Charting the Future of the Massachusetts Workforce

By Ed Hayward

Concerned that the United States will continue to lose the education race to other nations in the global economy if education performance remains the same, state and national leaders met at UMass Boston for an in-depth discussion about the future of the Massachusetts workforce.

“Our teaching, research and public service play critical roles in meeting the needs of the Boston workforce,” said Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD. “Eighty percent of our alumni stay in Massachusetts after they graduate, so examining the skills and knowledge demanded of our future workforce is an important discussion for our campus and the Commonwealth.”

The February 28 conference, convened by the University of Massachusetts Boston and the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy, is the launch of the Massachusetts conversation of “Tough Choices or Tough Times,” a report by the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, which calls for the most dramatic reforms of the U.S. education system in a century. The report was released nationwide in December to widespread interest and praise.

Massachusetts is one of the first states to show interest in using the report as a framework for reform. Colorado is also exploring how the report can shape its workforce development efforts. Three prominent state leaders—David Driscoll, Massachusetts commissioner of education, Thomas Payzant, former superintendent of Boston Public Schools, and Harry Spence, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services—are members of the Commission and joined Marc Tucker, co-chair of the Commission and president of the National Center on Education and the Economy, and Bill Brock, former labor secretary and member of Congress, in spearheading the discussion.

“It is time for America to step up the level of education so it’s equal to the best in the world,” said Tucker. “These conversations mark the beginning of the second phase of our initiative as we work with state officials to incorporate the report’s ideas in ways that make sense for their school systems and local and state governments.”

(Continued on page 2)

UMass Boston Faculty Among Most Productive in the United States

By Jim Mortensen

UMass Boston’s faculty scholarly productivity earned an impressive fifth place in national rankings of smaller research universities as assessed and compiled for 2005 by Academic Analytics, Inc (AAI), The Chronicle of Higher Education reported the standings in an overview of the rankings in its January 12, 2007, edition.

News of AAI’s ranking of UMass Boston was also published by the Boston Business Journal (January 8, 2007). According to the Journal, only Harvard, MIT, and UMass Boston achieved national ranking among the Boston area’s institutions of higher education.

UMass Boston tied for fifth place with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and placed ahead of such prestigious research institutions as the University of Colorado Denver, Central Michigan, Rutgers Newark, Northern Illinois, and Miami of Ohio. The four institutions ranked ahead of UMass Boston are DePaul, San Diego State, Bryn Mawr, and Wright State.

“Our faculty bring enormous credit to themselves and the entire campus through their high-quality scholarly activities,” said Paul Fonteyn, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. “There is no question that research at UMass Boston is on an upward trajectory.”

Richard Antonak, vice provost for research, said he reviewed AAI’s methodology and “found it to be sound.” He also found “the data-collection procedures to be reasonable, and the taxonomy of performance indicators to be sensible and defensible.”

Antonak points out that, unlike U.S. News rankings, the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index® prepared by AAI bases institutional reputation on concrete, detailed data sets. Antonak points out that, unlike U.S. News rankings, the index prepared by AAI bases institutional reputation on concrete, detailed data sets. He views the ranking system as impressive, and looks forward to comparing and contrasting it with similar indices as they become available in the near future.

AAI uses a proprietary set of statistical algorithms to evaluate faculty achievement in doctorate-granting institutions separated into three categories: large research universities, specialized research institutions, and smaller research institutions. In all, 61 institutions comprise the smaller research institution category.

Within these categories, faculty are measured on the basis of publications, citations of journal publications, federal research grants, and significant awards and honors.

The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index® is then compared against national standards. Ac-
By Ed Hayward

A new exhibit produced by the College of Science and Mathematics at this month’s 2007 New England Spring Flower Show, the region’s indoor homage to greenery and green thumbs, highlights a new UMass Boston research project on climate change and gives serious treatment to a global issue that has captured the world’s attention.

During a winter of discontent where schoolchildren have pined for just one snow day and international discussions about global warming have dominated the news, the exhibit was created by a campus team and highlights the work of biology professor Jeff Dukes. The display will highlight the Boston-Area Climate Experiment, a research site in Waltham that Dukes has developed, which will be the most publicly accessible climate-change experiment in the world.

The exhibit, on display at the flower show in the Bayside Expo Center March 17 through 22, is the result of the work by Dukes, the students in his graduate class and their instructors, and the influence of the campus is complete.

“The New England Spring Flower Show is a great venue for us – we can increase awareness on this critical environmental issue, and show what UMass Boston is doing to address climate change on a number of fronts: research, education, and public outreach,” said Dukes. “This is an opportunity to reach influential people who work with the land and add to their understanding about climate change and the potential consequences for New England.”

The exhibit – designed with the flower show’s 2007 theme of “Yes, You Can!” in mind – marks the return of UMass Boston to the exposition for the first time in three years, said Allen, who has designed numerous exhibits in the past.

“We have always tried to focus on research strengths of the biology department,” said Allen, who manages the campus greenhouses and numerous landscape features across campus. “The flower show is really a venue for landscape companies and nurseries to showcase their products and skills. We provide one of the few educational displays, and I think that adds to the experience for the public.”

Visitors will see educational displays and interactive exhibits, designed by UMass Boston students and employees, which will ultimately be placed at the BACE.

A battery of “non-hardy” azaleas or Rhododendron indicum varieties – which thrive in warmer regions of the country – will add color and horticultural relevance to the space.

The plant choice was deliberate, said Allen. “This is a species we can’t grow in New England. But if we see further warming of the temperatures in New England, we could see this and other species of plants find a home here. This is an opportunity to understand the ramifications of changes in climate.”

The exhibit highlights the Boston-Area Climate Experiment (BACE), a Waltham project run by Dukes’s research lab and funded by more than $1 million in grants from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Institute for Climatic Change Research.

Starting this spring, the project will study ecosystem responses to climate changes imposed by researchers. Dukes’s team will alter temperature and precipitation over small sample plots of New England "old-field habitat.”

Dukes will measure how the plots react when they experience a range of climatic conditions predicted for later this century.

In addition to serving research scientists, the BACE will provide a valuable educational resource. Next door to the research area is an interactive exhibit on climate change. The BACE is expected to open to the public on a limited basis this spring.

“This is the only climate-change experiment in the world that is easily accessible on this scale,” said Dukes. “Most of these studies are off at a remote site or behind a big fence and nobody can see they are there. We will provide a unique opportunity for the public to see how ecologists study ecosystems and their responses to environmental change.”

Tough Choices (cont.)

The conference, organized by the College of Management and the Institute for Community Innovation, gathered education, workforce, economic development, and political leaders from across the state.

Chancellor Collins welcomed attendees to the day’s events, which included a breakfast policy discussion followed by a series of presentations and panel sessions.

“The report was intended to provoke a series of conversations that would lead to education reform individualized by states,” said Driscoll. “As Colorado moves ahead with its initiatives, we are excited to begin a similar dialogue here in Massachusetts.”

"In order for us to remain competitive in the 21st-century global marketplace, it is critical that we begin to address these topics now," said Chancellor Collins. The bipartisan New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce calls for a total shakeup in how America educates its people with an innovative system that boosts students to unprecedented levels of learning throughout their lives while creating a structure that gives them the best teachers and schools the country can offer.

The Commission was organized by the National Center on Education and the Economy, a not-for-profit organization created to develop proposals for building the world-class education and training system that the United States must have if it is to continue to be a world-class economy.

“High-quality workers need to retain high-quality education so we can retain a high-quality lifestyle that’s just not for the elites,” said College of Management Lecturer Tim Barnicle, a co-founder of the NCEE. “This campus has a real interest in issues of workforce development.”

The University Reporter

The University Reporter is published monthly except in July and August by the Office of Marketing and Communications. It is free to all UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students.

Send your news items to: The University Reporter at news@umb.edu.

Kraig Ludensky contributed to this report.

Showing Some Love

This snowy Valentine’s Day, members of UMass Boston’s soccer and softball teams, along with other UMass Boston students, banded the elements to distribute nearly 200 gift-bag valentines to senior citizens who reside in the Harbor Point Apartments. The Doubletree Hotel of Dorchester provided refreshments at the event, which was held at Harbor Point. The event was coordinated by UMass Boston’s Office of Service-Learning and Community Outreach. (Photo courtesy of Jain Rawidich-Higgins)

Left photo: (from left to right) Tom Goodkind, senior research machinist; Jim Allen, UMass Boston horticulturist; Jeff Dukes, assistant professor of biology; and William Hagar, interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, in the UMass Boston greenhouse. (Photo by Harry Brette.

Right photo: The Boston-Area Climate Experiment in Waltham. (Photo courtesy of Dean Hagar)

The University Reporter

Office of Marketing and Communications
Third Floor
Quinn Administration Building
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
617-287-5317
E-mail address: news@umb.edu

Sharon Kennedy
Editor

Ed Hayward
Anne-Marie Kent
Associate Editors

Sarah Weatherbee
Art Director

Contributing Writers

Lauren DeMinico
Peter Grennen

Lisa Gentes
Kristin Ludensky
Jim Murrison
Laura Verna

Harry Brette
University Photographer

The University Reporter

Contributing Editors

Lauren DeMinico
Christine DePalmis
Lisa Gentes

Kraig Ludensky contributed to this report.
Winter Warm Up! A Sizzling Start to the Semester with Events for Everyone

By Lauren DeMinico
During Chancellor Michael F. Collins' convocation address on September 14, 2006, the formation of the Chancellor's Strategic Planning Task Force was announced for the 2006-2007 academic year. At that time the task force was charged with developing a comprehensive report recommending strategic directions for the university. Six subcommittees were formed as well, one with two cochairs and meets on a regular basis, with notes recorded of each meeting. Two resource groups were formed as well, one for financial modeling and one for data research. These groups help to support and validate the work of the committees. The work and progress of the subcommittees are accessible, and input is welcome from all. January marked the mid-point of the planning process and each subcommittee was asked to deliver an interim report to the task force focusing on three main areas of their progress: a description of the vision statement that underlines the subcommittees work, a plan for interaction with the university community during the second half of the planning process, as well as identifica-

Report Finds Need for Diversity

By Ed Hayward
Despite the increasing diversity of the state's population, people of color are underrepresented in both elected and appointed offices in many of Greater Boston's 10 most diverse cities and towns, according to a report released last month by the McCormack Graduate School's Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy. People of color making up 41.3 percent of the total population of these cities and towns, researchers found that 9.1 percent – or 17 of the 186 municipal election posts – are filled by people of color; and only 15.5 percent of appointed posts are held by people of color, according to Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the center and the study's author.

This should also serve as a challenge to all these cities and towns to closely examine how their appointed positions reflect the diversity of their communities.”

This report serves as a nonprofit diversity benchmark for the Commonwealth, where people of color now make up approximately 20 percent of the population and where voters in November elected the state’s first African-American governor.

The research was commissioned by the Pipeline to Public Service initiative and made possible by funding provided by The Boston Foundation, The New Community Fund, and The Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation.

Strategic Planning Process Moves Forward

By Lauren DeMinico
During Chancellor Michael F. Collins’ convocation address on September 14, 2006, the formation of the Chancellor’s Strategic Planning Task Force was announced for the 2006-2007 academic year. At that time the task force was charged with developing a comprehensive report recommending strategic directions for the university. Six subcommittees were formed as well, one with two cochairs and meets on a regular basis, with notes recorded of each meeting. Two resource groups were formed as well, one for financial modeling and one for data research. These groups help to support and validate the work of the committees. The work and progress of the subcommittees are accessible, and input is welcome from all. January marked the mid-point of the planning process and each subcommittee was asked to deliver an interim report to the task force focusing on three main areas of their progress: a description of the vision statement that underlines the subcommittees work, a plan for interaction with the university community during the second half of the planning process, as well as identifica-

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Trotter Institute, WUMB Radio Celebrate Black History Month

By Christine DePalma

UMass Boston’s Black History events this month focused on the 1960s and the civil rights movement.

The William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture presented At the Nexus, a series of staged readings of three classic plays: Dutchman by LeRoi Jones, aka Amiri Baraka; Day of Absence by Douglas Turner Ward; and In White America by Martin Duberman. All of these plays were described by Trotter director Barbara Lewis as plays that are “at the nexus of art and politics.”

After the performance of Day of Absence, a play about the consequences of the disappearance of the black population in a small town, director Abaka challenged the actors, all of whom performed in whiteface, to comment about what society would be like without African-Americans. At the conclusion of each of the readings, audience members had the opportunity to “talk back” to the actors and director, which made for lively and informative discussions related to some of the material each of the plays touched upon, including race, history and contributions of African-Americans, prejudice, stereotyping, and the power of language.

Lewin notes that the staged readings help to educate. “The legacy of the 1960s is what the youth today have inherited. Many don’t know much about this era, but are fascinated by it.” Students from local Boston public high schools were invited to attend the series.

During February, WUMB 91.9 FM presented weekly specials examining the civil rights movement. Pat Monreet, director of WUMB, noted that the programs served to “demonstrate how ordinary people from the 1960s civil rights movement helped to lay the foundation for the present and future battle for human rights.”

New Report on Low-Income Asian Americans in Massachusetts

By Kraig Ludensky

Although much attention has been given in the media to the perception of economic attainment within Massachusetts’ Asian American communities, the Institute for Asian American Studies has released an in-depth report about Asian Americans living in or near poverty in the Bay State.

Michael Liu, a senior research associate at the center and coauthor of “Far from the Commonwealth: A Report on Low-Income Asian Americans in Massachusetts,” said that before the study there was not a comprehensive understanding about poverty in the Asian American community. “We wanted to know who the poor are,” said Liu, coauthor of the study with researcher Thao Tran and institute director and professor Paul Watanahe. “And after the results were shared, we hoped policy makers would look into this sector of the population to address their issues.”

“The study reveals some key issues Massachusetts officials need to address while developing policies and programs for groups within the Asian American community,” said Liu.

While past research by the institute provided local officials and community programs information about Asian American accomplishments and struggles, its latest study focused on the state’s 292,000 Asian residents.

The report shows that more than 72,000 low-income Asian American reside in Massachusetts, with half living at or below the poverty line.

While examining the workforce of low-income Asian Americans, researchers discovered that many individuals holding some kind of professional status comprise a significant proportion of the low-income group.

“It was surprising to see the number of professionals with low income here in America,” Liu says. “Also, there was great variation among the groups in who is low income.” In some of the Asian subgroups, those who are naturalized appear to be doing better financially than their non-naturalized counterparts, Liu found, while others who have been here for many decades still continue to struggle.

According to the study, “one in every five Asian American residents can be classified as low income.” In Boston, the poverty rates for Asian Americans is second to Latinos.

The study has received attention from several media outlets and the researchers are planning to take their results to the communities the report focuses on.

“There is an interest in the community with what we are doing,” Liu says. “We want to help guide policy. For more information about the report, go to www.iasas.umb.edu.”

COM E C C Participation on the Rise at U Mass Boston

By Anne-Marie Kent

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employee Charitable Campaign (COMECC) enables state employees to give to their choice of approximately 1,000 local, national, and international charities through payroll deduction, check, or credit card donations.

This year, 62 UMass Boston employees participated, donating a total of $22,907. This is the highest level of pledges and participants since 2002 and an increase of over $5,000 in pledges since last year.

“I am grateful to UMass Bos-

ton employees who responded to the call to participate in this important charitable-giving pro-

gram,” said Deputy Chancellor Drew O’Brien, chair of the cam-
pus COMECC committee. “As a university community, we are committed to civic engagement and service. Our level of partic-
ipation in COMECC reflects that.”

COMECC allows state em-

ploees to take advantage of the convenience of payroll deduction and offers the flexibility of automatically channeling your donation to one particular listed charity, for different agencies, or for general distribution. You may give as little as two dollars per week or opt to make a lump-sum contribution.

Last year, members of the UMass Boston campus community responded generously, sup-
porting efforts to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina.

A New Voice on WUMB

By Lisa Gentes

WUMB-FM listeners are tuning in to a new voice this sea-

son. Melissa Howard Graham has been the guest host of the station’s distinguished public affairs program Commonwealth Journal.

The longtime Dorchester resident and New York native made her radio debut in October and will be filling in for the first half of the year. Listeners can hear her on WUMB at 91.9-FM on Sun-

days at 7:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

“I love it, I absolutely love it,” said Graham, founder and presi-
dent of Boston Gays, a marketing and event planning company. “It’s a great dream come true.

The married mother of one said she enjoys interviewing people and learning about a va-
iety of subjects. The new host said she was nervous the first time she took to the airwaves. “It’s something you take for granted when you listen to other inter-
views. Then you realize, it truly is...something that takes a lot of time and effort.”

Graham said she’s already covered several show topics, ranging from the housing affordability research of UMass Boston professor Michael Stone, to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender And Age Project, to discus-
sions on the game of Monopoly and capitalism, to interviewing the Mashpee Wampanoag tribal leaders.

“The great thing about doing a public affairs show is being able to talk about all sorts of different things,” she said.

This is the first time Commonwealth Journal has had a guest host in its eight-year history, said station general manager Patricia Monreet.

Melissa Howard Graham

(Photos by Harry Brett)

Monreet. Barbara Neely, Common-
w ealth Journal’s regular host, is on leave to work on her latest book, according to Monreet. The challenge in finding a temporary host is the broad audience Commonwealth Journal reaches, not just over the signal of WUMB and its affiliate stations, but through syndication that puts the show on 30 stations around Massachusetts and reaches all 351 cities and towns in the state.

Listeners range from 18- to 80-

year-olds, according to Monreet. Alternative-rock radio listeners who listen to Commonwealth Journal on the in the Worcester area at WAAF-107.3 FM on Sundays at 5:30 a.m. Sports fans can hear the program broadcast on WEEI-850 AM on Sundays at 6 a.m.

Graham, who started last month hosting full-time, “pulled it all together by her ingenuity,” Monreet said.

“We are very excited to have her,” said Monreet. “She’s ask-
ing just the right question at just the right time. She has the ability to think like a listener, and that’s what makes for a great host.”
By Peter Grennen

Almost daily, there are reports of new concerns about the impact of human activity on our natural environment. UMass Boston professor Gordon Wallace was recently awarded a $300,000 grant from the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) to improve how researchers evaluate the effect of metal pollutants that wash into estuaries and other coastal bodies of water, particularly those in urban and industrial locations.

A partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of New Hampshire, the institute promotes the health of coastal regions nationwide by developing high-tech tools that can test the contaminant levels of water systems. Wallace’s research, which began in the fall, has seen him work in close cooperation with investigators from the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) facilities located in Waququot Bay, Massachusetts, and Wells, Maine. UMass Boston doctoral student Franco Pala has also conducted key research in the technology’s development.

The project addresses a major concern of environmentalists: the impact of human activity in littoral areas—in particular, the continual washing of metal pollutants into estuaries and other coastal bodies of water. “Habitat quality and ecosystem functioning are subject to change by a wide variety of natural and anthropogenic perturbations, the latter of which are particularly prevalent in coastal regimes adjacent to major population centers,” said Wallace, a professor in the Environment, Earth and Ocean Sciences Department.

The mere presence of metals in these waters is not necessarily cause for concern, Wallace pointed out. Rather, the toxicity of the metals depends on their “bioavailability.” Dissolved metals that bind to organic matter are much less bioavailable—and therefore less toxic—than those that exist as free ions. “Free ions are the key to understanding many of the reactions of metals in the environment—where the metal goes, what form it’s in, and how much is available to interact with the activity of organisms,” Wallace explains.

Determining the physical state of metal contaminants is therefore a prerequisite to designing a strategy for remedying the problem—but current methods for making such determinations are far from ideal. “Because of the importance of metal-free-ion activities to chemical and biological processes that affect biological activity, the ability to quickly make sensitive and precise measurements in these environments is needed,” says Wallace. “However, measurement of free-ion activities is currently limited to time-consuming, technically difficult procedures, many of which suffer from uncertainties in their interpretation.”

Still, Wallace and his research team believe there is no need to develop from scratch a technology that avoids these pitfalls. They are hoping to further refine an existing CICEET project probe called VIPER (Vibrating Ion Probe Equilibrium Recorder), which measures free-ion concentrations of copper and lead in marine environments. Their focus will be on improving the instrument’s sensitivity and accuracy, reducing analysis time, and developing a trace metal-free prototype for use in a variety of aquatic environments.

Thus far the researchers’ results have been nothing short of spectacular. “This is the quickest and simplest way at this time to make low-level measurements of copper and lead,” said Wallace. The new probe is so sensitive it can detect about one-tenth of a trillionth of a gram in one liter of water.

Wallace said that over time such precision will gain his sensor a central, permanent role—and greatly expanded usefulness—in the scientific monitoring of water systems. “Eventually, such a probe may be capable of integration into in situ instrumentation in coastal observatories with results provided remotely to shore-based stations,” he said.

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By Lena Serpa

On an icy February afternoon, a crowd of politically minded students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Campus Center for an exchange of ideas with three of the editors from The Nation. Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor and publisher; Jonathan Schell, the magazine’s peace and disarmament correspondent; and Peter Rothberg, associate publisher of special projects, traveled from New York City for a discussion sponsored by the Center on Media and Society, affording the university the rare opportunity to engage in a discourse with three of the sharpest political and social thinkers in the media.

Established by abolitionists in 1865, The Nation is known for its dedication to independent press and journalistic responsibility and remains a progressive and incisive voice amid an increasingly tepid political media. “The values of The Nation remain consistent,” said vanden Heuvel, “to hold corporate power accountable and develop and maintain a sense of connection with civil society.”

The visit is part of The Nation’s outreach to college campuses to gain student readership and address the disconnect between the political arena and a democratic graphic traditionally considered to be one of the most active and politically energetic in the country. “We’re here to meet with students and learn about what’s on the younger generation’s mind,” said Rothberg, Ellen Hume, director of the Center on Media and Society, jumped at the opportunity to host the journalists. “We try to create a bridge between the campus and the professional world of journalism,” said Hume.

Asked by the panelists to speak on their concerns, the students ultimately focused on the media itself and the discussion became an analysis of mainstream media and its failure to effectively engage not only students, but society as a whole. “Each generation seems less and less interested,” said undergraduate Devon Portney.

Part of the problem, as the panelists see it, is the increasingly firm grip corporations maintain on the media.

“Once there was a system of feudalism,” said Jonathan Schell, referring to the once-established control of the media by prominent families, such as the Pulitzer’s. Though ‘feudalism’ is far from a truly independent press, there was a certain sense of responsibility and integrity by those in control; a sharp contrast to today’s media, which is owned by a handful of media conglomerates beholden to advertisers and focused on turning a profit.

“The concentration of power has increased dramatically,” said Schell, who was a staff writer for The New Yorker until 1987 when he left because of the corporate takeover of the magazine by media giant Condé Nast.

In a society preoccupied by celebrity and hungry for eye candy, entertainment is what turns a profit. “The line between entertainment and news has been obliterated,” remarked vanden Heuvel. This is why a publication like The Nation emerges as an important voice in the press today.

“The Nation is not beholden to corporations or the government,” said vanden Heuvel, “we have a commitment to speak truth to power. The quality of a democracy is linked closely to the goals of the media. The Nation’s goal is to seize the freedom to see, to write, and to report.”

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Research (cont.)

cording to AAI, “The FSI database is the only one of its kind that provides data on faculty scholarly work at the discipline level, on an annual basis, and in a comparative context.” The faculty in UMass Boston’s doctoral program in clinical psychology were ranked as the tenth most productive. Accredited by the American Psychological Association, the clinical psychology program provides a strong theoretical background in psychology and related social science disciplines, as well as training in essential clinical skills and in conducting research.

With the 2006 index, each year’s data will be included in time-series analyses. “Time series data will provide a sense of the program’s trajectory and allow academic administrators to view the impact of their resource allocations and decisions in the context of known results over time,” AAI says on its website www.academicanalytics.com.

AAI reports, “Individual program scores can then be combined to demonstrate the quality of the scholarly activity within broad fields as well as the entire university.”
PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

Luís Alonso-Ovalle, assistant professor at the Department of Hispanic Studies, presented a paper on the formal semantics of conquista “Verbal Tantum” with disjunctive antecedents for the 33rd annual meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, held at the University of California, Berkeley.

In February, assistant professor of English Patrick Barron presented “The Selected Poetry and Prose of Andrea Zanzotto,” and a paper at the National Association for Humanities Education conference.


In February, Chris Bobek, assistant professor of women’s studies, presented “The Quandary of Queering: On André Malraux in Casablanca,” at the International Federation for Humanistic Psychology, in Amsterdam.

Several Institute for Community Inclusion staff presented at the National Association of Workforce Professionals Conference in February. Sheila Fesko ran a session on the aging workforce. Elana Varney and Con DiBasto held a session on designing services that are accessible to all.

In March, Professor Pamela Jones’ book, which she co-authored with her late husband, was published by National Council of Negro Women.

In February, Peter Kiang, American Political Science Association, and professor of political science, presented “A Proposal for the 2007 Raise and Reform Act,” at the American Political Science Association’s annual conference in Memphis.

The Maxwell Institute for Development, Environment, and Security held a panel discussion on “The Possibility of Peace in the Middle East,” with members of the board of OWL, the Women’s Center for Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Brian Thompson, modern languages professor, published his book “An André Malraux et l’espérance d’un monde nouveau,” at the University of the West Indies. His article on “André Malraux in Casablanca, in André Malraux: Quelque d’un idéal humaniste de valeurs transcendantales” (Casablanca: Éditions des Champs, 2006).

EXHIBITS, READINGS, PERFORMANCES, AND RECORDINGS

Panagiotis Liapopoulous, adjunct professor in the Music Department, composed and performed, performed a piece on Greek mythology, “The Possibility of Peace in the Middle East,” at the Calvary Church in Toronto, “The Selected Poetry and Prose of Andrea Zanzotto,” and a paper at the National Association for Humanities Education conference.

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The Institute for Learning and Teaching’s Massachusetts Studies Project has taken on an initiative, “Education, Culture, and Community Inclusion,” which he co-authored two chapters.

The maximmus poems appear in the current issue of The weirdest Review.

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The article “Shakespeare’s Last Act: ‘A Ode: Moments in the Life of Orpheus’” appears in the cur-riculum of “The Possibility of Peace in the Middle East,” at the University of California, Berkley.

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In March, Professor Pamela Jones’ book, which she co-authored with her late husband, was published by National Council of Negro Women.

In February, Peter Kiang, American Political Science Association, and professor of political science, presented “A Proposal for the 2007 Raise and Reform Act,” at the American Political Science Association’s annual conference in Memphis.

The Maxwell Institute for Development, Environment, and Security held a panel discussion on “The Possibility of Peace in the Middle East,” with members of the board of OWL, the Women’s Center for Literature, Science, and the Arts.

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National Job Shadow Day Brings Dorchester Teens to Campus

By Ed Hayward

UMass Boston’s second 2006-07 Community Partnership Day took place on February 2 as the university participated in National Groundhog Job Shadow Day in collaboration with the Boston Private Industry Council and the Boston Public Schools.

The university hosted approximately 20 students from the high schools in the Dorchester Education Complex—The Academy of Public Service, Noonan Business Academy, and Tech Boston Academy. The teens, among the approximately 900 who participated across the city, spent the day with university employees, receiving a glimpse of potential jobs and careers.

“Job Shadow Day is an exciting opportunity for UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students to give high school students from our community a chance to explore careers and make the connection between the classroom and the ‘real world,’” said Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD.

Dorchester Education Complex Cable News. He discussed the role of the campus in the development of the Boston-area workforce, as well as the current strategic and master planning efforts under way at UMass Boston.

Carol Hardy-Fanta, Director of the McCormick Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy, was quoted in a number of February news reports related to the February 6, 2007 release of her study of diversity in state and local government, including in the Boston Globe, the Boston Metro, the Patriot Ledger, and the State House News Service, and on WBRU’s Morning Edition radio program.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Lisa Johnson was quoted in a February 26 Boston Business Journal cover story that examined applications for the fall 2007 semester.

Ellen Hume, Director of the Center on Media and Society at the McCormick Graduate School, was a commentator on PBS’s NewsHour on January 29 about the journalism ethics and media literacy challenges created by a false report that Senator Barack Obama had attended an Islamic religious school as a child.

Enrico Marchi, assistant professor of economics and public policy, was featured on WBRU, UMass’s National Public Radio affiliate, on February 3. He discussed his research on the correlation between the rise in minimum wage and happiness on NPR’s Weekend America program.

Center for Social Policy researcher John McGah was quoted in the Wayland Town Crier for an article about his homelessness prevention campaign, “Give Us Your Poor.” The national prevention and awareness project is working with the Wayland Public Schools to incorporate the project’s homelessness education curriculum into the town’s schools.

Creative writing lecturer Joyce Pese-off, most recently author of “Eastern Mountain Time,” offered her recommendation for winter reading in the February 18 Boston Globe.

Women’s basketball coach Shawn Poll was quoted in a February 12 broadcast segment on WRZV-TV, 4 about UMass Boston junior Myrna Tangar’s winning appearance on The Price Is Right during a team trip in January. The show aired February 12 and was watched by student-athletes in the game room of the Campus Center.

The contribution of Mark Pawlak, director of academic support programs, to a January panel on Polish American Poetry and Culture at the Polish American Historical Association’s annual conference, is described in the current issue of the New York-based Polish newspaper Nowy Dziennik.

Donna Stewartson of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy was recently quoted in an article titled “Groups Call for Greater Female Political Presence” in The Daily Free Press.

Professors Taylor Stoch of the English Department and Askold Melnyckyj, director of the Creative Writing Program, were quoted in a February 6 Dwight article on Fullbright Scholar Abdurahman Wahab, who ended his two-year stay at UMass Boston and returned to his native Kurdistan in Iraq this month.

Brian Thompson, professor of modern languages, was interviewed for a show on national radio France-Inter, “Sous les études exactement.”

Dramatic Season for Women’s Basketball: LEC Tournament and Showcase Showdown

This season has been a momentous one for the UMass Boston women’s basketball team. During winter break, the team visited The Price Is Right game show, where junior Myrna Tangar was fortunate enough not only to make it on stage with Bob Barker, but also to win nearly $40,000 worth of prizes, including a new Ford Mustang. The show was broadcast on February 12 in the Campus Center game room, to a cheering crowd. The Beacons were hoping to carry that excitement into their final regular season game vs. Rhode Island College on February 17 as part of Senior Day. The women’s team had already locked up the number three seed in the Little East Conference Tournament with their best-ever showing in league play. The Beacons eventually lost in the Little East Conference Tournament to Western Connecticut State University on February 20.

—UMass Boston Athletics
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. For more information, dial (617) 28 and the last five digits listed below each event.

Please submit calendar listings by Friday, March 16, 2007 to umb.edu/news/calendar/.

**Thursday 1**

Water Watch General Meetings

Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Wheatley Hall, 4th Floor, Room 15. The group meets to discuss upcoming events and projects such as cleanups on the Charles and the Neponset rivers. For more information, call Theresa D’Anna at 7-8588.

**Friday 2**

First Annual Investment to Venture workshop

8:30-3:30 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Ballroom. Hosted by Venture Development Center, the workshops will serve as an introduction to the process and practice of clean energy technology entrepreneurship. Speakers include Mark Farber, chief executive officer of Evergreen Solar, and Kedar Thakor, founder of GT Solar. The documentary An Inconvenient Truth will be presented. Tickets are $10 for students, $35 for faculty, and $75 for general admission.

**Saturday 3**

A Conversation with Martha Coakley, Candidate for Attorney General

5:30-7:30 p.m., Suffolk University Law School, 120 Tremont St., Boston. This is an event cosponsored by the Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy and the Commonwealth Legislative Seminar. For more information, call Alkia Powell at 7-5541 or email alkia.powell@umb.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Monday 5**

Introduction to American Sign Language

Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Room 3001. For more information, call Mary Ann Machan at 7-7946 or email machanm@umb.edu.

**Wednesday 7**

College of Management Forum

5:00-6:00 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Ballroom C. Speaker: Chris Felipe consultant, private investor, College of Management Advisory Board member. For more information, call Mary Ann Machan at 7-7946 or email machanm@umb.edu.

**Thursday 8**

Small Business Development Center Course: QuickBooks Pro: Fast & Friendly Finances

Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Healey Library, Lower Level, Presentation Room 1. This four-week software course offers hands-on training for a fee of $125. For more information, visit the www.sbc.umb.edu/training. For more information, call Katrina Adorno at 7-7759.

Women of Substance: A Celebration of Women Leaders in Massachusetts

1:00-2:30 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Ballroom B. Keynote speakers: Joan Wallace-Benjamin, chief of staff for Governor Deval Patrick, the Honorable Diana Maldonado, Chelsea District Court judge, and Mauria Hennigan, clerk of Suffolk Superior Court. Presented by The William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences, The Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, and the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy.

Department of Hispanic Studies Spring Speakers Series

4:00 p.m., Healey Library, 4th Floor, Room 15. Event features Professor Nistor E. Rodriguez of the University of Toronto, presenting “El que sea prudente, que hable claro: Haiti and the Dominican Cultural Imaginary.” For more information about this and other spring speaker events sponsored, please visit www.hispanic-studies.umb-edu/newsletter/. All conferences will be conducted in English.

**Friday 9**

Biography Spring 2007 Seminar Series

2:30-3:30 p.m., Science Center, 1st Floor, Small Science Lecture Hall, Room 6. A seminar titled “K1 and K2: Two Keensies Involved in Plant Morphogenesis” will be presented by Keerti Patel, PhD, Université de Montréal, and Dr. Boston Biology Ph.D. candidate. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Contact 7-6600 for updates, or visit http://www.bio.umb.edu/events.

**Monday 12**

Dissertation Defense

10:00 a.m., Wheatley Hall, 4th Floor, Room 22. Yaw Amosoko-Addo, PhD Candidate in Geography, holds dissertation defense for “Old-Age Pension Benefits in Norway: A Comparison of Differences in Pension Benefits between Disabled and Non-Disabled Old-Age Pensioners.” The University’s community is invited to attend.

**Thursday 22**

UMass Boston Athletics: Baseball vs. Eastern Nazarene College

3:00-5:00 p.m., at Brandeis University. For more information, call David Masters at 7-7801 or email david.masters@umb.edu.

**Monday 26**

Clases Resumen

UMass Boston Athletics: Softball vs. Chestnut Hill University

3:00-5:00 p.m., at Brandeis University. For more information, call David Masters at 7-7801 or email david.masters@umb.edu.

**Friday 30**

Biology Spring 2007 Seminar Series

2:30-3:30 p.m., Science Center, 1st Floor, Small Science Lecture Hall, Room 6. A seminar by Dr. Tim Shanks, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Contact 7-6600 for updates, or visit http://www.bio.umb.edu/event.

**Saturday 31**

UMass Boston Athletics: Baseball vs. Umass Dartmouth Doubleheader at UMass Dartmouth. For more information, call David Masters at 7-7801 or email david.masters@umb.edu.

UMass Boston Athletics: Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut State University

1:00-3:00 p.m. For more information, call David Masters at 7-7801 or email david.masters@umb.edu.

UMass Boston Athletics: Men’s Tennis vs. Western Connecticut State University

1:00-3:00 p.m. For more information, call David Masters at 7-7801 or email david.masters@umb.edu.

Miscellaneous

Beacon Fitness Center McCormack Hall, 1st floor. Open to students, alumni, staff and faculty. Programs include personal training, aerobics classes, massage therapy, orientations, and fitness assessments. For membership, hours of operation, and schedule, please see www.umb.edu/beacon.

WUMB 91.5 FM Commonwealth Journal

Sundays, 7:00 p.m. Interviews with scholars, writers, and public officials examining current issues of interest to the people of Massachusetts. Contact 7-6900.

The Promise and the Challenge of Urban Rivers

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Federal Reserve Bank, Boston. This conference provides information on technical and financial resources available, sharing success stories and raising awareness of environmental justice issues. For more information, contact Chantal Lefevre at 7-5570 or email chantal.lefevre@umb.edu.

Give Us Your Poor Season

7:30-10:30 a.m. UMass Club, 220 Franklin Street, Boston. The 50th anniversary year of the Poor ’s Homelessness Prevention Program at UMass Boston, presents the seminar “Responsibility in Leadership Today,” featuring renowned business executive coach and author Dr. Marshall Goldsmith. Admission is $350. Proceeds benefit Give Us Your Poor. For more information, call 7-5532.