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By Peter Grennen

Rick Jensen has a decidedly micro view of the material world. The Alton Brann Distinguished Professor of Physics, Biology, and Mathematics, Jensen has devoted much of his lifework to uncovering nature’s hidden designs, having cut his researcher’s teeth on applications of chaos theory before turning to biotechnology and functional genomics—the measurement of activity levels and expression patterns of genes. He seeks to distinguish organisms and their constituent biological systems by considering not only their outward appearance but the very essence of their genetic identity.

Quantum and quality in this phase of the human genome project don’t always go hand in hand. Investigators have identified many new genes within previously unknown DNA sequences, but now they are now tasked with organizing that information in ways that will explain, among other things, how genes contribute to cell and organ differentiation. The potential for error is great—but so is the potential pay-off for both researchers and commercial interests, and the will to obtain reliable data is strong in both arenas.

Thus the Microarray Quality Control (MAQC) Project, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) initiative that has brought together scientists, regulatory bodies, and technology manufacturers to evaluate and, where possible, improve the means by which genomic information is acquired. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Top UMass Boston Scientist Leads Research Project in Human Genomics

By Peter Grennen

Rick Jensen, the Alton Brann Distinguished Professor of Physics, Biology, and Mathematics and the director of the Center for Environmental Health, Science, and Technology, serves as lead academic collaborator for the Microarray Quality Control Project, for which he is the lead academic collaborator—by delimiting two terms of art: “Genetics refers to what you’re born with—your DNA, which is the same in every cell in your body,” he says. “Coded in that DNA are genes that provide instructions for proteins, which are the building blocks of the cell.” The much younger field of genomics is acquired.

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By Anne-Marie Kent

February 25, 2006, is a day that will go down in UMass Boston Athletics history. On that day, men’s basketball sophomore guard Amigo Paniagua scored 19 points in a number-two-seeded UMass Boston Beacons upset number-one-seeded Keene State College, 81-67, to win its first-ever Little East Conference Championship. The Beacons improved to 18-10 overall, and by virtue of winning the LEC title, have earned an automatic NCAA Tournament berth, its first since 1983. They play a first-round NCAA Tournament game on March 3 against SUNY Cortland in upstate New York.

“This is a terrific time for the Beacons and Coach Charlie Titus,” said Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD. “It’s also a great opportunity for members of the UMass Boston community to come together and cheer for the Beacons during March Madness.”

Plans were made for a pep rally on March 1 for the men’s team and for the women’s hockey team as it competes in the ECAC Championship, and on February 4, there was an historic show of team spirit as the men’s and women’s basketball teams faced off in the Clark Athletic Center, generating a lot of pride and excitement as the University was recognized for its success.

“If we could have won the title last year, I think the cheers would have been even louder,” said Charlie Titus, vice chancellor for athletics and recreation, special projects and programs, who also coaches the men’s basketball team.

Amid balloons and banners, employees and students from Athletics greeted fans at the door with free tickets, parking passes, and a pair of Celtics tickets. Free popcorn was available for the first 250 guests and free parking for the first 100 guests. During game breaks, children from the crowd came down to the court to learn dance moves from the team mascot, the UMass Boston Beacon, and take part in relay races.

Although the UMass Boston women’s team lost in the first contest, the men’s team beat Keene State after a fast-paced tug-of-war. UMass Boston sophomore guard Amigo Paniagua made a lay-up with five seconds remaining in the game, and junior swingman Tony Barros of Dorchester netted a game-high 26 points. He lead the UMass Boston men’s basketball team over Keene State College, 90 to 88.

“So far, this is a very special season for a group of very special student-athletes. We are so happy that the university community is enjoying the success of its basketball team. On behalf of the Athletics staff and the student-athletes, I thank Chancellor Collins and the campus community for the tremendous support,” said Titus.

By Ed Hayward

Roslindale resident Maggie DeJesus, a family advocate who is part of the anti-domestic violence programs at the Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, has been selected to receive the Robert H. Quinn Award for community service at the annual Community Breakfast in the Campus Center on March 14.

DeJesus will be joined by two other honorees, who will receive special awards from Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD, for their work supporting community-based institutions in Boston. Dorchester native Kevin Chapman, now a successful actor, and Dorchester businesswoman Lee M. Kennedy will receive special recognition at the Quinn breakfast.

DeJesus, who was raised in a household marred by domestic violence, turned her painful personal lessons into sensitive support and meaningful training for Dorchester and South Boston families trying to rid their homes of domestic violence. Most recently, she has focused on the effect of domestic violence on teen relationships.

“We tend to forget that domestic violence happens at all ages and teens are sometimes vulnerable to peer pressure to stay involved with a boyfriend who is physically abusive or extremely controlling,” DeJesus said. “Being able to educate teens about what is a healthy relationship is my passion.”

DeJesus, who joined the Geiger Gibson staff last year, previously served as a volunteer, hotline advocate, and emergency shelter coordinator at Casa Myrna Vasquez, Inc. DeJesus can be seen on the street, posting flyers announcing services, but also works behind the scenes to secure food, shelter, and emergency support for families. She also assists with fund-raising efforts, training, and advocacy.

The Quinn Award, which recognizes individuals whose outstanding contributions have significantly improved the quality of life in the greater Boston area, was established in honor of Robert H. Quinn, who served as Commonwealth as speaker of the House of Representatives, attorney general, and chair of the UMass Board of Trustees.

“Maggie DeJesus through her own example and her dedicated service has inspired hundreds of families to take the necessary steps to escape and prevent domestic violence,” Chancellor Collins said. “She embodies the spirit of the Quinn Award and its name sake, and we’re honored to recognize her superb work.”

Chancellor Collins will present awards for Longstanding Community Commitment and Service to Chapman and Kennedy. Chapman grew up in Dorchester and now lives in Los Angeles, where he is a professional actor, and is currently working on the film Flags for Our Fathers, with Clint Eastwood, and the Showtime series The Brotherhood.

Chapman remains close to his neighborhood and friends and is actively involved with several community groups, in particular the Colonel Daniel Marr Boys and Girls Club, the Paul R. McLaughlin Youth Center, and the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, Inc.

Kennedy founded the Dorchester-based Lee Kennedy Co. construction firm, among numerous other enterprises. He is being honored for his extensive work in support of community organizations in Dorchester and South Boston.

In particular, Kennedy serves as a director at the Colonel Daniel Marr Boys and Girls Club, Francisca’s Children’s Hospital, and the Francis Quimet Scholarship Fund. He is an advisor to the city’s Back Streets Program.
Center Research Uncovers Strong Consumer Support for Businesses That Hire Employees with Disabilities

By Kari Russ

American consumers are responding positively to companies they consider socially responsible, and increasingly count those that hire disabled workers among that group, according to a national public survey led by the Center for Social Policy and Education (CSDE). The study, done in collaboration with the Center for Survey Research and the America’s Strength Foundation (ASF), is one of the first to examine the attitudes of consumers toward companies that hire people with disabilities.

“The uniqueness of this research is its focus on the consumer,” said Gary Siperstein, CSDE director and lead author of the study. “In looking at the past work on employers, we found that many companies brand themselves as socially responsible because of their support of the environment, workers’ rights, and products ‘made in the USA,’ but they don’t talk about their policies on hiring people with disabilities.”

Hoping to change this, CSDE joined forces with ASF, the Gallup Organization, and Carol Cosenza and Tony Roman at the Center for Survey Research. “We wanted to explore whether there was an expanded idea of corporate responsibility and whether ‘diversity’ in the workplace should include not only skin color, gender, and age, but also people with disabilities,” said Cosenza.

Their study, “A National Survey of Consumer Attitudes Toward Companies That Hire People with Disabilities,” reports an overwhelmingly positive attitude among consumers toward socially responsible companies, and, in particular, toward those that hire individuals with disabilities. Specifically, 92 percent of consumers surveyed felt more favorable toward companies that hire individuals with disabilities and 87 percent said they would prefer to give their business to such companies.

Among those surveyed, hiring people with disabilities ranked third behind offering health insurance to all employees and protecting the environment as an indicator of a company’s commitment to social justice.

The survey included 803 adults who were randomly selected across the continental U.S. Most respondents drew upon personal experience in their answers—75 percent reported that they had either worked directly with someone with a disability and/or received services as a customer from a person with a disability. Ninety-one percent of those with a disabled coworker said that the job performance of his or her coworker was “very good” or “good.” Ninety-seven percent of those who had been served by a disabled worker were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the services they received.

The study, which began in the summer of 2004, has received much attention since it was published in January’s Journal of Vocation Rehabilitation.

“We were really motivated to do it because of the timeliness of the issues and the support we received,” said Amanda Mohler, a 2005 graduate of UMass Boston who was a coauthor on the study. CSDE plans to help create a national awareness campaign about their findings. “Working in partnership with ASF and Virginia Commonwealth University with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration, the center will produce a film that highlights companies that make it part of their mission to hire people with disabilities.

“Companies who respond to these findings will not only help individuals with disabilities lead more fulfilling and productive lives through employment, they will also improve the company’s brand image,” says Siperstein.

Spring Picnic Tops Inauguration Week

By Anne-Marie Kent

How do you plan a “thank you” celebration for hundreds of people? Ask them what they want.

That’s the approach the organizing committee took when planning the 2006 Campus Spring Picnic.

Clare Poirier, along with fellow committee chair Anne Riley, compiled the 400 or so responses to the university-wide survey they received last month. “People from across the university were really helpful getting the surveys in and sharing their ideas,” said Riley. The organizers surveyed the university community in order to plan an event that reflected the interests of those attending. “This is really a celebration of the university,” said Poirier.

“Maryellen and I hope that many faculty and staff and their families will take this opportunity to join us for what promises to be a day of fun here on our campus,” said Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD. “We look forward to thanking everyone personally for all the hard work that they do to make this university great.”

Activities include a barbecue, a boat tour, miniature golf, a basketball shoot-off, and softball games. “The softball games will pit department against department,” explained Poirier, who added that the Human Resources Department would organize the teams. For kids, there will be a magic show starring a UMass Boston student dentist, temporary tattoos, face painting, a moon bounce, a fire-safety exhibit, and an interactive event called “Fun with Science Projects,” organized by UMass Boston science departments.

“Dance Heads” videos, purportedly “the latest rage, beyond karaoke,” are among the activities lined up for the Campus Spring Picnic for faculty and staff and their families, which will be held on campus from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 29.

This “high tech” gimmick allows a video image of your head to be superimposed onto the video projection of a dancing body (which you select from a range of professional dancers showing off their freshest moves) and presto: you appear on screen, “singing” (lip-synching) and dancing to perennial favorites such as “I Will Survive” and “Achy Breaky Heart.”

Please watch the April University Reporter for news about the academic symposia and other inauguration-week details.

Watershed Integrated Science Partnership Receives $2 Million

By Ed Hayward

The National Science Foundation has awarded a $2 million grant to extend the Watershed Integrated Science Partnership between UMass Boston and three local school districts, according to Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences professor Robert Chen, the grant’s principal investigator.

The partnership, known as WISP, uses the nearby Neponset River Watershed to train teachers and educate middle school students about the state’s science curriculum. During the first three years of the $1.5 million NSF-funded project, WISP placed UMass Boston graduate students in middle school science classrooms in Boston, Dedham, and Milton.

WISP is part of NSF’s effort to integrate the work of university faculty and graduate students with primary and secondary school classrooms—a push known by the acronym GK-12. Chen said the second phase of the grant will allow the five-year program to expand its reach.

“The broader impacts include a strong partnership between UMass Boston and three local school districts, increased interest in science and environmental awareness among parents, teachers, and the public, and improvements in undergraduate and graduate teaching at UMass Bos- ton,” said Chen, who will be joined in his work by UMass Boston professors Adan Colon-Carmona, Marilyn Decker, Arthur Eisenkraft, and Hannah Sevian, and Boston Public Schools science director Marilyn Decker.

The collaboration also makes use of campus resources, including the Center of Science and Mathematics In Context (COS-MIC), partnerships with local businesses through the Environmental Business Council and the College of Science and Mathematics Scientific Advisory Board, and the Graduate College of Education’s proposed Master of Science Education program.

Unlike the past, eight graduate students (WISP Fellows) will be teamed with eight middle school science teachers to support science teaching. For fellows, the experience strengthens their teaching skills and develops them for potential careers as classroom teachers and scientists.

In the second stage of the project, teachers and graduate students will have the advantage of working off a science curriculum designed and tested during the first phase of WISP, Chen said. He said the proven effectiveness of the curriculum will allow it to be used by other middle schools looking for new ways to enrich their science teaching.

“We’ve got a high-quality research-based curriculum in place, so at this stage, we are building on concrete examples and specific experiences for students that make teaching better and show students the relevance between good science and each of our lives,” Chen said.
Genomics (cont.)

genomics is concerned with the small fraction of an organism’s genes that are both active, or “expressed,” and subject to external influences. Says Jensen: “An interplay between nature and nurture—between genetics and environment—determines the level of gene activity, and genomics is about measuring that level in health and disease.”

Which is to say that genomics is about microarrays. A microarray is a glass slide containing many genes arranged in a regular pattern; it can be used to study the expression of hundreds of thousands of genes at once—whether these genes are from a single source or from a variety of cell or tissue samples.

As researchers become more skilled with microarrays, they will be better able to determine the function of particular genes and detect new patterns of coordinated gene expression, including those that result in disease or unwanted drug reactions. This helps explain the FDA’s ongoing quest for microarrays that avoid procedural failures and allow for better data analysis. “Microarrays represent a core technology in pharmacogenomics and toxicogenomics,” says an FDA website précis. “The MAQC project will help improve the microarray technology and foster its proper applications in discovery, development, and review of FDA-regulated products.”

Researchers hope to one day be able to tailor medical experimentation, including that done by the FDA, to specific genetic profiles. It is thought that personalized disease treatments featuring “designer medicines” won’t be far behind. “Using technologies being evaluated by the FDA,” says Jensen, “we can have the ability to determine what combination of genetic and environmental factors might make someone susceptible to a bad reaction to, say, Vioxx.”

Predicting an individual’s medical susceptibilities and fashioning a disease-specific treatment regimen: It’s but one example of what is possible when the subcellular basis of the visible physical world is laid bare.

By Lisa Gentes

This year, UMass Boston is celebrating the Trotter Institute’s 21st anniversary. The William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black History and Culture, which focuses on black history and culture, was founded in 1984 at the university.

“This is the first one that we’re doing, and we’re doing it because it is 21,” said Barbara Lewis, director of the Trotter Institute. “We feel like we have become mature.”

Having existed for over two decades is momentous, she said. “[It signals] that we have survived and that we have grown and are looking very much forward to a great future,” Lewis said.

In February, the institute kicked off the Tuesdays at the Trotter series. The speaker series will run throughout the spring semester, with the April series commemorating the institute’s 21st anniversary. William Monroe Trotter, the

Writing Guru Offers Advice to Dissertation Hopefuls

Joan Bolker, author of Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day: A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis, lent invaluable insight to graduate students looking to complete dissertations, tackle writer’s block, and learn to enjoy the writing process at a February 7 Graduate Student Assembly event. A clinical psychologist who counsels writers, Bolker offered practical steps on setting reasonable goals every day. (Photo by Harry Brett)

By William Koehler

On February 8, Tim Barnicle, College of Management visiting professor, and Ray Uhalde, director of workforce development programs at the National Center on Education and the Economy, spoke to an engaged audience of graduate students, faculty, and researchers from the College of Management, McCormack School of Policy Studies, and the Institute for Community Inclusion.

Barnicle, former assistant secretary of labor and Uhalde’s predecessor at the National Center on Education and the Economy, provided an overview of his and Uhalde’s work over the past two decades on educational standards and economic advances throughout the developing world that cut across borders.

He spoke of the changing nature of the global employment landscape and highlighted the advances made in educational attainment and smoothing people’s transition from school to the workplace.

Uhalde focused on more recent developments, especially the increasingly competitive world economy and the addition of workforce in India, China, and the former Communist nations of Eastern Europe and Central Asia to the global labor pool. He highlighted the challenges facing the U.S. economy and educational institutions in the twenty-first century, including the impact of technological advances throughout the developing world that cut across borders, manufacturing jobs and knowledge work to China and India.

The American response, Uhalde maintained, must lie in continuing to move further up the “value chain,” adding worth through innovation, research, and tailor-made products and services. He argues that our focus must be on continued gains in access to and improvement in education at all levels, particularly for those at the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum.

At the same time, he cautioned that the U.S. must recognize both its changing role in the world economy and the significant benefits accruing from globalization, as standards of living in many parts of the developing world, especially Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, rise more rapidly than those in the richest economies and come into line with those of the developed nations.

The Trotter Institute’s new plasma TVs, to monitor and televisions will display short videos, documentaries, and films.

A bomb is thrown into a crowd of protesters and policemen: this act of terror forever changes the lives of city workers, immigrants, the labor movement, and the nation. What led up to this May 4, 1886 event, including the American Labor Movement and the Bombing That Divided Gilded-Age America. [Photo by Harry Britt]

This is Green's sixth book, and, to my students for years, and this moment in history. “I’ve been telling this story and others like it to my students for years, and this experience really influenced how I wrote the book,” says Green, who teaches history and labor studies. “I’ve seen what grabs people’s emotions, their imaginations, their concerns. I’m a much better writer having taught these stories and told them in public venues.”

“This is Green’s sixth book, and, it was, he notes, a “labor of love.” “I grew up around Chicago reading Theodore Dreiser, Carl Sandburg, Upton Sinclair, Studs Terkel, and the other great tellers of the city’s story; so the chance to make my own contribution to that genre was exciting,” he says. The book will be published on March 7 by Pantheon, a division of Random House and has been or is slated for review by the New York Times, the Boston Globe, and the Atlantic Monthly. In addition to his teaching schedule, Green is embarking on a two-month book tour, with stops in Boston, Washington, D.C., New York, and Chicago.

He is especially excited about a reading and signing on April 12 at UMass Boston, open to the university community, and as well as alumni of the Labor Studies degree, which Green started in 1981; graduates of the Harvard Trade Union Program, where he lectured since 1987; the University Honors Program, and the master’s programs in history, and American studies. The event will be held at the alumni room of the Campus Center from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information on the book and Green’s scholarship, visit JamesGreenWorks.com.

Historian Publishes New Book on the First Labor Movement and the Haymarket Riot

By Leigh DuPu

James Green, labor historian and scholar at the College of Public and Community Service, explores the first labor movement in his latest book, Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing That Divided Gilded-Age America. (Photo by Harry Britt)

By Lisa Gentes

Nearly 130 students, faculty, and community members gathered at UMass Boston last month for a symposium on same-sex marriage. Two lectures and a roundtable discussion focused on same-sex marriage in terms of gay and lesbian civil rights, history, politics, activism, and religion.

“This was an unprecedented event,” said David Areford, assistant professor of art history and chairman of the UMass Boston Sexuality Studies Group. The group, an ad hoc committee of faculty from across the university, is interested in the study of gender and sexuality.

The UMass Boston Sexuality Studies Group and the Queer Student Center, under the direction of Brandon Gorham, organized the symposium. Several groups provided funding for the event, including the American Studies Department, American Studies Graduate Student Roundtable, Art Department, Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, Classics Club, College of Liberal Arts, College of Public and Community Service, Graduate Student Assembly, Hispanic Studies Department, History Department, Philosophy Department, Student Arts Council, Women’s Studies Program, and the Student Senate.

Areford, along with other faculty, felt it was “important for UMass Boston to lead in the discussion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender [LGBT] issues,” he said. “We are the premier public university in the city, and we need to serve the needs and interests of the LGBT community.”

“The symposium allowed the audience to interact with some of the key figures involved in the historic events that are shaping the fight for gay and lesbian civil rights,” he said. “These are the people that future generations will read about in history books.”

The four-hour-long event, held at the Campus Center Ballroom, included George Chauncy, a University of Chicago professor and author; E.J. Graff, a scholar, journalist, and author; Jeffrey Sanchez, a Massachusetts state representative; Gary Buseck, legal director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders; Denise Simmons, a Cambridge city councilor; and David Wilson and Rob Compton, one of the plain-tiff couples in the Goodridge vs. Department of Public Health case.

In the end, [the symposium] was a very rich examination of gay and lesbian rights ... in terms of history, politics, activism, religion, and personal experience,” Areford said.

Those who attended the symposium provided positive feedback. Areford said that many students and faculty were moved by the lectures and discussions.

“There was a need to pause and reflect on what has happened in the state,” Areford said, citing the reasons of part of the reason for the event. “Also, there is a growing interest at UMass Boston in creating a multidisciplinary program in gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender studies.” Areford said he hopes the symposium will encourage further discussions among administrators and faculty about the development of such a program at the university.

2006 Commencement (cont.)

Marvalene Hughes has made it her mission to abide by the university’s motto of ex fide, forta —“from faith, courage”— in the wake of the severe damage the New Orleans campus suffered during Hurricane Katrina. Along with the structural damage sustained by the university, the challenge still rests with this president in her first year, to re-create a tight-knit community of dedicated employees and students. Hughes will be honored for her academic leadership in the time of natural disaster.

Boston Public Schools Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant has served in his post for 11 years, during which time he has carried out a blueprint for educational reform through Focus on Children, a comprehensive improvement plan that targets all schools. Payzant has worked closely with leaders of the Boston business community, Payzant has raised more than $30 million to support professional development in every Boston school. As a result, Boston students and schools have demonstrated a consistent pattern of continuous improvement in literacy and mathematics in virtually every grade on a variety of rigorous assessments.

Payzant will be recognized for his commitment to the City of Boston. As National Public Radio’s senior European correspondent, Sylvia Poggioli reports from postings across the globe. Before Rome, Italy; Poggioli reports often from the Balkans, other parts of Europe, and the Middle East. Poggioli can be heard on NPR’s award-winning newsmagazines “Morning Edition,” “All Things Considered,” and “Weekend Edition.” Poggioli’s reports on the Bosnian conflict in 1993 earned her the George Foster Peabody Award and the Edward Weintal Journalism Prize. Poggioli grew up in Cambridge, where she graduated from Harvard College in 1968 with a bachelor’s degree in romance languages and literature. Poggioli will be honored for her commitment to the highest standards of journalism.

For updates on activities, visit www.umb.edu/commencement/index.html.
On January 16, Carroy U. Ferguson, professor at the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS), presented a panel at the “Capacity Development for Ocean and Coastal Management: Mobilizing to Address Needs” session at the UNESCO-sponsored Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, held in January in Paris.

On February 25, the Center for Social Policy’s Donna Haig Friedman, director, and John McGah, research associate, presented at the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness regional conference, held at UMass Boston. Friedman presented the condition of homeless families and McGah’s panel focused on the progression from individual casework to systemic advocacy and impact.

In March, Cecilia Gandolfo of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented a joint keynote and closing remarks at the Oklahoma APSE conference on motivating disability/employment professionals, as well as a seminar on marketing techniques.

On January 23, Joan Garrity, associate professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), gave a paper on levels of grief in the Alzheimer’s family caregiver on the National Health Care Center in Rockland, MA.

The Institute for Community Inclusion’s Joy Guild presented at the Massachusetts Lodging Association’s annual meeting on good customer service for visitors with disabilities. This is part of the institute’s employer initiative ForEmployers.com.

In February, Pamela Jones, associate professor at the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS), organized and chaired the session “The Roman Chapel, 1550-1750: Images, Functions, Rhetoric” for the College of Humanities’ International Professional Day Conference. He was also a co-facilitator of the conference, themed “Worldviews: Living in Separate, Virtual Realities.”

Anamaria Franke, EEOs assistant professor, served as a panelist for the “Capacity Development for Ocean and Coastal Management: Mobilizing to Address Needs” session at the UNESCO-sponsored Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, held in January in Paris.

On February 25, the Center for the Roman Catholic Church’s Donna Haig Friedman, director, and John McGah, research associate, presented at the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness regional conference, held at UMass Boston. Friedman presented the condition of homeless families and McGah’s panel focused on the progression from individual casework to systemic advocacy and impact.

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John Halliday and Elena Varney of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented a pre-conference session, “Strategies for Effectively Seling All Customers Within the Workforce Development System,” at the National Association of Workforce Boards’ forum conference.

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A chapter by Pepi Leistyna of the Applied Linguistics Program, “When Ignorance and Deceit Come to Town,” was included in What You Don’t Know About Schools. His chapter “Kids Against Capital” was published in Contemporary Youth Culture.

Mark Pawlak, director of academic support services, published the poem “Gaza 2002” in the January 2006 issue of the literary journal Off the Coast.

The Physics Department’s Gopal Rao and Pengfei Wu recently published the article “Slow-light in Biological Bacteriorhodopsin Thin Films” in Physical Review Letters. A citation of this article, under the title “Photons Learn to Crawl,” appeared in the “Research Highlights” column in Nature.


Ask the Wid, a book containing selected translations from Le Testament of François Villon by Taylor Steel, professor of English, has just been published by Uncom Press.

Xuchen Wang, EEO research associate, and Adam Colburn-Carmona, assistant professor of biology, coauthored the paper “Stress Responses to Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Arabidopsis Include Growth Inhibition and Hypersensitive Response-Like Symptoms,” which was published in J. Experimental Botany. Wang was also a co-author on the paper “Bio- geochemical Investigations of Marine Methane Seeps, Hydrate Ridge, Oregon,” which appeared in J. Geophysical Research.

A new book by Professor Wendi Ye, who teaches women’s studies, history, and East Asian studies classes, was recently published in Palgrave’s Studies in Oral History series: Growing Up on the People’s Republic: Conversations between Two Daughters of China’s Revolution.

EXHIBITS, READINGS, PERFORMANCES, AND RECORDINGS

David Patterson, professor of music, will perform his piano composition “The Thrushes in Forest Park” at the Northeast Chapter meeting of the College Music Society, held in March at Wilkes College.

GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND PROJECTS

Biology professor Linda Huang has been awarded $41,938 from the National Institutes of Health, as part of the U54 grant given to strengthen the partnership between UMass Boston and the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. This grant supports a collaborative project between Huang’s lab and Professor Pamela Silver’s lab at the Harvard Medical School that examines how protein factors involved in gene splicing are regulated.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the Center for Social Policy $72,000 to provide technical assistance to agencies throughout New England implementing homeless management information systems (HMSI).

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy received a $13,500 grant from the Massachusetts Sociological Initiatives Foundation to train low-income women in Boston to become community researchers. When trained, the researchers will collect information on the extent to which women know about changes in welfare regulations in 2003 and 2004 and will also collect information from case managers and educators. They will present their conclusions to the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Jorgina Abbate-Vaughn, assistant professor at the Graduate College of Education, has been appointed to serve on the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards’ (NBPTS) Visiting Panel on National Board Research, which will conduct review meetings at NBPTS’ offices in Arlington, Virginia.

In January, Randy Albeda of the Economics Department and the Public Policy Ph.D. Program began her term as a vice president of the International Association for Feminist Economics. Tung-Ping (Bing) Chen, the Frank J. Manning Eminence Scholar’s Chair in Gerontology, has been appointed a fellow in the World Demographic Association, based in Switzerland.

Song Ci, assistant professor of computer science, has been elected a senior member of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.). The designation, awarded to only 7.6 percent of IEEE members, is based on the professional recognition the peers for technical and professional excellence.

Rete Klismasmit, assistant professor of English, was elected to the executive board of the Edith Wharton Society in December. In January, she was named New England regional representative to the American Studies Association.

Peter Langer has been appointed interim dean of the Graduate College of Education effective on February 6. Langer has served in a number of roles at UMass Boston since 1986, including his most recent position as associate provost.

Pepi Leistyna of the Applied Linguistics Program has been elected to serve on the executive board of the Association for Cultural Studies as a North American representative.

Bonnyan B. Lichtenstein of the College of Management has been invited to join the editorial board of the Journal of Business Venturing, the premier academic journal for entrepreneurship.

“Commonwealth Journal,” WUMB-FM’s public affairs program hosted by author Barbara Neely, won first place in the public service category and first place for its use of sound from the Associated Press of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The show is also a national winner of a Silver Microphone Award in the public service category.

Karen Suyemoto, assistant professor of psychology and Asian American studies, has been selected as a delegate for the 2006 Japanese American Leadership Delegation, sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and coordinated by the Japanese American National Museum. In March, delegates will travel to meet with Japanese leaders in government, business, political, nonprofit, and cultural sectors to improve long-term relationships between Japanese Americans and Japan.

EVENTS

The MA Office of Dispute Resolution (MODR) is mediating three affordable housing development appeals under a program sponsored by the state’s Housing Appeals Committee and Massachusetts Preservation Partnership. 318 housing units are proposed to be built in three eastern towns in Massachusetts. MODR is working with all parties to facilitate mutually acceptable resolutions of these disputes.

IN THE NEWS

In February, Ana Aparicio, assistant professor of anthropology, was quoted in The New York Times magazine on the political integration of Dominican-Americans.

In February, the Boston Globe profiled Debbie Chambers, who helps survivors of sex abuse and started her work while studying at UMass Boston.

Research on graduate school enrollments by Alicia Dowd, assistant professor in the Graduate College of Education, was cited in the column “Educational Equity and the Transfer Student” in February 10’s Chronicle of Higher Education.

An article in the Boston Herald on January 28 noted that UMass Boston student David Gai, a native of the Sudan, addressed the Massachusetts House of Representatives during an event observing Holocaust International Day.

Former DL Fuegos musician Brent “Woody” Giesemann spoke about studying addiction at UMass Boston in a February 18 Boston Globe article. Giesemann is the CEO and founder of Right Turn, a nonprofit organization that helps local artists and entertainers who are fighting substance abuse.

Laura Hansen, assistant professor of sociology, gave an interview on the meaning of money for WCVB-TV’s “Chronicle.” The program is slated to air in late March.

Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, was quoted in the Boston Herald on February 13 in an article on the election campaign for governor and lieutenant governor. She also was interviewed on Springfiled’s Rock 102 WQAY on the hurdles women and minority candidates face when running for high-level office in Massachusetts.

On February 16, the Boston Globe reported that U.S. Senator Barack Obama will deliver the keynote address at UMass Boston’s June 2 commencement.

Marc Pous, assistant professor in the Africana Studies Department, was quoted in a February 6 article in the Boston Globe on the upcoming elections in Haiti.

American studies professor Rachel Rubin was quoted on the popularity of country music in the Boston-area radio audience in the Patriot Ledger on February 4.

On January 23, the Boston Globe featured students who wrote accounts of their families’ histories as part of their coursework for the Applied College of “American Identities” class taught by Professor Louis P. Rudnick.

Jack Wiingen, intern director of the Urban Harbors Institute, was quoted in the January/February Preservation magazine in a story citing the institute’s study of the feasibility of wind turbines on the Boston Harbor Islands. The magazine is published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A profile of fellows participating in the College of Management’s Emerging Leaders Program at the Center for Collaborative Leadership appeared in the February 16 Dorchester Reporter.

In February, the Allston-Brighton TAB profiled UMass Boston’s Jumpstart program in Bright High School.
Wednesday 1
ITC Teaching With Technology Workshop: WebCT Vista Orienta-
tion 9:30 – 10:20 a.m., Healey Library, room p2, lower level. Each par-
ticipant will receive a WebCT account, a practice course, and information on how to access instructional resources for learning about WebCT. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu.

Thursday 2
Workshop: Inside Eating Disorders—A Personal Perspec-
tive 10:00 – 11:00 p.m., Campus Center, Alumni Room (2351). Workshop presentation by the Massachusetts Eating Disorders Association. Spon-
sored by University Health Services and the Women’s Center. For more details, visit www.healthservices.umb.edu/events.shtml. Contact: 7-6509 or linda.jorgen@umb.edu.

Friday 3
Philosophy Club 2:30 p.m., Wheatley Hall, 6-047. “The Writer’s Life” inaugural program featuring James Carroll. Sponsored by the Creative Writing Program. Contact: 7-6700 or amberj_990@gmail.com.

Monday 6
College of Management Senior Executive Forum 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Campus Center Founders Room, 3-3145. Featuring Dan Ryan, vice president of opera-
tions for Barron’s Integrated De-
fense Systems. Contact: cmevents@umb.edu.

Tuesday 7
ITC Teaching With Technology Workshop: WebCT Introduction Part 1 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Healey Library, room p2, lower level. Workshop pro-
viding information on how to get started with WebCT with instructions on posting a syllabus and course mate-
tials online. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu.

Tuesday 8

Wednesday 9
College of Management MBA Forum 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., Campus Center, 2-243. Featuring Edward Merrill, president and chief executive officer of Mount Washington Bank. Contact: cmevents@umb.edu.

Graduate Student Assembly Lecture and Book Signing: The Power of Procrastination 7:00 p.m., Campus Center, University Dining Room, 2nd fl. Featuring Jorge Cham, creator of the graduate student comic strip “Piled Higher & Deeper.” Contact: www.gsa.umb.edu.

Friday 10

Sociology Guest Speaker: Neighborhood Context and Crime in the 21st Century 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., Healey Library, University Club, 11th fl. Featuring noted social researcher and author Robert J. Sampson of Harvard Uni-
versity. Open to the public. Contact: 7-5788.

Monday 13
Spring Break begins

ITC Teaching With Technology Workshop: Spring Break WebCT Introduction Series 8:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Healey Library, room p2, lower level. Full day of on-
estation and introduction workshops that include WebCT Parts 1, 2, and 3. Also to be held on March 18 and 15. Refreshments and lunch pro-
vided. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu.

Tuesday 14
Annual Community Breakfast 8:30 a.m., Campus Center, Ballroom, 3rd fl. Honoring the re-
cipient of the Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leader-
ship, Maggie De Jesus, and two oth-
ers for the work of the project: Lee M. Kennedy and Kevin Chapman. Contact: 7-5304.

Tuesday 15
Yoga for All 1:30 – 2:10 p.m., Wednesdays, McCormack Hall, Beacon Center, Rooftop Pool Deck. Featuring Mel King, well-known community leader, who will be sharing his po-
etry. Contact: 7-5880.

Wednesday 16
Friday 17
Evacuation Day University closed.

Monday 20
Classes resume

Tuesday 21
ITC Teaching With Technology Workshop: WebCT Introduction Part 3 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Healey Library, room p2, lower level. Workshop on how to organize and display course content using WebCT. Prerequisite: WebCT Introduction Part 1. Also held on March 29, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu.

Tuesday 22

Wednesday 23
UMass Boston Athletics: Baseball vs. Eastern Nazarene College 3:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center. See www.athletics.umb.edu/clark/events.htm for full schedule.

Friday 24
Biography Spring Seminar Series: A View of American Science: How to help for the Poor 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Science Center, 1-006. Featuring Om Parkash of UMass Amherst. Refreshments served. For updates, visit www.bsu.umb.edu/events/. Contact: 7-6700.

Monday 27
Student Luncheon with Chancellor Collins 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Location to be an-
nounced. Share your background and experiences at UMass Boston with Chancellor Collins. Contact: Patricia MacNeil, 7-5800.

Friday 28
ITC Teaching With Technology Workshop: WebCT Introduction Part 2 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Science Center, 1-006. Featuring Richard McCormack, assis-
tant professor of political science and the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-
ology. Sponsored by the Gerontol-
ye Institute and Department at the
 joins the National Service Inclusion Project at the Institute for Community Inclusion for a free March 14 web conference with mental health expert Ken Burns. Contact: alkeshb. soloff@umb.edu.

Thursday 30
Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy: Women in History Month Event 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., location to be an-
nounced. Event featuring Jane Muldowney, author of Women @ the ES Budget, and students in the Women in Politics and Public Policy Gradu-
ate Program. Presentation and discus-
sion open to all. Co-sponsored by the Gerontology Institute. Contact: cwppp@umb.edu or 7-7341.