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Young Irish Find Brightened Job Prospects Through UMass Boston Program That Emphasizes Work and Education

Fourteen unemployed young men and women from economically depressed cities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are studying on the UMass Boston campus and working at local companies during a 10-week venture this fall designed to prepare them for professional careers when they return home.

The initiative, which runs through December 2, is called "Boston Options." It is a collaborative effort of the University's Division of Continuing Education and Boston Ireland Ventures, a local organization that promotes educational exchanges. Also involved in the project is Springboard, a Belfast organization which runs professional training programs.

Participants in the project, who range in age from 19 to 29, come from a variety of backgrounds. Some possess college degree while others have just received a high school education. The group includes both Catholics and Protestants.

The Irish visitors are housed in Quincy and spend the majority of their time — four days a week — serving in unpaid internships in professional fields that interest them. These include retailing, tourism, community organizing, event management, merchandising, news photography and venture capital. They are assigned to work in such places as Brooks Brothers, City Year, Mass Tech Development Corporation, Reuters, Sears Roebuck, Sheraton Hotels and the World Trade Center.

On Fridays they come to UMass Boston for instruction that is aimed at sharpening their business and communication skills. The sessions are conducted by Continuing Education staff members Stuart Phillips and Maria Reyburn. Each participant in the program is responsible for doing a research project on some aspect of their chosen career field. After returning home in December, they will spend four more months assigned to work in various Irish businesses at positions that could help them eventually to land full-time jobs.

According to Alix Oliveira, academic coordinator of Continuing Education's professional training programs, the project's "primary objective is to provide these promising young people with skills that will enable them to navigate the work environment effectively."

Campus Notes

McCormack Institute senior fellow Al Cardarelli has been appointed chair of the City of Boston's Scholarship Fund Committee, which will distribute financial aid to students from what is currently \$34,000 in donations raised through a voluntary check-off on municipal tax bills.

Economics professor Irving Gershenberg will study the

effectiveness and training requirements of managers at newly privatized firms in Poland and Lithuania. His research is funded by the International Center for Economic Growth. Also, Gershenberg in August traveled to Nairobi to organize a workshop on teaching micro economics. His trip was sponsored by the African Economic Research Consortium.

Experience Abroad Brings Hope For A Better Life At Home

Typical of those involved in "Boston Options" is 22-year old Paul McErlene of Belfast, a news photographer who has struggled to make a living since he was laid off in 1991 by the Belfast Telegraph. He is currently working for the Boston bureau of the Reuters news agency, and hopes that through contacts with established news photographers he will be able to assume a staff position on a newspaper or wire service.

Earlier this month, USA Today published McErlene's photo of an MIT professor who had won the Nobel Prize. This week McErlene covered President Clinton's visit to Framingham.

"This opportunity to prove myself is what I need," McErlene says. "For the last three years I've barely been scraping by on freelance jobs, and it can get quite discouraging. Sometimes it take more than simply being willing to work hard."

Another Boston Options participant is Mary Mooney, a 23-year old high school graduate who has languished for several years in low-paying sales positions at some of Dublin's upscale clothing stores. She is now getting another perspective on the clothing business while assigned to DM Management Company in Hingham, a producer of catalogs selling women's clothes.

"I'm hoping to learn a lot about what happens behind the scenes in the merchandising business," Mooney says. "It's very difficult to develop an understanding of the merchandising field while being a retail sales associate. I think this program will give me a lift when I get home."

Besides helping McErlene, Mooney and the others to gain knowledge of specific occupations and American culture, Boston Options hopes to give them the necessary competence in their chosen careers so that they can help revitalize the economy of urban areas in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Oliveira adds that the program's objective is also to create understanding between the two regions and among religions.

Ten faculty members from state and community colleges in Massachusetts were at UMass Boston in July for a seminar led by history professor Paul Bookbinder on "Ethnic-Racial Violence, Genocide and Human Decision-Making." It was sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities at UMass Amherst.

Classics professor Frank Nisetich's book *Euripides*:

Orestes will be published by Oxford University Press and is due out next spring. Also, Nisetich will present a paper titled "Pindar in Cambridge and San Francisco" at this year's convention of the Modern Language Association.

Associate Director of Athletics Mary Barrett joined NCAA leaders at a celebration

Rep. Kennedy To Speak Health of Gulf Vets

Is Joiner Conference Topic

U. S. Representative Joseph P. Kennedy will join a group of veterans, government officials, physicians and reporters at a UMass Boston conference on Saturday, November 5, that explores issues surrounding the health problems experienced by those who fought in the Persian Gulf War.

The "Gulf War Syndrome" symposium will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Media Auditorium, located on the lower level of the Healey Library. The conference is sponsored by the Joiner Center. It is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Those wishing to attend should register by contacting conference organizer Paul Atwood at the Joiner Center (7-5850).

Veterans Administration regional director Michael Olson will begin the conference with a discussion of the VA's efforts to address the health problems experienced by soldiers who served in the Persian Gulf War. Following Olson's talk, military veterans and physicians familiar with Gulf War syndrome will speak. Rep. Kennedy will address the symposium at about 1:00 p.m. Also scheduled to speak are Thomas Lyons of the Massachusetts Veterans Service Office, Todd Ensign of the advocacy group Citizen Soldier, and Steve Robertson of the American Legion.

Two reporters who have covered Gulf War syndrome since it first came to light, David Parks of the *Birmingham Daily News* and Denny Williams of the *Hartford Courant*, will discuss what they believe is the news media's failure to sufficiently explore the issue.

Surgeon General Elders To Address Participant in Nov. 1 Teleconference

Violence prevention is the topic of a national conference in Chicago on Tuesday, November 1, in which the UMass Boston community will be able to participate through an interactive video link. The conference, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., will be transmitted to the Media Auditorium (Lower Level, Healey Library). U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is among the participants.

at Union College recently to mark the anniversary of that institution's role in establishing the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Barrett spoke on gender equity issues in athletics.

Faculty and staff can learn how to use the Macintosh computer application "Powerpoint" at a workshop that will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesday,

November 1, in Room 30, Upper Level, Healey Library.

The Center for the Improvement of Teaching will hold a diversity workshop on Wednesday, November 9, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Wheatley Hall, first floor, room 56. The session will be conducted by sociology professor Estelle Disch and CPCS student James Williams.

Three from UMass Boston Receive Racial Justice Award

Trotter Institute director James Jennings, CPCS Law Center professor Andrew Leong and Joiner Center research coordinator Jaime Rodriguez are recipients of 1994 Drylongso awards recognizing "ordinary people doing the extraordinary in antiracism work in Greater Boston."

The Drylongso awards are presented by Community Change, Inc., an organization founded in 1968 to promote racial justice. Fifteen men and women will receive Drylongso awards at a dinner on Saturday, October 22, at the John Hancock Conference Center. The award gets its name from the book *Drylongso: A Self Portrait of Black America*, written by John Langston Gwaltney.

Jennings, who holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University, is a professor of political science at UMass Boston and a commentator on issues affecting minorities. He has written numerous articles and two books, including *The Politics of Black Empowerment* (Wayne State University Press), winner of the Gustavus Myers Award for the best human rights book of 1992, and *Understanding the Nature of Poverty in Urban America* (Praeger, 1994). He also has edited or co-edited several books, including *Blacks, Latinos and Asians in Urban America* (Praeger, 1994). Jennings has directed the Trotter Institute since 1991.

Leong, an attorney, has for 10 years provided free legal services to indigent members of the local Asian-American community, and has helped district attorneys in Middlesex and Norfolk counties, as well as the state Attorney General, to investigate and prosecute crimes committed against Asian-Americans. A Chinese American, Leong is lead counsel for a group of Chinatown citizens opposing the expansion of New England Medical Center. He served five years as president of the state's Asian American Lawyers Association and is on the board of the McCormack Institute's Institute for Affirmative Action.

Rodriguez is a leader in Massachusetts' Latino and Vietnam veteran communities. A former executive assistant to the state's commissioner of veterans services, Rodriguez helped establish in 1979 the Boston Veterans Center, one of the nation's first facilities designed specifically to provide psychological readjustment counseling to war veterans. Rodriguez has also worked to register Latinos to vote and has since 1989 been president of the state chapter of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights. Rodriguez is a native of Puerto Rico and an Army veteran. He served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969.

Three Boston Students Receive Scholarships Named For Former Edison CEO Stephen Sweeney

Responding to Mayor Thomas Menino's proposal that more Boston high schoolers receive scholarships to college, the University of Massachusetts Boston has established the Stephen J. Sweeney Scholarship Awards, named in honor of the former president and chief executive of Boston Edison.

The scholarships were given for the first time this fall, and receiving them were three Boston school students who successfully completed UMass Boston's Admission Guaranteed Program.

Begun in 1990, the program, one of more than 40 projects involving collaboration between the University and area schools, guarantees admission to UMass Boston for those students who successfully complete a prescribed curriculum at Jeremiah E. Burke, Dorchester and South Boston high schools. Sweeney Scholarships will be awarded annually to one student from each of the three high schools.

This year's three Sweeney Scholars, who will receive full-tuition waivers and also \$1,000 to help cover their educational expenses at UMass Boston, include:

- Richard Cabral, a Quincy resident and graduate of Jeremiah E. Burke High School, who also was a member of UMass Boston's highly acclaimed Urban Scholars Program and is interested in studying engineering at the University;
- Tri On, a Dorchester resident and graduate of South Boston High School, who also was an Urban Scholar and is studying biology and chemistry at the University; and

More Campus Notes

Lawrence Foster, an associate professor and chair of the UMass Boston philosophy department, is co-editor of *Defending Diversity*, a collection of essays whose contributors include Foster and fellow faculty members Lawrence Blum, Nelson Lande, Mitchell Silver, Janet Farrell Smith, as well as professor emeritus Jane Roland Martin. The other co-editor is Patricia Herzog, a visiting professor at Clark University. *Defending Diversity* is published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

McCormack Institute senior fellow Elizabeth Sherman will

lead a discussion of term limits during a seminar at the John F. Kennedy Library on Tuesday, October 25, at 10:00 a.m. Senior fellow Joseph Barresi will be at the Library on Tuesday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m. to talk about welfare reform.

A book party was held this week by the Gaston Institute to mark the publication of *Latino Poverty and Economic Development in Massachusetts*, edited by Edwin Melendez and Miren Uriarte, and *Education of Latino Students in Massachusetts: Issues, Research*

• Danny Pina, an Allston resident and graduate of Dorchester High School, who while in high school took college courses in physics and calculus at UMass Boston and Northeastern University. He is studying for a science degree at the University.

According to Chancellor Sherry H. Penney, more than \$170,000 of the initial goal of \$200,000 already has been raised to underwrite the scholarship endowment fund. "The extraordinarily generous support the Sweeney Scholarship campaign has received is formidable testimony to the high regard with which Boston's corporate community holds our dear friend, Steve Sweeney," she stated. "And the funds raised give us a wonderful opportunity to extend more scholarship help to college bound Boston school seniors."

Members of the original Sweeney campaign committee included James Coppersmith, former president and general manager, WCVB-TV; Agnes "Diddy" Cullinane, of the Cullinane Group, and Bernard Reznicek, former chairman and CEO of Boston Edison. Tom May, current chairman and CEO of the utility, has succeeded him on the campaign committee.

Generous contributions came from individuals and corporations, including Stephen and Genevieve Sweeney and their daughter, The Cullinane Group, Boston Edison, Liberty Mutual Life Insurance, Raytheon, NYNEX, Bank of Boston, New England Electric Systems, WCVB, Boston Stock Exchange, Connell Limited Partnership, Boston Stock Exchange, R.M. Bradley Company, Shawmut Bank and Uno Restaurants.

and Policy Implications, edited by Sonia Nieto and Ralph Rivera. Both works were published by the University of Massachusetts Press, whose representative on the campus is Paul Wright.

A memorial service for English professor Joe Tribble will be held on Monday, November 7, at 3:30 p.m. in the University Club. Tribble died in June.

A buffet and reception to benefit the family of University dockmaster Mark Hamilton, who died in August, will take place on Thursday, November 10, at Heritage Hall, Granite

Avenue in Milton. The suggested donation is \$20 per person. The buffet is from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Music will be provided from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. by "The Generators," a band that includes five UMass Boston people — undergraduates Lori Diamond, Rick Saunders and Tom Scanlan, and staff members Tom Goodkind and Dick Lourie.

The English department will hold its annual party for alumni, faculty and friends on Sunday, December 4, at 2:00 p.m. in the University Club.

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