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4-3-1992

Friday Report - Vol. 01, No. 15 - April 3, 1992

University of Massachusetts Boston

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Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "Friday Report - Vol. 01, No. 15 - April 3, 1992" (1992). *1991-1996, Friday Report*. 15.

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The UMass/Boston Friday Report

Volume 1, Number 15
April 3rd, 1992

News and information about and for the
Community from the Chancellor's Office

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13 Faculty Members Receive University Grants For Their Research

The other day, the Office of the Provost released details on professional development grants which were awarded by Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney** to 13 junior faculty members on tenure track. The money to fund these grants was raised through the University's steadily expanding development efforts. Here are the names of the faculty members and information about their grants:

Jane Adams (Psychology, \$2,000), for the first in a series of studies investigating the response of the human brain to facial expressions. The initial phase of the study will trace in children and college students their neurophysiological responses to both male and female faces in various emotional states. Her research could eventually prove valuable in comparing the perceptual abilities of children who have been exposed to drugs with those of children who have not been so exposed. • **Mary Diane Arathuzik** (College of Nursing, \$1,218), to conduct the first in a series of studies exploring how women with metastatic cancer cope with pain. Arathuzik will interview about 20 women and examine techniques not involving medication that they use to deal with their pain. • **Noushin Ashrafi** (Management Science and Information Systems, \$2,000) to pursue research in the area of computer software reliability. Ashrafi is creating programs that measure the reliability of software systems. • **Dominique Ingegneri** (Gerontology, \$1,100), to investigate an important question concerning the growing population of older Americans: Are they staying healthy in their older years, or does a longer lifespan instead mean they are spending a larger portion of their lives suffering from illness and disability? Ingegneri will base her study on data collected in the National Health Interview Survey that is conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics. • **Richard Kesseli** (Biology, \$2,000), to support his work in producing genetic maps for plant species in the sunflower family. The data generated may be used to clone certain plant genes that are resistant to diseases. • **Peter N. Kiang** (College of Education, \$1,975), to replicate at two other institutions his 1991 UMass/Boston study on the survival strategies that Southeast Asian refugees use in adapting to life as students in a foreign country. San Jose State University in California is one of the research sites; the other has still to be picked.

• **Stephen A. Mrozowski** (Anthropology, \$1,918.84), to purchase two state-of-the-art microscopes that will be used by faculty and students in the University's graduate program in historical archaeology. Mrozowski reports that archeological teams from the University will this summer continue combing sand dunes on the southern shore of Cape Cod for evidence of Native American culture. Last summer the UMass/Boston group discovered rows of corn hills, the first actual physical evidence that Indians in New England were farmers. • **Jill Rierdan** (Psychology, \$2,000), to analyze data from a four-year study on depression and thoughts of suicide among adolescents. While working at the Center for Research on Women at Wellesley College, Rierdan completed interviews on depression and thoughts of suicide with 150 girls she had been tracking from the sixth through ninth grades. All of the girls came from suburban communities outside Boston and attended public schools. Rierdan says the data will help determine what factors can predict depression and thoughts of suicide in young people. • **Ralph Rivera** (Gaston Institute, \$1,500), for a national study examining the relationship between labor and health statistics regarding Puerto Rican immigrants living in the United States. • **Rachel Skvirsky** (Biology, \$2,000), to continue research on a genetic process that controls the transport of molecules from the inside to the outside of bacterial cells. Her research will prove useful in understanding how similar systems function in human cells, and may some day assist in the study of the disease cystic fibrosis, whose cause has been traced to a malfunction of a comparable genetic process.

• **Lee Teitel** (College of Education, \$2,000), to examine several colleges and universities which are

a malfunction of a comparable genetic process. • **Lee Teitel** (College of Education, \$2,000), to examine several colleges and universities which are using a "professional development school" model for teacher preparation programs. Teitel will explore the ideas behind this concept and focus special attention on how it differs from traditional strategies used to train teachers. • **Tracy Villareal** (Environmental Sciences, \$1,962.93), to begin an investigation of how and why certain phytoplankton (minute plants that float in the ocean) produce a toxin that is linked to victims of Amnesia Shellfish Poisoning (ASP). ASP comes from eating shellfish that contain this toxin. The condition has caused permanent short-term memory loss in one-fourth of its victims, and in 1987 was responsible for four deaths in Canada. • **Marion E. Winfrey** (College of Nursing, \$970), for a pilot study looking into the delivery of services to critically ill persons who live at home. Winfrey will examine the various levels of care that such patients require and the types of skills visiting nurses must possess to care for this growing population. She will conduct interviews with administrators of two local home health care agencies and with a discharge planner who works in a Boston area hospital.

Physicist Rao's Research Receives Army Funds

Professor **D.V.G.L.N. Rao**, Physics, has just received a three-year grant for \$467,653 from the Department of the Army to study a material that might some day be helpful in protecting the human eye against high density laser beams. Rao's research will focus on the nonlinear optics of polymers and organic material. He will be assisted by two UMass/Boston graduate students and one post-doctorate student who is serving as a research fellow. Part of the work will be done at the Army's research, development and engineering center in Natick. According to Rao, his investigations could potentially play an important role in developing a material that would be applied as a coating on eyeglasses. This coating would act as a shield against laser beams which, if they hit the eye directly, are damaging to the retina. He adds that laser beams are prevalent in science laboratories and are increasingly common throughout the course of every day life.

College of Nursing Honors Six At Last Night's Fund-Raiser

The College of Nursing honored six people who have made significant contributions to nursing, nursing education and the health care profession during its First Annual Recognition Dinner last night at the Copley Plaza Hotel. The event, attended by members of the University community, alumni and friends of the college, as well as representatives from the health care field, marked the beginning of a fund-raising campaign to enhance the college's learning resource laboratory. The lab, on the second floor of the Science Center, is the place where nursing students are introduced to the experience of working in a hospital. Students use the lab to learn the fundamentals of nursing care. According to Dean **Brenda Cherry**, the laboratory needs to be updated and outfitted with equipment that more closely resembles the technology found in hospitals today. In addition to providing an improved training ground for future nurses, she says that an enhanced facility would allow the University to set aside space for other uses. Those honored last night include: Professor **Anne K. Kibrick**, who helped establish and direct the nursing program at Boston State College before and after that institution merged with UMass/Boston in 1981. A national and international leader in the field of nursing education, Kibrick received the Chancellor's Medal from Chancellor **Penney**. In awarding the medal, Penney said: "I think it's fair to say that without Anne Kibrick, there would be no College of Nursing at UMass/Boston. Because of who she is, and what she has done, countless citizens of our state and our world will enjoy priceless and liberating gifts -- the gifts of freedom from fear and pain, vigorous good health, and the capacity to live their lives to the fullest." • **Anne G. Hargreaves**, a former executive director of nursing for Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals, who received the college's Urban Community Service Award. • **Richard M. Welch**, president of the Welch Healthcare and Retirement Group, who received the Friend of Nursing Award. • College Professor **Frances L. Portnoy**, who received the Nursing Service Award. • **Barbara A. Blakeney**, a 1989 College of Nursing graduate, who received the Alumni Award. • **Eugene R. Boeglin, Jr.**, class of 1982, who received the Human Performance and Fitness Program Alumni Award.