National Science Foundation Funds Noyce Scholars Program to Train Math and Science Teachers for City Schools

By Ed Hayward

A new University of Massachusetts Boston project designed to prepare teachers of math and science for work in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) has received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) that will support 39 graduate and undergraduate students in their teacher preparation studies over the next three years.

Building on the university’s model urban teacher training program Teach Next Year, the Noyce Scholars Program will focus on preparing students to meet the high demand for subject-trained math and science teachers in the classrooms of the Boston Public Schools.

The $500,000 Noyce NSF grant will assist 18 graduate students and 21 undergraduate students with tuition, fees, and other expenses during their studies and assist them during their internship year in a Boston Public School. Eligible candidates will have at least a 3.0 GPA, demon-

Does Childhood Asthma Alter More Than Breathing?
UMass Boston Clinical Psychologist Studies the Debate

By Peter Grennen

Even the most conscientious researchers may fall victim to a certain professional myopia, pursuing their own narrow interests so intently that they lose sight of their work’s larger significance. When a UMass Boston graduate student encountered this problem in the scholarly record on a topic of interest to her, she decided she should begin to set matters straight—and in so doing provided valuable insight about interpreting research in her field.

For years, pediatric researchers have been locked in a standoff over the role of childhood asthma in human psychosocial development. On one side are those who claim that asthma makes children susceptible to depression and other “internalizing” illnesses, leading in many cases to social maladjustment. On the other are the authors of studies showing that children with asthma function about as well in social settings as do their healthy peers.

Jennifer Bender Berz, a doctoral student in clinical psychology, has weighed in on the subject by calling attention to a telling demographic. “Only a handful of studies have examined the psychosocial functioning of children from urban environments, where asthma is most prevalent,” she writes in “Children’s Asthma, Internalizing Problems, and Social Functioning: An Urban Perspective,” a coauthored study that appeared recently in the quarterly Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing.

A fuller understanding of asthma’s effects on a child’s psyche will surely help answer questions about human social development and be useful in devising effective interventions. At stake, ultimately, is the ability of young asthma sufferers to form

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Sociologist Examines the Lives of Retirees in New Book

Robert Weiss, senior fellow at the Gerontology Institute, interviewed 89 retirees about their experiences for a new book that examines what happens to people when they lose the community of work. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Eighty-year-old Weiss knows a bit about the phenomenon himself, having retired as a professor of sociology in 1989 after sixteen years at UMass Boston. For a time, he continued to conduct research as director of the university’s now defunct Work and Family Research Unit and for the past decade he has been a senior fellow at the Gerontology Institute.

“It is a marvelous association,” says Weiss. He said that he especially enjoyed working with graduate students. Weiss believes social networks, meaningful connections, and attitude make big differences in how people fare in retirement. His research focuses on the free shore of retirement, and makes sure you keep matters some-where.”

By Lisa Gentes
UMass Boston’s Biology and Computer Science Departments are helping students at the Edward Everett School combine technology and science to create their own web-based nature guide.

Armed with digital cameras loaned by UMass Boston, about a dozen third, fourth, and fifth graders from the Edward Everett School’s Science Photography Club participated in a photo treasure hunt in UMass Boston’s three on-campus greenhouses last month.

The Biology and Computer Science Departments are teaming up with the young scientists under the university’s Electronic Field Guide Project. The project, funded by the National Science Foundation, creates web-based databases for recording and identifying species and ecological observations, according to its website.

This was the first time the project has been trained with students in Dorchester, according to Jennifer Forman Orth, a biologist and post-doctorate research associate in the Computer Science Department. “They don’t spend a lot of time with nature,” Orth said of the urban youngsters. “It’s fun to help them find out about it.”

At the greenhouse treasure hunt, students had to find 12 different items and take digital photos of each, which will be posted online, she said. The UMass Boston project coordinators are also helping the students create a full-sized poster of their favorite photos, which include pictures taken at their schoolyard of berries, fruit, and fall leaves.

Edward Everett School contributors previously had helped make the students’ schoolyard suitable for play and outdoor learning, she said. “Parents were concerned this generation of students in school were losing their connection to nature,” Orth said. “They wanted city kids to be stewards of the environment.”

UMass Boston’s two departments will continue to work with the children throughout the school year on their field guide project, she said.

The university’s Electronic Field Guide Project has collaborators all over the world, according to Orth.

Dorchester Students Craft Web-Based Nature Guides at UMass Boston

By Leigh DuPuy
A new book by UMass Boston’s Robert Weiss is helping people navigate through the issues that surround retirement. While some daydream of the freedom retirement brings, many find that relinquishing their community of work can present many challenges.

Weiss’s The Experience of Retirement examines how people actually fare when they stop working, the obstacles they face, and what makes them most fulfilled.

Weiss, a senior fellow in the Gerontology Institute and an emeritus professor of sociology, interviewed 89 men and women multiple times in various stages of their retirement to understand what ending their work meant to them. The study was a continuation of his forty years of research on such issues of loss and transition as loneliness, marital separation, and bereavement.

Released in November 2005, the book has received rave reviews from Time magazine and The Chronicle of Higher Education. The work is both a descriptive and analytical presentation of Weiss’s research. It also includes a chapter of advice on how to make the most of retirement.

Weiss found that, for the most part, were able to anticipate what their retirement would be like. However, these weren’t always bright visions. While some people looked forward to retirement, others were worried about how they would deal with empty days.

For some people, retirement was not an entirely desired milestone, marking their entrance into a new life. Nevertheless, Weiss found, people seemed more afraid of retirement homes than of death.

Despite the allure of having more time for themselves, many retirees struggle to find meaning in lives no longer defined by the job. “Work provides structure, purpose, and gratification,” says Weiss. “It provides ties to the rest of society and makes us a part of things.”

With the absence of work, people can find themselves marginalized and unsure of how to occupy their time. Many worry about how best to use the freedom retirement brings, Weiss says: “Although not quite an existential crisis, people do ask the questions: What do I want to do? Who am I? You have all this freedom, but how do you use it?”

However, Weiss’s findings were not entirely grim — far from it. Most retirees found ways to surmount retirement’s challenges. “Some traveled or did other things they’d long wanted to do,” he says.

Weiss found that retirees who were happiest had been able to become active participants in communities that mattered to them as had their community of work. They became volunteers, joined craft or hobby groups, or found part-time work.

“Many retirees do well when half their week is filled with obligations that, while not stressful, reassure them that they still matter. Then they can spend the rest of their time in whatever way they want,” says Weiss.

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Send your news items to: The University Reporter at the mailing or e-mail address to the left.
University Response Ensures Wheatley Hall Recovers from Storm Damage

By Ed Hayward

The hurricane-like winds that tore apart a synthetic covering atop the roof of Wheatley Hall were matched by the lightning-fast response of university employees and outside contractors who restored the building and made repairs that ensured Wheatley was open for business with the start of the spring semester.

Winds in excess of 70 m.p.h. stripped the waterproof membrane from much of the fourth-floor roof and cracked skylights at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18. Without the protective covering, rainwater drained through gaps in the concrete roof and into office space. No one was injured on campus during the severe storm that socked Greater Boston. The water soaked many Wheatley offices on the fourth and third floors, but faculty, staff, and students in those areas acted quickly to shield computers and sensitive materials from the water. They were joined immediately by the entire Facilities Department staff, armed with tarps, buckets, mop, and pumps, as well as personnel from Information Technology, Customer Service, and the Property Department.

Dean Aderonle Awotona of the College of Public and Community Service, which was affected by the water damage, praised the work of Facilities.

“The response of the Facilities personnel was quite remarkable,” Awotona said. “They arrived in the college within a split second and immediately began to assist the college in securing its equipment, especially the computers. Although they were under a tremendous amount of pressure, they worked diligently and with maximum efficiency throughout the calamity. They treated all faculty and staff members with utmost courtesy at all times.”

The building was closed and faculty, staff, and visitors were given two hours to secure their workspaces, gather belongings, and evacuate the building. The Division of Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education, which used the Wheatley classrooms during Winter Session, quickly relocated their evening classes and within hours had secured classroom space in McCormack Hall for the final two days of Winter Session.

Workers from Facilities and cleaning contractor One Source worked throughout the night to remove water and start cleaning carpets, walls, and ceilings following the storm, said Craig Pearson, interim director of Facilities. Public Safety officers remained on site to secure the waterlogged areas.

By dawn on Thursday, much of Wheatley had re-opened. A roof contractor was at work removing the estimated 10,000-15,000 square feet of roof covering and other debris. Faculty and staff from the affected areas were directed to report to work at the Campus Center, where they were briefed on the situation.

“We wanted to make sure that people who needed to get into their offices could do so safely,” said Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Ellen O’Connor. “We also wanted people who needed a place to work on campus to know that we would provide them that space. Finally, we wanted to make sure we answered every question we could for the departments that were affected.”

Cleanup and roof repairs continued as the interior of the building gradually reopened to staff and faculty. By midday on Saturday, January 21, the temporary roof was in place, said Pearson.

“The quick and coordinated effort by the university community reflects the depth of the commitment and professionalism of our staff, as well as our contractors at One Source,” said Chancellor Michael F. Collins, M.D. “We are most appreciative of all of the efforts expended to return campus operations to as close to normal as possible.”

Inspiration. Achievement. Celebration! Inauguration Week Planning Continues

By Anne-Marie Kent

Mark your calendar! Inauguration Week, April 24 to 29, includes events that you will not want to miss, all of them celebrating the strengths of UMass Boston.

The week’s festivities include a number of academic symposia, a free concert for students, a fundraising gala to raise money for student scholarships, and the ceremonial inauguration of Chancellor Michael F. Collins, M.D. The excitement of the week will be topped off with a special day of celebration for members of the UMass Boston community and their families.

“Chancellor Collins has expressed a desire to host an event to show appreciation for faculty, staff, and their families during the inaugural week,” said Anne Riley, senior budget analyst and chair of the committee organizing the family fun day.

To plan the event for faculty, staff, and their families, Riley and her committee opted to ask for the input of university employees through a survey circulated via broadcast e-mail. “We put together a very short survey with questions that will help us decide how we would like to structure this event,” said Riley, who received 370 responses in less than a week.

“It was delightful that so many responded. One of the comments that we received several times was that folks really appreciated the fact that we asked for their advice,” said Riley, who will meet with her committee to review the results of the survey and to decide how the event should be structured.

“This event is really our thank-you to faculty and staff for all that they do for the university,” said Chancellor Collins.

While Riley is spearheading the family day planning, Student Life director Joyce Morgan is currently reviewing top headliners for a student concert, to be held on April 27.

A subcommittee organizing academic symposia is also busy at work. Each college dean’s office is working to arrange an event that features nationally known speakers, alumni panels, lectures, and other presentations.

“All of the major academic units of the university are excitedly pursuing their plans and we will be reporting to the community about the specifics of these plans very shortly,” said Winston Langley, associate provost for academic affairs. “They are quite varied. If there was one feature that characterized them all, it is that of celebrating the campus in a broad participatory fashion.”

Other events include the inauguration ceremony, scheduled for Friday, April 28. A luncheon and ribbon-cutting ceremony for university officials and special guests will be held that afternoon and will be followed by the inauguration of Michael F. Collins, M.D., as the seventh chancellor of UMass Boston.

On the following evening, the university is throwing its annual gala, a fundraising event to raise money for student scholarships on Saturday, April 29. It will be a ticketed event held in the Campus Center.

“The evening will feature a pre-dinner tasting reception and silent auction,” said Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Darrell Byers. “The real stars of the evening will be our students for whom we are raising scholarship funding. They are our cause for celebration tonight.”

January Celebrations at UMass Boston


(Below) Three students take to the ice during a free skate offered throughout the week. UMass Boston welcomed students back to school for the spring semester with a weekend schedule of activities, including an offering of open houses and information tables, free food, and musical performances. (Photos by Harry Brett)
Exercise Scientist Brings Innovative Fitness Programming to Ireland

By Leigh DuPuy

It’s a common news story: our children are not getting enough physical activity and are spending too much time in front of televisions and computers, contributing to a national epidemic of childhood obesity. To help combat the problem, UMass Boston’s Kyle McInnis, chair of the Department of Exercise and Health Sciences, is using an innovative approach to turn the tables on the overindulgence of video games. He has created a “virtual gym” experience where kids exercise using interactive and technologically advanced games and equipment. This “video circuit-training” concept is taking off locally, nationally, and now internationally as a means of reaching inactive children and bringing fun back into physical fitness.

In January, McInnis was asked to present his techniques and research in Galway, Ireland, for a conference using video game technology as a means of teaching and delivery of long-term care. “The kids control the pace,” McInnis says. “They love being active, and these ideas stand better chances of being taken more seriously and maybe even be adopted.”

“Obesity increases the potential for serious cardiovascular and other health problems in children,” says McInnis, such as high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure, and type 2 diabetes. McInnis was asked to present in Galway in part due to the enthusiasm of his former student and research assistant Eoin Colleran, who was speaking to a prominent sports leader about the work he did with McInnis during his undergraduate career at UMass Boston.

While in Galway, McInnis and his family also connected with another UMass alum, Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, professor of Gerontology and senior fellow of the National University of Ireland, Galway, who received an honorary degree from the university in 2003. In addition to helping create a pilot program in Galway, McInnis has been invited to speak at schools in London this summer on the same techniques.

While the thought of playing video games may not go hand in hand with becoming fit, McInnis says it has found its way to a successful way to connect with a population typically hard to reach. “It’s not the complete solution, but it is a start and a great way to get these kids to enjoy being active,” he says.

Professor Yung-Ping (Bing) Chen attended the fifth decennial White House Conference on Aging. It was Chen’s fourth consecutive conference as a delegate. (Photo by Harry Bickett)

By Robert Geary

This December, the fifth decennial White House Conference on Aging was held in Washington, D.C. The aim was to gather a range of experts and advocates noted for their work on issues in aging to discuss, debate, and prioritize the major public policy issues in aging for the coming decade and beyond. The law requires that the conference report to the president and Congress by June 2006 to help guide national aging policies.

The 2005 Conference, themed “The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action,” occurred as the oldest baby boomers begin to prepare for retirement. The delegates were appointed by governors, members of Congress, the National Congress of American Indians, and the policy committee of the conference. Professor Yung-Ping (Bing) Chen, holder of the Frank J. Mannon Eminent Scholars Chair in Gerontology and senior fellow of the Gerontology Institute, attended his fourth consecutive conference as a delegate, this time appointed by the policy committee. Chen was also a consultant to the 1971 and 1981 conferences. He was commissioned to prepare briefing books on retirement income for use by the delegates to both of those conferences. For the 1995 conference, he was most concerned with older worker issues. At the 2005 conference, he was active in advocating reforms of funding and service delivery of long-term care and the removal of barriers to continued employment of older workers.

Delegates were asked to vote on up to 50 choices from 73 resolutions presented by the policy committee, and they were asked to develop implementation strategies. Many resolutions urged a comprehensive national strategy for funding and delivery of long-term care.

“The fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population comprises those over age 85, the most likely to need long-term care,” says Chen. “Shortages of geriatric health care providers and in the long-term care workforce constitute a growing problem; the Medicaid program’s nursing home bias is a serious issue; lack of social and private insurance is a major deficiency in funding long-term care; and elders with mental illnesses are much less understood.”

Older worker issues were given prominence as well. Says Chen, “Age discrimination in employment and training remains a problem; impediments to phased and flexible retirement options pose important barriers to continuing work; and lack of employer awareness of the value of older workers is another issue.”

Chen argues that innovative solutions are needed. “Many of the ideas discussed in the conference have been proposed and debated around the country in academic, practice, and policy circles, some for many years. However, when included in the conference’s report, these ideas stand better chances of being taken more seriously and may even be adopted,” he says.

Gerontologist Examines Long-Term Care and Older Workers at White House Conference on Aging

By Robert Geary

This January, the Gerontology Institute of the McCormick Graduate School of Policy Studies announced a new leadership in Maximilianne E. Szinovacz.

“Dr. Szinovacz is a nationally recognized scholar in the areas of older families, late-life labor-force participation, and gender and aging,” says Jeff Buri, graduate program director. Szinovacz is known as a prodigious scholar, having published more than 70 journal articles, book chapters, and books, as well as for her productive grants and research.

She is the former Sue Falkiner Scriber Distinguished Professor in Geriatrics at the Glennan Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Szinovacz also holds graduate degrees in sociology, philosophy, psychology, and history from the University of Vienna.

Frank Caro recently retired as director after nearly ten years and will remain active as a faculty member, mentor, researcher, and editor of the Journal of Aging & Social Policy.

New Leadership for Gerontology

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Honors Director and UMass Boston Students Work in South African HIV/AIDS Hospices Over Winter Break

By Leigh DuPuy

This January, seven students who enrolled in the “International Epimemics” colloquium did more than study disease in the classroom. During a weeklong trip to Cape Town, they worked alongside of South African public health officials and activists in the country’s AIDS hospices.

The trip was a brainchild of Raajni Srikanth, director of the University Honors Program, who, along with associate director Dick Cluster, is teaching the colloquium series. She was searching for a way to add something more to the yearlong course that focuses on academic study and on-the-ground work. A trip, she felt, was the best way to take the course to the next level.

“I really wanted to offer my students a field experience in an international setting,” she said. Srikanth was able to coordinate an internship-style curriculum for her students in collaboration with Padraig O’Malley, senior fellow at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, who is living in Cape Town while finishing his book.

“He promised to make arrangements if I could bring the students there,” she said. With students volunteering to pay their own expenses, including boarding at an area youth hostel, Srikanth was faced with the task of raising money for the cost of travel. “We were able to go because an anonymous donor contributed $11,000 to the project,” said Srikanth.

The group left on January 8, arrived in Cape Town on January 9, and began their work over the course of seven very busy days in a township called Khayelitsha. Noting the immense poverty there, Srikanth said, “It is called the AIDS capital of the world, as well as the TB and murder capital of the world.”

The group was able to connect with Mandla Majola, a member of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), a grassroots HIV/AIDS activist organization composed of community members, doctors, public health officials, researchers, and others that provide care, including free antiretroviral treatment, to those who have the disease. “Without us, they would not have had exposure to TAC, the communities they serve, and the work that they do,” said Srikanth. “It is such an incredible organization and the students were really able to see how on-the-ground activists and interventions really work.”

Students would spend each morning working at one of three TAC sites. “They helped to provide counseling and education, helped pack medications, whatever it took,” said Srikanth.

In the afternoons, they participated in academic-style lectures organized by O’Malley that featured economists, public policymakers, and medical doctors who spoke about the administration of care in a country where more than 5.3 million South Africans are infected with the HIV virus, according to 2003 statistics gathered by the UNAIDS organization. It is the largest number of individuals living with the virus in a single country.

In the evenings, the students met again with TAC workers who arranged meetings with faith healers, rape survivors, men’s support groups, and a church service, where members talked openly of having HIV/AIDS and provided support to each other.

“It was humbling to go there and see the level of commitment of the workers,” says Srikanth. “They gave so much of themselves.” The experience also fulfilled one of Srikanth’s goals in teaching: to encourage her students to think in ways that challenge their comfort zone.

Catherine Reyes-Spencer, a senior biochemistry major and medical school hopeful, was one of the honors students on the trip. “It was such a positive experience,” she said. “I expected to be depressed, and it was uplifting to hear about people’s traumatic experiences... However, it was amazing to witness the strength of the people living openly with the disease and to see the huge support network of hospices, rape centers, day care, businesses working at treatment, education and prevention.”

The other students on the trip were Kimberley Carroll, Elizabeth Elia, Mira Ortiz, Catherine Reyes-Spencer, Jessica Santicelli, Elena Stefanova, and Oscar Yepes.

The group was also accompanied by Roberta Dougan, a filmmaker who has documented grassroots activism in countries such as Nepal and Nicaragua. “It was a great way to provide visual evidence of what we were doing,” said Srikanth.

Inspired by the experience, Srikanth said, “I would like to use this model to frame other internships.” She hopes to create a three-credit internship focused on public health that includes preparatory reading, exposure to Xhosa, the language of South Africa, and a ten-day trip to Cape Town. She would also like to design two other international internships, one with an environmental sustainability focus in Costa Rica and another on education issues in India. She points out, with students paying for credits and expenses, it would only require raised funds for travel.

These internships, though organized by the Honors Program, would be open to the wider campus community. Interested students would need to apply. “It gives our students an international experience they don’t ordinarily get,” she said. “The lives our students lead make them great future policymakers and they deserve these opportunities.”

Boston Medical Center Honors Vice Chancellor for Holiday Toy Deliveries

By UMass Boston Athletics Communications

Charlie Titus, vice chancellor for athletics, recreation, and special projects, recently was named Boston Medical Center’s “January We Care” award recipient.

Since 1999, Titus has organized a drive for toys for kids at Boston Medical Center (BMC) and its predecessor Boston City Hospital. Each year, just before Christmas, Titus and an entourage of coaches and players from the UMass Boston men’s basketball team have carried sacks of toys to the pediatric emergency room, the inpatient pediatric unit, and throughout the entire ambulatory care center. Over the years, the men’s basketball squad has been joined by the men’s ice hockey team as well.

“The UMass Boston teams’ visit to Boston Medical Center is the longest-running, uninterrupted, gift-giving effort among BMC’s many holiday season donors. For his dedication and commitment to the pediatric patients of Boston Medical Center, BMC honored Titus and his team with the award for January. Titus, now in his 30th season as men’s basketball mentor, was director of athletics from 1980-2004, before stepping away for a year to serve as interim vice chancellor for student affairs. In his new position, Titus works on community service and outreach initiatives that, in his words, “allow me to pursue my passions to help UMass Boston serve the neighborhoods of the city.”

Titus has been instrumental in fueling the university’s commitment to community service, as evidenced by the Department of Athletics involvement throughout the city in helping with the Northern Consortium for Academics and Sports named UMass Boston athletics as the top program in the country for community service for the seventh straight year, while the National Association of Division III Athletics Administrators honored UMass Boston with a community service award for the second consecutive year.

University Bids Farewell to Lewis Kerwin

On January 12, the university held a thank-you reception for Annemarie Lewis Kerwin, who resigned as vice chancellor for university communications and community relations in order to start her own strategic communications practice. During a reception that included speeches by former chancellors Sherry Fennelly and Keith Mosley, and Provost Paul Fonteyn, Chancellor Michael F. Collins, M.D., thanked her for her service to the university and gave her a UMass Boston commemorative painted mirror as a token of appreciation. (Photo by Harry Brett)
PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

Jorgelina Abbate-Vaughn, assistant professor in the Graduate College of Education (GCOE), presented “Para Aquí Today, Para Afuera Tomorrow?” Early Childhood Paraprofessionals’ Beliefs on Preparedness for Work in Urban Schools and NCLB Requirements” at the 58th annual conference of the National Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, held in San Diego.

Pratuysh Bharati, assistant professor of management science and information systems, presented “Problem Solving in Distributed Systems: Assessing the IT Services Network in India” at the OASIS 2005 Workshop at the International Conference of Information Systems, held on December 11.

Arthur MacEwan, chair and professor of economics, presented “Liberalization, Migration and Gender: The Mexican Experience,” at a session sponsored by the International Association for Feminist Economics and the Union for Radical Political Economics at the Allied Social Science Associations meetings, held in Boston on January 6.

Scott Maisano, assistant professor of English, presented his paper “The Pregnant Pause: Anna of Denmark as Queen of Da Nile in the Drama ‘A View from the Bridge’” at the annual conference of the Modern Language Association, held in Washington, D.C. in December. Maisano was also invited to serve as respondent to a panel of papers on the topic “Early Modern Science Fiction.”

Sherry Morrow, undergraduate nursing program director in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), was the guest speaker at a Quincy College nursing professional recognition ceremony held on January 5.

On January 13, Tatjana Meschede of the Center for Social Policy presented the findings of her research on homelessness at the Women’s Lunch Place. Her research examined the health conditions of homeless street dwellers and also discussed “housing first” as a permanently houseless homeless people based on her ongoing research in Quincy.

Professor Jennifer Radden of the Philosophy Department spoke on “Technology and Virtues” at the American Philosophical Association meeting, held in New York in December.

Anny Rivera-Ottenburger, adjunct professor of political science, presented her paper “Contrasting Models of Local Governance and the Economics of the Urban Poor in Chile: The Cases of El Bosque and Peñalolén” at the 2003 Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference.

On January 12, Laura Henze Russell, director of the elder history security standard project at the Gerontology Institute, presented a paper titled “Elder History Security Standard: The Community and Banking Council” at the Federal Reserve Board’s 2005 Economic Development Conference.

Alex Des Forges, assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages, published the article “Burning with Reverence: The Economics and Aesthetics of Words in Qiq” in the January issue of FMLA.

An article by Tatjana Meschede of the Center for Social Policy, “Accessing Housing: Exploring the Impact of Medical and Substance Abuse Services on Household Attainment for Chronically Homeless Street Dwellers,” was accepted for publication in a special issue of the Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment.

An essay by assistant professor of history Ruth Miller, “Sin, Scandal, and Disaster: Politics and Crime in Contemporary Turkey,” was included in the edited collection of Travels in History: Law, State and the Perspectives on State Power and Violence, published by Rodopi Press.

Cheryl Nixon and Louise Penner, assistant professors of English, co-authored the essay “Writing by the Book: Jane Austen’s Personas and The Art and Form of the Letter,” which was recently published in Parnassus, the journal of the Jane Austen Society of North America.

In January, Stephen Silliman, assistant professor of anthropology, co-authored an article in Archaeology, co-edited with Martin Hall, with Blackwell Publishing.

Nina M. Silverstein, associate professor of geontology, presented “Community Mobility and Supportive Transportation: Special Considerations for Dementia and Other Functional Impairments among Older Drivers” and convened the “Human Factors Workshop” at the Transportation Research Board’s annual meeting, held in January, Washington, D.C.

An article by professor of history Julie Winch, “No Common Lot: An African American Sailor’s Half-Century in the Age of Sail,” was published in the book Watershed, A Conference of Separate Eartuies: A Consideration of Origins in the Western Gulf of Maine with Special Focus on Belfast Bay, which was published in Marine Geology.

Chi-kan Richard Hong, College of Public and Community Service assistant professor, presented the article “Rules and Actions: Determinants Among Community and Staff Actions in Group-Based Microcredit Programs in the United States” in Economic Development Quarterly.

In December, Pascale Joassart, visiting research fellow at the Center for Social Policy and assistant professor in the Department of Economics, was the co-author of the report “Hopeful History: The Books Labor Force,” published by The Economic Roundtable. The report examines the extent and nature of the “informal” labor force in Los Angeles and is available at www.economict.org.

An article by Tatjana Meschede of the Center for Social Policy, “Accessing Housing: Exploring the Impact of Medical and Substance Abuse Services on Household Attainment for Chronically Homeless Street Dwellers,” was accepted for publication in a special issue of the Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment.

An essay by assistant professor of history Ruth Miller, “Sin, Scandal, and Disaster: Politics and Crime in Contemporary Turkey,” was included in the edited collection of Travels in History: Law, State and the Perspectives on State Power and Violence, published by Rodopi Press.

Cheryl Nixon and Louise Penner, assistant professors of English, co-authored the essay “Writing by the Book: Jane Austen’s Personas and The Art and Form of the Letter,” which was recently published in Parnassus, the journal of the Jane Austen Society of North America.

In January, Stephen Silliman, assistant professor of anthropology, co-authored an article in Archaeology, co-edited with Martin Hall, with Blackwell Publishing.

Nina M. Silverstein, associate professor of geontology, presented “Community Mobility and Supportive Transportation: Special Considerations for Dementia and Other Functional Impairments among Older Drivers” and convened the “Human Factors Workshop” at the Transportation Research Board’s annual meeting, held in January, Washington, D.C.

A report by GCOE assistant professor Aisioh Dowd, “Data Don’t Drive: Building a Practitioner-Driver Culture of Inquiry to Access Community College Performances,” was released in December by Lumina Foundation for Education. The report explores how community colleges can best use data to improve student services and is available at www.luminafoundation.org/publications.

Peter King, director of the Asian American Studies Program and professor of education, served as a hearing officer for the International Public Education Network’s Massachusetts statewide hearing on No Child Left Behind legislation— one of ten in the country.

EXHIBITS, RESEARCH, AND PROJECTS

Mary Oleksiwicz, assistant professor of music, performed as flutist with the Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra in three performances of an all-Berlioz program, conducted by Grant Llewellyn, January 13-15 at Symphony Hall in Boston.

GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND PROJECTS

Edmund Rean, Dean of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, led a delegation of Massachusetts judges and other public officials of an all-Berlioz program, conducted by Grant Llewellyn, January 2005 as part of a continuing effort, funded by the US Department of State, to strengthen intellectual property rights protection throughout the country. Project partners, including the Massachusetts Judges Conference, conducted workshops, and hosted demonstrations and seminars with the Russian Academy of Jurisdiction, the Moscow Commercial Court, Russian graduate students in law and policy, and private-sector stakeholders. Joseph McDonough, executive director of the Massachusettss Judges Conference, and a visiting fellow in the McCormack Graduate School, joined the delegation.

EEOs professor Robert Chen and co-principal investigators Hannah Sevin of GCOE, Arthur Eisenkraft of COMMC, Marilyn Decker of the Boston School System, and Adam Colon-Carmona of the Biology Department, were awarded a $2M, 5-year grant from the Ford Foundation’s K-12 program for their proposal “Watershed-Integrated Sciences Partnership II (WISP-II).” This grant is a continuation of the 2003-2004 version of the grant and provides full fellowships for graduate students in the sciences to work with middle school teachers and students to improve science education.

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CAMPUS NOTES

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Asthma and Children (cont.)

lastling personal ties in their adult years. “Children’s social functioning in middle childhood is predic-
tive of relationships at later points in development,” says Bender Berz, whose academic specializa-
tion is child psychology. It is logical to posit a link be-
tween asthma attacks and psychological difficulties, as Bender Berz did. “Kids with asthma are typi-
cally more restricted in their recreational activity, and this can give rise to depressed mood,” she says. “Perhaps more important, asthma attacks often come on quickly and without warning, which can be very anxiety-prov-
oking.”

But the study itself, which fol-
lowed forty-eight urban kids eight to twelve years of age, told a dif-
fierent story: It produced no evi-
dence that asthma predisposes kids to other illness. Instead, the study’s asthmatic and healthy chil-
dren were found to be at similar risk for psychosocial problems, including symptoms of depression and anxiety. Bender Berz believes that an explanation of that outcome leads inevitably to the specifics of her sample and methods. Far from proving that asthma and psycho-
social problems are unrelated, she says, her data may merely indicate a need to reassess the validity of existing measures for minority children. Or they may point to the diminished relative importance of asthma considered as one of a host of urban-life stressors. Regard-
less, the study underscores, as Bender Berz says, “the importance of examining co-occurring diffi-
culties in psychosocial develop-
ment among urban children.”

One of the study’s more in-
triguing discussion points con-
cerns the effects of asthma treat-
ments: “A child’s asthma may de-
mand a type of structured lifestyle—for example, close pa-
rental supervision or routinized medication administration—that could help to foster psychosocial

well-being.” Put another way, asthma and its treatment can ac-
tually improve children’s self-
concept and self-esteem. Of course, that’s a thoroughly con-
troversial bit of reasoning; in view of the research model in which it is stated, however, it should not come as a surprise. “Epidemiological studies tend to provide more of a big-picture view of the nature of the relation-
ship between asthma and psycho-
social functioning,” Bender Berz says. As she well knows, that per-
spective has been missing from the scholarly debate about child-
hood asthma for far too long.

CORRECTION

In the January University Reporter, Meng Zhou was listed as a co-
principal investigator on Bob Chen’s new $528,697 Office of Naval Research grant “Predicting Chromophoric Dissolved Organic Matter Distributions in Coastal Waters.” The co-
principal investigators are Yong Tian and Bernie Gardner.

IN THE NEWS

Louis Bienert, senior research fellow at the Center for Survey Research, appeared on NBC’s Today show on January 3 in a segment about new anti-tobacco advertisements broadcasting in New York.

James Campen, research associate at the Gunston Institute and professor emeritus of economics, was quoted in the Boston Globe on January 10 on his recent report finding a dramatic increase in out-
of-state lenders.

Research by CWPPP director Carol Hardy-Fanta and her co-
principal investigators on the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Project was cited in a 2005 issue of the Hispanic Business. She was also quoted in the Nashua Telegraph on January 8 on the low number of New Hampshire municipal officeshold-
ers who are women.

Graduate Student Assembly Presents:
Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day
Tuesday, February 7
4:00 p.m., Campus Center, Ballroom, 3rd fl.
Featuring author Joan Bolter
Book signing and reception to follow discussion
Contact: 7-7975 or gsassembly@umb.edu

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The Calendar of Events is published monthly by the Office of University Communications and Community Relations. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. From off-campus, dial (617) 28 and the last five digits below each event.

Submit March calendar listings by Tuesday, February 14 to umb.edu/news/calendar/.

Thursday 2
Trotter Institute Presents: Authors Stephen Fox and Derri Greenend Converse	12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Healey Library, Faculty Staff Lounge, 11th fl. Two biographers will share insights and perspectives on the life of William Monroe Trotter. Contact: 7-5885 or yvonne.gonzalez@umb.edu.

College of Management MBA Forum
5:00 – 6:00 p.m., location to be announced. Featuring Daniel Joyce, president of Moors & Cabot, Inc. Contact: president of Moors & Cabot, Inc. 7-6788.

Friday 3
Same-Sex Marriage: A Symposium
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Campus Center. Featuring George Chieh Ay, E.J. Graff, Gary Busch, Neidell Sullivan, Jeffrey Sánchez, David Wilson, and Rob Compton. The symposium organized by the UMass Boston Sexuality Studies Group and the Quer Student Center, with funding from the American Psychological Association, American Studies Graduate Student Roundtable, Art Department 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 Affairs Council, and Women’s Studies Program. Contact: david.acefo@umb.edu.

Philosophy Club
2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Wheatley Hall, 5-041. All are invited to participate in the weekly presentation. Contact 7-6406 or peggy.zidjian@umb.edu.

Distinguished Speaker in Biology Series: News from the Microbiome: Roots Influence Soil Organisms through Chemistry and Ecology
2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Science Center, Small Seminars Lecture Hall, 1st fl. Featuring Jorge Vivanco, associate professor at Colorado State University and director of the Center for Rhizosphere Biology. Sponsored by the Biology Department. Contact: 7-6600 or bio.umb.edu/events/.

Saturday 4
UMass Boston Athletics: Women’s Basketball vs. Keene State College
1:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center. See www.umb.edu/athletics/umb/events for full schedule.

UMass Boston Athletics: Men’s Basketball vs. Keene State College
3:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center. See www.umb.edu/athletics/umb/events for full schedule.

UMass Boston Athletics: Women’s Hockey vs. Holy Cross College
4:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center. See www.umb.edu/athletics/umb/events for full schedule.

Tuesday 9
Mediation Group
2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Thursdays, McCormack Hall, Interfaith Chapel/ Ryan Lounge, 3rd fl. Contact: mediation@umb.edu.

Thursday 14
Yoga for All
12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Thursdays, McCormack Hall, Reanzeigen Fitness Center Aerobics Room, 3rd fl. Yoga class open to all. Mats will be provided. Students: free. Faculty and staff: $5.00. Sponsored by University Health Services. Contact: 7-5840 or linda.jorgensen@umb.edu.

Friday 10
Biological Department Series
2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Science Center, Small Science Lecture Hall, 1st fl. Featuring N. Michele Holbrook of Harvard Biological Laboratories. Sponsored by the Biology Department. Contact: 7-6600 or bio.umb.edu/events/.

UMass Boston Athletics: Women’s Ice Hockey vs. Holy Cross College
4:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center. See www.umb.edu/athletics/umb/events for full schedule.

UMass Boston Athletics: Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Middlebury College
7:00 p.m., Clark Athletic Center, rink. See www.umb.edu/athletics/umb/events for full schedule.

Monday 13
President’s Day
University is closed.

College of Management MBA Forum
12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Campus Center. See www.umb.edu/athletics/umb/events for full schedule.

Monday 20
Biological Department Series: Polymer Biomaterials and Future Medical Devices
2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Science Center, Small Science Lecture Hall, 1st fl. Featuring Art Coury, vice president for biosciences research at Genmecare Corporation. Sponsored by the Biology and Chemistry Departments. Contact: 7-6600 or bio.umb.edu/events/.

Miscellaneous
Campus Ministry
Offerings include: Catholic Mass: 11:00 – 11:30 a.m., Ash Wednesday events: Mass, prayer, and Distribution of the Blessed Ashes. Vacation needs preparation for Catholics, confirmation classes, and prepartion for the Sacraments: 7-5335 or www.umb.edu/students/campus_ministry/.

New Hampshire Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program Training Session