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# Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 2  
Number 3  
November 1997

## Authors & Artists Exhibit Celebrates Creative Pursuits

Last month, vivid artwork covered the walls of the Walter Grossmann gallery on the fifth floor of the Healey Library—large canvases with bold colors in oil and mixed media, more subdued and subtle ones in acrylic and photo emulsion. A series of pinhole photographs accompanied by text hung there, too. Add six glass-covered cases, chock-a-block full of books, journals, magazine articles, scripts, musical scores, dramatic performances, videos and more, and you have a testimony to the prodigious creative and scholarly accomplishments of UMass Boston's faculty and staff—the first Campus Authors and Artists Exhibit.

The exhibit opened September 30 with an reception at which UMass Vice President for Academic Affairs Selma Botman shared the genesis and development of her own scholarly research on gender issues, politics and citizenship in 20th century Egypt, and applauded the achievements of the exhibit's participants.

"Your work makes a difference to this institution, to your colleagues, and to your students when you write, paint, or create music. And in doing so, you advance our culture," Botman told the gathering. One hundred faculty and staff members submitted work they produced between 1994 and 1996 for the exhibit.

Healey Library Director Sharon Bostick, a member of the Authors and Artists Exhibit committee, was struck by the variety of interests on display. "The initial thrust was to celebrate—and I use that word consciously—the research and publication of our faculty, but I had no idea of the research interests we would find," she says.

What surprised Pat Davidson, dean of undergraduate education at CAS and a member of the Campus Authors and Artists Exhibit committee, was the range of interests that a single participant might have. "I knew that our faculty was very involved with publishing and re-

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# CAS Honors Program at Milestone

## The University Reporter

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The *University Reporter* at the above mailing or e-mail address.

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Honors Program introduced 42 new members at an October 9 reception, bringing the number of CAS Honors Program students to a new high.

"This is a milestone year," says Program Director Monica McAlpine. "This year's group of newly admitted students numbers 42—the largest group so far, and our total enrollment has surpassed 100 students for the first time."

In addition, McAlpine predicts 12 to 14 honors students will graduate in May, 1998. "The total number of Honors Program graduates will be about twice what it has been in the past, so this will be a turning point for the program," McAlpine adds.

The new students have already shown their desire to achieve before stepping foot on campus. They have studied or speak sixteen languages. Collectively, they are the recipients of 20 scholarships, and have earned a combined 67 college credits through advanced placement courses taken in high school. Before coming to UMass Boston, they had excelled at sports, tutored, performed in theatrical and musical productions, built their own computers, and volunteered for causes close to their hearts. They come from the Boston area, but also have roots in countries such as the Ukraine, Nigeria, Poland, Albania, China, Japan and Bosnia.

At the Honors Program reception, the Robert H. Spaethling prize, given annually in honor of a beloved teacher of honors courses, is awarded to students

who have taken at least four honors courses, maintained grades in the summa cum laude range, and who exhibit special intellectual curiosity and achievement. Colin Ward and Benjamin Tucker were awarded the prize this year.

Ward is a nationally ranked pairs ice skater who entered the University with a Chancellor's Scholarship for Excellence in the Arts. He recently designed an individual major in architectural history and social psychology with his mentor, Prof. Nancy Stieber of the art department.

Tucker, who joined the Honors Program as a sophomore last year, was ranked at or near the top of his honors classes, where his insightful classroom participation was noted by his professors. Tucker is a computer science major.

What makes the extra effort of the Honors Program worth it? Senior Donna Roveto, now in her fourth year with the Honors Program, says that it is the chance to study more specialized topics, the enthusiasm of the professors, and students who are eager to learn. "Students in the Honors Program develop a camaraderie. The class size is small, and that lets us get closer to the professors. I think that interaction is the best part," she adds.

Helping McAlpine run the Honors Program this year are Prof. Louis Ferleger of the economics department, assistant director; Shingo Moriyama, administrative assistant, and Paul Roach, graduate assistant.



# In Depth With NERCHE's Zelda Gamson

Few organizations are one-of-a-kind in our diversified nation. The New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) is one of them.

Many in higher education circles find it difficult to discuss this unique organization, which works with regional and national educators, without talking about their colleague, Zelda "Zee" Gamson, NERCHE's founder and director.

"She's a wonderful facilitator," said Hannah Goldberg, provost and academic vice president of Wheaton College. "One of her strengths is bringing people together. She has a wonderful vision of what people can accomplish," she said.

"She's really good at discovering good sources of funding and maintaining a program," said Eugene Rice, scholar in residence and director of the Forum on Faculty Roles and Rewards at the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE).

These skills helped Gamson build NERCHE into a unique organization whose mission is to improve colleges and universities as workplaces, communities and organizations. NERCHE addresses this issue through think tanks, research, consulting and professional development. It also publishes a newsletter and working papers.

Since NERCHE's founding in 1988 in the wake of severe state budget cuts, the former professor at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor has helped secure funds from private foundations

including Pew Charitable Trusts and the Mellon, Knight, Kellogg and Carnegie foundations.

But Gamson would rather focus on issues, not herself. "That's something that you don't often find in our generation of older, senior faculty," Rice said. "She is especially what I think of as professionally responsible."

At the heart of NERCHE are its think tanks, which provide campus leaders with a forum for exchanging information and resources and translating theory into practice. Five think tanks currently include chief student affairs officers, chief academic officers, associate academic deans, and department chairs. Another on public service is in the works. Members represent 85 different institutions.

"We've worked with probably two-thirds of the colleges in New England, either through our think tanks or our research projects," Gamson said.

Think tanks are "extraordinarily useful," said Michael Baer, vice president for academic affairs and provost at Northeastern University. "I get many good ideas, and I hope I'm able to share some good ideas as well."

"I'm one of the early members of the academic affairs think tank," Goldberg said. "One of the beauties of the group is that it brings together people from unlike universities," she said. "It gives you an external lens through which to view issues."

NERCHE also offers consultation and workshops, both of

which emphasize collaboration and team-building and concentrate on three areas of expertise: organizational change, community building and faculty work.

NERCHE is a valuable resource to UMass Boston — promoting the mission, connecting with other campuses and delivering a national perspective. "There are a number of national and regional projects that UMass Boston has been a part of because of NERCHE," Gamson said.

Baer says NERCHE enhances UMass Boston's position in higher education circles. "I think that by bringing academic and student affairs leaders to the University of Massachusetts Boston campus for NERCHE, Zee has gained a lot of visibility for the university," Baer said.

"We really have a national presence," Gamson said. Staffers work closely with national organizations. They are widely published and frequently quoted by the media. "There is no equivalent to NERCHE anywhere in the country," said Deborah Hirsch, associate director of NERCHE. Baer agrees. "I think Zee has really cornered the market," he said.

An executive editor of *Change*, Gamson has written many books and articles. Most recently, she joined GCOE Professor Sandra L. Kanter, a former NERCHE research associate, and Howard B. London of Bridgewater State College, in writing *Revitalizing General Education in a Time of Scarcity: A Navigational Chart for Administrators and Faculty*.



# Trotter Institute Hosts Dr. Carlos Veiga, Prime Minister of Cape Verde

During a visit to UMass Boston, Dr. Carlos Veiga, prime minister of the Republic of Cape Verde, assured listeners that the west African island nation is advancing, modernizing and independent of Portugal, its former colonial power.

Veiga also asked for "support, solidarity and above all, investments," to help his country meet its greatest challenge — self-sustained development and proper integration into the world economy.

The prime minister spoke Sept. 25 through a Portuguese translator to about 80 people, including Rep. Charlotte Golar Richie of the 5th Suffolk District and visitors from Plymouth, Plympton, New Bedford, Providence and New York City. Sponsored by the Trotter Institute, Veiga's visit was one of several stops in New England.

Cape Verde, located off the coast of western Africa, is made up of 10 islands and eight islets. Almost 1-1/4 times the size of Rhode Island, the country's population is 390,000. The largest population of Cape Verdeans not living in Cape Verde resides in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Like most other African nations, Cape Verde has gone through the successive cycles of slave trade, colonialism and, more recently, a one-party system, said Veiga, the country's first democratically elected prime minister. The determination Cape Verdeans

have exhibited in light of these tragedies keeps the country optimistic.

"Hope has always been the strongest survival weapon of the Cape Verdean people," Veiga said. "Five centuries after we made our appearance as a Cape Verdean people on the Cape Verdean drought-stricken islands, here we are, proud of our heritage and of our endurance capacity in face of extreme hardship and precarious situations which have been the backdrop of our existence," he said.

Veiga weighed disturbing news about Africa during the 1990s against simultaneous positive developments. While Somalia, Liberia, Rwanda and Burundi faced civil unrest, apartheid collapsed, Mandela was freed, democratic elections were held in many countries, and policies toward market economies were implemented.

"Economic growth rates of seven percent, 10 percent and even 12 percent in some African countries ... remove the grounds for pessimism and tell us that we shouldn't rule out the possibility of an African economic miracle," Veiga said.

"Cape Verde has been in the front-line of this African renaissance," he said. "The first multi-party elections in sub-saharan African were in Cape Verde. We then set the example of a smooth and peaceful transition from a one-party system to democracy."

Economic changes have included privatizing state-owned enterprises, liberalizing commerce and creating incentives packages to facilitate the emergence of a new entrepreneurial class, he said. Cape Verde has also made it a priority to "pursue the double objective of a stricter management of macro-economic indicators and of strengthening the confidence of the investors and other partners in Cape Verde," added Veiga.

Education is also in the forefront of development, the prime minister said. Though Cape Verde has no college or university, the government has created a department of higher education and is looking to establish partnerships with qualified institutions, according to Veiga.

One audience member asked if Portugal, now a leading foreign investor, would resume power over Cape Verde. "You have no reason to worry," Veiga stated. "This is actually what they are — foreign investors, private investors."

The Cape Verdean Prime Minister stressed the need for foreign investment, stating that Cape Verde's national market is too small to produce for itself. "Be it Portuguese, French, American, Italian — that is not important," he said. "What is important is that they are oriented toward programs and projects that are useful for this country."



# Students Research Marine Life with Harbor Explorations

On October 21st, 28 ninth graders and their teachers from Medfield High School travelled over an hour to Dorchester Bay for a morning on the research vessel, *EnviroLab III*. After releasing an otter trawl net and a plankton net into the harbor, they gathered around three salt water tanks on the rear deck of the boat. Ten minutes later, the nets were reeled in. The catch of the day included several flounder, a jellyfish, two starfish, sea squirts, numerous brown skates, and many crabs, one of which was hauled up in its new home, a discarded beer bottle.

As Rick Schmidt, one of *EnviroLab III*'s two marine science instructors, hands a brown skate down the line of students, responses to getting up close and personal range from "Oh no" and "I'm not touching that!" to "Cool!" "How does a skate get around?" Schmidt asks the group. "On rollerblades," comes the response from someone at the back of the crowd.

Jokes aside, the students hold and examine the animals, and ask questions about the marine environment. At the bow of the ship, the other group of students is taking water samples to test today's waters for salinity, density, pH, and clarity with Berit Solstad, *EnviroLab III*'s other marine science instructor. They also take a sample of sediment from the harbor floor and examine it for odor, texture, and color. Some students go to the wheelhouse to learn about navigation and meteorology with ship's captain, Bill Madison.

Nineteen weeks out of the year, five days a week, the crew of *EnviroLab III* engages with Massachusetts students in hands-on marine science education. Over the last 8 years, that adds up to approximately 80,000 Massachusetts students and 4800 teachers who have taken advantage of Harbor Explorations and *EnviroLab III*, adding a measure of practice to classroom theory.

The Medfield students seemed particularly knowledgeable about marine science, answering many of the questions posed by the instructors. Their teacher, Carol Kryzanek, is a graduate of the Harbor Explorations Summer Institute for Teachers, a three-week program designed to provide hands-on training for teachers aboard the *EnviroLab III* during July.

"My environmental science curriculum is a result of the training and equipment I received from the Institute," says Kryzanek. "For teachers, the program is really outstanding."

Kryzanek says that all of her students studied the Charles River watershed as 8th graders, and that she incorporated the study of a small stream that runs behind the high school into the Charles as part of the curriculum this year. The intent is to have students draw a connection—from their local stream, to the Charles River, and finally to the Boston Harbor.

Mike Borek, Harbor Explorations coordinator, says that the summer institute exposes teachers to marine science and to as many local resources as possible, including such programs of the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority, Whalenet at Simmons College, the Massachusetts Bays Program, Massachusetts Marine Educators and others. Teachers then use the resources to enrich their curriculum.

Kryzanek's students appear to be reaping the benefits of such enrichment. "As more teachers come through the summer institute, we see more classrooms coming in well-prepared and excited about what they are doing on the boat," says instructor Solstad. "Medfield High School is a good example."

Borek says that *EnviroLab III*'s program can be modified to suit 5th graders through high school students by going into more or less depth on the testing and other activities. "Depending on the sophistication of the group, the crew can put things into the context of weather conditions, seasonal and other changes," he says.

Since 1985, Harbor Explorations has been engaged in marine education from UMass Boston. Its offices are located in the Institute for Learning and Teaching in the Graduate College of Education.



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# Conference Examines Racial Attitudes, Housing, Employment Trends

A survey of more than 1,800 households in the greater Boston area, chronicling what residents think about race and ethnic issues, the economy and their place in it, where they choose to live and why, attitudes towards new immigrants, and more, has been published. "The Greater Boston Social Survey" (GBSS) was undertaken by a team of UMass Boston and UMass Lowell faculty and staff, including members from the McCormack, Trotter and Gaston Institutes, the Institute for Asian American Studies, and the Center for Survey Research.

The initial findings of the survey were presented at a conference, *Greater Boston in Transition: Race, Ethnicity, and Economic Develop-*

*ment on the Eve of the 21st Century*, on October 28. House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt gave the keynote address to over 300 participants, representing the business community, charitable foundations, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and social agencies.

Preliminary data produced by the study show that the greater Boston region is undergoing a "triple revolution" of demographic, industrial and spatial change, moving from a Eurocentric to multicultural population, from mill-based to "mind"-based industries, and from a "Hub" to a metropolis in terms of where people choose to live.

"We think we have fascinating results," says Prof. Barry Bluestone, coordinator of the study. "This survey gives us a new scan of what our communities look like and what their resources are." He adds that they have only scratched the surface of the enormous data collected, and that it will continue to be used as more questions are posed by government agencies, businesses and others, about trends in the Greater Boston region.

The GBSS was funded by grants from the Ford, Russell Sage, and Boston foundations. The conference was sponsored by the McCormack Institute, John F. Kennedy Library, Challenge to Leadership, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

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## Arts on the Point Update

Several new developments in the creation of "Arts on the Point" have taken place over the last few weeks. Sculptor Richard Serra visited the campus Sept. 29 to designate a site for his sculpture, *St. John's Rotary Arc* which he is loaning to UMass Boston. It will be installed on the current site of the baseball diamond, close to the end of Harbor Point.

Prof. Paul Tucker, who has initiated and coordinated the Arts on the Point project, said that a number of other commitments have been made in recent weeks.

Sculptors Mark di Suvero, Luis Jimenez, Sol LeWitt, and Dennis Oppenheim have all agreed to add their work to the UMass Boston effort. Another sculptor, Jenny Holzer, will meet with Tucker at the end of November to discuss creating a piece for the planned arts park.

## Big Numbers Make for a Great Year

The *UMass Boston First* Campaign has completed its first year, and has acquired significant gifts from alumni, corporations, foundations, faculty, and friends in support of the University.

In fiscal year 1997, there has been a 28.9% increase in contributions over fiscal year 1996, from \$5,445,241 to \$7,018,815.

In addition, *UMass Boston First* raised more endowment money than initially expected, which resulted in an increase in matching funds from the Commonwealth from the original allocation of \$430,139 to \$613,878.

Overall, \$17.7 million has been raised towards the \$50 million campaign goal.



# Priest Opposes U.S. Training Ground for South American Armies

"If you go to prison for the right reasons, it's a sacred place," says Father Roy Bourgeois. The Maryknoll priest and human rights activist spoke to about 30 people Oct. 20 in the Small Science Auditorium.

Bourgeois has been incarcerated several times for his efforts to close the United States Army School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Georgia. SOA has trained about 60,000 South American soldiers since its establishment in Panama in 1946. Many of its graduates have been implicated for the assassinations, rapes, tortures and murders of thousands of men, women and children throughout South America.

Two well-known SOA graduates are General Manuel Noriega, former Panamanian dictator currently serving 40 years in a U.S. prison for drug dealing, and Robert D'Aubuisson, leader of the infamous death squads in El Salvador.

"With us today is a man whose life exemplifies a moral trajectory," said Paul Atwood of the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences. Bourgeois discussed his life and the movement to close SOA. He also showed the 18-minute documentary he produced titled "School of the Assassins." That film and "Gods of Metal" were both nominated for Oscars.

Bourgeois volunteered to fight in Vietnam and earned a purple heart for his service. It was in Vietnam where he reached a

turning point. "I left Vietnam wanting to give peacemaking a chance," he said.

After his ordination, Bourgeois was assigned to Bolivia, where he was arrested and was later banished from the country for speaking out against injustices. "I was very angry ... but I learned something important - that there was work to do here at home," he said.

Support for the movement has grown steadily. A 1993 United Nations Truth Commission Report on El Salvador found that SOA graduates were responsible for the Nov. 16, 1989, massacre of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her teenage daughter, as well as the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, Bourgeois said.

Massachusetts lawmakers have led the nation in the movement against SOA. "Here in Massachusetts, every one of your representatives has voted to cut funding to the School of the Americas," Bourgeois said.

U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, a UMass Boston alumnus, sponsored a bill to close SOA. The most recent vote lost by 217-210 margin. "We're getting close. That vote has pumped new life into the movement," Bourgeois said. Sen. John Kerry has co-sponsored a similar bill in the Senate. Representative Joseph Moakley has also spoken out against injustices in South America.

Government supporters of SOA say it teaches democracy. "You don't learn democracy through the barrel of a gun," Bourgeois counters.

Bourgeois extended an open invitation to the annual Nov. 16 gathering at the main gate of Fort Benning. He also urges all to write letters their congressmen and President Clinton demanding the closing of SOA.

"My hope comes from the grassroots community," Bourgeois said. "As long as the military is entrenched in Latin America, there will never be a better life for the poor," he said. For more information or to support Father Roy Bourgeois, write SOA Watch, P.O. Box 3330, Columbus, GA, 31903.

## Scholarship Deadline

The deadline for all merit-based scholarship applications is Monday, November 17, 1997. Applications can be picked up weekdays from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Office of Merit-Based Scholarships, Quinn Administration Building, 3rd Floor.

Money is available for the spring semester for qualified students. The majority of awards are for students enrolled in undergraduate programs.

Applicants should have the following: Massachusetts residency, full-time student status, minimum 3.0 grade point average, and at least 30 credits or 10 competencies in residence at UMass Boston.



Appointments

Prof. **Philip Quaglieri** has been named associate provost. Quaglieri had been director of the Learning Center since August, 1996. **Anthony Martin** has been appointed director of the Learning Center.

**Liliana Green Mickle** has been appointed interim director of admissions. A 14-year veteran of the Admissions Office, Green Mickle was most recently assistant director in charge of operations.

**Christine Buccella** has joined the Office of Institutional Advancement as senior major gifts officer. Buccella was previously head of development at the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, London, England.

**Sheryl F. Savage** has been appointed assistant director of the Annual Fund. Savage comes from the Massachusetts Easter Seal Society where she was development coordinator.

Prof. **Kyle McInnis** has been elected president-elect of the New England chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine. He will serve as president for two years.

Prof. **Zong-Guo Xia** of the geography department will serve as a guest professor at the National Laboratory for Information Engineering and as a science advisor for the State Seismological Bureau of China.

Events

Three of **NERCHE's** "think tanks" held their first meetings of the year at UMass Boston. Department Chairs, Academic Affairs, and Associate Deans think tanks

met here during October.

The College of Public and Community Service hosted 175 people Oct. 8 at the 25th Anniversary Kick-Off Alumni Reception. Guests shared their praise for CPCS and networked with other alumni. **Evonne Hill-Shepard** is heading the CPCS anniversary events.

Art Prof. **Wilfredo Chiesa** has a one-person exhibition, *Arcos: Recent Paintings* at Andrea Marquit Fine Arts, 38 Newbury Street, Boston, from September 12 to October 18.

English Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz** attended the international Elizabeth Bishop Conference and Poetry Festival in Worcester, MA., October 6-12. Schwartz moderated a panel discussion, introduced a presentation, and participated in a poetry reading.

Prof. **David Nellis** led a field trip to several mineral mines in Maine to investigate reported deposits of quartz, beryl and tourmaline, on October 26.

Human Performance and Fitness Prof. **Avery Faigenbaum** organized the National Strength and Conditioning Association seminar, and directed the certification examination for Strength and Conditioning Specialists in July.

An Appreciation Breakfast for Boston Public High School guidance counselors was sponsored by the **Undergraduate Admissions Office**, and held in the Chancellor's Conference room on Oct. 30.

Grants

Prof. **Gordon Wallace** of the ECOS program has received a \$113,000 grant from the

Massachusetts Strategic Envirotechnology Partnership (STEP) to provide technical and analytical support for field-testing promising mercury removal technologies.

Awards and Honors

Prof. **Lois Rudnick** of the American Studies Program has been selected as the 1997 co-winner of the American Studies Association's Mary C. Turpie Award for "teaching, advising and program development in American Studies at the local and regional level."

Prof. **Philip S. Hart** of CPCS has been included in the upcoming publication, *Black Authors and Illustrators of Books for Children and Adults* by Barbara Thrash Murphy. Hart is also involved in a museum exhibit, *Flight*, which opened at the Denver Museum of Natural History Oct. 3.

Publications

English Prof. **Monica McAlpine** published an illustrated essay, "The Burghers of Calais: Chapters in a History," in *Retelling Tales*, edited by Thomas Hart and Alan Lupack and published by D.S. Brewer.

Prof. **Marilyn Frankenstein** of CPCS has co-edited a book, *Ethnomathematics: Challenging Eurocentrism in Mathematics Education*, published by State University of New York Press.

Sociology Prof. **Xiaogang Deng** has written an article, "The Deterrent Effects of Initial Sanction on First-time Apprehended Shoplifters," which appeared in the *Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

The September issue of *Boston Poet* devoted a ten-page section to the Joiner Center's Writer's Workshop. It featured the workshop's opening address by **T. Michael Sullivan**, and poetry from 20 conference participants.

The McCormack Institute published an occasional paper by Senior Fellow **Robert Wood**, *Eastward Ho: Issues and Options in Regional Development for the Metropolitan Boston Region* in September.

Presentations

English Prof. **Donaldo Macedo** was the keynote speaker at the 12th annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing on October 24, held at Bristol Community College in Fall River, MA.

**Elizabeth Sherman**, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, was the guest speaker at the 100th Anniversary celebration of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She spoke on "Empowering Women and Girls for Leadership in the 21st Century."

In the News . . .

On Sept. 29, Prof. Emeritus **Michael Mensoian** of the geography department was interviewed on the WGBH-2 news show "Greater Boston" about the effects of El Niño.

Prof. **John Looney** of the geography department was interviewed on the possible economic effects of the El Niño on the WBZ-TV 4 news, October 7 and 8.



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## Northern Irish Author Reads from Booker Prize–Nominated Novel

Bernard McLaverty, the Northern Irish author of the novels *Lamb, Cal*—and most recently *Grace Notes*—began his reading on October 20 by commenting that the only thing that has changed since he was here for a reading in 1986, is that he now needs to use glasses.

Well, that's not the only thing. Since his 1986 visit, he moved from Belfast, Northern Ireland to Glasgow, Scotland, and published several volumes of short stories before *Grace Notes* in 1997. And there is one other thing—McLaverty was nominated for Great Britain's most prestigious book award—the Booker Prize—for *Grace Notes*.

*Grace Notes* is about the emotional and creative journey of composer Catherine McKenna, as she gives birth to her first child, and composes her first major musical symphony. McLaverty has made her journey replete with questions of identity, family ties, loss of faith, and the spiritual transcendence of music, set in part against a backdrop of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

“Catherine is someone who doesn't believe in God or religion, but believes deeply in the ornamentation, or creative artwork that is inspired by religion,” says McLaverty. “I wanted to explore loss of faith, or

the gaining of a lack of superstition, as well as hurdles to creativity,” says McLaverty.

McLaverty comments that there may be a “faint layer of hope that has not been in his previous work” in *Grace Notes*, which was begun during Northern Ireland's first ceasefire, but he points out that hopes have plummeted since then, and risen again.

McLaverty's reading on campus is due to his long association with Prof. Tom O'Grady of the English department, who hosted McLaverty's 1986 visit to UMass Boston. *Grace Notes* is published in the United States by W.W. Norton.

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## Campus Welcomes New Administrators

We welcome three women who have joined the University administration in the areas of economic development, alumni affairs, and enrollment.

Susan Moulton has been named Assistant for Economic Development to the Chancellor's Office. Moulton comes to UMass Boston from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Research Institute in Worcester, where she was vice president for public policy. Concurrently, she served as director of education for the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council in Cambridge, MA. She developed the first statewide biotechnology education effort, working with schools, colleges, and public groups to develop programs for students, teachers

and administrators. Moulton's responsibilities will include strengthening the links between the University's departments and institutes and the Boston business community.

On November 17, Kathleen Teehan will assume responsibility for campus enrollment as Assistant to the Chancellor and Dean for Enrollment Management. Teehan comes to UMass Boston with a wealth of experience in college admissions, having worked at Dean College, Bunker Hill Community College and North Shore Community College. Most recently, Teehan was director of undergraduate admissions for Suffolk University. In an associated appointment, Liliana M. Greene Mickle has been

named interim director of admissions (for more on Greene Mickle, see campus notes).

Jane Parker has joined the University's Office of Institutional Advancement as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations. Parker comes to UMass Boston from UMass Dartmouth, where she was associate director of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Foundation and director of annual giving. Prior to that, she was director of national alumni programs at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Her responsibilities here will include developing and implementing the University's alumni relations program.



# Professor Studies Birth Defects of Accutane

A UMass Boston professor is one of only two researchers in the nation studying children exposed to isotretinoin, one of the most potent teratogenic (birth defect-causing) drugs on the market.

Dr. Jane Adams, associate professor of psychology, was recently awarded five-year grant of \$926,727 from the National Institute of Child Health and Development of the National Institutes of Health. Her current project is titled "Isotretinoin Teratogenicity: Outcome at Age 10."

Isotretinoin, commonly known by its brand name, Accutane, is a powerful, acne-fighting drug prescribed to patients whose severe cystic acne does not improve with other treatments.

Adams and Dr. Edward J. Lammer of Stanford University have followed nearly 50 children nationwide who were exposed to the drug while in the womb.

About 25 percent of babies born to women using isotretinoin during pregnancy have physical abnormalities such as ear and jaw malformations, asymmetric faces and brain abnormalities.

Though physical abnormalities bypass some children, about half suffer from learning disabilities. "Many of the kids that look normal have learning-related problems," Adams said. She has found that many isotretinoin-

exposed children struggle with visual perception (such as drawing shapes), spacial processing (such as piecing together a puzzle), and organizing behavior.

Parents often overlook signs, especially when language is a strong point, Adams said. The learning disabilities become more pronounced around the third or fourth grade, she said. Classes such as geography, mathematics and writing often pose challenges, as children are required to read maps, count in their heads and organize paragraphs.

Studying the teratogenic affects of isotretinoin has influenced policy. "I think our work will help detect disabilities earlier," Adams said. Vitamin A is chemically similar to isotretinoin. If taken by expecting mothers in large doses, it can also cause birth defects. "Studying Accutane allows us to understand the role of vitamin A in embryology," Adams said.

An important result of Adams' studies is the scientific proof that learning problems do stem from teratogenic drugs. "There have been a lot of animal studies that have shown this, but not a lot of human studies," she said.

Adams hopes her studies will change the current Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rules that do not require drugs to be screened for their ability to cause learning disabilities. Lammer's initial study influenced the FDA to require consent forms for women isotretinoin users. The

form, part of the Pregnancy Prevention Program for Women on Accutane, requires women confirm their full understanding of risks associated with Accutane and pregnancy.

Consent forms, however, have not been successful in avoiding pregnancies in isotretinoin patients, Adams said. "It's not working. People are still getting pregnant, they're just having abortions," she said. A rising concern is that signed forms are not always understood, often due to language barriers.

Accutane will soon be rivaled in its teratogenic infamy. Thalidomide, a sedative and anti-nauseant taken off the U.S. market in the 1960s because of severe and widespread birth defects, will soon be available again. "The way Accutane has been marketed ... has been used as a model for the drug," Adams said, noting that doctors may require consent forms prior to dispensing thalidomide.

Adams earned her B.S. at Florida State University and her M.A. and Ph.D. at New Mexico State University, all in psychology. In 1986 she received the FDA Commissioner's Special Citation. A member of the Publications Committee for Teratology and the Membership Committee for the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society, she is a past president of the Behavioral Teratology Society.



# Conference Spotlights Women in Public Life

The message was clear to the majority female audience at the John F. Kennedy Library on Oct. 18: Run for office, women!

"Women Shaping Public Policy: Past and Present," a conference sponsored by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy of the McCormack Institute, attracted 180 people.

Focusing on the political contributions of women in the past, both inside and outside of electoral politics, morning discussions were moderated by Ellen K. Rothman, associate director of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities.

Manisha Sinha, assistant professor of history at UMass Amherst, chronicled pre-20th century activism. Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice president of the AFL-CIO and the highest ranking woman in the American labor movement, compared women of today and yesterday and shared statistics on the AFL-CIO's inclusion of women. "Make no mistake about it. The future of all American workers is in the hands of the working woman," she said.

Meizhe Lui, coordinator of Health Care for All, described cultural barriers faced by some Asian women leaders. Ellen Fitzpatrick, associate professor of history at the University of New Hampshire, contrasted the suffrage movement with today's low voter turnout.

"Our past perspectives are still future challenges for most American women and for most women around the world," said Anita Perez Ferguson, president of the National Women's Political Caucus, remembering the less fortunate. "All of the things that we have fought for in the past are still granted to only a few of us."

Ruth Mandel, director of the Eagleton Institute at Rutgers University, refuted the assumption that women votes mirror their husbands'. "Many, many elections have been influenced by the gender gap," she said. "That's power, and I don't know how much we recognize that as women."

The afternoon discussion, moderated by Elizabeth Sherman, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, focused on the future.

Several panelists challenged women to not wait until they felt qualified to run. "It's tougher for women to feel that they're qualified to run for office," said Gloria Cordes Larson, Esq. of Foley, Hoag and Eliot. "For me, someone who had never run for office before ... people believed in me, voted for me, and here I am," said State Rep. Charlotte Golar Richie (5th-Suffolk).

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, lieutenant governor of Maryland, also stressed getting involved. "Waiting for life to be simple is really not an option," she said. "Clearly Susan B. Anthony didn't sit on the sidelines and wait for things to change. She said, 'I'm changing it,' and I hope you will too," Kennedy Townsend concluded.

Carol Hardy-Fanta, research director, Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, reviewed "Political Profile of Women in Massachusetts," a new statistical breakdown of women in local and national politics.

The finale of the conference was an excerpt of a 20-minute documentary film by Laura A. Liswood titled "Women World Leaders: 15 Great Politicians Tell Their Stories." Liswood, journeyed around the world to meet women presidents and prime ministers, spoke about the film. "I came away with a sense of awe for the courage of all of them — the sense of courage it takes to go from being in the crowd to being in front of the crowd," she said.

The conference also offered a forum and support for the State House Project. Gail M. Leftwich, president of the Board of Directors, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, described the project, which will include a mural and individual portraits honoring six women leaders born in the 1800s.



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## Authors and Artists

*continued from page 1*

search, but I honestly didn't know as much as I do now about what people's interests are, and the diversity of topics and fields that an individual might be involved in," she says.

The members of the Exhibit Committee spent many hours working with participants, developing a format for the exhibit, and communicating the concept to participants as it evolved, since this was the first year. Besides Davidson and Bostick, committee members included Andrew Castiglione, head of acquisitions, Healey Library, and Susan Haussler, associate dean, College of Nursing.

Because this was the first time such an exhibit has been organized for the entire campus, Davidson expects wider participation next year. "This event is something that can grow, and now we have something to build on," she remarks. Poetry readings, lectures and other events may accompany an Authors and Artists Exhibit in the future.

As the first exhibit came to a close, count Davidson and

Bostick as two who couldn't be more pleased with the fruits of this work. "I was so proud of my colleagues, and I hope this exhibit becomes a more complete picture of their achievements in the future," says Davidson. Adds Bostick, "I hope the exhibit continues for decades."

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The Walter Grossmann Gallery, where the Campus Authors and Artists Exhibit was displayed during October, honors the first director of the Healey Library. Walter Grossmann, the mastermind behind the library's original collection, played a key role in the design of the Healey Library. He also had a strong interest in the arts, and thought they played a crucial role in a student's educational development, according to Andrew Castiglione, head of acquisitions, Healey Library.

"It is because of Walter Grossmann that we have a fifth floor gallery," says Castiglione. After Grossmann's death, he was honored with the portrait and plaque on permanent display in the gallery. The gallery's next exhibit will come from the Institute for Asian American Studies.

## GRANT AWARDS ON THE RISE

The fiscal year 1997 totals are tallied for the University's sponsored projects (which includes all grants awarded and received from outside sources.) And the news is very good: a total of \$16,241,124 was brought into the University by our faculty and staff.

The number of awards rose from 203 to 247—an increase of 21.6 %, and the number of proposals submitted by our faculty and staff rose from 327 to 359—an increase of 9.8 %.

"I'm pleased that the University's sponsored projects continues to increase," says Paul Benson, vice provost for Sponsored Projects and Public Service. "I'm particularly impressed with the 21.6% increase in the number of projects funded, and because the number of proposal submissions was also up, we can anticipate that grant activity will continue on the upswing next year, too," he adds.

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