Shelter Poverty Study: For Minority Households, Housing Costs Cut Deeper into Budgets Between 1990 and 2000

By Ed Hayward

Nearly 27 percent of all households in Massachusetts were "shelter poor" in 2000, with households headed by Latinos, African Americans, and Asians nearly twice as likely as White households to find housing costs absorbing money needed to pay for their non-housing needs, according to a new UMass Boston report.

The shelter poor are those households that cannot meet their needs for food, clothing, medical care, and transportation at some minimum level of adequacy after paying for housing. The incidence of shelter poverty, UMass Boston Professor Michael Stone found, is 55 percent for Latino households, 42 percent among Black households, and 39 percent for Asian households.

"While households headed by a person of color accounted for about one of every six Massachusetts households, shelter poor households of color accounted for nearly one out of every four shelter poor households," said Stone, a professor of community planning and public policy. "We’re talking about 46 percent of households of color living in shelter poverty; that has serious implications for neighborhoods, cities, and towns, and the Commonwealth."

Of particular relevance to the issue of shelter poverty, households headed by persons of color are larger on the average than those headed by Whites. The median household size among renters is 2.9 for Latino-headed households, 2.3 Asian American, 2.2 Black, and 1.6 White. Among home-owning households, the median size is 3.5 for Latino-headed households, 3.4 Asian American, 2.9 Black, and 2.4 White. Since it costs larger households more to meet their non-shelter basic needs, the squeeze between their incomes and housing costs is more challenging than for smaller households of the same income.

Stone prepared his report for three of UMass Boston's policy research institutes: the Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, the Institute for Asian American Studies, and the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture. They are three of the 38 centers and institutes on campus that provide research, scholarship, and service to Boston and the Commonwealth.

"Home ownership is often touted as an 'anchor' that allows a household to weather economic storms," said Miren Uriarte, director of the Gaston Institute.

"But the more we learn about shelter poverty, we see that when a household has insufficient or (Continued on page 2)
Student-Curated Exhibit Takes a New Look at Early Pop Culture

By Leigh DuPuy

A new exhibit of rare books at the Boston Public Library (BPL) highlights one of the earliest rises of pop culture in London with pamphlets, broadsides, and rare books telling stories of criminals, ghosts, shipwrecks, and pirates. UMass Boston faculty and graduate students worked with BPL rare book curators to organize a first-of-its-kind exhibit, “Crooks, Rogues, and Maids Less Than Virtuous,” which opened on December 12 and will show through May 1. The exhibit is the first collaboration for UMass Boston and the Boston Public Library.

“This is a great example of what happens when collaboration flourishes,” said Bernard Margolis, president of the Boston Public Library, at the opening reception for the exhibit. “We were able to witness first-hand materials directly from the early streets of London’s pop culture—a pop culture built around literature,” says English professor Cheryl Nixon, project leader.

The exhibit includes articles from the first newspapers and magazines in London, which blur the lines between fact and fiction with stories of Atlantis, miraculous births, and the supernatural. It also includes “true life” stories of famed criminals, highwaymen, and female pickpockets. The materials were gathered from the riches of the Boston Public Library’s Trent Collection of Defoe and Defoeana. Daniel Defoe, writer of Robinson Crusoe and Moll Flanders, is considered to be one of the inventors of the English novel.

“One of our most popular forms of literature—the novel—was born in the streets of eighteenth-century London,” says Nixon. With an explosion of “cheap print” material, more and more people had access to literature, were learning how to read, and were thrusting for stories beyond the facts of the day, explains Nixon. “Readers of 300 years ago were fascinated with opinion, gossip, and scandal,” she says. “This was a period of a crucial shift in literary culture, with average people starting to read and demanding popular stories in print.”

A longtime scholar of archival material, Nixon worked closely with the BPL’s Earle Havens, acting keeper of rare books and manuscripts; Cheryl Nixon, English professor; Chancellor Michael Collins; and Bernard Margolis, president of the Boston Public Library. (Photos by Harry Brett)

At the opening of the exhibit, Earle Havens, BPL’s acting keeper of rare books and manuscripts; Cheryl Nixon, English professor; Chancellor Michael Collins; and Bernard Margolis, president of the Boston Public Library. (Photos by Harry Brett)

Shelter Poverty (cont.)

unstable income, the anchor can become a deadweight. Policy makers and legislators need to understand there is a significant need to bring stability to an increasing unstable class of renters and homeowners in a high-priced housing market."

The analysis takes note of the increasingly diverse Massachusetts populations. In 1990 there were 207,000 Massachusetts households headed by a person of color. By 2005, this number had doubled to 416,000. In 1990 households headed by a person of color accounted for about one out of every 11 households in the state (9.2 percent); by 2000 this had increased to more than one out of 11 (13.5 percent), and by 2005 to more than one out of six (17.0 percent).

According to Stone, the shelter poverty analysis is a “real world” approach to the issue. Conventionally, housing affordability is measured by a simple and universal standard that housing costs of 30 percent or less of a household’s income are “affordable,” housing costs of over 30 percent are “unaffordable,” and housing costs of over 50 percent are “worst-case housing needs.” Comparing the two measurements, Stone found that 46 percent of households of color were shelter poor in 2000, compared to 41 percent paying more than 30 percent of income.

The report recommends:

• Link strategies for income development with housing support, focused primarily in the cities and neighborhoods with concentrations of very low-income renters of color.

• Preserve, improve, and expand non-profit and public housing to increase housing affordability, but also as the focal points for educational and social supports for shelter poor single-parent families.

• Promote models of community- and resident-controlled non-speculative ownership—such as limited-equity cooperatives, community land trusts, and mutual housing associations—which can provide security of tenure and experience in resident control for moderate-income households of color who cannot afford conventional home ownership.

• Create a public program to provide permanent mortgage relief for low-income home owners who are shelter poor and at risk of foreclosure.

The University Reporter

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Send your news items to: The University Reporter at the mailing or e-mail address to the left.
Employees Spend Community Partnership Day Sprucing Up Victory Programs’ Portis Family House for the Holidays

By Ed Hayward

Chancellor Michael Collins, campus employees, and students teamed up on December 5 for Community Partnership Day to provide volunteer services to the Victory Programs’ Portis Family House in Jamaica Plain.

Trading their business attire for work clothes, Collins and the university’s executive leadership joined faculty and staff volunteers to paint and decorate the common family area and to clean up the yard at the Victory Programs’ Portis House in Jamaica Plain, (Bottom left) Jonathan D. Scott, executive director of the Portis House, worked alongside Chancellor Collins as part of Community Partnership Day, held on December 5. (Photos by Harry Brett)

Nearly two dozen volunteers bussed themselves painting inside the home, sprucing up the yard, and cleaning. The university’s Office of Community Relations delivered a tree, ornaments, and other small gifts of blankets and towels for the adults who call Portis Family House home. New children’s furniture, painted in bright colors by students organized by the university’s Office of Service Learning, was also delivered to brighten up the families space.

“The residents and staff of Portis Family House are grateful for the time and support UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students have provided as we approach the holidays,” said Victory Programs executive director Jonathan D. Scott. “By bringing Community Partnership Day to Portis Family House, the university has recognized the hard work of the families and staff who make up the Victory Programs community.”

Victory Programs, Inc., is a Boston-based multiservice agency that opens doors to recovery, hope, and opportunity for individual and families facing homelessness, addiction, and other chronic illness. For more than 30 years, Victory Programs has been offering men and women the chance to regain their dreams, their hopes, and their dignity.

“The strength of UMass Boston’s community outreach is a willingness to roll up their sleeves and provide targeted help—whether it’s painting the community room at Portis Family House, conducting a needs assessment for a new bathhouse group, or working with local businesses,” said Lee M. Kennedy, chairman of Lee Kennedy Co. and a longtime supporter of Victory Programs. “This is a university that is engaged with the community, and many people benefit from this work.”

Hannah Sevian Wins UMass President’s Public Service Award

Hannah Sevian, a professor of chemistry and science education, was recently honored with a President’s Office Public Service Award for her commitment to science education.

This December, UMass Boston’s Hannah Sevian was honored with the University of Massachusetts President’s Public Service Award for her commitment to science education.

By Ed Hayward

Sevian, an assistant professor, jointly appointed in science education and chemistry and associate director of the Center for Science and Math in Context (COSM/C), was recognized for her commitment to providing science education of the highest quality to all students, especially underrepresented, overlooked, or underprivileged K-12 students in urban communities.

She is the principal investigator for the Boston Science Partnership, a $12.5 million National Science Foundation–financed project designed to improve science achievement for students in grades six to 12 in the Boston Public Schools and the co-principal investigator on the Watershed Integrated Science Partnership ($3.5 million), that provides graduate students majoring in science with a rich, year-long experience in the classroom.

Racially and ethnically underrepresented students in urban communities—such as African Americans and Latinos in various portions of each group—76.7 percent of Asians and 70.8 percent of Latinos—are immigrants, according to an analysis of survey results.

The new survey connects to similar studies done in 1998 and allowed researchers to examine how opinions and experiences have changed in the past eight years. For instance, between 1998 and 2006, there was a general decline in confidence among Whites, African Americans, and Latinos in various institutions—such as state and local government, police, schools, the media, and the courts. Asians were the only group that showed an increase in confidence.

“All of those who care about the future of the state could benefit from some stock taking near- and long-term future of the Commonwealth,” write the co-authors of the report, Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Urban Public Policy; and Paul Watanabe, director of the Institute for Asian American Studies.

“The strength of UMass Boston’s community outreach is a willingness to roll up their sleeves and provide targeted help—whether it’s painting the community room at Portis Family House, conducting a needs assessment for a new bathhouse group, or working with local businesses,” said Lee M. Kennedy, chairman of Lee Kennedy Co. and a longtime supporter of Victory Programs. “This is a university that is engaged with the community, and many people benefit from this work.”


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New Lux Magazine Highlights Creative and Dynamic Student Work

By Maria Helena Serpa

As the semester came to a close, students, faculty, and staff going about their usual business may have noticed the gossamer image of a striking young man with a mohawk adorning the cover of a new publication. Lux, a magazine created by a group of dedicated and talented UMass Boston students, was designed to give a voice and a face to the UMass Boston’s varied and dynamic student body.

One look at the sleek cover and readers will see an example of the extraordinary ambition of UMass Boston students. A look inside the magazine will illuminate their tremendous talents and potential. As a representation of the student body, the publication suggests an accomplished and industrious group, and like many of the students themselves, the magazine has not had an easy path to its fruition.

Lux, the University Reporter, is a UMass Boston Honors Program newsletter, the final project of two honors students, Devin Bramhall and Lucienne Pierre. The newsletter’s focus was mainly scholarly, with in-depth articles showcasing student and faculty research. Anna Tsui, Lux’s current editor in chief, had a vision for something a bit different.

“I was inspired by the kids in my classes, who are amazingly dynamic,” says Tsui. “I felt there was a lack of communication between colleges and even majors, and I wanted to learn about what they’re doing.”

With this new purpose, Tsui set about changing the face and content of the magazine so that it would serve as a forum for a variety of students and their concerns and work. To this end, she recruited staff, e-mailed more than 30 faculty for submissions, got the word out to students in her classes to submit, and, importantly, approached the Office of Student Life to make Lux an official student organization, which provided the magazine with something they did not have before—a budget.

However, $7,000 for the year, the standard allowance for student organizations, only goes so far. The magazine cost $4,500 to print, which would make multiple issues a year a challenge. Lux staff hope to produce one issue a semester, with the possibility of a smaller supplemental issue in between.

The greatest challenge for the Lux staff was organizing their busy schedules to collaborate on a project that they had to build from the ground up. Tsui and five other staff members, Jade Goheen, Kate Danckert, Yelena Bryant, Sarah Caccio, and Chris O’Keefe, spoke of the process as daunting. The nature of campus life meant the Lux staff had to work twice as hard to ensure they came together to bring the issue to life. “We had no set space, no computer, no software, no structure for our staff, no training,” says Tsui. “We had to find our own printer, which is all the way out in Washington. And that’s just half the battle—then there’s the distribution.”

The staff’s collaborative effort has resulted in a polished product. This issue, devoted to broader issues, including economic systems and the problem of homelessness, the articles and photographs showcase students and faculty from various majors and departments, holding true to Lux’s purpose to serve as an inclusive, campus-wide forum.

“UMass is not a typical campus, but it’s a great campus,” says Lux editor Sarah Caccio.

For Anna Tsui this issue of Lux was about harnessing that greatness. “People are capable of much more than they think,” says Tsui. “This was all about discovering what they’re capable of.”

Winter Wonderland Celebrations Highlight Spirit of Giving and Fun

By Maria Helena Serpa

This year, the spirit of the holiday season took the form of a snowman in a beard and a colorful scarf as the UMass Boston community received an invitation to “A Winter Wonderland,” Chancellor Collins’ annual university-wide holiday party. The snowman is the work of Toni Jonas Silver of the Colonel Marr Boys and Girls Club, one of many talented young community artists currently on display in the Campus Center. The day promised to be one of good food, good music, and good company, and included the opportunity to both give and receive in celebration of the end of the semester and the anticipation of beginning a new year.

Holiday music and a spirit of fun set a warm and festive tone in the Clark Athletic Center’s ice rink, where the festivities kicked off. Skaters were treated to soft pretzels and hot chocolate to keep them going and help ward off the chill. All were welcome regardless of ability, and skates were provided to encourage everyone to attend.

Following the ice skating, all were invited to the Campus Center Ballroom to enjoy a cornucopia of goodies inspired by the traditional treats of various cultures. From the toasted ravioli to the chicken satay, there was something for everyone to enjoy, including those with a sweet tooth, who indulged in pumpkin cheesecake, Italian cookies, and baklava. Guests munched and mingled as the Troubadours of Truth, a jazz quintet composed of UMass Boston students and alumni, played jazz arrangements of holiday favorites as screenings of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman provided a holiday visual. The afternoon’s featured entertainment culminated with a performance by Professor Sharon Montello’s hip-hop dance class, who charmed the guests with an energetic and acrobatic display.

In the true spirit of the season, the university community demonstrated their generosity and kindness, donating games and toys to fill the playroom in the Neely House, a bed-and-breakfast-style home away from home for cancer patients and their families. All who donated were entered in a raffle for tickets to the Holiday Pops at Symphony Hall, the lucky winner of which was Julie Sanabria of University Advising.

The day offered the chance to enjoy some great food and music, take a break and have some fun, and spread a little holiday cheer. All who attended or donated a gift to the Neely House helped to set the tone for a festive holiday season and a happy new year to come.
The Center for Media and Society Launches New Ethnic Wire Service

By Lisa Gentres

UMass Boston is giving voice to the ethnic and immigrant communities of New England with NEWs, a new ethnic wire service and student internship that is launching this January.

“It’ll be a website, a portal, which is going to aggregate the best of the ethnic media stories of the week in one place—which is unusual because we’re crossing all these ethnic boundaries,” said Ellen Hume, director of the Center on Media and Society.

Hume, a longtime journalist, current professor, and media commentator, said the New England Ethnic Newswire (“NEWs,” tentatively located at www.ww根底NEWs.com), will include participation from local ethnic media, community forums, and student interns in her undergraduate class “Local and Ethnic Journalism.”

Area journalists will come in to coach the students throughout the project. Kenneth Cooper, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist formerly of the Boston Globe and The Washington Post, is a fellow at the Center on Media and Society for this academic year and will aid students with their projects and help teach Hume’s class.

“We are delighted to have found Ken in the right place at the right time to work with us on the Ethnic Media Project,” Hume said. NEWs will feature stories gleaned each week from the nearly 100 local ethnic media listed in the Center’s database on such issues as culture, tradition, business, and politics. “We’re going to get the voices of these neighborhoods heard on our website,” she said.

The UMass Boston project is “trying to use the Internet as a way to cross ethnic divides, to bring new vitality and information to all of us in New England. We want to raise the visibility of the ethnic media and also help the mainstream media who are struggling in many ways to cover all the diverse changes in New England,” Hume said.

The Center on Media and Society, part of the McCormack Graduate School, hosts the Ethnic Media Project, which is creating NEWs. The web project was funded in part by a grant from the Ford Foundation and through volunteers who are donating their time, according to Hume.

One of the goals of the project is to highlight important stories that may be overlooked by the mainstream media, she said. The NEWs website will not only feature the best stories each week from the region’s ethnic media, but will also offer community forums, a Q & A with local ethnic editors, research, links to government and community services, and a high school blog written by students interested in journalism. UMass Boston undergraduate interns will be writing original content both for the ethnic media and directly for the website.

NEWs will also include a reporter’s tool kit and a “wiki” for the public to develop a professional code of ethics for the news media.

Local media that have already agreed to partner with UMass Boston on this project include El Planeta, Sampam, KoreaBoston, the White Eagle, Irish Emigrant, Boston Haitian Reporter, WBUR Radio, The Week, and Bay State Banner. Hume and the project hope to partners with other, including some local TV outlets.

Boston.com, the website run by the Boston Globe, said it will highlight and link to some of NEWs’s best stories, Hume said. For more information, contact her at ellen.hume@umb.
PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

Jalal Alamgir, assistant professor of political science, chaired the panel “Human Rights Policy Challenge in Bangladesh,” hosted by the South Asia Initiative at Harvard University.

Emiliana Bada of the Performing Arts Department was a guest speaker for the Pro Musica Corp’s concert “A Tribute to the Jazz Masters,” held on November 11. Bada presented a comprehensive commentary on the history and evolution of jazz.

Chris Boehl, assistant professor of women’s studies, gave the talk “Our Revolution Has Style: Menstruation, Resistance and Doing Feminism” as part of the Women’s Studies Research Center Lecture Series, held at Brandeis University on December 5.

In November, Jeff Duks, assistant professor of biology, gave an invited presentation, “The Boston-Area Climate Experiment: Characterizing Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change,” at the National Academy of Sciences’ Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium. He also gave an invited lecture, “The Effect of Climate Change on the Success of Alien Species,” at the “Fifth Environment Symposium: Alien Species—Environment, Bioterror, Future,” held in Turku, Finland.

Virginia Harvey, associate professor in the Department of Marketing and School Psychology, presented the paper “Ethical Issues in Professional Development and Supervision” at the Massachusetts School Psychologists’ Association’s fall conference, “Ethical and Legal Considerations in School Psychology: Current Best Practices.” She will present the paper “Study Skills and Self-Regulation” at the annual conference of the Illinois School Psychology Association in February.

Ellen Hume, director of the Center on Media and Society, spoke on media ethics at the Inter-American Press Association conference, featuring journalism leaders from across Latin and Central America.

Erika Kates, research director for the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, presented testimony to the Patrick/Murray transition team on the importance of counseling and at Benjamin Franklin Institute, held on December 1. She presented information on the barriers to substantive education and training experienced by low-income women as a result of current welfare, workforce development, and educational policies.

On November 6, Jon Mitchell, chair of the Performing Arts Department, gave the Knight Fund lecture, “Music: A College Behind the Music,” at Curry College.

Charles Ndungu of the Ph.D. in Public Policy Program was invited to facilitate a session for the United Nations Habitat Experts Group Meeting “Mainstreaming Aids into Slums Upgrading projects,” held in Nairobi Kenya in November.

Mark Pawlak of Academic Support Services participated in the panel “The Relationship Between Across America Poetry and Political American Culture” at the annual conference of the American Historical Association, held in Atlanta on January 5. In his public reading at the Forest Hills Trust’s “Poetry in the Chapel” reading series, held on January 14.

Professor Jennifer Radden of the Philosophy Department delivered the following papers: “Ulysses Virtue-Hume, and the Moral Psychology of the Good Psychiatrist” at the Royal Institute of Philosophy Workshop, “A Confusion of Pains: the Sensory and Afflictive Dimensions of Pain: Suffering, and Hurt” at the boston Martin Advanced Research Seminar for Philosophy Faculty at Oxford University, and “Epideemic Depres- sion and Burmtonian Melancholy” for the Maudsley Hospital Philosophy Group in London.


EXHIBITS, READINGS, AND RECORDINGS

Clarinet Nouveau, a CD by clarinet icon Chester Breznick, received a review from German critic Dieter Stibbe, who wrote, “Chester Breznick, the soloist, who so elegantly masters the art of playing the clarinet, arranged Bartok’s Hungarian Peasant Songs written for piano in 1914 and 1917, into an instrument. The popular coloring of the multi-colored pieces in the folklore sound of the clarinet feels completely natural…a beautiful CD with richly varied content.”

Grip, a large-scale, two-channel video installation, was on view for 52 minutes long, by Eric Levine, assistant professor of art, was purchased by the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego.

Lloyd Schwartz, Tony Professor of English and Creative Writing, participated in a reading of Russian poetry translated by the late Paul Schmidt in an evening celebrating the publication of The Stray Dog Cabaret, held on December 2 at the MFA.

Susan Opotow, professor in the Graduate Program in Dispute Resolution, published the paper “Seeking Inclusion in the Global Classroom: Two Exploratory Studies” in Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology’s special issue “Pioneers in U.S. Peace Psychology: Morton Deutsch.”

Melanie Pecora, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology, published a chapter, “School-Based Mental Health Services for Children and Adoles- cents,” in Research on Community- Based Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents.


Members of the College of Management’s Delta Sigma Pi, a co- ed professional fraternity organized to foster the study of business in uni- versities, received scholarships and awards: Daniel Collins received the Beta Chapter Scholarship; and the 2006 New England Region Collegian of the Year Award; Yelena Zaytseva received the 2007 Xi Phi Collegian of the Year Award; and Carrie Pepples received the Howard B. Johnson, Thomas M. Mocella, Lester H. White and Ben H. Wollenger Graduate Fellowship.

Melissa Howard Graham, a com- munity psychiatric professor, with 20 years of experience working in public relations, event management, graphic design, and fundraising, was appointed the new host for WUMB’s Commonwealth Journal.

Felicia Wilczenski, professor of counseling and school psychology, was awarded a Curriculum Innovation Fellowship Grant by the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Campus of the National Council on Family Service, a level service-learning course that directly impacts disadvantaged youth in Massachusetts. Wilczenski will implement BostonNET (Net- work for Educational Transitions), a service-learning partnership between the UMass Boston School Counseling Program and the Boston Public Schools (BPS) to support BPS students as they progress from high school to postsecondary education.

At a December 7 ceremony at the Boston Globe, El Pamezta recognized the 100 most influential people to impact the Hispanic community of Massachusetts in 2006. Among those honored were Emerging Leaders Program (EL) alumni Eduardo Tabon, vice president of Sovereign Bank, and Georgianna Melendez, executive director of Casa Myrna Vasquez. Professor Sherry Penney, EL founding director, was also honored.

The Frank J. Manning Certificate Program in Gerontology was ac- knowledge by the Korber Fonda- tion’s Transatlantic Idea Contest for the impact it has made in helping improve the quality of life for the Region’s Health and Minority Health, as well as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

College of Management graduate students, faculty, and leaders of IBM’s Academic Initiative group piloted the “Collaboration Jam” program, providing valuable feedback to those honored were Emerging Lead- ers Program (ELP) alumni Jean Pierre Kuijboer and Ed Romar, met with IBM employees to discuss the telecommunications, health care, and banking industries. IBM plans to continue working with CM faculty and students to set up future collaboration jams.

On December 6, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs hosted the National Science Founda- tion Proposal Writing Workshop for faculty and staff from UMass Boston, UMass Dartmouth, Northern Essex Community College, Roxbury Com- munity College, and Tech Boston of the Boston Public Schools.

The UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station hosted a presentation of “The Climate Project’s” show page on global warming on December 1 at the field station’s Grace Grossman Environmental Center.

OBITUARY

Professor Beatrice (Bettina) Ulland of the Department of Hispanic Studies passed away on December 13 after a long and courageous battle with ovarian cancer. She began her career at UMass Boston in 1975 and was known as a gifted and dedicated teacher of Spanish language and literature.
IN THE NEWS

Yung-Ping (Bing) Chen, the Frank J. Manning Emeritus Scholar’s Chair in Gerontology, was quoted on the financial and medical implications of an increasingly overweight or obese population moving into retirement for a December 13 Market Watch article.

Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, was quoted in “Re- port Faults Romney on Hiring Few Minorities for Top Posts,” released by the Associated Press on December 7. A lead editorial on the study appeared in the Boston Globe, with additional coverage by the State House News Service. This story also appeared in the Boston Metro and aired on WBUR. Hardy-Fanta was also interviewed for Unison, WUNI-TV.


The research was conducted by the UMass Boston’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston found that the Commonwealth is just 1.2 percent each of the top appointments; their share of the population, according to the 2000 Census, is 6 percent. However, the study also identifies a dramatic disparity in the level of position held by people of color by examining appointments to executive versus executive board positions. The study finds that only five African Americans and two Latinos were appointed out of 92 executive positions filled. No Asians received executive-level positions.

“Access to Excellence: Culture of Achievement Thriving at UMass Boston”

By Anne-Marie Kent

UMass Boston graduate and Fulbright winner Tim Menz soon leaves for India, where he will join leading physicians as they volunteer in rural and urban settings.

Meanwhile, this year’s Fulbright applicants are eagerly awaiting news from the selection committee.

Interest in applying for major fellowships is strong, said Susan Gore, professor of sociology and major fellowships and sponsorships. Reports that about half of UMass Boston students who apply for such awards are successful in winning the awards or becoming finalists.

In recent years, five UMass Boston students have won Fulbright Fellowships, and one has become a Marshall Scholar. Others have become finalists and semifinalists for these and other awards.

This year’s Fulbright applicants are honors student Erica Mena, who has won numerous scholarships, including the English Department’s Peter Butler Brooks Scholarship to study at Trinity College, Oxford, and who also applied for the Marshall Scholarship; Pre-Med Society president Jon Marino, who majors in biology and philosophy, has studied at Oxford, and is completing an internship at Massachusetts General Hospital; and Danica Garcia, a graduate student in applied linguistics who is taking her program through distance learning.

“The culture of achievement is much, much broader than that which is reflected in participation in these specific competitions,” said Gore. “The Fulbright Program embodies the productive and creative link between diversity and academic excellence,” said Kingston-Mann.

CAMPUS NOTES

By Ed Hayward

A study conducted before this year’s election by the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston found that less than 11 percent of top-level gubernatorial appointees in the ongoing administration are people of color. Out of 163 top-level positions, only three Latinos and one Asian held appointments.

African Americans achieved the highest level of representation among the five significant disparities in appointments of people of color were also discovered at different levels of authority.

“The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has an increasingly diverse population but, for the most part, the racial makeup of those holding top-level positions filled by gubernatorial appointments has not kept pace with the state’s increasingly diverse population,” said Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, who led the study.

“Governor-elect Deval Patrick has a message that we need a leadership that reflects of our population.”

The study was commissioned by the Boston Foundation as part of its Pipeline to Public Service Initiative, which the foundation funds in partnership with the New Community Fund, an independent, local foundation. The initiative is designed to develop the next generation of leaders of color to run for elective office and to hold appointive office in the Commonwealth.

According to the study, Latinos and Asians were underrepresented in top-level appointments. Latino appointments make up 1.8 percent of the total number of posts, far below their 7 percent share of the population. Despite the fact that Asians make up 4 percent of the population, they hold less than 1 percent of total top-level positions.

African Americans have achieved the best level of representation, according to the study; 14 African Americans were appointed top positions, 8.5 percent of their share of the population, according to the 2000 Census, is 6 percent.

However, the study also identifies a dramatic disparity in the level of position held by people of color by examining appointments to executive versus executive board positions. The study finds that only five African Americans and two Latinos were appointed out of 92 executive positions filled. No Asians received executive-level positions.

On the boards and commissions, African Americans do a bit better; there are five African Americans among the 81 chairs, vice chairs, or members of the boards/commissions studied, making up 6.1 percent of these positions, somewhat above their share of the population.

However, representation by Latinos or Asians at this level is very low, with one Latina and one Asian serving on the boards/commissions surveyed; their share is just 1.2 percent each of the total.

The research was conducted by UMass Boston’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies. A research team overseen by Hardy-Fanta gathered the names, the numbers of slots in the Associated Press, Boston Herald, Salem News, Worcester Telegram, and on WGBH-TV on December 17, 18, and 19.

CWPPP Analysis Questions Statewide Gubernatorial Appointments

By Anne-Marie Kent

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“The culture of achievement is much, much broader than that which is reflected in participation in these specific competitions,” said Gore. “The Fulbright Program embodies the productive and creative link between diversity and academic excellence,” said Kingston-Mann.

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Miren Urtaric, a director of the Gastón Institute, was quoted on the future implications for students who decide to pursue the SATs in a story for the Boston Globe in December.

American studies professor Rachel Rubin’s comments about the need for consistency in state funding of higher education are quoted in an editorial about the higher education working group of Governor-elect Deval Patrick that appeared in the Boston Globe on December 11.

Vincent Cannato, assistant professor of history, cautions that his fellow historians shouldn’t rush to judge Bush as the “worst president” in history in a Washington Post article on December 3.

A Boston Herald article about the return of retirees to the classroom says that membership in UMass Boston’s Office of Lifelong Learning Institute has more than tripled, from about 100 members when it opened in 1999 to more than 300 today.

The McCormack Graduate School’s Boston Diversity Project was the lead editorial in the Boston Globe and the State House News Service. This story appeared in the Boston Globe on December 13.
**January 2007**

### Calendar of Events

#### Saturday 6
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. Keene State College**
  1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Men's Ice Hockey vs. Amherst College**
  3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

#### Sunday 7
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Men's Basketball vs. Keene State College**
  1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

#### Tuesday 9
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. Plymouth State College**
  5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Clark Athletic Center. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.
- **Kripalu Yoga**
  2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

#### Wednesday 10
- **Kripalu Yoga**
  1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

#### Wednesday 17
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Ice Hockey vs. Middlebury College**
  7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. Bridgewater State College**
  5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Clark Athletic Center. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Men's Basketball vs. Bridgewater State College**
  5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Clark Athletic Center. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.
- **Chancellor's Reception for Hannah Sevian**
  4:00 – 5:00 p.m., Quinn Administration Building, Chancellor's Conference Room, 3rd fl. Contact: 7-6800.
- **McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies Alumni Event: Transitioning Public Policy into 2007**
  5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Campus Center, Alumni Room, 2nd fl. Featuring Dean Steve Crosby along with other members of Governor-elect Deval Patrick's transition team. Contact: 7-6800.
- **UMass Boston 25th Alumni Reunion**
  5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Campus Center, Ballroom, 3rd fl. Reception and dinner for UMass Boston alumni celebrating their 25th reunion.

#### Friday 19
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Men's Ice Hockey vs. University of Southern Maine**
  7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

#### Saturday 20
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Men's Basketball vs. Salem State College**
  5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. Suffolk University**
  5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

#### Wednesday 24
- **Boston State College Celebration**
  6:00 p.m., Campus Center, Ballroom, 3rd fl. Activities throughout, including free food, information tables, and more. Contact: michael.todorsky@umb.edu.
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. University of Southern Maine**
  7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

#### Thursday 25
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. Suffolk University**
  5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

#### Friday 26
- **Center for Improvement of Teaching Conference on Teaching for Transformation Conference**
  For more information: anna.tuaz@umb.edu or 7-6409.

#### Saturday 27
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. Western Connecticut State**
  1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Men's Basketball vs. Western Connecticut State**
  5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.
- **UMass Boston 25th Alumni Reunion**
  5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Campus Center, Ballroom, 3rd fl. Reception and dinner for UMass Boston alumni celebrating their 25th reunion.

#### Monday 29
- **First Day of Classes**
- **Opening Week Spring 2007 Activities**
  Beginning 8:00 a.m., Campus Center, McCormack Hall, Science Center, and Whearely Hall. Activities throughout, including free food, information tables, and more. Contact: michael.todorsky@umb.edu.

#### Tuesday 30
- **Opening Week Spring 2007 Activities**
  Beginning 8:00 a.m., Campus Center, McCormack Hall, Science Center, and Whearely Hall. Activities throughout, including free food, information tables, and more. Contact: michael.todorsky@umb.edu.

#### Wednesday 31
- **Opening Week Spring 2007 Activities**
  Beginning 8:00 a.m., Campus Center, McCormack Hall, Science Center, and Whearely Hall. Activities throughout, including free food, information tables, and more. Contact: michael.todorsky@umb.edu.
- **UMass Boston Athletics: Women's Ice Hockey vs. University of Southern Maine**
  7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Clark Athletic Center Rink. Contact: 7-7801 or david.marsters@umb.edu.

### Miscellaneous
- **Beacon Fitness Center**
  McCormack Hall, 1st fl. 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/fitnessecen/ or 7-6786.
- **“Crooks, Rogues, and Mads Less Than Virtuous”: An Exhibit of Print and Paper**
  8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Boston Public Library, The Abbey Room, McKim Building, 2nd fl. Free food, information tables, and more. Contact: www.umb.edu or 7-6509.
- **“The Cult of Fashion”: an exhibition examining current issues of mass consumption and taste in 19th century France and 20th century America”**
  9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Quincy Administration Building, Conference Room, 3rd fl. Free lunch and admission. Sponsored by the Foreign Area Studies Program. Tax-exempt gifts to the University of Massachusetts Foundation. For more information: www.umb.edu/fitc or 7-2990.
- **Instructional Technology Center (ITC)**
  Interested in expanding your technology horizons? Visit the ITC Web site at www.itc.umb.edu or contact: 7-2990.
- **UMass Boston Doctoral Dissertations Grant Program**
- **University Club at UMass Boston**
  11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Campus Center, 2nd fl. Open to faculty and staff. $8.00 for members and $18.00 for non-members. All-you-can-eat buffet, featuring “Sizzlin’ Cuisine” every Thursday. Contact: 7-3144.
- **UMB 91.9 FM Commonwealth Journal**
  Sundays, 7:00 p.m. Interviews with scholars, writers, and public officials examining current issues of interest to the people of Massachussetts. Contact: 7-6900.

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