UMass and Chinese Officials Launch
The University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute

By Ed Hayward

On November 20, the University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute located at UMass Boston, a non-profit public university, held a launch event at the University of Massachusetts, Boston campus. The event was held in conjunction with the University of Massachusetts and China's Ministry of Education and presented by the Confucius Institute, which promotes the teaching and understanding of Chinese language and culture in Massachusetts.

“The Confucius Institute is the seventh established in the United States and the first in New England,” said Chancellor Michael Collins. “This partnership presents an opportunity for UMass Boston to engage with Chinese institutions and has developed programs that allow our students and the business community to connect with China and many opportunities it presents,” said Chancellor Michael Collins. “This partnership allows the university’s GIS Core Research Facility to promote the teaching and understanding of Chinese language and culture and to support Chinese-language education in Massachusetts.”

“UMass Boston has nearly a dozen academic partnerships with Chinese institutions and has developed programs that allow our students and the business community to connect with China and the many opportunities it presents,” said Chancellors Michael Collins. “This partnership presents an opportunity for UMass Boston to engage with Chinese institutions and has developed programs that allow our students and the business community to connect with China and many opportunities it presents,” said Chancellor Michael Collins. “This partnership allows the university’s GIS Core Research Facility to promote the teaching and understanding of Chinese language and culture and to support Chinese-language education in Massachusetts.”

The Confucius Institute is the seventh established in the United States and the first in New England. The institute will provide programs and services including teaching the Chinese language, the training of Chinese teachers, curriculum development, and cultural events. It will also provide learning opportunities for the community, a clearinghouse of Chinese-language and cultural materials, and a platform for research into Chinese language and culture.

The Confucius Institute will draw upon resources from throughout the university system, including the Boston campus, where the Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education, East Asian Studies, Asian-American Studies, and International Program Center, International Studies, and the Office of International Services will contribute to the institute’s mission.

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The Dong-Fang Performance Arts Group performed at reception celebrating the launch of the Confucius Institute, a nonprofit institute founded to promote the teaching and understanding of Chinese language and culture to support Chinese-language education in Massachusetts. (Photo by Harry Brett)

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The Dong-Fang Performance Arts Group performed at reception celebrating the launch of the Confucius Institute, a nonprofit institute founded to promote the teaching and understanding of Chinese language and culture to support Chinese-language education in Massachusetts. (Photo by Harry Brett)

The University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute plays an important role in the economic and cultural life of the state,” said Xu Lin, Hanban’s director general. “Already, UMass is engaged in partnerships with universities and other institutions in China and is providing much-needed assistance to the Dorchester community.”

By Ed Hayward

Nearly 350 businesses opened their doors in Dorchester during the first six months of 2006, adding to a dynamic neighborhood commercial sector that boasts nearly 3,000 businesses, according to the results of a UMass Boston analysis that uses the latest in geographic information systems (GIS) technology. The findings are highlighted in a report that provides a comprehensive snapshot of Dorchester’s dynamic business sector.

“Lending the university’s technical assistance to the Dorchester Board of Trade marks a deepening of UMass Boston’s commitment to the community,” said Gail Hobin, assistant vice chancellor for community relations. “The mapping of Dorchester’s business community will help the Board of Trade reach more businesses in the neighborhood and enhance the ongoing planning efforts of the city and neighborhood groups.”

The project began nine months ago in order to help the 174-member Dorchester Board of Trade better understand the neighborhood’s commercial sector and launch new membership-building initiatives, said Mary Truong, president of the Board of Trade. “Seeing is believing, and what I see through the GIS is a vibrant business sector that can get stronger when its participants are connected,” said Truong. “The GIS mapping results give us a number of important tools, but start by allowing people to see the business community as a whole, rather than just names on a list.”

Directed by Joan N. Gardner, the university’s GIS Core Research Facility was opened by the university’s chief academic officer early this year to make GIS resources available to scholars and staff working across all disciplines and areas of the university. The Dorchester mapping project produced the following results:

• A comprehensive snapshot of Dorchester’s dynamic business sector.
• Presented for the first time in a visual manner a range of publicly available business data.
• Enhanced the ongoing discussion about business development between the city and neighborhood businesses.
• Developed GIS images that
Years of Service Event Celebrates UMass Boston Employees

By Anne-Marie Kent

“This is the best event we have all year,” said a longtime university staffer standing near one of the many elaborate food displays at the annual Years of Service Celebration in the Campus Center Ballroom. “It’s a nice event with no agenda other than to celebrate each other and our time at the campus.”

Food choices included an array of hot hors d’oeuvres as well as layer cake and pumpkin cheesecake. Before the speaking program began, there was much milling about as Chancellor Michael Collins and his wife Maryellen greeted staff and faculty in the standing-room-only crowd.

“As we celebrate Thanksgiving as a university community, Maryellen and I would like to thank each of you for your work on behalf of the university,” said Chancellor Collins. “UMass Boston is much more than bricks and mortar on Columbia Point. UMass Boston relies on the strength of its faculty and staff to be Boston’s great public university. Thank you for your years of service.”

Chancellor Collins offered special thanks to the six employees celebrating forty years of service. They are: Kathleen Beauchamp, Kenneth Cerny, and Edward Ginsberg; (second row) John Lutts, Leverett Zompa, and Geza Schay, who recently retired after 39 years but continues to teach as an adjunct. Esther Kingston-Mann, not pictured, was among the group honored. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Fourteen employees celebrated 35 years of service. Twelve celebrated 30 years of service. Another 12 celebrated 25 years of service. Thirty-three celebrated 20 years of service. Twenty-three celebrated 15 years of service, and 41 celebrated ten years of service.

“This year, we had a record number of longtime employees marking 40 years of service,” said Mark Preble, assistant vice chancellor for human resources, who presented employees with their gifts, which included items such as umbrellas, picture frames, and blankets.

An avid jogger, Ginsberg requested, instead of the traditional forty-year gift of a globe, to receive a UMass Boston sweat suit for his regular laps around University Drive.

CLA Faculty Observes Nicaraguan Elections for Carter Center

By Leigh DuPuy

Fresh from monitoring the Nicaraguan elections on November 5, UMass Boston's Jack Spence thinks we have something to learn from that polling process. Still carrying his rolling suitcase from his trip, Spence arrived at his hometown polling center and was dismayed by the lack of privacy in casting his large and clearly visible ballot. “It’s not a secret ballot,” he says. “It would not pass muster in Nicaragua.”

Spence, who is associate dean of the university’s College of Liberal Arts, was invited by the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, to join a fifty-person team to monitor elections in Nicaragua. The Carter Center, at the behest of the Nicaraguan government, has observed elections in that country since 1989 to promote free and fair elections.

Spence, an expert in elections, diplomacy, and conflict in Central America, has been traveling to Nicaragua for 16 years as part of the Hemisphere Initiatives, a Boston-based organization of which he is president.

His was one of 19 teams that fanned out across the country; he worked in rural areas and small cities near Boaco. “It is really cowboy territory,” he describes, “a place where a lot of the local war in the 1980s was fought.”

Cars, Spence recalls, while not wholly unusual, were far outnumbered in most areas by people riding horses, walking by foot, or riding the occasional bicycle to the polls.

“We drove around and looked at voting places within the small city and into the countryside,” says Spence. “We observed the process and reported to the Carter Center on problems or complaints about voting.”

To vote in the election, citizens are required to present an I.D. card and then cast color-coded ballots on each of four races: president; a slate of candidates from their department for the national legislature; another slate of a “national list” of candidates for the legislature; and delegates to the Central American Parliament. Polling centers open at 7:00 a.m. and stay open until 6:00 p.m. Officials count ballots by hand and the process runs deep into the night.

“It’s quite a formal process,” says Spence. Two voting officials at each polling place (with some 400 voters per place) sign each color-coded ballot and instruct voters to fold each and place it in a cardboard box with a stripe of the corresponding color. The ballots for president include their photographs and a logo of their party so that “illiterate voters can cast an intelligent ballot,” he says.

Spence is very impressed by the dedication and hard work of those who work the polls. “In a country roughly the size of the Boston metropolitan area, there are on average nine people working at each of the 11,500 polling places. Each voting table has three electoral officials, four or five party-nominated poll watchers who observe from inside the polling place, and one electoral policeman,” says Spence. He calculates that for roughly 3.3 million voters, there are 100,000 working for three days straight, not including the pre-training, on the electoral process.

“They sit at the polling place all day to make sure that the election is fair and that everyone is following procedure,” says Spence.

While the elections went smoothly, Spence did witness a verbal fight that broke out at a polling station. One party representative had accused another of handing the results out the window to get a quick count of the returns.

Spence has traveled to Nicaragua at least two dozen times since 1983 to observe the nation’s war and peace process, politics, democracy, and elections. He is impressed by the Carter delegation, from its training sessions, where “they prepared you on everything from how to wash your hands to what to do in case of an ambush,” to its organization of a sophisticated group of participants, 40 percent of whom were not from the United States.

Spence even ran into two former UMass Boston students of his, Dennis Young, for whom Spence provided a recommendation to observe elections for the Carter Center, and Pablo Galarce ‘96, whom he met by accident in Managua. Galarce is now regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean for a nonprofit named IFES. “It was quite a pleasure to meet them both,” says Spence.

Spence and his counterparts filled out reports and summaries on each polling center they visited, and their observations will be included in a larger report to be issued by the Carter Center.
University Community Honors Beacons Basketball Champions

By Athletics Communications

On December 2, the university community showed its support for one of the Athletic Department’s proudest moments as last year’s men’s basketball team was honored for winning its first-ever Little East Conference championship.

More than 1,200 UMass Boston fans turned out for the women’s and men’s basketball games, as well as men’s ice hockey game at the Clark Athletic Center. The gym was rocking with an electric crowd, armed with complimentary thundersticks and mini-mega-phones to voice their support for the home team.

The day began with a thrilling 93-86 overtime victory over Eastern Connecticut State University by the women’s basketball team. The women’s team had not beaten the Warriors in over 12 years. The good feelings continued when a crowd of over 700 looked on as Chancellor Michael Collins presented each member of last year’s men’s championship team with commemorative rings.

The chancellor was also presented with a ring by the team’s captains in appreciation of his support throughout last season. He addressed those in attendance prior to the ceremony, noting the great accomplishments of the team and praising the support the athletics teams received. He also remarked on how good it felt to dance on the basketball court following last year’s memorable win over Keene State University, which vaulted the Beacons into the NCAA tournament for the first time in 23 years.

There was more revelry at halftime of the men’s basketball game as four contestants, the top competitors in a week-long “pop-shot” tournament held in the Campus Center, participated in a shoot-out for prizes. Each contestant was charged with scoring as many points as they could in a 30-second time frame while the Mission Impossible theme played in the background. UMass Boston student and men’s soccer team member Henry Marin was the top shooter and was awarded an authentic UMass Boston men’s basketball warm-up suit.

The Beacons trailed for most of the second half, but fueled by its “sixth man” and with the crowd behind them, they regained the lead with just over five minutes to play. Despite their tenacious play, they were not able to hang on for the win.

Umass Confucius Institute Established at UMass Boston

(continued from page 1)

needed assistance to the Massachusetts business community exploring potential opportunities in China. Massachusetts is also taking a leadership role in Chinese-language instruction in its public schools. These strong ties to Chinese institutions, culture, and language will support a vibrant UMass Confucius Institute located at UMass Boston.

Chancellor Collins also thanked Kathleen Teahan, vice chancellor for enrollment management, and Dirk Messelaar, dean of the Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education, for their key contributions in pursuing the opportunity to bring the Confucius Institute to the UMass Boston campus.

In May, University of Massachusetts President Jack M. Wilson signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tsinghua University

Standing by the new Confucius Institute are Kathleen Teahan, vice chancellor for enrollment management; Dirk Messelaar, dean of the division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education; Xu Lin, director general, Hanban; Chancellor Michael Collins; and Lin Pengzhi, principal, Renmin University of China Affiliated High School. (Photo by Harry Brett)

in China. In late September, President Wilson led a delegation to China to meet with senior Chinese officials, and political and business leaders on a range of issues.

“This new partnership that we recognize today is an extension of the university’s long-standing efforts to facilitate educational and cultural exchanges throughout the world. Clearly, in an increasingly interconnected world, it is essential that we prepare our students to compete successfully in the global marketplace,” said President Wilson.

UMass Boston, which will integrate the University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute with the China Program Center in the Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education, has signed cooperative agreements with 11 Chinese academic partners in recent years to promote academic exchanges, foreign study opportunities, and management training.

The institution’s focus on language-educator training will serve a unique need for teachers in Massachusetts, which has more Mandarin courses in its public and private schools (35) than does any other state in the United States —nearly 20 percent of all K-12 Mandarin courses in the country. Collaborating with the Chinese Language Association of Secondary and Elementary Schools and the Massachusetts Department of Education, the University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute located at UMass Boston will develop a Mandarin teacher licensure program that incorporates best practices from China and the United States.

The campuses of the UMass system are engaged in a range of research and training programs focused on Chinese-language and culture. The UMass Amherst campus offers a Chinese-language teacher-preparation program. UMass Lowell education professor David Lustick has conducted research into early learning at dual-language schools for the U.S. China Center for Education Excellence. UMass Dartmouth history professor Linsun Chen is editing a four-volume encyclopedia of China.

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Gerontologist Examines Trust, Health Care, and Aging Minorities

By Leigh DuPuy

UMass Boston’s Jan Mutchler is examining a significant barrier for aging minorities in accessing health care: a critical lack of trust in their physicians. She is leading a study to explore whether trust influences cancer screening. Specifically, her research team will evaluate whether African American breast cancer survivors’ receipt of follow-up care is influenced by their levels of trust in their physicians and the medical system. Her work is part of an exciting new collaborative center that focuses on improving the health of older adults.

Mutchler is one of three principal investigators for the new Rosalie Wolf Interdisciplinary Geriatric Health Care Research Center, jointly established by UMass Boston and the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). With colleagues Jerry Gurwitz and Kathleen Miller, Mutchler will advance research in areas of aging and improve the health of older adults. The center is funded by a $200,000 grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation in association with the RAND Corporation.

“Interdisciplinary research is key in evaluating and improving health care. If we are looking at care settings, quality of care, and communications, we need both a medical and social science perspective. Interdisciplinary research is key in evaluating medicine and health care,” she says of the first formal collaboration between UMass Boston’s Gerontology Institute and UMMS’s Graduate School of Nursing and School of Medicine’s Division of Geriatric Medicine. “It’s great to have partners with researchers who are tuned in to these critical issues in health care.”

In Mutchler’s first pilot study for the center, she will work with colleagues to launch cutting-edge research on how issues of trust affect the health care of older people.

“Older minority populations have less trust in their physicians and it is a significant barrier to receiving quality care,” she said.

It is not her first foray into questions of trust and medicine. Mutchler is professor of gerontology and associate director of social and demographic research at the Gerontology Institute and studies race and ethnicity, disability, self-described health, and the social demography of aging populations. She recently completed a study with a National Institute of Aging grant with UMass Boston colleague Gonzalo Bacigalupo that led to startling results.

The study examined the barriers older Latinos face in accessing and using medications. “We conducted focus groups and interviews to discuss possible obstacles in using medications,” says Mutchler. “I thought we would find that language barriers impacted their interactions with the pharmacists and thus affected their medication use. Instead, we found that their relationships with their physicians was the larger factor.”

If they trusted their physicians, they were able to overcome language barriers and felt that they were receiving quality health care, which affected their medication use. “It was really exciting to uncover this,” says Mutchler.

The pilot study is just one of many that will be a part of the new center, which is composed of faculty from a multitude of disciplines, including geriatric medicine, gerontology, social gerontology, economics, family medicine, human development, preventive and behavioral health, psychology, social welfare, and sociology, and urban planning.

The center focuses on improving the quality of health care for seniors through research in three key areas: patient medication safety, chronic disease, and patient communication and health literacy. The center’s first seminar will be held as part of the Gerontology Department’s colloquium series on December 11 (see calendar).

Actors Shine in Shakespeare Improvisation

By Leigh DuPuy

In November, the Performing Arts Department’s Laura Schrader-Johnson and a cast of six made witty send-up their own with six Boston students and alumni also performing. "The adjudication was glowing, said Hobin, who also sits on the Irene Ryan Actor Scholarships, which take place at the regional festival every year. “The adjudication was awarding—the best we’ve ever had,” says Schrader-Johnson. Two nominees, Hanley and Barriere, will represent UMass Boston at the festival in January, competing for national scholarships to study abroad, with Franco and Rogers selected as alternates.

The Performing Arts Department’s next production is Howell’s Learned to Drive, a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Paula Vogel that will be directed by senior Lauren Clarke. The play will run December 7 through 9 at 8:00 p.m., with special matinee performances on December 12 and 13 at 6:00 p.m. The department is also working on the production of an original play, to be directed by Robert Lublin in the spring in collaboration with the new Research Center for Urban Cultural History. Please call the Performing Arts Department at 617-287-5404 for more details.

GIS Mapping (cont.)

Ellen Carney. “For instance, we know there are 466 businesses along Dorchester Avenue. Seeing business locations and business types can add great value to strategic planning efforts on many fronts.”

Truong said the findings will mesh well with Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino’s Dorchester Avenue Initiative, a five-year, $5 million inter-agency effort directed by an 18-member task force to undertake improvements and upgrades to the central neighborhood area. Officials with the city’s Department of Neighborhood Development have assisted with data collection and are examining the GIS project to determine its potential use in future neighborhood business development planning. UMass Boston and the Dorchester Board of Trade are looking at potential mechanisms and resources to keep data current and improve GIS features, as well as how to use the data to make connections between business groups in the neighborhood.

“The university is engaged in more than 400 public service initiatives throughout the city,” said Hobin, who has an office on the business group’s board of directors. “Our connections to the community encompass many facets of civic life and we’re proud to partner with the Dorchester Board of Trade on this exciting initiative.”

Local Veterans Honored

On November 9, a group of students and alumni attended the annual Welcome Home Celebration dinner that honors returning students and veterans. The event was organized by the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences. (From left to right) First row: Sean Lunde, Amy Au, Marcia Renken, Shawn McCarthy, David Wong, and James Miller. Second row: Adam Tuzzo, Danny Hernandez, Jenise Copeland, Jonathan DaCurte, Deena Cummings, Michael Mui, and Mark Baez. Third row: David Caoitng, Marthe Kelly, Row Harris, Kendrick Barrett, Christopher Aragoa, Simon Budzisz, Peter MacDonald, and Patrick Doherty. (Photo by Harry Brett)
Political Analyst Develops Framework for United Nations Group

By Leigh DuPuy

Jalal Alamgir likes to spend his summers applying his research to real-world problems. So when he found out about an opportunity to help the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) increase the effectiveness of its projects, he applied and was selected to develop a general framework for evaluating the socio-political landscape of developing countries.

Alamgir, an assistant professor of political science who specializes in globalization and democratic politics, has been working on the project “Environmental Scanning and Analysis” for UNFPA since July 2006.

UNFPA seeks to reduce poverty and support sustainable development by helping countries analyze demographic trends, understand the link between population and development, and promote human rights and reproductive health, explains Alamgir.

The organization focuses specifically on the link between sustainable development and reproductive health and gender equality. “A lot of these projects involve some very culturally and politically sensitive issues and they can provide big challenges to their work,” says Alamgir.

For example, he explains, the UNFPA has found that they are very successful in responding to problems technically, with their world-class expertise. If disease breaks out among refugees, they know how many doctors or what kind of medical kits they need and how to get the resources there quickly, he says. Unfortunately, sometimes programs and their desired outcomes can fall short of success due to unforeseen challenges that are not technical in nature.

“They may have the funds and the technological expertise to help or advise a country, but if they’ve underestimated the power of vested political interests in a particular area, they may not be able to achieve all their project goals in a sustainable way,” says Alamgir.

Alamgir developed a sophisticated but user-friendly framework that will give field staff a quick yet structured understanding of the socio-political landscape of a given country. “It can provide ways to analyze the important socio-political factors, such as political parties, institutions, influential social groups, important religious groups, and help to identify allies and to be better prepared for changes in society,” he says.

“UNFPA also wanted to have a predictive model so they could forecast what kinds of changes might impact the landscape in the future,” says Alamgir.

UNFPA is currently piloting parts of the framework in eight different countries in Africa, Asia, and Central and Latin America. While all these countries are developing countries, they vary in terms of levels of development, human rights issues, political institutions, cultural norms, and other factors that affect sustainable development.

“The UNFPA project was basically a great case of applied political science. It allowed me to blend my academic work with my prior consulting experience,” says Alamgir, who came to teach at UMass Boston in January 2004. Previously, he had worked for four years as a strategy consultant in the private sector. Alamgir served as associate editor of International Studies Review and held research appointments at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University, the Southern Asian Institute at Columbia University, and the Center for Policy Research, New Delhi.

Alamgir plans to introduce his work through an SPA course in the fall, when he will lead students through policy analysis on globalization and development.

University Thanks Staff for Hard Work through Parking Changes

By Leigh DuPuy

Frontline employees who helped transform a potential crisis in parking into a university success story were thanked at a Campus Center Luncheon sponsored by Administration and Finance Vice Chancellor Ellen O’Connor and Chancellor Michael Collins.

The university administration permanently closed the garage in July 2006, a decision that was preceded by months of study and a final conviction that the decision could be delayed no further, said Chancellor Collins. “I knew that

Linda O’Brien, Diane D’Arrigo, Marie Malloy, Carol DeSouza, and Marcia Porro were some of the staff praised for their commitment through parking changes this summer. (Photo by Harry Brett)

University Bake Sale Supports Community Servings

By Leigh DuPuy

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, the Beacons men’s and women’s ice hockey teams sold 82 pies for the annual pie sale to benefit Community Servings, Boston’s only free, home-delivered meals program for individuals and families ill with chronic illnesses.

Anna Sikorski, aide to Mia Rimando, and the Beacons women’s ice hockey team was involved in the pie fundraising. She worked with the Beacons’ head coach, Peter Belisle and OSLCO coordinator Jain Ruvidich-Higgins.

“The University Bake Sale was a great success and we were able to raise $2,050, enough money to feed a Community Servings client for more than a year,” said Ruvidich-Higgins.

Community Servings is an organization that delivers 3,175 lunches and 3,175 dinners every week. During their annual Pie in the Sky event, volunteers help to sell four different kinds of pies—apple, pecan, pumpkin, and sweet potato. More than 150 local restaurants and bakeries donated 13,000 pies for the sale.

“Our student athletes know how important it is to get out there and help out as much as we can,” said Maura Crowell, head coach for the women’s ice hockey team. She worked with men’s head coach Peter Belisle and OSLCO coordinator Jain Ruvidich-Higgins to find a project for the teams to get involved in.

Ruvidich-Higgins knew that

Jain Ruvidich-Higgins, Geoff Combs, and the Beacons men’s and women’s ice hockey teams with their coaches and Maura Crowell and Peter Belisle, partnered to raise $2,050 for Community Servings’ Pie in the Sky fundraisers. (Photo by Harry Brett)

where students adopted the project,” said Ruvidich-Higgins. “I think they are looking at this as a model for future partnerships. Sales were great.”

Combs, director of the Campus Center, serves on the planning and implementation committee of the fundraiser, having worked with Pie in the Sky for a number of years. He arranged for UMass Boston to be one of 38 locations around the greater Boston area where people picked up their pies before Thanksgiving.

“The Pie in the Sky project raises thousands of dollars for people with critical illnesses,” says Combs. “It’s such a great cause.”

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Jalal Alamjir, assistant professor of political science, presented the paper “The Contingency of a Secular Narrative at UTEP” at a panel on U.S. foreign policy and chaired the panel “Transnational Social Movements” at the Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

CPCS Professor Luis Aponte-Parés moderated the panel “Race and Place” at the 7th Biennial Meeting of the Puerto Rican Studies Association, held at Cornell University. The conference theme was “Speaking the Unspoken: Race in the 21st Century.”

Jennifer Norrins Bardon, research coordinator at the Center for Social Development and Education, presented “Attitudes as a Barrier to the Full Inclusion of People with Intellectual Disabilities” at the American Public Policy and Management Association Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Professor Flora Bassanese of the Modern Languages Program presented the paper “Pirandello’s Magna Grecia and Il capretto nero” in October at the “Italy, the Mediterranean and Beyond” conference, held at the University of Connecticut-Storrs.

Ramon Borges-Mendez of the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy and the Gantt Institute gave the keynote at the first Latino Workforce Development Conference and participated in a Cambridge Forum debate with the Institute for Asian American Studies director Paul Watanabe on issues of immigration and entrepreneurship.

Mary Brady and James Leffert of the Center for Social Development and Education presented “Three Steps to a Social Skills Learning Classroom” and “Social Thinking Skills for Teenagers and Young Adults with Learning Disabilities” at the Massachusetts Association and Education presented, held on October 28.

Jennifer Brown, director of Institutional Research, for the AIR Higher Education Data Policy Committee at Work at the North East Association for Institutions’ annual conference.

Lauret L. Charleux, assistant professor of family therapy in the Department of Social Work, presented “Making Room for Marginalized Voices in MPT Supervision” at the American Association for Marital and Family Therapy Annual Conference, held in October.

Jay R. Dee, associate professor, and Cheryl J. Daly, lecturer in the Department of Leadership in Education, presented two papers relating to policy and development: “The Importance of Autonomy, Competence, and Relatedness” and “Community College Turnaround: Translating Graphic, Work Environment, and External Environment Variables,” at the Association for the Study of Higher Education’s annual meeting.

Carroll Hall Elbeheche, associate professor and director of the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy and Management, presented “Evidence-Based Management: Understanding the Research to Address Home Healthcare” at the University of Alabama in Birmingham on November 12. She also presented the paper “Nursing Theory-Guided Practice and Health Policy” at the American Academy of Nursing Annual Meeting of Public Policy and Management.

On October 24, Donna Hag Fried- man, director of the Center for Social Policy, facilitated a day-long workshop on a support for family services, based on the themes in her book Parenting in Public, for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She also chaired the panel “Focusing a Community on Housing First” at the “Housing First in Policy and Practice” conference, sponsored by the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, One Family, Inc., and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay.

Phillip Granberry, Ph.D. candidate in the Public Policy Program, presented a paper on the link between political participation and voter turnout in Mexican men’s and women’s wages at the Southern Demographic Association’s annual meeting in November. Granberry’s paper was selected as the outstanding graduate student paper.

On October 18, Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, presented results from the “Racial/Ethnic Minority Women in the Healthcare Workforce Project” as part of a panel at the New England Rural Health Symposium.

In November, Erika Kate, research director at the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, presented the paper “Declining Resources: A Comparison of Departmental and Postsecondary Education for Welfare Recipients in Ten States, 1993-2003” at the American Public Policy and Management Association Annual Conference. She gave a presentation “Participation Evaluation Research” for the Associated Grant Makers in Boston.

In November, Marie Kennedy, CPCS professor emeritus, gave two lectures: “Occupies, Resists, Produce: An Ethnography from the Bottom Up,” for Columbia University’s “Lectures in Planning” series; and “From Advocacy Planning to Integrating Neuroscience Planning” for the inaugural forum of Hunter College’s Center for Community Planning and Development.

Donaldo Macedo, distinguished professor of liberal arts and education, was keynote speaker at the Border Theory Conference in Mexico. He was also invited speaker at the International Educational Conference, held in Athens, Greece.

Lauren Mayhew, health educator for stress management and resilience with University Health Services, and Lored “Mediation on Cotu at Campuses” at the New England College Health Association’s annual conference.

On November 6, Tatjana Meschke, Senior Research Associate at the Center for Social Policy, presented “Housing as a Critical Factor in the Health and Health Care of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness” at the 114th annual American Public Health Association conference. Her presentation focused on the health outcomes of 25 chronically homeless persons housed in a Foster Home in model in Quinn City.

In October, Sylvie Mignon, director of the Master of Science in Human Services Program, delivered the keynote address at the Integrating Services for Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Mental Health Conference and presented on policy issues related to death penalty following the pre-release screening of the Sacco and Vanzetti film directed by Peter Miller.

Ruth Miller, assistant professor of history, presented the talk “On Freedom and Feeding Tubes: Reviving Terry Schaivo and Trying Saddam Hussein” at the Cardozo Law School in New York on October 29.

Kevin B. Murphy, associate professor of institutional research, presented the paper “Identifying the Different Behaviors and Needs of Immigrant Women in Massachusetts” at the Public Four-Year Higher Education Institutions at the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities 12th Annual Conference.

Melissa Pearso, research associate with the Center for Social Development and Education and assistant professor, led a roundtable discussion on the topic “Community Partnerships in Addressing Youth Violence” at the American Public Health Association’s annual meeting. Two research graduate students, Brian Irwin and Sheila Desai, also participated in the presentation.

Innovata's Allan Pollack, associate professor of biology, presented the abstract titled “Technical and Ethical Considerations in the Use of Lesioned Rats: Effects on Prepro- dynorphin and Preproenkephalin mRNA Expression in the Striatum” at the annual conference of the American Society for Neuroscience, held in Atlanta on October 17. UMass Boston undergrads Alexandra MacPherson, Collen West, and Eric Cederan were co-authors.

Marc Prou, associate professor of Africana studies, was invited by the Pennsylvania Education presented to the American Public Policy and Management Association’s annual meeting.

Stephen Stillman, assistant professor and co-chair of anthropology, gave an invited plenary talk on deconstructingarchaeology at the “Chile: Archaeology and Peace” conference, held in Calgary, Canada, on November 11.

Institutional Research’s Dianne F. Simmons and Kevin B. Murphy co-presented the paper “Where Are Our Students? Using CIRP to Develop a Better Understanding of Student Diversity” at the North East Association for Institutional Research’s 33rd Annual Conference.

Nancy Stieber, associate professor of art, delivered the keynote address at the conference “Histories of Brit- ish Colonialism: Where Next?” at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art at Yale University on November 2. She also chaired the session “Definitions, Boundaries, Paradigms” at the 12th International Docomomo Conference “Other Modernisms.”

Peter Taylor of the Critical and Creative Thinking Graduate Program spoke on “Revisiting Scientific and Social Debates about Heritability in Light of the Under-Recognized Implications of Heterogeneity” at a session he organized at the meetings of the Society for Social Studies of Science, held in Vancouver.

Julia Trupp, constituent coordinator for the Center for Social Policy, presented on constituent involvement and peer involvement at the National State PATH Contact Conference in Maryland, sponsored by the federal Department of Health and Human Services.


Gonzalo Bacigalupe, associate professor and director of the Master of Science Program in Family Therapy, published the coauthored article “The Gluten-Free Way: Diet Adherence” in The Healthy Villa Newsletter.

Francois Carré, research director of the Center for Social Policy, published the co-authored article “Strength in Numbers: Employment Rights and Co-Ordination” in the British Journal of Industrial Relations special issue “New Actors in Industrial Relations.”

Arthur Eisenkraft, Distinguished Professor of Education Science and Director of the Center of Social Policy, published the article “The Market Unmatably Fixed Upon Their Breasts”: A Free Family of Color in America’s Borderlands” in The Healthy Villa Newsletter.

Elizabeth Peavey, professor of political science, and Edward J. Romar, professor of history, co-presented the paper “The Intersection of Gender and Race in Women’s Descriptive Representation: A Comparison of Six New England States” at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, held on November 9.

Professor Lorna Rivera of the College of Public and Community Service presented the workshop “Assessing Working Conditions in the Adult Basic Education Field” at the Massachusetts Adult Education Program’s annual meeting, held in October.

Edward J. Romar, of the College of Management’s Department of Management and Marketing presented “Nobel Markets: The Master/Slave Capitalism” at the 13th Annual International Conference of Business Ethics, held in October.

On November 13, Russell Schutt, professor of sociology, gave the opening address at the Centers for Disease Control Prevention’s annual conference.

On October 24, Maureen Scally, assistant professor of management, gave the keynote “Tempered Radicalism” at the annual summit of Inuvikness, an organization dedicated to making the media and cultural sector of Canada inclusive, diverse, and reflective of a multicultural society. She was also interviewed on the topic for ROB-TV’s nightly “Workshops” program on November 7.

On November 9, Diana F. Simmons, professor of history, presented the paper “‘The Mark Unmatably Fixed Upon Their Breasts’: A Free Family of Color in America’s Borderlands” at the Conference on Latin American Perspectives on North American Borders, organized by the Filson Historical Society.

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Gordon T. Wallace, associate professor in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences, received a new grant to improve an ion sensor to detect toxic metals in aquatic systems for the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology.

Robert Weiner, graduate program director of international relations, was a guest feature in the Wall Street Journal, where he discusses raising the profile of corruption in Romania for Global Integrity, a Washington-based NGO. The results of the survey will be presented to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the banking and investment communities in New York.

In November, the Center for Social Policy was awarded $200,000 from the Stoneman Family Foundation for its “Building the Gap” project. A collaborative effort of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, the project explores gaps between resources and costs confronting families and the tools and programs designed to support them. The core research team includes Randy Alhelda, principal investigator, Michelle Kahana, and Elana Werby.

The McCormack Graduate School and the Massachusetts Judges Conference created a four-month judge-to-judge program for a delegation of Chinese judges from Beijing Municipal Court and Science and Law. After spending a month at UMass Boston working on ESL proficiency, the Chinese judges worked with their counterparts in Massachusetts courts and lived with American judges.

WUMB 91.9 FM Radio received a $205,946 community service grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The grant will be used to invest in programming-related expenses. WUMB also received a $7,200 organizational support grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On November 5, the Center for Social Policy released an evaluation of the Massachusetts Homelessness Prevention Legislation, Residential Assistance to Families in Transition. The report, coauthored by the Center for Social Policy’s Donna Haig Friedman and Jennifer Raymond, is located online at maccormack.umb.edu/csp.

William Holmes, faculty in the Graduate Program in Human Services at the College of Public and Community Service, completed an evaluation report for family support programs at Children’s Friend and Service in Providence, Rhode Island. The evaluation report includes a review of an Early Head Start program.

Hannah Sevian, associate professor of curriculum and instruction and chemistry and associate director of the Center of Science and Math in Context, received the three-year grant of $711,000 from the National Science Foundation to expand the work of the Boston Science Partnership to include Bunker Hill and Roxbury Community Colleges. Professors Bob Chen and Arthur Eisenkraft are coprincipal investigators.

The New England Resource Center for Higher Education celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Ernest A. Lyon Award for Faculty Professional Service and Academic Outreach at the 12th Annual International Conference of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities.

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy hosted a reception for the women honored in the Ernest A. Lyon Award for Faculty Professional Service and Academic Outreach at the 12th Annual International Conference of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities.


Maura Mast of the Mathematics Department and Mark Pawlak of Academic Support Programs co-authored the article “Quantitative Reasoning at the University of Massachusetts Boston,” which appears in Current Practices in Quantitative Literacy for the MLA Motes series, published by the Mathematical Association of America.

Kathleen Golden McAndrew, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, executive director of health services, and assistant clinical GNH professor, cochaired the chapter “Workplace Substance Abuse” in Medical-Legal Aspects of Drugs.

Dirk Messler, dean of the Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education, published the article “UMass Boston’s China Trade in the New World” in the fall 2006 edition of Harvard University’s Continuing Higher Education Review. The article details CDEX’s role in establishing UMass Boston as a leader in forging groundbreaking U.S.-China relationships.

Ruth Miller, assistant professor of history, published the article “The Missionary Narrative as Coercive Intention: Seduction, Confession, and Self-Presentation in Women’s Letters Home” in Women’s History Review.


Lisa Rivera, assistant professor of philosophy, published the paper “Pluralism, Imagination and Estrangement” in the November issue of the journal Philosophical Papers.

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The Center and Media and Society at the McCormack Graduate School provided the five categories of federal and state government grants in Community Studies, CPCS received the Innovative and Creative Programming Award, with recognition to CPCS associate professor Angelde Stefanos as academic coordinator, and Enrollment Management staff member Sarah Bartlett as administrative coordinator.

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Wednesday 12
Beacon Fitness Center Class: Strength and Tone
11:45 a.m. – 12:35 p.m., Tuesdays, McCormack Hall, Beacon Fitness Center, 1st fl. Open to all Beacon Fitness Center members. Also on Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Contact: www.atlantics.umb.edu/fitness_center/

Thursday 14
Study Period begins Through December 17

Friday 8
Umass Boston Athletics: Women’s Ice Hockey vs. College of the Holy Cross
2:00 and 5:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center. Contact: 7-5401 to RSVP to 7-5083.

Saturday 9
Umass Boston Athletics: Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Becker College
3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center. Contact: 7-5401 to RSVP to 7-5083.

Sunday 10
Kripalu Yoga
1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays, McCormack Hall, Beacon Fitness Center Aerobics Room, 1st fl. Kripalu yoga class open to all. Students: free; Faculty and staff: $5.00. Sponsored by University Health Services. Contact: 7-5680.

Monday 11
Kripalu Yoga
1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays, McCormack Hall, Beacon Fitness Center Aerobics Room, 1st fl. Kripalu yoga class open to all. Students: free; Faculty and staff: $5.00. Sponsored by University Health Services. Contact: 7-5680.

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Wednesday 13
Fall Semester Classes End
Shelter Poverty Report

X-treme Folk Series: End of Semester Celebration
12:00 p.m., Campus Center, cafeteria. Contact: www.ucampusumb.com. Contact: 7-6900.

Thursday 14
Study Period begins Through December 17
A Winter Wonderland at Umass Boston: Holiday Pops Ireland Chamber Orchestra 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center. Ticket: free. Students may purchase one (first-one, first-served) or bring your own. Hot chocolate and pretzels for skaters. Contact: 7-5322.

A Winter Wonderland at Umass Boston: Celebration of Light and Hope 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Campus Center, ballroom. Good food, music, and holiday cheer. Performances by McDaniel Collins, musical entertainment by The Troubadours of Truth, and the Holiday Pops ticket drawing for those who brought an unwrapped gift, December 4 through 13, to the Customer Service Center to benefit the Neely House. Contact: 7-5322.

Festival of Lights: An Interfaith Celebration of Light and Hope 3:30 – 6:30 p.m., McCormack Hall, Interfaith Chapel, 3rd floor. Share in an interfaith and intercultural celebration of winter holidays with stories of your tradition and personal holiday memories. RSVP to interfaith.campusumb.com. Contact: 7-5838