vollinger of the Food Research and Action Center emphasized the need for collaboration. In Massachusetts, sports radio WEEI ran public service announcements during Celtics games, she said. The Iowa Farm Bureau gave EBT food stamp, processing machines to farmers markets. Supermarkets can set up information tables in stores and give campaigns free space in their circulars.

In fact, just getting more stores into low-income areas matters. The Pennsylvania-based Food Trust had given funds to over 30 grocery stores to help them do this, executive director Yael Lehmann said. Attendees whistled when she said the group’s farmers-in-the-school programs reduced obesity rates by 50%. Other improvements focused on listening to clients. Chicago hosts community quality councils, Vollinger said, and a DC agency held cultural sensitivity training for caseworkers.

“Low-income people are not just hunger statistics,” said Daniel Ross of Holyoke-based Nuestra Raices. “[They] can and should be actors and forces for change…. Solutions exist within the knowledge and culture of our people.”

In Holyoke, Puerto Rican immigrants are reclaiming crime-plagued vacant lots for community gardens. So far the initiative has created about 30 small food and agriculture businesses such as bakeries, Ross said.

Attendees’ fire for the cause clearly burned in their bellies.

“I just think of the guy crying at my desk the other day; fifty-two and in tears because he’s got nothing to eat and no money,” said attendee Thomas Foster, a DTA caseworker union organizer.

“Nearly 300 years ago there were riots here in Boston” over the cost of bread, Menino said. “I urge you not to riot … but to be revolutionary.”

Community Breakfast, Quinn Awards (cont.)

(continued from page 1)

is endless.”

Williams, a native of Sierra Leone who emigrated to England before coming to the U.S., noted that her education played a key role in her ability to help others.

“I’m able to be an example to my patients, but I’m also able to creatively and strategically position the organization so we can be a permanent legacy in the community,” she said. Whittier and the university, she continued, “have a shared mission of addressing urban issues and urban empowerment, and this is definitely a wonderful honor for me.”

Motley closed the event by reminding attendees that the Community Breakfast shouldn’t be the only time of the year they come to the campus.

“I encourage all of you to stay in touch with this university, and don’t be a stranger,” he said. “This is your public university, you’re welcome here, we are honored by your presence, and we look forward to working with you in the future.”

Hunger Activists Gather to Share Ideas, Resources

Governor Deval Patrick called for a proactive approach to addressing hunger in Massachusetts. (Photo by Harry Brett)
By Anne-Marie Kent

A demonstration turns ugly. Equipment is vandalized. An explosion sends a campus community into chaos.

You’re a college administrator. What decisions do you make? What plans must you activate? How will your staff work with public safety responders as an emergency unfolds?

During two three-day classes in February and March, the eleventh floor of the Healey Library became a training ground for administrators, staff, law enforcement, and others from UMass Boston and other universities across the country to learn critical incident management.

Presented by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), the Critical Incident Management Training Course represents a multi-disciplinary, all-hazards approach to incident management, following the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS).

“The safety of our campus is a top priority for us all, and proper training is critical for our staff, so that our response to any campus emergency is appropriate and effective,” said Chancellor Keith Motley.

IACLEA, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has trained over 1,400 college and university personnel in NIMS Unified Incident Command Structure and its implementation in a campus environment.

“The course covers the stages of the incident life cycle: prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation, with exercises in a ‘model city’ environment,” explained UMass Boston Public Safety Program Manager Richard Lee, who is also a certified IACLEA instructor.

During the March course, Lee coached Patrol Officer Din Jenkins, who played the role of a responding officer during the final day’s interactive model city exercise. Something unexpected happened. Chaos began to unfold.

Lee pointed to Jenkins, “You’re on scene. What do you do now?” Jenkins made a decisive move to contain the incident, reported key information back to the Incident Commander, and overall demonstrated his ability to enact the lessons of Critical Incident Management.

Law enforcement officers, however, were not alone on this training mission.

More than half of the 30 UMass Boston employees trained were those whose daily lives do not typically involve guns and sirens. Assistant Dean of Students Joyce Morgan, for one, ably shouldered the unequivocal role of a university administrator facing an escalating crisis during her class in February. She decided when to cancel classes, where to shelter displaced students, and what to communicate to the campus community.

“It was a great experience that changed how I think about possible campus incidents and events,” said Morgan. “Having a good framework and system for responding can make the ability to respond so much more quick and efficient.”

Stephanie Michel-Moore, financial administrator for Academic Affairs, had questions of cost and reimbursement to handle during her training session. Because universities may be eligible to receive federal reimbursements, recordkeeping is a critical behind-the-scenes aspect of incident management.

“It was clear that during the period of crisis response, there is no thought to costs involved,” she said. “For example, at some point and time the city or state will forward a bill for all the police officers that were provided and for damage to the officers’ equipment.”

Director of Personnel Services Clare Porier headed up the March group tasked with meeting logistical needs.

“The training made me appreciate the importance of planning for an emergency,” said Porier. “Preparation and communication is the key to having a response team in place.”

Deputy Director of Facilities, Utilities, and Energy Management Michael McGerigle was part of the February logistics group.

“What struck me was not so much the varied technical back-grounds of the participants, but their management styles. You had public safety officials who are used to more straight-line command, working right alongside those of us who might question and deliberate a bit more. In the end, everyone cooperated and worked through their individual situations with the common goal in mind,” said McGerigle.

The IACLEA training sessions are only one of a number of safety-related efforts currently under way. In addition to the UMB Alert system (alert.umb.edu) and safety web site (safety.umb.edu), a protocol has been developed to help guide UMass Boston faculty/staff and students who may be distressed or disturbing others.

For more information, visit safety.umb.edu. In addition, Joyce Morgan, Assistant Dean of Students, and Edna Pressler, Ph.D, Director of the UHS Counseling Center, are available to help train faculty and staff on the protocol. A Distressed and Distressing Faculty and Staff Committee, chaired by Clare Porier, is also meeting to establish protocols for dealing with distressed and distressing faculty and staff.

UMass Boston Staff Trained in Emergency Response

MODR Dialogue Series Takes on the Big Issues

By Lissa Harris

The sign outside room 3545 in the Campus Center read “Racial and Ethnic Tensions: What Should We Do?” It was a big agenda for one afternoon.

Inside, Shrewsbury resident Edward Hall was defending the merits of affirmative action. “Sometimes you have to throw one sense of fairness out the window to get another sense of fairness,” he said. “You might have to employ someone who isn’t as qualified just to get them in the door.”

Moderator Matt Thompson pressed him to question his beliefs. “Let me play a little devil’s advocate with that,” he said. “What happens to the person who was more qualified?”

Immediately, several women chimed in. “That just plays into the idea, ‘If you’re black and you have a job, you must have gotten it because you’re black,’” one said.

On Thursday, March 27, about a dozen people—young and not-so-young, city-dwellers and suburbanites, of different races and backgrounds—gathered for a frank conversation about race in America. The forum was one in a series of National Issues Forums dialogues being held on the UMass Boston campus by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution (MODR).

Founded in 1981, the National Issues Forums Institute hosts forums in universities, town halls, civic centers, and private homes across the country, bringing people together on a wide variety of public policy issues. Trained moderators lead the discussions and collect participants’ views, which the NIFI uses to publish in-depth reports on how people are wrestling with these issues across the nation.

One of the main goals of the forums is to gather public opinion on issues facing the community and give it to local elected officials, said Lorraine Della Porta, deputy director of MODR.

“The hope is that they’ll use that information to inform policy,” she said.

Like most NIF discussions, the forum began with a short film to get people talking. As they grew more comfortable, participants gradually began to talk about their own experiences with race and racism.

Hann Tran, a graduate student in biology who grew up in Vietnam, worried that the casual bigotry revealed Americans’ real feelings about race. Master’s student Janet Hunkel talked about the racial pressures of both the black church she volunteered for in Roxbury and her mostly-white yacht club. Dazrell Moore, a Dorchester resident who works for the Boston Public Health Commission, moved the group with a story about being a black teenager, living away from home for the first time, and sharing an apartment with a co-worker who had recently immigrated from Vietnam.

Moore said that his friend gave him a few lessons in maturity and perseverance, and, more importantly, taught him how to cook for himself.

“Like iron sharpens iron, one person sharpens another,” he said. “I learned to be independent.”
Taking on the Big Issues (cont.) (continued from page 3)

"The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future." Thurs-
day, April 17, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., room 3540, Campus Center.

"Examining Health Care: What's the Public's Prescription?" Thurs-
day, May 1, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., room 3545, Campus Center.

"Democracy's Challenges: Re-
claiming the Public's Role." Thurs-
day, May 8, Noon – 2 p.m., room 3545, Campus Center.

By Geoff Kula

On March 6, UMass Boston was honored to host Nobel Prize-win-
ing physicist Dr. Carl Wieman, who presented a synopsis of his
educational research, titled "Science Education in the 21st Century:
Using Scientific Tools to Teach Science," to a capacity crowd in the
Campus Center's Alumni Room. The event was sponsored by the
Center of Science and Mathematics in Context (COSMIC),
"COSMIC ensures students re-
cieve the best education possible," said Chancellor Keith Motley in
his opening remarks. Through COSMIC, he continued, "we train
teachers and continue their develop-
ment throughout their career path."

UMass President Jack Wilson, who followed Motley at the po-
dium, called Wieman "one of the most brilliant physicists in the
world" and further commended him for "living a life as a beacon
guiding our way: our responsibility to our students and to our profes-
sion." In 2001, Wieman, along with two other physicists, won the
Nobel in Physics for research leading to the creation of the Bose-Einstein
condensate. Wieman also won the National Science Foundation's Dis-
tinguished Teaching Scholar Award in 2001, the Carnegie Foundation's
U.S. University Professor of the Year Award in 2004, and the American
Association of Physics Teachers' Oersted Medal in 2007. He is Chairman of the Academy
Board on Science Education and currently teaches at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

In his introduction, physics profes-
sor Arthur Eisenkraft, a friend of Wieman's, who had helped arrange the
visit, noted Wieman's interesting career change.

"Since winning the Nobel, Carl has shifted his focus away from
exploring science to exploring ways to improve science educa-
tion at the college level," he said. Eisenkraft compared Wieman
to Nobel laureate Linus Pauling and Nobel nominee Bono of the
band U2, remarking that Wieman realized "there's something more
important than advancing science; advancing science education across
the country. It's exciting to have someone of Carl's renown realize
the importance of the issue and [at] one he should devote time and bring
thought to."

Wieman's latest research aims to
raise student achievement in science
by making science education more
effective. He covered three main
topics: Why science education is im-
portant; what research can teach us
about teaching and the way people
learn; and institutional change.
Before launching into his presenta-
tion, however, Wieman was quick
to point out that those assembled
"shouldn't believe this because of
my Nobel Prize, but because it's all
backed up by research data from all
over the world," adding, "Nobody
noticed my research before I won
the Nobel."

The need to improve science
education first came to Wieman's
attention when he realized, through
a poll of his students, that his lec-
tures left them baffled. It was "a frus-
trating puzzle" trying to figure out
how to help them learn, but the
breakthrough came, he said, when
he noticed a pattern among his
graduate students: Even with
17 years of coursework under their
belts, they were still "clueless"
about physics, but after a few years in
the lab, they became experts
about the subject. This realization
made him want to research how
people learn.

Wieman targeted three areas
of improvement as benchmarks:
retention of information from a
lecture, conceptual understand-
ing, and beliefs about physics and
problem-solving.
He discovered that, after a ten-
minute break following a lecture, only 10% of the students could
retain any "significant informa-
tion," while the majority were
only able to recall vague generalities
about what had just been discussed.
Furthermore, he learned that the
average student finishes a semester
of lectures with an understanding of
less than 30% of the concepts they
did not already know. But perhaps
his most remarkable discovery was
that research showed that students
who had finished an introductory
physics class saw less of a real-
world connection to physics than
before studying it.

His assessment was brief but
pointed: "The traditional lecture
is ineffective." Citing cognitive
psychology studies, Wieman noted
that brain development is similar
to muscular development: It requires
strenuous use over time. Along
those lines, watching someone
do something—such as giving a lec-
ture or lifting weights—does not
convey benefits to the observer.

They become neither smarter nor
stronger. Because people learn
by doing, he theorized, students
must be prompted to do the work
themselves. To this end, teachers
must engage students, monitor their
progress, and guide their thinking.
To do this in a lecture setting
with up to 500 students, Wieman
said, technology is essential. In
his classes, Wieman uses a personal
response system—a "clicker"—that
allows students to answer ques-
tions he has posed; a computer
collects and stores a history of each
student's answers.

He warns, however, that while
implementation of such a system is
easy, it is not automatically useful.
"Students may be leery of this tech-
nology if they think of it as nothing
more than an attendance-taker," he
said. "Then they will resent it [and]
the clicker becomes [self-defeating];
it's necessary to create engagement
and collect/provide timely feed-
back." He suggests accomplishing
this by asking challenging ques-
tions, fostering student-to-student
discussions in which they analyze
each other's responses, and provid-
ing follow-up discussion about their
thinking.

"The classroom alone isn't
enough," he said. "It's just a start-
ing point."

Data support the effectiveness
of this methodology: Retention of
information following a 15-minute,
post-lecture break increases by
90% after two days; conceptual
understanding soared from about
25% to between 50-70%; and stu-
dents' beliefs about physics' real-
world applicability rose slightly,
although Wieman noted research
in this final area has just begun.
Nonetheless, he said, the results
are promising.

To better serve the next gen-
eration of scientists, Wieman called
for educators to turn the microscope
on themselves. "There is a need
to change the educational culture
... [these initiatives] need to be
implemented at the departmental
level and be internally driven and
supported," he said in closing.

During the question-and-answer
session that followed his hour-long
presentation, Wieman noted: "Re-
search says lectures are not totally
ineffective, which is the only way
I can stand up here and present
this information with a clear con-
science," which drew appreciative
laughter from the crowd.

"As much as you'd like to think
you are, you're just not conveying
that much information through
lectures," he added.

He also pointed out that the
key to helping students develop a
coherent understanding of so
many topic areas is organizational
thinking. "This is critical," he said.
"You have to keep coming back and
explaining the context of the mate-
rial and how it links together... how
things are different and similar.
To make students care about
physics, he said, it was essential
for them to see the direct relevance
to physics of them. "Explain to
them: 'You can use this in another
course or in your career.'" Explain
how the microwave oven in their
homes works, and address their
curiosity.

Graduate College of Educa-
tion Dean Carol Colbeck called
Wieman's approach to experiential
learning "a good educational prac-
tice with solid research to back it
up. It's a great foundation. When
you engage in real-world problems,
it makes the concepts come alive."
D.V.G.L.N. Rao's CVIP award for his team's innovative work in microscope design is just the latest chapter in a four-decade career at UMass Boston. (Photo by Harry Brett)

By Julia Reischel

In an office tucked away in the Science Building, physics professor D.V.G.L.N. Rao and his protégé post-doc Chandra S. Yelleswarapu finish each other's sentences as they explain the workings of their invention, the Fourier Phase Contrast Microscope, which images minute organisms more realistically and in greater detail than the microscopes widely used by biologists around the world.

This year, in a rare honor for a UMass Boston faculty member, Rao is being recognized, along with seven others throughout the UMass system, with a $30,000 award from the University of Massachusetts Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property (CVIP) that will help them develop the microscope commercially.

The award is part of the CVIP's annual set of awards that reward innovative research at UMass with funds aimed at developing commercial applications for promising technologies. This year, in the awards' fifth cycle, the grants total $240,000 and support a broad array of technologies in many fields of research, including medical devices, HIV drug effectiveness, and biomass fuel production. Dr. Rao's microscope is the only UMass Boston technology to receive the award.

As Rao and Yelleswarapu explain the complicated physics that underpin their work, William Brah looked on proudly. As the executive director of the UMass Boston Venture Development Center, which manages the CVIP program on campus and acts as the incubator and promoter of university research, they played a crucial role in procuring funding for Dr. Rao's work.

“We regard Dr. Rao as an innovator way ahead of his time,” Brah says. “Society is demanding innovation, and it is appropriate for the university to discover his work as it wakes up to the call for innovation. Dr. Rao has an active lab, active teaching, and active publications—the whole package.”

Rao and Yelleswarapu's microscope is based on a dramatic improvement upon standard phase contrast microscopes, which work by exploiting a property of light, its “phase,” which shifts when light travels through transparent or semi-transparent materials. Human eyes can't detect phase shifts, but through the use of a device called a “phase plate,” the phase shifts are converted into variations in the light's brightness, allowing scientists to get a more detailed view of the inner workings of biological specimens.

When phase contrast microscopes were first introduced in the 1930's, they eventually won their inventor a Nobel Prize, but they had their drawbacks: Cells appear to be two-dimensional, and are surrounded by a white “halo.”

Rao and Yelleswarapu's update uses lasers, liquid crystals, and a lens that performs a “Fourier transform” on the light waves, which create brighter, clearer, three-dimensional images. Additionally, the team's design is also more rugged, mechanically simpler, and simpler to operate than the models used in laboratories today.

“It uses no moving parts, and is a lot more user-friendly,” Rao says.

Rao and Yelleswarapu plan to use the $30,000 from the grant to create a working prototype that will help them convince a manufacturer to sell their microscope, Rao is delighted to have the extra resources because they will not only help him introduce his invention to the world, but it will allow him to focus on what he does best: teaching and researching.

“I know what I'm good at, and I know what I cannot do,” he says. “I'm not a development guy.”

Rao has been a Professor of Physics at UMass Boston for forty years, and has been producing original research for the same amount of time. In 1973, the year of the first graduating UMass Boston class, he published a research paper that was recognized by the American Physical Society. Since then, he has published over 100 papers and procured five patents.

First and foremost, however, Rao sees himself as a teacher. He teaches two classes and has served as the Graduate Program Director for the past ten years. He has shepherded six PhD students through their own careers, and has given all of them, even undergraduates, opportunities to conduct original research in his laboratory, producing new insights into optics and lasers.

“I'm a teacher and a basic researcher,” Rao says. “Luckily, what I do for my basic research has real-world applications.”

The microscope is just one of those real-world applications. There's also mammogram technology that can detect “micro-calculifications,” a laser eye-protection project, optical holographic storage, and photonic applications for nano materials.

It's a testament to Rao's relationship with his students that some have stayed with him even after getting their doctorates. One of these is Yelleswarapu, who says that talking with Rao is always an education. “Not just about science, but about everything,” he says.

As if to illustrate that point, Rao digresses from his lecture on optics to mention that the simple principles that underlie his research have sparked his interest in spirituality. For example, he says, phase and intensity are excellent metaphors for the religious principles of the soul and the body.

“Intelligence is like the body, and phase is like the soul,” he says. “The soul has all the characteristics of a person, while the body is the part that you see.”

“You cannot see the phase, just like you cannot see the soul,” Yelleswarapu adds, nodding. “But it carries some of the most important information of all.”

As he watches his former student, Rao's smile deepens. Clearly, the $30,000 grant is a prize, but hearing Yelleswarapu explain the implications that their invention has for the spirit is priceless.


Inventive Professor Helps Other Scientists Take a Closer Look

By Amy Mei and Mary Ann Machanic

In just their first appearance at the event this year, a team of College of Management undergrads had an impressive showing in the B-School Beanpot Case Analysis Competition, held in late February at Boston University.

Modeled on the annual hockey tournament, the B-School Beanpot pits local colleges against one another in a two-round format. Unlike its four-school athletic counterpart, nine schools each send two teams to the B-School Beanpot. Along with Beanpot regulars Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern, Suffolk, Babson, and Bentley, the field this year also included teams from newcomers Bryant College, Merrimack, and UMass Boston.

In the first round, teams assume the role of consultants and develop their proposals for this year's case. A panel of twelve corporate executives then review the proposals and decide which four teams to advance to the final round. The four finalists then give a presentation to the judges, with the winner taking home the B-School Beanpot trophy.

CM's two entries consisted of Glenn Natali, Sandy Kiriazidis, Elena Aislani, Linda Chu, and Said Abdalla on one team, and Jeff Masso, Davia Tremoularis, Yelena Bryant, Hassan Banni, and Jemin Patel on the other. While the second group didn't advance past the preliminaries, the first team made B-School Beanpot history by making the cut for the final round, eventually placing fourth overall and sharing a $250 prize—the first time any school had made it into the finals in their first year. The College of Management is very proud of both teams, and also of faculty coach and assistant professor Theodora Welch and Amy Mei, CM undergraduate program director, who worked with the students to prepare for the competition.

CM teams were selected just prior to fall finals exams, with all of the capabilities of the practices held during the early weeks of the spring semester. The College of Management is already looking ahead to next year’s B-School Beanpot. Visit bbschoolbeanpot.com for more information.
PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

College of Public and Community Service

Professor Francine Carré presented a Quantitative Form in Arguments at the Mathematics Education and Society conference, held in Albuquera, Portugal, February 16 to 21. She also gave a presentation on “Deepening Understanding Measures” to numeracy teachers at South Bank University in London and commented while mathematics educators in London prior to the conference.

Christopher Weller, an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, presented a paper on the economic consequences of progressive taxation in industrializing economies at the Eastern Economic Association’s annual meetings in Boston on March 9. The paper was co-authored with Manita Rao, a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the McCormick Graduate School of Policy, and doctoral student Jennifer Stein on the marriage of Saint Teresa of Avila. The paper was presented at March 9 at the annual forum, held in Boston on February 29.

Professor Roma Ruffo of the Curriculium and Instruction Department and Professor Tara Parker of the Higher Education Program, all in the Graduate College of Education and Human Services, presented their research at their annual conference for the upcoming Hand- book of College Reading and Study Research in a symposium at the American Educational Research Conference, held in New Orleans on March 8.

Nicola Talbot, Assistant Professor of French Brian Thompson of the Curriculium and Instruction Department gave a presentation titled “Universal Design Solutions in Technology and Accessible Media” at the AmeriCorps Northwest Net- work Conference at Portland University in Oregon, Portland, Oregon.

Professor of French Brian Thompson presented a paper titled “Universal Design Solutions in Technology and Accessible Media” at the AmeriCorps Northwest Network Conference in Portland, Oregon. This paper presentation was part of a panel that Weller organized, titled “Macro-Policies to Foster Financing for Development.”

Anne Scriverer Age, Vice Provost for Information Technology, presented “Developing an Emergent and Instructional Technology” at the 2008 Northeast Regional Computing Program (NERC/COMP) confer- ence in Providence, Rhode Island on March 11. Her co-presenter was Mark Schlesinger, Associate Vice President for Academic Technology at the University of Massachusetts President’s Office.

Daryl Ford, Director of Communi- cation and Infrastructure Services, and Jamie Soule, Team Lead, IT Operations, presented “Data Center Reliability and Infrastructure Com- missioning” at the 2008 Northeast Regional Computing Program (NER- COMP) Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, on March 12.

Philosophy professor Lawrence Blum presented a critique of David Wong’s Natural Moralities at an author meets critics session at the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, and a commentary on Nick Noddings’ Care and Empathy at the Moral Development conference at the Iniversity of California at Berkeley. Blum will be a panelist for the PLEN invites forum at UMass Boston on March 9.

Robert Winer, Graduate Program Director of International Relations at the McCormick Graduate School of Policy Studies, participated in the annual meeting of the Interna- tional Studies Association, held in San Francisco from March 26 to 30. Winer was a discussant in the panel “Quasi-States: The Politics of de facto States,” participated in a mock trial on “The Responsibility of States to Take Armed Action to Stop Genocide,” participated in an ISA Comprehensive Project Panel on Diplomatic Studies, and participated in an ISA Comprehensive Project Panel on “On-going Debates in Interna- tional Law.”

Sylvia Migues, Director of the MS in Human Services Program at the McCormick Graduate School of Policy Studies, presented a paper titled “Substance Abuse and Other Health Concerns of Native Americans in a Time of Economic Oligarchy” at the McCormick Graduate School of Policy, William M. Holmes, at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in New York City on Febru- ary 22.

Associate Professor Pepi Leistyna of Applied Linguistics Graduate Studies was invited by the Gates Founda- tion to give a speech on “Global Economics and National Trends in Education: Why This Should Matter to Us.” She was also an invited participant of the plenary session for the Youth Organizing Convening: Strengthen- ing Youth Organizing for Education Reform convention, held in New Orleans on March 8.

Wanda Rivera-Rei- vere, the “Politics of Mad- ness in Francisco Matos’ Prison Tale,” published in The Psycho- logical Record. The paper was accepted for publication in Revista Hispanica Moderna, a peer-reviewed journal hosted by the Hispanic Institute at Columbia University.


Art professor Pamela Jones’ new book, Alpacas and Their Yarns, published in the Churches of Rome from Caravaggio to Gaudí, was published in March. In the book, Jones addresses how members of all social classes made meaning of public art in light of aesthetic, devotional, social, and charitable contexts.

Kathleen Techan, Vice Chancel- lor for Enrollment Management, published an article in the spring 2008 edition of the Institute for International Education’s magazine IEER Network, titled “University of Massachusetts Boston and Tsinghua University Partnership.”


Assistant Professor of Anthropology Patrick Clarkin published “Adpos- ite: Height and Height of Ashen Crow: Relationships with War- related Early Malnutrition and Later Migration” in the March/April issue of the American Journal of Human Biology.

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**CONCERNED ABOUT A STUDENT?**

As part of the University-wide Safety Planning Committee, a protocol has been developed to help guide UMass Boston faculty/staff/students in identifying and assisting students who may be distressed or distressing others. For more information, visit safety.umb.edu. In addition, Joyce Morgan, assistant dean of students, and Edna Pressler, Ph.D., director of campus security, are available to help faculty and staff on the protocol. We all need to work together to maintain a safe and healthy campus community!

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**EXHIBITS, READINGS, PERFORMANCES, AND RECORDINGS**

Frederick S. Troy Professor of English Lloyd Schwartz will be participating in readings from *Bilquis: Poems, Prose, and Letters*, a book he edited about poet Elizabeth Bishop, at Yale University, Central Park in New York, the Philadelphia Free Library, and the Longfellow House this spring and summer. Also, there will be a concert at Tanglewood of musical settings of his poems by the Tanglewood Music Center Composers Fellow on July 29.

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**GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND PROJECTS**

Arthur Eisenkraft, distinguished professor of Science Education and director of the Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC), has received a $340,000 grant with Boston University to continue their Improving Teaching of Physics (ITOP) project for the next three years. ITOP provides content courses for high school physics teachers in the Boston area. The new grant will add a distance learning component to their work.

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**JOURNAL NOTES**

Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology Lisa Cosgrove was a contributing editor for the book *Psychiatric Ethics and the Rights of Persons with Mental Disabilities in Institutions and the Community*, and also wrote a chapter, "New methods in Social Action Research," in *Handbook of Emergent Methods*.

Assistant Professor of History Ruth Miller’s comment, ‘Rape and the Exception in Turkish and International Law,’ appeared in the most recent volume of the *Washington and Lee Law Review*.

Assistant Professor of Biology Alexey Veraksa was the author of a letter published in *Nature Cell Biology* in March.

Xuchen Wang, a research associate in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, recently published a paper, “Contrasting Chemical and Isotopic Composition of Organic Matter in Changing (Yangtze River) Estuarine and East China Sea Shelf Sediments” in the *Journal of Oceangraphy*.

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**APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS**

Kathleen Golden McAndrew, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and executive director of Health Services, has been appointed to the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Journal editorial review panel, as guest editor to the *Journal of American College Health* and reviewer for the Research Advisory Council (RAC) of the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

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**CAM'S NOTES**

Rivera has received a Joseph P. Healy grant to conduct archival research in the Dominican Republic on the project titled “Prison Narratives and Historical Legacies of Migrant Women During the Popular Insurgency of 1965 in Dominican Republic.”

Professor Gopal Rao of the Physics Department is hosting Dr. Trong Thu Anh Dao of the Institute of Physics and Electronics at the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology in Hanoi, Vietnam, from February through May, in Rao's Nanophotonics and Biophotonics Research Lab.

The Gerontology Department’s Management of Aging Services Master’s Program has won the 2008 Outstanding Credit Program by the National University Continu- ing Education Association (UECA). The award was presented at the association’s annual conference on March 28. Congratulations to Ellen Bruem, Gerontology Graduate Program director, and Lillian Glickman and Ellen Birchander, co-directors of the Management of Aging Services Master’s Program.

On March 20, Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) honored the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston with the 2008 Michelle Feltin Award. This award distinguishes individuals and institutions who share the late Dr. Marie Feltin's passion to advocate for disabled and chronically ill patients.

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**IN THE NEWS**

Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Ramon Bonge-Mendez and Center for Social Policy Directors Donna Haig Friedman were quoted in a March 23 Boston Globe article about a new program at MIT that trains immigrants who are making in the Massachusetts healthcare industry.

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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) 28 and the last five digits listed below each event.

Wednesday 9
Clinical Education and Research 5:30 p.m., Science Building, second floor. Grand opening of the Center of Clinical Education and Research.

Monday 14
Spring Blood Drive 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Campus Center, first floor, University Room terrace and street. Organized by University Health Services.

Komen On The Go 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Campus Center lawn. Interactive campaign to raise awareness and support in finding a cure for breast cancer.

Special Lecture 4 p.m. – 5 p.m., Healey Library, eleventh floor, room 3550B. Organized by the Department of Accounting and Finance in the College of Management.

Getting Started in Business Workshop 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Quinn Building, third floor, Chancellor’s Conference Room. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network. To register, go to www.sbdc.umassboston.edu. Call 7-7760.

Wednesday 16
Coffee Break 9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., McCormack Building, first floor, Harbor Art Center. For more information, call 7-7729.

Thursday 17
Deliberative Dialogue 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., Campus Center, third floor, Ballroom. Department of Anthropology is hosting the 13th Annual Brazilian Immigrant Center Fundraiser Dinner. For details call Tim Sieber at 7-6850.

Saturday 19
China Day Exhibition 1 p.m. – 8 p.m., Campus Center, third floor, Ballroom. Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education and the Confucius Institute are holding a China Day Exhibition and Chinese Speech Contest. For more information, call 7-7729.

Monday 21
Patriot’s Day University closed.

Wednesday 23
Tuskegee Airmen Documentary 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m., Campus Center, third floor, Point Lounge. The Student Life Office is hosting a documentary screening on the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American pilots who flew with distinction during World War II. Please contact Nunu Francois at 7-7932 for details.

Thursday 24
Good Neighbor Day 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Campus Center, second floor, mezzanine and street. Students and faculty interested in day-long projects like painting shelters, preparing murals for school children to paint, organizing recovery resources, planting gardens, preparing meals for AIDS patients, and sorting food for a food bank can get in touch with Jain Raviditch-Higgins at 7-7917.

Saturday 26
Discussion 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Healey Library, eleventh floor. The Research Center for Urban Cultural History in the Department of English is hosting a discussion on the Cosmopolitan Culture, Consumption and the Making of Taste, 1600-1770. For more details contact Elizabeth Fay at 7-6475.

Monday 28
Urban Affairs Lecture 4 p.m. – 9 p.m., Healey Library, eleventh floor. Keith Wailos of Rutgers University will speak at the McCormack Graduate School Urban Affairs Lecture. For more information, call Alison Jowell at 7-5541.

Geronotology Colloquium Series 1 p.m. – 2 p.m., Wheelety, third floor, room 125. Stefan Greaves of Quality Partners of Rhode Island and Brown University presents “High-Quality Nursing Home Care Begins with a Vision.” Co-sponsored by UMass Boston’s Gerontology Institute and the Rosalie Wolter Geriatric Center at UMass Medical School.