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THE UNIVERSITY

Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 1
Number 8
April 1997

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Biologist Studies Bacteria to Shed Light on Cancer Cells

Bacteria. Spend an hour in front of the television, and you'll undoubtedly hear of dozens of products — from hand soaps to lotions to cleaners — that promise to rid them from your daily life. With all the talk of killing them, efforts to cultivate bacteria might sound strange at first.

Bacteria such as *E. coli* have lent themselves to scientific study that may manifest itself in critical insights into medical problems.

Rachel Skvirsky, associate professor of biology, is utilizing bacteria in research that, among other implications, could shed light on several current medical mysteries. One puzzle is why, in some cancer patients, chemotherapy starts to work then stops. Another is the root of the disease cystic fibrosis.

Skvirsky is a molecular biologist and geneticist who studies cells — those structures filled with watery cytoplasm and surrounded by a membrane that most of us learned were the basic building blocks of life. She is most interested in how the cell plays border patrol with its membrane; that is, how it controls what crosses the membrane and why it enables certain molecules to cross over, while rejecting others.

Skvirsky's research could lead to better approaches to multidrug resistance (MDR), a common phenomenon among cancer patients treated with chemotherapy. Multidrug resistance is the principle mechanism by which many cancers develop resistance to chemotherapy. For patients with a variety of cancers, chemotherapy drugs start out as very effective then their lose their effectiveness.

Researchers know some fundamentals about the resistance. A pump located on the membrane of the cancer cell pumps out the drugs that are designed to kill the cell. The exact mechanism of this self-defense in cancer cells, and how to disable this mechanism, is what

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17th Boston Marathon for Chemistry Professor

The University Reporter

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The second half of the 101st Boston Marathon on April 21 was agony for Hans van Willigen, professor of chemistry. The 59-year-old Wellesley resident pushed through the pain in his Achilles' tendon to complete the race in 3 hours, 37 minutes.

Having run in each Boston Marathon for the past 16 years, van Willigen was slightly disappointed he did not surpass last year's time of 3 hours, 33 minutes. His goal this year was to finish somewhere between 3 hours, 20 minutes and 3 hours, 30 minutes. In spite of missing the mark by only a few minutes, van Willigen said he plans to run again next year.

He spent the last four months training for the event. On weekdays, he ran six to seven miles on Castle Island. On weekends, he ran at least 25 miles, in preparation for the infamous 26.2-mile race.

Having trained in mostly frigid temperatures, the balmy weather on Marathon Monday was not as welcome as non-runners might suspect. "It was a little on the warm side compared to what we have had this spring," van Willigen said.

In addition to personal motivation, van Willigen went into the race in friendly competition with his daughter, who started running several years ago at the encouragement of her father. "The first year, we ran together, and I waited a few times for her to catch up," he said. The second year, he finished before her. She

won the next year. On Monday, van Willigen was shooting to beat her again. But in a proud, fatherly way, with a twinge of defeat, van Willigen confided that his daughter seems to get faster each year. "She beat me by a lot," he admitted after the race. He crossed the finished line about 17 minutes after she did.

A member of the Greater Framingham Track Club for the eighth year, van Willigen got into running almost by accident. "I got started basically running from the bus station to my home," he said. From there he began running with students on campus and participated in a group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while on sabbatical there.

For van Willigen, running is convenient. "You can pretty much do it wherever you are," he said. His running has taken him to places such as Colorado, the Rocky Mountains and Alaska, where he spent six days in a 140-mile, cross country event that included crossing a river and glaciers. He has also run the Western States 100, an endurance race.

Beyond the obvious health benefits, running has other advantages for van Willigen. "It suits my character. It's a challenge," he said.

Check out what's happening at UMass Boston on our world wide web site at <http://www.umb.edu>

The Dean's Corner: Eleanor Kutz

Today, there are few issues as complex—and sometimes contentious—as public education. Open the newspaper on any given day, and you are likely to find controversy about the efforts to manage public education in the Commonwealth.

UMass Boston is a major source of teachers and other education professionals in Massachusetts. At the Graduate College of Education (GCOE), Dean Eleanor Kutz describes her role as threefold: running the college, interacting with the education community at the local level, and at the state level.

The GCOE is working on “how to create effective education for practitioners that links theory and practice to respond to a changing world,” according to Kutz. When she became dean in 1995, creating effective education meant working on a number of tasks.

One was developing the infrastructure of the GCOE, which was established in 1988 as the College of Education (it was named the Graduate College of Education in 1990), just as the downturn in state funding occurred. During that time, a number of faculty members retired, but there was no money to replace them. “We needed more resources to hire faculty who would give us the strengths we needed to develop new models of programs,” Kutz says. A number of new faculty members have been hired during her tenure, as more resources have been allocated to the GCOE.

Kutz brought experience to the task of building the infrastructure

of the college, developing processes for budget and planning, for faculty reviews, and departmental governance. She has held the positions of associate provost, and associate dean of the GCOE, in addition to being an English faculty member.

Another priority was enhancing communications and integrating the work of the GCOE’s academic departments and its centers and institutes, which are linked to the community through their work in student enrichment, teacher preparation, research, and professional development activities.

Concerned that the academic programs and the centers and institutes operated too separately, Kutz named Prof. Lee Teitel as Associate Dean for Community/University/School Partnerships to fine-tune collaborations within the College, and build relationships between the community and the GCOE. Benefits flow two ways: the GCOE provides help to schools, and GCOE students benefit from the experience of working teachers and other education professionals.

“Teachers in schools and counselors in agencies should have input into what the learning is like for our students,” Kutz adds. The GCOE currently has relationships with two designated Professional Development Schools—one in Quincy and one in Cambridge—where teachers work with our faculty to develop school-based education for GCOE students.

Kutz says the College is looking to create a similar relationship

with the Boston Public Schools. The GCOE has worked with Boston’s Lead Teacher Academy, designing more effective math and science courses and linking our students with experienced teachers.

Off campus, Kutz has advised Commissioner of Education Robert Antonucci as part of a council of education deans that addresses statewide policies. “Coming from a College of Arts and Sciences background, I discovered how much this job is external as well as internal,” she says. Still, teaching and learning in a modern, complex world remain her focus.

“In the end, we need to prepare students, teachers and professionals to live and work in diverse communities, to see that diversity and use it as an asset,” says Kutz. “We have exciting, energetic faculty and staff who are working hard to implement effective programs, and to make a difference in the world.”

Kutz’s own research and teaching have focused on how classrooms can build on the knowledge and experience of diverse learners, particularly in language and culture. Her most recent book, *Language and Literacy: Studying Discourse in Communities and Classrooms* (Heinemann Boynton/Cook, 1997) explores this issue more intensely. Having assumed the dean’s position on an interim basis, Kutz will return next year to the faculty, where she will continue her work in language, literacy and education. Kutz received her BS degree from Boston College, and her Ph.D. and MA from Indiana University.

Professor's Children's Books Tell Stories of First Black Aviators

The seer who noted "If you want to get something done, give it to a busy man" must have had Professor Philip S. Hart in mind. Few have been so successful with so many irons in the fire.

Hart's recent ventures include two children's books: *Flying Free: America's First Black Aviator* and *Up In The Air*, a chronicle of Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman pilot, published by Lerner Scholastic, Inc.

A McCormack Institute senior fellow and former CPCS sociology professor, Hart is also producing a second edition of *Cities, Suburbs and Blacks*, a text co-authored with retired professor James E. Blackwell.

The children's books chronicle achievements and ordeals of black aviators in the 1920s and 1930s. Hart possesses a personal interest in black aviators. James Herman Banning, who in 1932 became the first black pilot to complete a transcontinental flight across the United States, was the uncle of Hart's mother.

Hart grew up listening to stories about Banning. As a teenager, Hart tried to learn more about his great-uncle, but found no mention in local libraries. "I began to think that my mother had exaggerated about what my great-uncle had done," he says.

But Hart persevered, and eventually uncovered a rich history of black fliers. His research led him to England and France, which, in the 1920s, were training grounds for aspiring black American pilots

denied opportunities at home.

At the Pathe Archive in Paris, and the Rank Film Archive in London, Hart made his most valuable discoveries — scratchy film of the earliest black pilots. Additional footage was found at the Library of Congress and the 20th Century Movietones News Archive in New York City. He also interviewed surviving black pilots and their family members.

Hart's efforts were boosted in 1982 when the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. opened "Black Wings," an exhibit on black aviators that triggered public interest and facilitated Hart's research. Originally a temporary display, "Black Wings" is now a permanent exhibit.

"It really took the Smithsonian to legitimize the story," Hart said. "But importantly, it opened the way to research funds for the work I had been basically supporting with my own and family funds."

Hart says Banning and his contemporaries were people whose quest for adventure conquered imposing racial barriers. "These men and women were — in the classic sense — pioneers," he says.

In September 1932, Banning and Thomas Alen became the first black duo to fly cross-country. "The Flying Hobos" departed Los Angeles in a second-hand plane. Three weeks later, they landed in New York City.

"There was big fanfare about the flight," Hart said. "My uncle was given the keys to the city of New York by Mayor Jimmy Walker and they were toasted in Harlem complete with the Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington orchestras." But soon, Banning, his partner and most pioneer black aviators were forgotten.

Because Hart and his family did not forget, Banning is now in history books available to students all over the world. "I like the story because the early black aviators, my uncle included, were really like the American ideal of self-reliance, rugged individualists," Hart said.

"Many flying schools wouldn't accept them, even though they had the money to pay. Yet they all eventually learned how to fly," Hart said. "They bought their own airplanes. They paid for their own gas and oil. They did their own maintenance. They organized flying clubs, did air shows. This was during the Depression, so it wasn't easy."

Hart has had success in television as well as print. In 1975, he produced the documentary "Motives Moving Business" which won a medal at the 18th International Film and TV Festival of New York.

A native of Denver, Hart attended the University of Colorado and obtained his M.A. and Ph.D from Michigan State University. He is married to entertainment television host Tanya Hart.

Volunteers Help School Get Interactive

Mass NetDay '96 was an all-out volunteer effort to install modems, update wiring, and network classrooms to the internet and each other. One of over 400 schools participating in NetDay activities last October 26 was the Samuel W. Mason Elementary School in Roxbury. Volunteers, including Jamie Soule and Rich Keller of UMass Boston's Computing Services, pulled cables and connected them to jacks, installed ethernet cards, and connected patch cords, so that the third floor classrooms of the Mason School could access the World Wide Web.

After the burst of publicity surrounding the October event, much work remained to be done. At the Mason School, the first and second floors still needed to be wired and networked. So on April 5, Soule returned with Peter Shmiro of Computing Services, and they wired the second floor of the school.

"The communications hardware was already in place, and it was our job to run cables from it to the classrooms," says Shmiro. A critical amount of their work was accomplished in eight hours that Saturday.

"UMass Boston was tremendously helpful," says Mason School Principal Mary Russo. "Through Jamie and Peter's efforts, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades now all have access to the internet. I was especially impressed when visitors asked them why they were doing this, they replied that they were doing it

'for the children.' We are thrilled that so many people from UMass Boston used their talents to help our school."

Soule was impressed by the number of volunteers that came out on October 26 and April 5 to offer their services. "Some were installing software or configuring machines, others were answering phones and getting lunches. It was a multi-faceted project, and everyone pitched in," Soule says. The Mason School NetDay team included individuals from Slade Gorton Co., Agar Supply Co., T.F. Kinnealey & Co., Abbott Equipment Co., Rectec America Foundation, the McGillicuddy Group, the Victoria Restaurant, John Hancock Insurance Co., Fidelity Investments, and UMass Boston.

UMass Boston's Charles Boland, director of Computing Services, and Gail Hobin, director of Special Events and Community Relations, also lent a hand. According to Hobin, teachers and other school personnel from the Mason School will be attending the Learning Center to gain skills and knowledge in computer technology that they can pass on to their students.

The story behind the story of the Mason School and NetDay begins with the Newmarket Business Association (NBA), an organization of businesses located in the Newmarket area of Boston, where South Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester and the South End meet. It was through its membership in the NBA that UMass Boston became involved with NetDay.

According to James Webster, former president of the NBA, we "adopted" the Mason School several years ago after a presentation by Russo in which she asked for books so that each student could have one to take home. "We were shocked that the students didn't have adequate books," Webster remembers. "Her presentation was so compelling, that I made a motion that we adopt the school, and it was passed unanimously." Soon, each Mason School student had books to take home with them.

The NBA's work with the Mason School had only just begun. It provided water coolers for the school, and the first thirty computers for their classrooms, among other things. When the School department said they had no money to support the Mason School's involvement with NetDay, the NBA came to the rescue. "We asked all of our membership to help out, because we wanted the Mason School to benefit from NetDay," says Webster, who continues to head up the NBA's work with the school.

For the Mason and other Boston Public Schools, the goal of becoming fully connected to the internet may be closer than previously thought. *The Boston Globe* reported in an editorial on April 19 that a California company, 3Com Corporation, has made a \$1 million contribution to the Boston Public Schools for the specific purpose of integrating technology into the classroom.

Donation Kicks Off Campus Art Acquisitions

A recent painting donation to UMass Boston is the first of several art acquisitions intended to enhance the aesthetic qualities of the campus.

"Quimera" was painted in 1995 by UMass Boston Professor Wilfredo Chiesa. It was donated in honor of UMass President William Bulger by Michelle and Frederick Thatcher. Mr. Thatcher is president of Community Care Systems, Inc., a national health care management and development organization based in Wellesley. Friends of Chiesa, the Thatchers have been avid collectors of the professor's work for many years.

The 90-by-90-inch mixed media on canvas painting is valued by

Chiesa from \$12,000 to \$15,000. Prior to its delivery on campus, it was on tour in Puerto Rico, New York City, and at the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. It now hangs outside of the Chancellor's Conference Room, 3rd floor, Quinn Administration Building.

At an April 9 luncheon, Chancellor Sherry Penney, Bulger and representatives of the UMass Boston Arts Advisory Council thanked the Thatchers and spoke of efforts to bring art to campus. "We especially want to thank you for starting this," Bulger told the couple. The painting, along with future acquisitions, will contribute to the "intellectual good of each and every student," he said.

"Both of us are very happy to be helpful in this effort," Mr. Thatcher said. "I am hopeful that, through this small gesture, this will be helpful to you and your efforts."

In her remarks, Penney told the Thatchers of three things the university is doing to improve aesthetics — building a campus center, acquiring the adjacent Pump House and acquiring outdoor sculptures. The university plans to procure four pieces by internationally known sculptors in the near future. According to Michael Luck, vice chancellor for development, one internationally renowned sculptor who has visited the campus and has been very favorably inclined is Richard Serra.

Undergrads Present Research Projects at Conference

The history of opium. Hispanic representation in state government. The isolation of proteins that cause inflammation. Play behavior in autistic children, and rates of energy expenditure in exercise. Each of these topics (and many others) has become the subject of intense academic interest to undergraduate students from UMass Boston, who presented their research findings at the Third Annual Conference on Undergraduate Research held at UMass Amherst April 19.

There, they joined undergraduate students from UMass Lowell, Dartmouth and Amherst for a day-long program of research presentations, which included poetry readings and a dramatic performance. Overall, 200 students made presentations in

over 40 fields of study, the largest number yet to participate.

According to Professor Monica McAlpine, director of the UMass Boston College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program, for the first time this year, the Conference saw representation from all colleges on our campus, and from the Latino Leadership Development Program of the Gaston Institute. In all, 30 UMass Boston students presented their research. This is a substantial increase in participation over last year, when 21 students from the College of Arts and Sciences made presentations. McAlpine points out that students do not have to belong to the Honors Program to participate; the Conference is open to any student with a qualified project.

"The Boston students were very impressive," says McAlpine. "I saw many of the presentations, and one gets the feeling that presenting publicly to new audiences gives the students a unique sense of ownership of their work."

Students can also submit their work for publication in the UMass system's new journal of undergraduate research, *The Commonwealth Undergraduate Review*. Last year, seven of the 21 projects accepted in the journal were contributed by UMass Boston students.

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Project Recovers “Lost Pensions” for Retirees

At the Gerontology Institute, a small cluster of cubicles make up the offices of the Pension Assistance Project. But don't be fooled by the modest surroundings — amazing things happen here. Consider, for example, the over \$2 million in “lost” pension moneys that the Project has recovered for retired individuals since 1993.

“We provide services that no one else does for those who don't have the resources to go to an attorney or a financial advisor,” says Jack Pizer, the Pension Assistance Project Coordinator. “Recovering \$100 a month can be a big deal for a client, but most lawyers won't be interested in taking the case,” he adds.

There are many reasons why people have trouble getting their pensions, according to Ellen Bruce, the Project's director. A company may have gone out of business or into bankruptcy, or they may refuse to pay a pension for a variety of reasons. Also, the individual may need to provide documentation, or need help in filling out the appropriate forms. To date, the Project has served over 650 individuals with problems like these.

“We take a case as far as we can,” says Bruce. “More than half of our cases are just informational. We help about fifteen to twenty percent of our clients get some money. About 20 of our cases

have been referred to professionals for further help. We don't litigate, but we do refer people to attorneys and financial planners,” she adds.

The work of the Project began when the Gerontology Institute was chosen as one of seven sites by the US Administration on Aging to receive a \$74,900 grant for pension counseling. According to Bruce, who was the principal investigator for the grant (and also serves as the Gerontology Institute's Acting Associate Director and their Public Policy Director), the federal government wanted answers to questions about changes taking place in society and the workplace.

Will babyboomers be ready for retirement? What are the causes and impacts of the falling rates of personal savings? What effect has the trend away from defined benefit pension plans (a guaranteed monthly payment for the rest of the pensioner's life) to defined contribution plans (a guaranteed employer contribution for the term of the employee's tenure)?

“A related question is ‘do people understand what they need to do?’” says Bruce. “With defined contribution plans, the individual bears the burden for investing the money, making it last, and making sure it is secure. This has raised concerns in Congress.” With data gathered from the Project, the federal government hopes to answer these questions.

Both Bruce and Pizer are quick to point out that the Project has kept its costs down and its effectiveness up through the dedication and knowledge of its volunteers. Counselor Charlotte Yacker derives satisfaction from engaging in meaningful work, and the challenge of helping people secure their pensions.

“There is a great sense of satisfaction when you can access pension money for people who deserve it,” says Yacker. “Even if there were no other benefits, that would make it worthwhile.” The other volunteers with the Project are counselors Harold Kastle, Renee Summers, Therese Walata, and Joe Doyle, all retired themselves, and lawyers Bob Freedman and Kristen Cooney.

The Gerontology Institute's long-time commitment to answering questions pertaining to retirement and retirement security made it an excellent choice for the pension counseling grant. When the grant money ran out, the University supported its work until private funding for the Project could be secured. The Institute also conducts academic research, and advocates for pension reforms through its involvement with the Massachusetts Pensions Not Posies Coalition, a group of 25 non-profit organizations and individuals.

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Check out what's happening at UMass Boston on our world wide web site at <http://www.umb.edu>

Awards and Honors

Prof. **Louise Smith** of the English department has been named a Fulbright Fellow and will lecture as a Senior Scholar at the University of Trier in Germany during the fall 1997 term.

Prof. **James Jennings**, director of the Trotter Institute, delivered the 32nd Annual Herman G. James Distinguished Lecture on Municipal Government at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, on April 17. His lecture was titled "Political Challenges to Urban Leadership: Race and Ethnic Relations in the Next Millennium." Jennings was honored for his civic accomplishments and his scholarly contributions in urban politics.

Prof. **Takeshi Kokubo**, a member of the Modern Languages faculty, has been honored with a Certificate of Merit from the Foreign Ministry of Japan for his work with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) program. JET places university graduates as assistants in Japanese schools and government agencies.

The UMass Boston **Greenhouse** garnered several awards at this year's New England Spring Flower Show: the silver medal of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, the bronze medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the Roger Dane Award.

L.R. Berger, a part-time creative writing faculty member, has won a \$20,000 Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Berger is the sixth member of the English faculty to win an NEA grant. Berger joins Profs. **Chet Frederick**,

Ron Schreiber, **Martha Collins**, **Lloyd Schwartz**, and **Lee Grove** as recipients.

The **Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth** (CAPAY) received a Human and Civil Rights Award from the Massachusetts Teachers Association at their Awards Banquet in March for advancing the pursuit of human and civil rights.

Prof. Emeritus of the English Department **Ann Berthoff** was honored with the Conference on College Composition and Communication's Exemplar Award at its annual meeting in March. The Exemplar Award is given to a person who represents the highest ideals of scholarship, teaching and service to the profession.

Publications

Prof. **Robert Crossley's** new book, *An Olaf Stapledon Reader*, has been published by the Syracuse University Press. Crossley, chair of the English department, is literary executor of the Stapledon estate, and previously published a biography of Stapledon, and an edition of his World War I love letters.

Anthropology Prof. **Frederick Gamst** has edited a two-volume work, *Early American Railroads: Franz Anton Ritter von Gerstner's Die innern Communicationen (1842-1843)*, published by Stanford University Press.

Prof. **Richard Hogarty** has published two articles in the *New England Journal of Public Policy*: "Downsizing the Massachusetts Mental Health System: The Politics of Evasion," and "UMass Chooses a Political Executive: The Politics of a Presidential Search."

Conferences and Presentations

Rachel Skvirsky, associate prof. of biology, will participate on a Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL) consulting team in Greensboro, N.C., May 5-6. The team will support biology curriculum development for the W.M. Kech/PKAL consulting program. PKAL is an organization formed to strengthen the nation's undergraduate science and mathematics education.

Richard Delaney, director of the Urban Harbors Institute, represented UMass Boston at the Texas Coastal Issues Conference on waterfront revitalization held in Corpus Christi during March.

NERCHE director **Zelda Gamson** co-chaired a special invitational meeting of the American Council on Education in Washington D.C. in April. Participants included several college and university presidents, policy analysts and researchers.

Cathy Burack of NERCHE attended the annual conference of the Massachusetts Campus Compact at Holy Cross College in Worcester on April 11. The conference focused on service learning.

Harold Horton, associate director of the Trotter Institute, lectured on "The Ebonics Issue in a Broader Educational Context" at Boston College on April 17.

Calendar

On April 30, James Brett, CEO of the New England Council, will speak at the **College of Management's Corporate Luncheon**, held at the Omni Parker House Hotel from noon to 2:00 p.m.

On May 1, the **College of Management** will hold a reception for its graduates in the Provost's Conference Room, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Also on May 1, the **College of Management's** annual alumni event, "Networking '97" will take place in the Faculty Club, 11th floor, Healey Library, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

On May 2 at 8:00 p.m. *Fog*, by Prof. Emeritus **Louis Roberts**, directed by Prof. **Diane Almeida**, will open in the McCormack Theater. Performances take place May 3 at 8:00 p.m. and May 4 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7 general admission, \$5 for students and seniors.

On May 2, the **Institute for Asian American Studies** sponsors a symposium with Richard Tessler, professor of sociology, UMass Amherst. "Bicultural Child Socialization: The Attitudes and Experiences of Parents with Children Adopted from China" will be held in Wheatley Student Lounge, 4th floor, Wheatley Hall from noon to 2:00 p.m. Call 7-5650 by April 29 for luncheon reservations.

On May 2, a faculty piano recital by **Timothy McFarland** will take place in Snowden Auditorium, Wheatley Hall, at 7:30 p.m, featuring works by Beethoven, Chopin, and Robert Ceely.

On Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m., a Spring Serenade featuring the works of Schubert, Elgar, Holst, and Mozart will be held at St. Monica's Church, 331 Old Colony Blvd., South Boston. The **UMass Chamber Orchestra**, featuring Julia Gabaldon on oboe, Judy Grant on flute, and Roland James on clarinet, will be directed by Jon Ceander Mitchell.

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Africana Studies Helps Nantucket Chronicle Its Rich Black History

UMass Boston has surfaced as the academic backbone of black history preservation efforts on Nantucket island, thanks to volunteer work and a new fellowship program.

Nantucket has played a significant role in the history of blacks and women, said Robert Johnson Jr., assistant professor in the Department of Africana Studies. (The department's name is in the process of changing from the "Department of Black Studies." The College of Arts and Sciences Senate approved the change and forwarded its recommendation to the Provost's Office.) Frederick Douglass, after his escape from slavery, made his first major speech on the island. In the 1800s, while many of Nantucket's men went off to war, women ran the government.

In efforts spearheaded by Johnson, the Department of Africana Studies supports Nantucket residents in researching the overall history of black people on the island. For the past two years, Johnson has performed volunteer service for UMass Boston on Nantucket by assisting residents in reconstructing the history of the African Meeting House, one of the oldest African American churches in the United States.

Nantucket will also benefit from the James Bradford Ames Fellowship Program being administered by the Department of Africana Studies. The program was established in 1995 by Mrs. Adele Ames in honor of her late hus-

band — one of the first African Americans to graduate with a chemistry degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) and the great grandson of Paul Cuffe, a wealthy African American businessman and 19th century emigrationist.

The program supports the research of black life and history on Nantucket through grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. Research touches on topics including the study of individual families, occupations, the institution of slavery, and the interaction between black and Cape Verdean communities.

The first Ames fellowship was awarded in 1996 to Robert C. Hayden, instructor in the College of Public and Community Service. Hayden has researched the non-maritime/non-seagoing occupations and businesses of African American and Cape Verdean residents of Nantucket from 1700 to 1925. He will present a lecture titled "An Illustrated Presentation: African Americans and Cape Verdeans on Nantucket, A Non-Maritime Occupational History" on May 17 at 4 p.m. at the Coffin School in Nantucket.

Hayden has been at CPCS since 1992. A lecturer in African American studies at Northeastern University for nearly 20 years, he also teaches at Curry College and the Art Institute at Boston. Hayden is president of RCH Associates, a company that provides services and products in African American history and

culture and multicultural education. He was a scholar-in-residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York 1994-95.

This year the Ames program awarded two grants to non-UMass Boston researchers. John Saillant, an assistant professor at M.I.T., will research African American religious life in Nantucket from 1800 to 1850. Lynn Hudson, assistant professor at the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif., was awarded a grant for the project "Slavery and Freedom in Nantucket: The Case of Mary Ellen Pleasant." Pleasant was an abolitionist and entrepreneur who spent her formative years on Nantucket.

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Kids Spend a Day with Parents in the Workplace

More than 65 girls and boys came to work with their parents as part of "Bring Your Child to Work Day" on April 24. UMass Boston participated in the event as part of the national "Take Your Daughters to Work Day" campaign. Across the nation, parents were encouraged to show their daughters what they do during the day, as well as introduce them to other workplace opportunities.

In addition to spending time with mom or dad, children participated in workshops sponsored by the Greenhouse, Healey Library, Health Services, Human Resources, Public Safety, Undergraduate Admissions and WUMB.

C A M P U S N O T E S

On May 7, **Sacred and Profane**, featuring the world premiere of music composed by Prof. **David Patterson**, will take place at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 138 Tremont Street, Boston. The UMass Boston Chorus and Chamber Singers will also perform works by J.C. Bach, J. S. Bach, Bartok, Jannequin, and Lassus, directed by Jeffrey Rink.

On May 9, **As Time Goes By: A Tribute to Jazz History** will be held in Snowden Auditorium, Wheatley Hall, at 7:30 p.m., with a reception for music alumni and friends. The UMass Boston Jazz Band and vocalists will be directed by Peter Cardarelli.

On May 12, at 3 p.m., **A Moment Musical**, performances by music majors and students in the studio program, will be held in the Snowden Auditorium, Wheatley Hall.

On May 6, The **Gaston Institute's** Latino Leadership Opportunity Program Presents Student Policy Papers, and on May 13, Prof. Xavier de Souza Briggs of Harvard University will speak on "Brown Children in White Suburbs: Housing Mobility, Neighborhood Effects, and the Social Capital of Poor Youth." Both take place on the 11th floor, Healey Library from noon to 2:00 p.m. Call 7-5790 for more information.

On May 7, the **CPCS Food for Thought Spring 1997 Series** presents "The Uses of the Internet for the CPCS Community" with **Salazar Ferro** and **Jenna Caldwell**, in the CPCS Conference Room from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 7-7363.

On May 9, the **Division of Global Studies** sponsors a colloquium on the Global Economy and Cultural Traditions. Dean of the Liberal Arts Faculty **Woodruff Smith** will present "Consumption, Culture, and the Emergence of the Global Economy, 17th-20th Centuries" in the Provost's Conference Room, Healey Library, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

On May 9-10, The **Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning** will hold a conference, "Making a Difference: Teacher Education and School Reform," at the Holiday Inn in Worcester, MA. For more information, call 7-7660.

On May 9, **NERCHE** holds its Liberal Learning Think Tank meeting on "General Consulting Issues" in the Troy Colloquium Room, Wheatley Hall, from 9:30 to 1:30 p.m.

On May 16, **NERCHE's** Academic Affairs Think Tank will meet in the Chancellor's Conference Room from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. The topic is "The Influence of Information Technology on Pedagogy and Curriculum."

On May 20, the **Network of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy** holds its Annual Meeting from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Anthony's Pier 4 Restaurant. Networking expert Susan RoAné will speak on "Networking for Success." For more information, call 7-5541.

On May 20, **The Forum for the 21st Century** presents "Transformation in Health Care: Cure or Harm?" at Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Accomplishments

Congratulations to **WUMB Radio** on their Spring fundraiser. They raised close to \$103,000, almost doubling the amount pledged over last Spring's fundraiser, and attracting 678 new donors.

Dissertation Defense

On April 29, **Karen Hoffman**, Ph.D. candidate in the Clinical Psychology Program, will defend her dissertation, "Development and Psychopathology in Adolescent Psychiatric Patients: A Longitudinal Study of Outcome," at noon in the Psychology Conference Room, M/4/272. Open to the university community.

The Learning Center Offerings for May

Microsoft Word: Publishing Features (Macintosh Part 1)
May 5

Job Description Writing
May 6

Windows 95
Introduction to Macromedia Authorware

Employee Benefits Review
How to Start an Exercise Program
May 7

Microsoft Word: Publishing Features (Macintosh Part 2)
Estate Planning
Budgeting, Costing and Pricing
May 8

Introduction to Word Perfect (Windows 7.0)
May 9

Introduction to Netscape (Macintosh)

Introduction to Pagemaker 6.0 (Macintosh)

Job Description Writing
May 12

Customizing WordPerfect (Windows)
Introduction to Microsoft Word (Macintosh)
New Employees Orientation
May 13

WordPerfect: Page Layout (Windows)
Microsoft Word: Page Layout (Windows)
Understanding the Classified Position Employment Process
Sexual Harassment Dealing with Multiple Responsibilities
May 14

Introduction to Netscape (Windows)
Microsoft Word: Publishing Features (Windows, Part 1)
May 15

Introduction to Microsoft Word (Windows)
May 19

Introduction to Computers
Customizing WordPerfect (Macintosh)
May 20

Microsoft Word: Publishing Features (Windows Part 2)
Introduction to Macromedia Authorware
Women and Money
May 21

Introduction to Power Point (Macintosh)
Developing Educational Courseware
May 22

Introduction to Macromedia Director
New Employee Orientation
May 28

Introduction to Power Point (Windows)
May 29

Performances End Musical Hiatus For Some Faculty and Staff

When Chris Pahud leaves Media Services some evenings, co-workers know he's headed to a local club or coffeehouse. But he won't drink away the stresses of being an instructional designer. He'll woo folk music lovers with his bass baritone vocals.

Pahud is one of scores of UMass Boston non-music staff and faculty members active in the music world. Many take private lessons. Others perform solo and participate in orchestras, theater, gospel choirs and bands. Some get paid; others do it for fun.

Many ended their musical performances at the start of their careers. Playing instruments, singing and acting joined the long list of school-age memories. Recently, however, several staff and faculty members have rediscovered the fun of performing after a long hiatus.

"I've been singing since I was in high school in the late sixties, but only within the last year have I been performing in public again," Pahud said. He sings cover tunes from three self-described categories: nautical, killer cowboy and older folk from the 1960s. He recently recorded 10 tracks on a soon-to-be-released compact disc titled "Magic Street." The title track was written by Bob Fitzgerald, media lab supervisor in the McCormack Building.

"My strength is my voice," Pahud said. "There aren't many bass baritones in the local area, so I have kind of a unique niche when

it comes to the bass baritone range." WUMB listeners get a sample of his voice, as he often announces the call letters on the campus station.

The musical skills of Jeff Mitchell, university editor, complement the UMass Boston Chamber Orchestra. "I've loved the flute from a very early age," he said. "I played in elementary school, and I played in a band. Then I did more or less nothing for 20 or more years.

"I gradually decided to come back to flute playing, and for several years taught myself," Mitchell recalls. "But eventually I realized that I couldn't get any further without submitting myself to a teacher."

For the past three years Mitchell has taken lessons on campus, mostly under Judy Grant. Mitchell's praise for Grant and the Music Department is flowing. "She is clearly a strong musician and also very active in the Boston flute world," he said. "I have the greatest respect for the music program here. They are very much connected to the Boston music world. Anybody who studies here is getting connected to real thing," he said.

Like Mitchell, Mark Schlesinger set aside his instrument for about two decades. Director of the Division of Communication and Theatre Arts, Schlesinger has played the French horn in the Hingham Orchestra for two years. A music major in college,

he played semi-professionally as an undergraduate.

Schlesinger said he was motivated to reacquaint himself with the horn after hearing Chancellor Sherry Penney play the saxophone at a 1993 Music Department concert. "It certainly wasn't the only reason I did it, but it added fuel to the fire," he said.

Anita Miller, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, was an undergraduate music therapy major. When her music therapist job landed her in Boston in the early 1980s, she sang with Masterworks Chorale for about a decade. She also has sung and played the flute extensively in local productions.

Rehearsals and performances cut back the time Miller could spend with her children, now ages seven and four, and increased babysitting bills. "I haven't really stopped," she said. "I just haven't done it as much as I used to." Today she plays the piano, sings and directs at her church.

"I play the piano a lot more now than I did 10 years ago, but now I play it for myself," she said. Pahud and Schlesinger say they perform for fun, also. Playing the flute is "nourishing" for Mitchell but often difficult. "To do it well, you have to fight your own battles against tension and self doubt. You can't play fluidly or beautifully without organizing your insides," he said. "It's really harder for me than my work. It may be the hardest thing I do."

Bacteria Research

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baffles scientists.

Skvirsky's research addresses these problems. MDR can be tackled from various angles. "I am studying the genes that mediate these processes, and I use genetic tools to figure out how the transport mechanism works," she said. Rather than use tumor cells, she studies a model system. Specifically, she studies a pump mechanism in *E. coli* that is very similar to the MDR pump in cancer cells. "I'm not really doing applied cancer research. I'm doing basic research on genetics and cell biology that might shed some light on a problem in cancer treatment," she said.

The use of bacteria cells to illuminate human cell functions is not unprecedented. In fact, the basis of MDR in tumor cells was discovered because of a similar process in bacteria cells. When scientists first noticed the problem of MDR, they did not know an export mechanism was involved. Then, in the late 1980s, researchers isolated and sequenced the gene responsible for MDR and discovered its similarities to another gene previously known to mediate export in bacteria cells. As a result, the

analogy that MDR occurs because of an export system was made.

Can Eristi, one of three graduate students (and four undergraduates) who work with Skvirsky, is conducting research that is potentially more applied. He is looking for molecules that can specifically disable the bacterial pump, which could have the potential to also disable the MDR mechanism. "By looking at inhibitors of this process, we can understand the process better," Skvirsky said.

Skvirsky currently receives funding from the American Cancer Society (\$180,000). In the past she has received a grant from the National Science Foundation (\$159,650), as well as additional outside funding and UMass Boston grants.

Skvirsky earned her Ph.D. from Harvard University and her A.B. from Oberlin College. Prior to joining UMass Boston in 1991, she was a Bunting Science Scholar at Radcliffe College, a research associate at Harvard Medical School, and assistant professor of biology at Simmons College.

ABC News Correspondent to Speak at 29th Commencement

The University of Massachusetts Boston will celebrate its 29th Commencement exercises on Saturday, May 31 at the Bayside Exposition Center. ABC's "20/20" News Correspondent Lynn Sherr will be the commencement speaker. Joining Sherr in receiving an honorary degree will be Sidney Fine, Andrew Dickson White Distinguished Professor of History, University of Michigan; J. Donald Monan, recently retired president of Boston College; William Taylor, recently retired publisher and chairman of the Board of the Boston Globe; and Donna Summer, musical entertainer and internationally renowned queen of disco.

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