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University of Massachusetts Boston

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## New Graduate Programs to Enroll First Students in the Fall

### *Doctoral in Computer Science to Equip Students for High-Level Careers*

UMass Boston has established a Ph.D. program in computer science which will prepare talented students for industrial or academic careers as developers and researchers of software. The University has begun accepting applications for next fall for what is expected to be an initial class of several students, according to program director Dan Simovici, a professor of mathematics and computer science.

"This new program is a significant step forward for the University and an indication of our commitment to the field of computer science, which is so important to our regional economy," Simovici said.

Students can complete the Ph.D. program in computer science with a mixture of full- and part-time study. Courses are offered on a flexible evening schedule. The dissertation portion of the degree requires at least one year of full-time work. While pursuing their studies, some doctoral candidates will be able to earn stipends by doing research or serving as teaching assistants at the campus, or by working in the University's Software Engineering Research Laboratory, where faculty, graduate students and engineers from software companies collaborate on interesting, innovative projects.

UMass Boston's graduate programs in computer science have grown considerably in recent years; 120 students currently pursue master's degrees. The University's computer science faculty are deeply involved in research in such areas as interpreters and compilers, data bases, document and image processing, parallel computing and digital typography. The Ph.D. program in computer science is the University's sixth doctoral degree program. Doctoral degrees are also offered in clinical psychology, education, environmental sciences, gerontology and public policy.

## Campus Notes

Chancellor Sherry H. Penney has been appointed to the boards of directors of the Carnegie Foundation for Teaching and the Private Industry Council.

Dean Brenda Cherry of the College of Nursing is collaborating with the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged in Roslindale on a scholarship and training program that will enable 20 to 30 nursing students each year to earn money for their education while working and conducting research at the Center. The first group of UMass Boston students is expected to begin their assignments at the facility in the fall.

According to an analysis conducted by the *Journal of*

*International Business Studies*, finance professor Lawrence Franko is among those researchers most frequently cited in that publication. The *Journal* points out that the number of citations received by an individual "are a measure of the innovativeness of research." Franko ranks 19th among researchers in the number of times his work has been cited in *Journal* articles published between 1984 and 1993.

Governor William Weld has appointed Yung-Ping Chen, the Gerontology Institute's Frank J. Manning Scholar, as a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging.

Patrick Walker, a part-time lecturer in the Graduate College of Education, will visit

### *Master's Program Is the First Of Its Kind Offered in New England*

UMass Boston has established a master's degree program in dispute resolution which will enroll its first class of students next fall. This program is the first of its kind at a college or university in New England. The creation of the new program was reported on January 8 in the *Boston Sunday Globe*.

"We have begun accepting applications for what is expected to be an initial class of about 20 students," program director David Matz says. Matz believes the establishment of the master's of arts in dispute resolution places UMass Boston "at the forefront of an exciting new discipline," and, he adds, "we've already fielded dozens of inquiries from people wanting to apply for this new degree."

This program will be housed in the University's College of Public and Community Service. It is geared to prepare individuals who want to become specialists in dispute resolution and mediation. Full-time students will be able to complete the program in two years. Students will be required to take 11 courses, including an internship, which probably will take place at a district court in Greater Boston. Students will mediate small-claims cases.

The new master's degree program builds upon UMass Boston's certificate program in dispute resolution, a one-year graduate-level program in which some 400 students have studied since its inception in 1986. The certificate program, which also is directed by Matz, enrolls about 30 students each year, nearly all of whom are involved in professional careers. Current certificate students include a school principal, attorneys, psychologists, social workers, government administrators, business managers, university professors and an administrative law judge.

the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston this month to talk about a partnership involving UMass Boston which is aimed at promoting literacy and ethical behavior among the city's youth. Walker will be at the Children's Center on Monday, February 13, at 4:30 p.m. to talk about Family, Friends and Community, a collaborative effort involving the UMass Boston Graduate College of Education, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Judge Baker Children's Center, the Boston Public Schools and the Child Development Project of San Ramon, California.

Chancellor Penney was among 26 university heads from around the country to meet last week with President Clinton to discuss higher education funding. David Bartley of Holyoke

Community College was the only other official from Massachusetts to attend the White House meeting.

Trotter Institute director James Jennings was among four advisors who worked on the PBS television series, "America's War on Poverty," which aired in January on Channel 2. Series' executive producer Henry Hampton holds an honorary degree from UMass Boston.

Faculty, staff and students are asked to donate canned food items to needy Boston children during a two-day charity event that will take place at the campus February 14 and 15. A drop-off area will be set up at the Information Booth on the first floor of the McCormack Building.

Highlight is Translation System

## *Digital Grant Upgrades Computers for Disabled*

An equipment grant of \$9,300 from Digital Corporation is helping to upgrade the University's Adaptive Computing Laboratory, a facility which is considered a model among colleges and universities because of its success in modifying computers so that people with disabilities can use them. The Digital grant provides us with four new computer work stations, which will be available to the 100 UMass Boston students, as well as faculty and staff, who regularly use the Adaptive Computing Laboratory in their studies. One of the more remarkable advancements will come from a computer system that translates speech. Using what is known as a voice recognition system, the computer records thousands of sounds from an individual to create a speech profile of that person. It then translates these sounds instantaneously into words, which appear on a computer screen. The system has been tuned to recognize pronunciation of persons with speech impediments, a symptom common in severe cases of cerebral palsy.

Charlotte Corbett, coordinator of the Adaptive Computing Laboratory, points out that people with impaired speech usually have impaired motor skills, as well, which has made typing on a keyboard a long and frustrating process. She says the voice recognition system is a major breakthrough for people with these disabilities. Other new equipment to be used in the laboratory includes a 21-inch video monitor that will provide enlarged type and graphics to students with low vision. The creation this spring of an Internet site — operated by UMass Boston — will provide Internet users with information on products geared toward people with disabilities. All of this will further bolster our campus's reputation as one of the region's leading institutions for serving students with disabilities. The University in 1987 opened its own computer laboratory for students with disabilities. With the addition of the new equipment, the Adaptive Computing Laboratory will now have about \$150,000 worth of machines to assist student with various sight, hearing and motor impairments. The University is currently using a \$240,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Education to help 12 other public colleges and universities establish or upgrade laboratories for students with disabilities. The project is led by Corbett and John Murphy of the Computing Services Department.

## **Moakley's Announcement Set for Feb. 13 at Campus**

U. S. Congressman John Joseph Moakley will be on campus on Monday, February 13, to deliver what is being called a major public policy announcement. Moakley will speak at 11:00 a.m. in the Chancellor's Conference room, third floor, Quinn Administration Building. People who wish to attend Moakley's talk are required to reserve space by contacting Kathleen Foley at the McCormack Institute at 7-5550.

## Grant Enables Faculty to Lead HS Students on River Research

UMass Boston has been awarded \$78,000 by the NYNEX Foundation to help a team of Rhode Island high school students study the causes and consequences of pollution in the Runnins River, a tributary that feeds Narraganset Bay. The study was proposed by four seniors from the Wheeler School in Providence. The students will develop and carry out the study over six weeks this summer in collaboration with three UMass Boston geography instructors — assistant professors Dick Gelpke and Dave Nellis, and professor Jack Looney. Beginning in June, the UMass Boston instructors will present the four Wheeler students with a mini-course on geographic information systems.

The instructors and the students will then work together to evaluate water samples taken from the Runnins River and from groundwater near the river. They will also investigate several drains which empty into the river and are believed to be a prime source of pollution. The students' findings, as well as their suggestions for improving the health of the

### Mentors to Show Students How to Lead

Twenty-one UMass Boston students have been accepted into a new leadership development program that matches them with mentors from the business, educational and political communities. The first-year program is coordinated by John Applebee, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs; Kelly Clark, director of student life; and Donna Neal, associate director of student life. Students will be assigned mentors in the spring and meet with them six times over a one-year period. A new class of students will be selected for the program each semester. Another mentoring program, operated by the University's Office of Student Support Services, is seeking faculty, staff, graduate students to work with students who are typically from low-income backgrounds and are the first generation in their families to attend college. These mentors will meet three times a semester with students and help them build self confidence and establish goals. People interested in becoming mentors in the program should contact Graeme Griffith at the Student Support Services Center at 7-5820.

### Science Day Activities Draw 800 HS Students to Campus

Eight hundred students from high schools in Greater Boston were at UMass Boston on January 10 and 11 for the University's second annual Science Day activities. The *Patriot Ledger* covered the events. Students participated in laboratory sessions chosen from among 35 interesting and fun topics in the sciences, including biology, chemistry, environmental sciences, geography, mathematics and computer

river, will be presented to environmental officials in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Runnins River proposal was the first place winner of the 1994 NYNEX Science and Technology Awards, a two-year old program that supports problem-solving projects involving high school students in their communities. NYNEX selected three proposals for funding out of several hundred that were submitted by high school students in New England and New York.

Besides the grant to UMass Boston, NYNEX awarded funds to two other colleges or universities that are collaborating with high schools in their areas on projects. The second place proposal, submitted by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, received \$78,000. The third place winner, a proposal from UMass Lowell, was awarded \$85,000. In addition to funding these research endeavors, NYNEX is providing college scholarships of \$15,000 to each of the students participating in the projects.

### Urban Scholars to Hold Teen Talks

Several hundred teenagers from Boston will exchange opinions on a variety of topics during the Seventh Annual Student Conference, to be held on Friday, February 17, from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the World Trade Center, Commonwealth Pier, Boston. The conference is organized by the students of UMass Boston's Urban Scholars Program, which is directed by Joan Becker. The title of the conference is S.T.O.P. (Survive, Tackle, Overcome, Prosper). Participating in the conference will be middle and high school students from 10 local schools. The students will attend workshops designed to promote open and frank dialogue on such subjects as domestic violence, higher education, professional careers and substance abuse. The workshops will be led by adults.

### Deadline for Grant Proposals: March 3

The deadline is Friday, March 3, for submitting proposals for 1994-1995 International Development Grants to the Office of Grant Development.

science, and physics. The students' endeavors included viewing sunspots through the telescope at our Martin Observatory, measuring the flight speed of birds and insects, exploring the chemistry of copper and testing a proposed method for cleaning up oil spills. Sessions were led by 34 UMass Boston faculty members and a number of University students.

## Boston Magazine Profiles Author Patricia Powell

Patricia Powell, an assistant professor of English, is the subject of a profile in the January issue of *Boston Magazine*. Powell, who teaches creative writing courses at the University, has just had published her second novel, *A Small Gathering of Bones*. Her first novel, *Me Dying Trial*, was published in 1993. The magazine story on Powell focuses on her Caribbean background — a powerful influence on her work — and on her rising stock as a writer, which has resulted in Heinemann, her New Hampshire-based publisher, sending her on a nine-city tour to promote her new book. Powell is a 1988 graduate of Wellesley College and has a master's degree from Brown University. She has been teaching at UMass Boston for four years.

### More Campus Notes

*Heidegger's Political Thinking*, written by associate professor of political science James Ward, has been published by the University of Massachusetts Press. The book is about German educator and philosopher Martin Heidegger.

McCormack Institute senior fellow Albert Cardarelli recently participated in the Conference for New Legislators, which was co-sponsored by the state legislature and the University's Donahue Institute of Government Services. Cardarelli gave a presentation on criminal justice.

Frances Cooper-Berry, director of school services at the University's Institute for Learning and Teaching, has brought together police officers, court officials and social workers to work on strategies for helping needy families. The meeting took place at the campus, and were supported by public service grant of \$2,100 awarded by the University.

*Playing Basketball with the Viet Cong*, a book of poetry written by Joiner Center director Kevin Bowen, has received favorable reviews from two publications. *The Progressive* rates Bowen's book among the best works of 1994, and says his writings "are filled with reconciliation, informed by [his] reflective sensibility, and etched with

precision and grace." *Library Journal* says each Bowen poem "moves quietly into the next one, grabbing the reader's heart." *Playing Basketball with the Viet Cong* is published by Curbstone.

Thirty boys and girls ages 11 to 13 have been visiting the UMass Boston campus throughout the school year as part of a Boston Police Department program to provide enriching academic and athletic opportunities to young people. The Boston Police Youth Service is also operating this program at Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University and Northeastern University. Students assigned to the UMass Boston campus have been led by Rodney Hughes, the athletic department's community coordinator, and several of the University's student-athletes.

### Attention Readers

News items for the *Friday Report* should be sent to John Craig, Office of Public Information, Second Floor, Quinn Administration Building. He can be reached by telephone at 7-5316, or by electronic mail at CRAIG@umbsky.cc.edu.