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# The UMass Boston Friday Report

Volume 2, Number 18  
April 2, 1993

News and information about and for the  
University Community from the Chancellor's Office

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## Anthropology Professor's Lectures on Shamanism Assist Norway in Treating Immigrant Populations

Anthropologist **Tim Buckley** was in Norway during the spring break presenting a series of lectures on shamanism, a religious practice in which men go into a trance and call upon spiritual helpers to heal illness. Until the 18th century various types of shamanism were the world's most prevalent forms of healing. Today shamanism is still practiced in many indigenous populations, sometimes in combination with modern biomedical techniques.

Buckley discussed with an audience of Norwegian psychotherapists and social workers how understanding shamanism has enabled some Western nations to better treat patients of various cultural backgrounds. The lectures, sponsored by Norway's Department of Social Welfare, were intended to educate care providers on the relationship between cultural perspective and medical treatment practices, particularly in the area of mental health. "Over the last 15 years Norway's national health care system has been dealing with a large influx of refugees from Southeast Asia, Chile, Pakistan, and, more recently, from Bosnia," Buckley says. "To their credit, the Norwegians are interested in learning how to deal with these changes within their population."

The anthropology professor is familiar with shamanism because of his extensive study of the Yurok Indians of northwestern California. Beginning in 1970 Buckley spent considerable time learning about Yurok culture and language, primarily from a group of seven tribal elders, the last of whom died in 1986. Today he is an occasional visitor to the Yurok reservation, located in rugged wilderness on the banks of the Klamath River, about 400 miles from San Francisco. "In total, I've probably lived there for about two and a half years," he says.

Buckley has been teaching at UMass Boston since 1980. In 1988 he co-edited with **Alma Gottlieb**, a professor at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), the critically acclaimed book *Blood Magic: The Anthropology of Menstruation*. He and Gottlieb co-wrote the introduction and each contributed a chapter to the book, as did seven other authors. Buckley holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Harvard and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Chicago. His dissertation was on the Yurok Indians.

**Campus Notes** - **Lucius J. Barker**, president of the American Political Science Association and the William Bennett Munro Professor of Political Science at Stanford University, will deliver a lecture on the many challenges and opportunities facing the academic community at 1:30 p.m. April 7 in the Chancellor's Conference Room, Quinn Administration Building. • As of February 1, the University's 1992-1993 Annual Fund campaign has raised over \$1.1 million. • **Jack Wiggin**, assistant director of the Urban Harbors Institute, has co-edited with **Christopher N.K. Mooers** of the University of New Hampshire a 400-page report on the 1991 Gulf of Maine scientific workshop at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. The workshop attracted over 250 people, including scientists, state and federal environmental officials, commercial fishermen, industrial leaders and concerned citizens from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The report spells out research pursued in the Gulf of Maine to

date, and calls for establishing a cooperative environmental management plan for the region by the year 2000. • More than a dozen local companies and organizations participated in a March 18 conference and employment fair on the campus presented by the University's Lillian Semper Ross Center for Disability Services. The day-long event matched job seekers who have disabilities with prospective employers, and included workshops on such topics as sensitivity training and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Among the organizations involved in the conference were the Boston Center for Independent Living, *The Boston Globe*, the Massachusetts Trial Court, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, New England Medical Center, the U.S. Air Force, and Veterans Transportation Company. About 50 people with disabilities who are seeking jobs, many of whom are students at the University, took advantage of the opportunity to meet with representatives of the various organizations. Workshop sessions were led by a host of people familiar with disability issues, including **Jim Wice**, director of the Lillian Semper Ross Center; **Vincent Licenziato**, disability coordinator at New England Medical Center; **Michael Muether**, senior human resources officer at the Polaroid Corporation; and **Larry Wornock**, assistant commissioner of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. The conference and fair were made possible by a federal grant from the Administering Agency for Developmental Disabilities. • The New England Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (NEAOPP) presented UMass Boston with a special achievement award at the organization's annual meeting on March 31 at Boston's Lafayette Hotel. The honor recognizes the University's many years of support in helping to promote educational opportunity programs. The University is the first institution ever to win an award from the NEAOPP, whose membership includes about 100 colleges and universities in the six-state region. **Charles Desmond**, vice chancellor for student affairs, accepted the award from NEAOPP president **Gerard Ellis**.

## **College of Management's Spring Auction Set for Evening of April 21 at the University Club**

The College of Management will hold its third annual spring auction on April 21 at the University Club. The evening will begin with a preview of items at 5 p.m. Bidding will start one hour later. All of the proceeds raised at the auction will support the College's Computer Resource Laboratory, a \$100,000 facility that is scheduled to open in September. So far the University has raised approximately \$50,000 to purchase computers, printers, software packages, work stations, security systems and other equipment for the lab. "Last year the auction raised about \$10,000," says Dean **Dan Shimshak**. "Our goal this year is to bring in about \$15,000. Besides being a very enjoyable evening for the entire University community, the auction is an important means of raising money for what we believe is a very significant addition to our business curriculum. This new lab will enable us to offer technologically advanced courses, and establish computer networks that will help our undergraduate and MBA students as well as our faculty to conduct valuable research." Among some of the items to be auctioned are a week-long stay at a condominium near DisneyWorld, hotel accommodations on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, restaurant gift certificates, and tickets to theaters, museums and sports events. All of the goods and services to be auctioned have been donated to the University. UMass President **Michael C. Hooker**, Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney** and deans of the colleges will serve as guest auctioneers. The auction is open to the public. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for students. They can be purchased on campus from **Patti Bell** (Development Office), **Rory Nelson** (College of Nursing), and **Barbara Chamberlain** and **Denise Harrington** (College of Management).