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9-10-1993

### Friday Report - Vol. 03, No. 04 - September 10, 1993

University of Massachusetts Boston

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#### Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "Friday Report - Vol. 03, No. 04 - September 10, 1993" (1993).  
*1991-1996, Friday Report*. 48.  
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# The UMass Boston Friday Report

Volume 3, Number 4  
September 10, 1993

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

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## Institute on Campus is First in Region To Study Issues Vital to Asian Americans

The University has established the first-ever study center in New England for research on issues of concern to the state's Asian American population. The Institute for Asian American Studies will gather a range of statistical data on Asian Americans living in Massachusetts, and analyze public policy affecting them in such areas as community development, education, employment and health care.

**Constance Chan**, a professor in the Human Services Center at the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS), and **Paul Watanabe** (political science) are co-directors of the Institute. The work of the institute will be wide in scope, covering Asian Americans of diverse backgrounds, including those of Cambodian, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese origin. According to **Peter Kiang** (Graduate College of Education), who played an instrumental role in creating the Institute, Asian Americans are the fastest growing minority group in Massachusetts. The state's Asian American population tripled during the 1980s, yet an organized body of information on their identities and living conditions does not exist. "UMass Boston is a proper setting for the Institute for Asian American studies," Kiang says. "The University has become a prime choice of Asian Americans who are seeking college degrees."

The number of Asian American students at UMB has increased steadily in recent years. Last year Asian Americans comprised 7% of the 11,775 enrolled students, and nearly 13% of all freshmen. The Asian American population in the Dorchester community surrounding the campus is seven times larger than it was a decade ago. The University already provides courses with an Asian American focus through its undergraduate programs in American studies and sociology. These include classes on Boston's Asian community, Southeast Asians in the United States, and the status of Asian women. This fall there are new courses in Asian American literature, law, and psychological perspectives. Over the years the University has supported several ventures aimed at strengthening the Asian American community. Last year UMB co-sponsored with the Massachusetts Asian-American Commission a conference on civil rights. The year before a coalition of Asian American women's groups held a regional meeting on the campus. And in 1991 Asian American community leaders from across the state gathered at the University to devise a plan to increase their political clout.

## Bill Cosby to Speak at Amherst Diversity Forum

**Bill Cosby**, a graduate of UMass Amherst, will be the keynote speaker at a forum on multiculturalism that will take place at the Amherst campus on September 28 and 29. He will speak at 8 p.m. on September 28 in the Mullins Center. Students, faculty and staff from each of the five UMass campuses, as well as members of the Board of Trustees, will participate in the forum, which will feature about 40 discussion sessions on a range of topics associated with diversity issues in higher education. Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney** will participate in a September 29 panel discussion with UMass President **Michael Hooker** and other chancellors. Many UMB faculty and staff will be involved in the forum, including **Pam Annas**, **Constance Chan**, **Estelle Disch**, **Gerard Gomez**, **Walter Fox Tree**, **Reebee Garofalo**, **Peter Kiang**, **Walter Littell**, **Esther Kingston-Mann**, **David Norris**, **Tim Sieber**, **Lee Teitel**, **Cass Turner**,

**Miren Uriarte,**

**Paul Watanabe** and **Vivian Zamel**, among others. For more information about the diversity conference, please contact Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs **Charles Desmond** at 7-5800.

## **NSF Supports Undergraduate Summer Science Research**

Thirteen undergraduates, including eight from UMB, were at the Harbor Campus during the summer conducting research in ecology and conservation biology under a project supported by a \$30,000 National Science Foundation grant. Each student was matched with a member of the University's biology faculty who served as advisor. The students, now in their junior or senior year, engaged in field studies and used laboratories at the campus. Their diverse projects included research into the DNA variations of deep-sea mollusks and how the Piping Plovers birds of Cape Cod's Sandy Neck Beach are adapting to a habitat disturbed by humans. According to **Jeremy Hatch** (biology), "The goal of the project is to provide these students with the kind of experience that will help them to decide if they want to become scientists. Of course, we're hoping that they will." Professor Hatch assisted Syracuse University student **Stephanie Moses** in comparing the behavior of male and female terns, about half of whose American population lives in Buzzards Bay.

## **Agreement Eases Transfer to University For North Shore Community College Students**

The University and North Shore Community College have signed an agreement that enables freshmen students enrolled in certain academic programs at North Shore to gain admittance to UMB in their junior year, provided they meet specific academic requirements. Eligible North Shore students must be enrolled in programs in the liberal arts, computer science or business administration. They are required to earn an associate's degree and must attain a grade point average of at least 2.25 to gain admittance to the College of Arts and Sciences, and 2.75 to be admitted to the College of Management. Academic counselors at the two campuses will work together so that the community college students will follow a curriculum that allows them to transfer as many credits as possible to the University.

**Campus Notes** - Psychology professor **Deborah Brome** was one of four winners of an American Psychological Association award for success in training minority students. She received the honor last month in Toronto at the APA's annual meeting. • **Julia De Alvarez**, the Dominican Republic's United Nations ambassador, will discuss the role of women at a 4 p.m. September 23 lecture at Snowden Auditorium in Wheatley Hall. Her appearance is the first event of the Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series, organized by **Yung-Ping Chen**, special adviser to the provost and the University's Frank J. Manning Scholar. • Political science professor **Rita Peters** visited the University of Latvia over the summer to advise that nation's academic leaders. Peters lectured and taught a course on decision-making and international relations at the University's Center of International Relations and at the Latvian Institute of International Affairs. • Professors **Barbara Luedtke** of anthropology and **Joan Lukas** of mathematics and computer science recently served on panels evaluating grant applications made to the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Program. • Two students at the Graduate College of Education working on their doctoral dissertations in gerontology, **Barbara Maloney** and **Barbara Roberge**, have each won \$20,000 grants from the federal Agency for Health Care, Policy and Research to support their research projects.