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11-11-1994

Friday Report - Vol. 03, No. 25 - November 11, 1994

University of Massachusetts Boston

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Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "Friday Report - Vol. 03, No. 25 - November 11, 1994" (1994).
1991-1996, Friday Report. 69.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_fridayreport/69

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Federal Grant of \$800,000 Supports Rierdan's Research of Mental Illness, Trauma and Substance Abuse

Jill Rierdan, an associate professor of psychology, has received an \$800,000 grant for a study that will make it easier to identify the presence of severe mental illness and history of trauma in people who are also drug or alcohol abusers. According to Rierdan, identifying the presence of mental illness and trauma history is important because its existence can sometimes trigger problems with drugs or alcohol. Researchers in the field believe that by treating the mental illness as well as the addiction problem doctors can more effectively treat substance abusers.

Rierdan is co-principal investigator of the three-year study, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. The other co-principal investigator is Walter Penk, director of policy studies at the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Penk, who also is chief of psychology service at Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, is currently serving as an adjunct professor of psychology at UMass Boston.

Under the grant award, Rierdan and Penk will interview 500 persons whose "co-occurring disorders" include drug or alcohol abuse, such serious mental illnesses as depression or schizophrenia, and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. The study's participants also will take the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) exam.

By analyzing "patterns of responses" on the exam, Rierdan and Penk hope to develop "a sensitive assessment instrument" that can detect the presence of multiple disorders. "This study is particularly appropriate to be undertaken at UMass Boston

because it focuses on a diverse patient population in terms of race and gender," says Rierdan, a clinical psychologist who came to the University in 1991. "It also focuses on people with severe psychological disorders, who are not often included in studies."

In addition to working on the NIH project and teaching a graduate level course this semester on adult psychopathology, Rierdan also is involved in a National Science Foundation effort to analyze how victims of armed robbery, as well as their families and friends, cope with memories of the episode. Seven adults interviewed for the study were robbed together during an incident in which they were threatened with guns but not physically harmed.

"People who think of themselves as competent, who believe that they're in charge and have a sense of their own skills, are the individuals who have been best able to deal with the stress of the incident," says Rierdan. She says high levels of distress have been observed in victims who said initially that the incident was "no big deal."

Rierdan notes that women in the study have generally experienced more stress than men, and that family and friends of victims have "a level of stress and concern that is equally as strong" as the victims themselves possess. She adds that each of the victims retains vivid and highly detailed memories of the crime. Conducting the study with Rierdan are David Pillemer, a psychology professor at Wellesley College, and Marylee Osta, who graduated from UMass Boston last spring with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

University Mentors Teach Journalism to High School Students

A grant of \$15,000 from the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation is supporting a one year UMass Boston pilot program that is teaching journalism to 26 students from Brighton and South Boston high schools.

The "Partnership in Journalism Project" matches the students — 18 from Brighton and 8 from South Boston — with reporters Zachary Dowdy of the *Boston Globe* and Jason Johnson of the *Boston Herald*, who serve as writing coaches and mentors. Most of the students participating in the project are identified as talented but "at risk" of dropping out of school. Also involved as mentors in the project are eight UMass Boston undergraduates who visit the high schools twice a week to help the students research stories and write articles.

"The focus is on building the students' writing skills and encouraging them to use their talents, which we have found are considerable," says project coordinator Carole Remick of the University Advising Center. Remick has for eight years operated a summer journalism seminar at UMass Boston for minority high school students from around the

state. The seminar is supported by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and a number of local newspapers.

Another of the Journalism Partnership's goals, according to Remick, is to strengthen the journalism curriculum at Brighton High and to get one started at South Boston High, where no such program currently exists.

Remick has arranged for the students' articles to appear once a month on the pages of the *Dorchester Community News*, a weekly newspaper. This month's articles will examine the death penalty and student dress codes. The students have conducted interviews on the topics with State Representative Jim Brett and David Lowy, deputy legal counsel to Governor William Weld.

One of the UMass Boston students who serves as a mentor is Debora Mouser, a senior from Watertown, whose major is English. "I've been quite surprised by the quality of the writing of these students," she says. "I think some of them have discovered that writing is something they should pursue, and that's really what the Partnership is trying to accomplish."

Minority Enrollment Continues To Climb

The percentage of undergraduates of color at UMass Boston this fall increased to 29.6% of the total number of students attending the metropolitan area's only public university, Chancellor Sherry H. Penney has announced. According to Penney, the percentage of undergraduates who were minorities was 27.5% in the fall of 1993. She noted that this figure then was more than double the percentage of undergraduate students in all Massachusetts public and private institutions who were minorities, and added that she felt sure the statement holds true even more for the current year.

Penney also said that this percentage has increased steadily at the University from the 17.7% minority figure recorded for the 1987-88 academic year. In releasing these figures concerning the extent of diversity on the campus, Penney stated:

"It should be obvious that UMass Boston is maintaining its leadership position as a higher education institution that pays a great deal of attention to serving America's multicultural urban population. Our minority student population for all degree levels exceeds that of both state and national averages. Providing a college education for students of color is a primary way in which our nation can solve the racial and economic tensions that beset society today. We look forward to keeping our leadership position in this critical area of national life." The Chancellor also made the following points based on data collected by the University's Office of Institutional Research:

- Incoming freshmen of color to UMass Boston this fall represent an exceptional 46.3% of the total number of students enrolled and 27% of all transfers. During the previous academic year (1993-1994), minority students were 43.8% of all new freshmen at the University, and 25.2% of all transfers.
- Graduate students of color account for 12.9% of all graduate enrollments. In the fall of 1993, minority graduate enrollments were at 12.5%, compared to an overall Massachusetts minority graduate enrollment of 8.5%.
- New doctoral programs at UMass Boston have been especially effective in their recruiting efforts. Minority enrollment for the 1993-94 academic year was 23.2% as compared to 10.4% minority doctorates awarded nationwide during 1992. This year, the figure is even higher — 26%. Women at the University represent 66% of all doctoral candidates as compared to the nationwide figure of 44%.

Penney said that UMass Boston continues to improve its position in the hiring of candidates of color for both faculty and staff. Based on the most recent data (for the 1993-94 academic year), diversity of faculty members during a five-year period increased at the University from 12.7% to 16.7% despite a small pool of new minority Ph.D.s from which to recruit.

UMass Boston and Partners To Address Critical Shortage of Minority Teachers

The U. S. Office of Education has given a grant of \$167,576 to UMass Boston and three collaborating partners to establish a program that will steer college students of color and language minorities into the teaching profession.

The program, which also involves the Boston Public Schools and Bunker Hill and Roxbury community colleges, is part of a nationwide attempt to address the critical shortage of minority teachers in school systems. The award is one of six given by the federal government; thirty applications in all for funding were received by the Office of Education from the across the country.

According to William L. Dandridge, dean of UMass Boston's Graduate College of Education, the program hopes to identify college students in their freshman year. Through seminars and a strong advising system it will provide them with a clear academic path so that they graduate with state certification as "provisional teachers with advanced standing," able to assume teaching positions.

"I am especially pleased," Dandridge said, "that the award coincides with the new initiative of the Boston

Department of Public Schools and the Boston Teachers Union to recruit Boston students to teach in Boston schools. Clearly, the funding helps that initiative along and enables the four partners to share the common goal of preparing a diverse and well trained corps of teachers for our city's public schools."

The two-year grant will cover the costs of running the program at the three higher education institutions, and supports tuition waivers for some of the students in the program.

Dandridge said that a steering committee representing the four partners will coordinate the effort. The program is expected to begin at the three campuses in the spring 1995 semester.

Other institutions receiving funding from the Office of Education to support similar initiatives include North Dakota State University, Keane College of New Jersey, the University of Louisville Research Foundation, the Dominguez campus of California State University, and Northeastern Illinois University.

Campus Notes

Marilyn Nelson Waniek, a winner of two Pushcart Prizes and a finalist for the National Book Award, will read from her poetry on Thursday, November 17, at 1:00 at the campus's Harbor Gallery. Her visit is sponsored by the Joiner Center.

Richard Robbins, professor emeritus of sociology at the University, delivered a paper on the writings of former UMass Boston sociology professor Gordon Zahn during a meeting earlier this month of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Robbins's principal topic was Zahn's book *In Solitary Witness*.

Two papers have been published recently by the McCormack Institute. In one paper, senior fellow Al Cardarelli and Northeastern University's Jack McDevitt examine issues concerning

community policing. In another, the merits of an immunization registry are investigated by senior fellow Phyllis Freeman and three doctoral students in public policy — Gloria Cross, Elena Letona and Carolyn Waters.

Stop and Frisk, a drama about a Roxbury youth charged with a crime he did not commit, will be performed this month at the Strand Theatre in Uphams Corner. The play was written by black studies professor Robert Johnson. Performances will be at 8:00 p.m. on November 25 and 26 (Friday and Saturday) and at 3:30 p.m. on November 27 (Sunday). Ticket information is available by calling the Strand Theatre at (617) 282-8000.

In an article she co-wrote in the December issue of *BioScience*, biology instructor

Karlene Schwartz concludes that Ancon (shortlegged) sheep are "a lively example of a dramatic, recurring mutation perpetuated by artificial selection." The article was co-written by Jane Vogel, a reference librarian at Duke University.

The next teaching forum of the Center for the Improvement of Learning and Teaching will take place on Tuesday, November 15, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., Room 47, sixth floor, Wheatley Hall. The topic: "Working with Students Who Have Limited Proficiency in Scientific and Quantitative Skills."

The Golden Key National Honor Society has inducted as honorary members John Applebee of the Office of Student Affairs, student life director Kelly Clark and Charles Desmond, vice chancellor of student affairs.

A reception at the Harbor Art Gallery on Monday, November 14, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. will mark the opening of an exhibit of French-language literature from authors from Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti or Martinique. The exhibit is co-sponsored by French Cultural Services and Susan Wolf, assistant professor of modern languages.

Latinos and organized labor will be the topic of a discussion on campus led by Jose Soler, director of UMass Dartmouth's labor education center, and Fernando Juarbe, president of United Auto Workers Local 2324. The session will be held on Tuesday, November 22, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Library Staff Lounge, 11th floor, Healey Library. It is sponsored by the Gaston Institute.

Legislator Who Rose to U. S. Cabinet Wins Moakley Award

The McCormack Institute will bestow its John Joseph Moakley Award for Distinguished Public Service on Mary B. Newman during a ceremony at the campus on Monday, November 14. The ceremony, which begins at 3 p.m., will be held at the University Club, 11th Floor, Healey Library.

Remarks will be offered at the event by Senate President William Bulger, Lieutenant Governor Paul Cellucci, House Speaker Charles Flaherty and Congressman Moakley. Special tribute to Newman will be paid by Robert Quinn and David Bartley, former speakers of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Chancellor Sherry H. Penney and institute director Ray Torto will deliver welcoming remarks.

Newman, a Republican state representative from Cambridge for 15 years (from 1953 to 1970), is the second recipient of the Moakley Award, which is presented annually by the McCormack Institute "to a dedicated leader who has made significant contributions to the welfare of our state and nation."

As a legislator, Newman advanced a number of social causes, not the least of which was women's rights, and displayed a commitment to Quaker principles that was the foundation of her political independence.

A Citation from the Governor

Commenting on the selection of Newman for the Moakley Award, Governor William Weld stated: "Throughout Mary Newman's career, the strength and clarity of her principles insulated her from the vagaries of public opinion. She is solid as a rock, and steadfast in her views. Because of this, she has earned the respect and regard of men and women of public affairs of every political stripe. Mary B. Newman is a Massachusetts statesperson of the first order, and a most worthy recipient of the Moakley Award."

Following her legislative career, Newman in 1971 was appointed to Governor Francis Sargent's cabinet as state secretary of manpower affairs. Five years later, President Gerald Ford named her regional director of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Newman was a distinguished senior lecturer in management at UMass Boston for several years following her retirement from public service.