

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

1996-2009, University Reporter

University Publications and Campus
Newsletters

11-1-1998

University Reporter - Vol. 03, No. 03 - November 1998

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_reporter



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "University Reporter - Vol. 03, No. 03 - November 1998" (1998).
1996-2009, University Reporter. 78.

https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_reporter/78

This University Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications and Campus Newsletters at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1996-2009, University Reporter by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.

Reporter

News and information about the University of Massachusetts Boston

Volume 3
Number 3
November 1998

IN THIS ISSUE:

Mercury Project	1,12
Woodbury Honored.....	2
Ctr for Cultural, Envir. History	3
15th Mesoamerican Conference.....	3
Higher Ed Act Roundtable	4
Pension Assistance	4
Women's Studies 25th	5
Honors Program Reception.....	5
Spotlights.....	6,7
Prof. Guest Lectures.....	8
Visiting Scholar.....	8
NERCHE Anniversary	9
New Novel	9
Campus Notes	10,11
Distinguished Lectures.....	12
Dissertation Award.....	12

Mercury Reduction Project Underway at Three Sites

During the first week of November, the Mercury Reduction Project of UMass Boston's Environmental Business and Technology Center will start testing new technologies to reduce or eliminate mercury discharges from the labs of the Human Nutrition and Research Laboratory at Tufts University.

There are a variety of reasons why these new technologies are being tested. First, mercury is a toxic heavy metal pollutant, which can cause severe damage to humans, wildlife, and the environment. Hospitals and laboratories have been identified as a significant source of mercury discharge, since certain forms of it are used in medical instrumentation and applications.

Second, the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) now require compliance with strict standards for mercury discharge in wastewater, currently 1.0 parts per billion, and this standard poses significant challenges for hospitals and other medical institutions where mercury may be needed for diagnostic work. There are significant fines for violations. One Boston-area institution was fined \$250,000 because of a recent mercury violation.

The Mercury Reduction Project is a collaboration of the Environmental Business and Technology Center, the MWRA, and five companies—ICET of Norwood; SolmeteX of Billerica; Aqua Terra Aero of Cleveland, Ohio; and Prosys of North Billerica in partnership with DuBois Chemical of Providence, Rhode Island. Three Boston-area institutions, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and the Tufts Human Nutrition and Research Laboratory, are participating. Providing expertise to the project are ECOS Prof. Gordon Wallace, and Prof. Bhatt Vadlamani of Management and Marketing. Testing has been underway since the summer at Brigham and Women's and Newton Wellesley Hospitals. The companies are testing several technologies.

continued on page 12

McCormack Director Honored by Building Dedication

The University Reporter

University Communications
Third Floor
Quinn Administration Bldg.
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
(617)287-5300

E-mail address:
univ_report@umb.edu

Annemarie Lewis Kerwin
Editor

Annette Fernie
*Production Director
and Staff Reporter*

Joyce Doyle
Senior Staff Writer

The *University Reporter* is published monthly during the academic year except for the months of June, July and August by the Office of University Communications. It is free to all UMass Boston faculty, staff and students.

Send your news items to: The *University Reporter* at the above mailing or e-mail address.

Twelve years after McCormack Institute Director Robert Woodbury resigned as president to the University of Southern Maine (USM) Portland Campus, he has still not been forgotten and most likely never will be. The institution recently named its campus center the Robert L. Woodbury Campus Center, after the man who influenced the university as campus president and system chancellor. Woodbury said he was especially honored since the center is the major hub of student activity.

Woodbury served USM's Portland Campus as president from 1979-1986, when he became chancellor of the University of Maine System. In 1994 he made an unsuccessful run for governor and then returned to USM as interim chancellor in 1995 before coming to UMass Boston.

During his time at USM, Woodbury was responsible for getting construction of the campus center rolling. USM purchased the former International Harvester truck garage near its campus in 1982 and started the \$1.55 million renovation project. Three years later, while Woodbury still served the Portland campus as president, the 28,000-square foot center opened.

Approximately 350 current and former faculty, staff and students as well as friends and family attended a September ceremony where the center was officially dedicated in Woodbury's honor. At the naming ceremony, Woodbury was additionally honored with the announcement of an endowed scholarship fund in his honor. The scholarships would be awarded to several students each year, allowing them the opportunity to study in a foreign country.

"I was heavily involved in getting the university involved [in the exchange program]," said Woodbury, who served as chairman of the National Council on International Education Exchange for several years. Woodbury is particularly pleased with the scholarship fund, saying many USM students, like many UMass Boston students, would not have the opportunity to study abroad without it. "[The two schools] are really similar," he said. "An awful lot of students couldn't afford to do it without funding."

The scholarship announcement included speeches from one USM student planning on studying abroad and another Belgian student currently studying at USM. "In effect, they were saying 'this is why it's important'," said Woodbury.

Woodbury agreed having a building named after him is a tough act to follow, but he'll be working hard at it. He has been the director of the McCormack Institute for the past three years, a move he made because of the unique opportunity it provided. "This mixes university issues with public policy," he said, "and that's always been an interest of mine."

In Depth With The Center for Cultural and Environmental History

Last March, work began on re-fitting two labs on the first floor of McCormack Hall to create headquarters for the Center for Cultural and Environmental History. In one lab, glazed pottery, beautiful blue and white porcelain china, and old glass bottles, cups and goblets now line high, glass-doored cabinets. Upon inspection, all of the items are chipped or broken, and some of them have missing pieces. All these objects have been unearthed at urban, archaeological sites, and are examples of the kinds of ceramics and glass that would be found in an American colonial city.

In the other room, an artifact from the Big Dig collection—the bowl of a spoon, hard to identify right away because of its corroded condition—sits on a counter, where Archaeological Conservator Dennis Piechota has been examining its condition. The lab is fitted with several new pieces of equipment—a freeze-dryer, used to vacuum and freeze waterlogged wood, ovens to treat glass objects being repaired, and an electrolysis machine for removing corrosion from metal objects.

“When objects come out of the field,” explains Anthropology Prof. Steven Mrozowski, director of the Center, “they begin disintegrating, because they come in contact with oxygen. So first, we need to remove the oxygen and then treat them with chemicals to preserve them.” This kind of preservation work is done at the Center. But conservation is only one aspect of its work.

The Center was established in 1996 in order to promote research that explores the relationship between human culture and the environment. It is developing initiatives in three main areas: First, promoting the cultural heritage of the Commonwealth by serving as curator and conservator of major archaeological collections, including the 250,000 artifacts uncovered during Boston’s “Big Dig” project. These items, which reside at the Massachusetts Archives Building, are presently being catalogued.

The second objective is research in environmental archaeology. A number of projects have already been developed, including a dig at the “Old Manse” in Concord, a site connected with Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Transcendentalist Movement, which was sponsored by Massachusetts’ Trustees of Reservation. The Center is also involved with a botanical analysis for the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Connecticut, as part of a Pequot Tribal ethnohistory project. An archaeological dig on Shelter Island in New York has been uncovering information about a colonial site there, in collaboration with the Museum of Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

As an added plus, each of these projects supports a number of graduate students with stipends, as well as providing many more with opportunities for field and lab studies.

“Tonight, I’ll come in here with my class, and we’ll talk about material culture. So the Center is not only for research, but also for teaching. For students, nothing beats the “hands-on” opportunities they’ll get here,” says Mrozowski.

Finally, the Center promotes interdisciplinary collaboration in studying cultural and environmental history, so that its research can play a role in debates concerning environmental issues. “All environmental issues have a strong cultural side, which is seldom addressed—and that’s an ultimate goal of the Center,” says Mrozowski.

15th Mesoamerican Conference Presents Findings From the Field

New discoveries regarding Mesoamerican writing systems and the impact on agriculture in pre-columbian and colonial Mexico and Central America were presented at the 15th Mesoamerican Conference, held at UMass Boston on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

Presenters included award-winning researchers from U.S. and Canadian universities, and from the Smithsonian Institute. The conference, organized by Anthropology Prof. Judith Zeitlin, was sponsored by the Center for Cultural and Environmental History, the Dean of Liberal Arts and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Higher Education Legislation was Topic of Roundtable Discussion with Senator Kennedy

The passage of the Higher Education Act was the topic of a roundtable talk on Oct. 5. Hosted by UMass Boston, Senator Edward Kennedy led a panel discussion on the compromise legislation, which upon enactment, would, among other things, cut interest rates on student loans substantially and increase the amount of Pell Grants.

In addition to Chancellor Sherry Penney, Chad Molnar, student

trustee, represented UMass Boston on the panel. The other panelists were from Boston College, Stonehill College, Boston University Medical School, and the Boston Public Schools. A question and answer period followed individual commentaries by the panelists.

Members of the audience were encouraged to ask questions by Senator Kennedy, who willingly offered his perspective on what

he and his colleagues intended when they reauthorized this legislation.

“Of all the legislation that affects higher education, this bill most directly influences the degree in which a college education is accessible and affordable for thousands of students across the country,” said Kennedy. Specific questions on the components of the legislation were the most frequently asked by the audience.

Pension Assistance Project Expands Region-wide

The Gerontology Institute's Pension Assistance Project, which helps individuals who are having problems securing their pensions, is growing. Established in January 1994 after receiving one of seven demonstration grants from the Older Americans Act, the Project has again received major support – a grant of \$225,000 over three years from the Federal Administration on Aging. “We are delighted to be able to expand a very successful program to cover all of New England because of this grant,” said Ellen A. Bruce, JD, the Program's director and Gerontology faculty member. “Someday we hope that similar projects will cover people in every state of the Union.”

Together with Bruce and Program Coordinator Jacob (Jack) Pizer, volunteers provide assistance by telephone to individuals having problems with their pensions. The volunteers explain

options, investigate cases, and help individuals pursue claims when necessary.

The Project has assisted more than 950 people in Massachusetts. As a result of the new grant, it expects to counsel 300 individuals in New England this year and 500 individuals per year in the second and third years. Outreach programs, seminars and conferences are expected to benefit approximately 6,000 more individuals, and 200,000 households will be informed through newspaper and television. The Project will also distribute materials through a network of elder service and advocacy groups. The Project is expected to help individuals recover approximately \$1 million in the first year as the Project expands services to other states.

The Gerontology Institute will hold an annual conference to share the program's successful

model with representatives from community partners in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. A partner in Rhode Island is being sought. A Regional Coordinator will be hired to visit each community partner, providing supervision, outreach, assistance, and referrals.

To help handle the anticipated growth, Bruce expects to bring on additional volunteers, who receive stipends, to the Project's UMass Boston office. Presently six volunteers provide counseling and service to individuals; Bruce expects this number to increase to 11 by the end of the second year of the grant.

A complimentary program at the Gerontology Institute, the National Pension Lawyers Network, will assist people throughout the U.S. having pension difficulties by referring them to attorneys with expertise in this area.

—by Patrick Dwyer

Women's Studies Program Turns 25

One thing can be said about the faculty and students in the Women's Studies program — they certainly put the past 25 years to good use.

The program celebrated 25 years at UMass Boston with a reception Oct. 28. To make the event even more special, faculty and administrators announced the program raised enough funds to endow the annual Founders' Award, and be eligible for additional state funds.

Program Director Jean Humez reflected on the past, present and future of the department, which first started in 1973 and began offering an undergraduate major in 1989. "We really don't have any major shifts in emphasis," Humez said. "We're just doing good undergraduate education

emphasizing women and gender and doing it for all students." UMass Boston was among the first to establish a Women's Studies program in New England. It now includes 58 program-based and department-based courses with five program-based and department-based faculty members as well as other associated faculty members throughout the four colleges. Over the years, students and faculty created new programs, like the Student-to-Student Mentoring Program as well as outreach events, conferences and internship programs.

The Women's Studies department is working toward involvement in more than the single discipline, including women's legal issues, international issues, and gender and sexuality.

Women's Studies has been around for 25 years, but the program has not been stagnant. "Whatever happens with feminism and the women's movement in the outside world to some extent effects us," said Humez. "You can't have just done the women's movement once and that's it. There are always new challenges."

The department already met its most recent challenge — endowing the Founders' Award. The award, first established in 1991 through the generosity of Mary Anne Ferguson, Professor Emerita of English and Women's Studies, is bestowed on a graduating student who has proven him or herself both academically and outside of the classroom and is given at the Honors Convocation each year.

New Honors Program Students Recognized

"Buildings are just buildings, they are brick and water. And then the students came, and the students made this university what it is today."

Those were the words of former German professor Robert Spaethling at the annual Honors Program reception Oct. 14. The CAS Honors Program awards the Robert H. Spaethling Prize each year and this year those attending the gathering, an evening dedicated to introducing new students to the program, were not disappointed with the two recipients.

Students Christopher Craig, an English major, and Gabrielle Halpern, an economics major,

received the awards, and spoke eloquently of their work in becoming outstanding students.

Craig returned to studies after 12 years of being out of school. "My life has never been the same," he said. "It has changed in ways I never anticipated." Craig looks forward to helping his fellow students find the same opportunities for success.

Halpern spoke of her grandmother's and mother's unsuccessful struggles to attend college in China and how she has held higher education as a goal for many years. "I know we're all working hard to make the most of our education," she said. "Today

my grandparents know that I kept my promise to them alive."

The total number of students in the Honors Program reached 130, with 48 of those being new students. Among the new honors students, 10 hold scholarships from UMass, five hold outside scholarships and one is a national merit scholar.

"I have never been at a university that's so real," said Spaethling. "Nowhere do I have this feeling of people working hard ... as this place... The students, the honor students especially, are the essence of this."

Web Site Re-design and Virtual Tour Debuts

Visit <http://www.umb.edu>, and you will be greeted by a newly re-designed UMass Boston web page. Web team Ellen Evans and Alejandro Eluchans have been working on the redesign since early summer. Guided in their efforts by a designated web committee and web browsers who have given them feedback on the site, a number of changes have been made.

Making information more easily accessible was the main goal. "The buttons now better reflect what is inside, and this makes it easier to navigate through the site," says Evans. A virtual tour of the campus, designed by Eluchans, has been added, making it possible to visit a campus building and find out what programs and centers reside there. In addition, numerous offices and departments with no previous presence have been added to the site, including Financial Aid, Housing Referral, Provosts Office and Copyright Center, and the Beacon Fitness Center.

University-wide Open House Takes Place Nov. 14

On Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., UMass Boston will be holding its first campus-wide Open House, one of the largest recruiting events of the year, featuring information exhibits, program-specific workshops and tours of campus. Sponsored by a collaboration between Undergraduate Admissions, the four undergraduate colleges, Graduate

Admissions, and Continuing Education, the Open House is expected to attract the single largest group of prospective new students. University faculty, staff, and students will present information and answer questions about the wealth of opportunities available at UMass Boston.

Clyde Bosket, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions and coordinator of the Open House, expects the Open House to be an exciting event. "We would like to welcome all members of the university community to participate in this major recruitment endeavor," he adds. Anyone who wishes to volunteer and participate in the Open House should contact Clyde Bosket at ext. 7-6114, or via email at c.bosket@umassp.edu.

WUMB Hikes its Volume, Hosts a Legend, and Holds a Fundraiser

Residents of Cape Cod, Southeastern Massachusetts, and eastern Rhode Island can now tune in to *WUMB* at 91.9FM, since the Federal Communications Commission authorized the station to increase the power of its repeater station in Falmouth. This means more than 100,000 new listeners for New England's foremost folk music station. Dave Palmater hosted folk legend Judy Collins on his afternoon folk show when she came to UMass Boston on Oct. 7 to talk about her new autobiography, *Singing Lessons*. Finally, *WUMB's* fall fundraiser took place Oct. 16 to 27. A total of \$104,000 was raised in support of the station.

Women's Forum Tackles Welfare Reform

"Parenting in Public: Welfare Reform and the Family Shelter Experience" will be the topic of discussion at the Nov. 4 Women's Research Forum, a series which provides opportunities for UMass Boston faculty and staff to present research findings on issues of gender and policy affecting women. The forum will be held in the Chancellor's Conference Room, Quinn Building, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Speakers will include Donna Haig Friedman, director, Center for Social Policy, McCormack Institute; Margaret Leonard, executive director, Project Hope; Rosa Clark, coordinator of follow-up programs, Project Hope; and Mary Lewis, family life advocate, Wellspring House, Inc. For more information, contact Carol Cardozo at 75330.

Laboratory Reform Project under Negotiation

UMass Boston will be a pilot site for a program which allows our laboratories to implement alternatives to current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory procedures, and increase flexibility in laboratory environmental management. The program is part of the EPA's Project XL program. Negotiations regarding the pilot project are ongoing with the EPA, and a notice for public comments will soon be published in the Federal Register. If you have any questions or would like

more information, contact Zehra Schneider Graham in the Environmental Health & Safety Office at 287-5445, or visit the Project XL website at <http://esf.uvm.edu/labxl/>. If there is sufficient interest, an open meeting will be announced.

Congressman Barney Frank to Speak on Uses and Abuses of the Law

On Monday, Nov. 16, Congressman Barney Frank will speak to students, faculty and staff in McCormack Hall's Ryan Lounge at 4 p.m. His topic will be "Uses and Abuses of the Law." His appearance is an inaugural event of the Philosophy and Law Program of Study, which opened this Fall as a joint program of the CAS Philosophy Department and the Law Center of CPCS. This cross-college, interdisciplinary program is open to all students regardless of major. For more information about the program or about Congressman Frank's appearance, contact Prof. Larry Foster, program director, at 7-6533 or email at fosterl@umb.edu.

Years of Service Awards to be Presented Nov. 24

Chancellor Sherry Penney will host the second annual Years of Service Reception on Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Wheatley Hall cafeteria. All staff and faculty are cordially invited to attend this event, which will honor 203 colleagues for their 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 years of service to the university. These individuals will be recognized for the dedication and commitment they have contributed to make UMass Boston a

better place to learn and work. Please join this celebration of the greatest of the University's assets—its employees.

Nobel Peace Prize Recipients have UMass Boston Links

The Nobel Peace Prize for 1998 went to two key architects of the "Good Friday Peace Agreement," John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labor Party, and David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party. Both have links to UMass Boston through Pádraig O'Malley, senior fellow of the McCormack Institute.

In 1985, Hume was awarded an honorary degree at commencement, where he was also the commencement speaker. He later participated in several conferences on Northern Ireland organized by O'Malley and sponsored by the McCormack Institute. Trimble also attended a meeting organized by O'Malley, this time in South Africa. In May of 1997, Northern Irish Nationalists and Unionists met with Nelson Mandela and other South African leaders to examine that country's peaceful transition to democracy.

New Logo's ETA: December, '98

The University Communications Office continues to work with the Central Reproduction Office and the President's Office on refining the new logo for UMass Boston. The estimated date of implementation of the new logo will be in December. A copy of the system-wide style guide, which will include an addendum for the

UMass Boston community, will be available through the University Communications Office, as well as through the University's web page. Stay tuned for more information.

Beth Marshall Joins Human Resources as Personnel Director

Beth Marshall has joined the Office of Human Resources as director of personnel administration. Marshall comes to UMass Boston from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she was director of human resources for the division of continuing education. She brings to UMass Boston 20 years of experience in personnel, labor relations, staff development and affirmative action.

Business-Higher Ed Forum Dialogue Held Here Nov. 4

A regional dialogue between business and institutions of higher education, "Tomorrow's Higher Performance Worker: Building the Pipeline Today," will be held here Nov. 4. Keynote speakers are Edmund Kelly, CEO of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and Thomas Lynch, retired Executive Vice President, The Chase Manhattan Bank. Welcome remarks will be made by Chancellor Penney and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. UMass Boston is one of five universities nationwide chosen to host this event. The forum is a partnership of the American Council on Education and the National Alliance of Business, which aims to increase communications between business and academia.

CPCS Prof. to Lecture at German University

CPCS Professor Bette Woody, Ph.D., hopes her journey to the University of Duisburg, Germany, results in a series of exchanges between UMass Boston and the German institution.

Woody was invited to guest lecture on her research into the "Glass Ceiling," real or perceived limits on promotions and potential of women in the work force. She is spending two weeks in November at the school where she hopes to not only share her work with students interested in the study of women in the work force, but also to learn more about Germany's work and school systems.

"What they're really interested in is the American way and how that's done," she said. She plans to lecture on diversity in the work place and on programs for advancing women in the work force. "It's an adventure for me," said Woody, who does not speak German but hopes that doesn't prevent one-on-one discussions with professors and students. "Just seeing what the German university system is will be interesting."

Woody was nominated for the trip by a former UMass Boston student visiting from the German institution. She is among seven guest lecturers invited to the University of Duisburg throughout the year.

Woody is one of 16 researchers from around the country who conducted studies on the Glass Ceiling for the Department of Labor several years back. She has spent almost 10 years on her research.

Woody also plans to investigate creating an exchange program while she is in Germany. This exchange, she hopes, would share the two countries' views on work, business, and the economy. "Quite often they're for language and culture," she said, "not often for social science or science or engineering... I think in the future it would be nice to have people come and explore." Woody also expects to present findings from her trip to the UMass Boston community.

Visiting Scholar Studies Railroad System

An unfamiliar face can be seen around the anthropology department and buried in library tomes. Visiting scholar Birgitta Edelman-Holmberg is busy at work studying the American railroad switching system and how railroad workers follow or break safety rules.

Edelman-Holmberg, who is completing her Ph.D. in anthropology, is visiting UMass Boston under a Swedish Council for Work Life Research grant. She hopes to compare the American system against Swedish data for a cross-cultural perspective. "I have an insider knowledge of the Swedish system, how it works," said Edelman-Holmberg, who worked as a Stockholm railroad switcher for two years. She said so far the American system seems

more rigid than Swedish railways, which rely more on group pressure to ensure workers complete the necessary safety steps.

She plans to interview Anthropology Professor Frederick Gamst and use his first-hand knowledge of the American railway system.

"He really has everything in his research files and at his fingertips," she said. "He has been so helpful... There are so many misunderstandings you can get from text. To be able to discuss it is very, very important."

Edelman-Holmberg hopes to share her knowledge of Sweden while learning about American culture. She will be available for informal seminars. "I would like

to share what I know from Sweden and give people a chance to question me," she said. Gamst hopes many professors take her up on the opportunity. "The study of work is not just a topic for anthropology," he said. "Sociologists do it. Economists do it."

Edelman-Holmberg expects the Swedish railroad to show interest in the results of her work. But she doesn't expect rapid change. "It's a part of a slow process where people start to talk about work in different ways," she said. "It's all about people, after all."

Edelman-Holmberg's book, *Shunters at Work: Creating a World in a Railway Yard*, was published in 1997. She will remain at UMass Boston through the end of the academic year.

NERCHE Celebrates 10 Years of Community Building

The New England Resource Center for Higher Education—or NERCHE—is known to thousands of individuals in New England for its work in strengthening academic and civic life. More than 500 individuals have participated in NERCHE's think-tanks, which have provided forums for chief student affairs officers, senior academic administrators, associate academic deans, department chairs, chief financial officers and others. NERCHE's research projects, visiting fellowships, conferences, workshops outreach and consulting influenced thousands more.

To celebrate its tenth birthday on Nov. 12, NERCHE hosts a conference at the John F. Kennedy Library. Speakers from a variety of foundations, universi-

ties, and community groups will offer their words on the topic of "Community Building: An Agenda for Higher Education and its Communities."

Besides members of the UMass community, including NERCHE Director Zelda Gamson, President William Bulger, Chancellor Penney, Prof. Peter Kiang, and Special Assistant to the Chancellor Hubie Jones, other presenters include: Alison Bernstein, Ford Foundation vice president; Peter Kiang, UMass Boston professor of education; Frances Moore Lappé, co-director, Center for Living Democracy; Charlotte Kahn, director, Boston Community Building Network, Boston Foundation; Cesar McDowell, director, MIT Community Fellows Program; Melvin H.

King, MIT professor emeritus, and Boston community organizer; Hodding Carter III, President, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Frank Newman, president, Education Commission of the States; Judith A. Ramaley, president, University of Vermont; Margaret McKenna, president, Lesley College; Evan Dobelle, president, Trinity College; and Chuck Collins, co-director, United for a Fair Economy.

For more information on NERCHE's tenth anniversary event, call The New England Resource Center for Higher Education at 7-7740.

Professor's Novel to Hit Book Stands

When English Professor Chet Frederick first wrote the story of Petir, a man living in an unnamed Eastern European country, Frederick had no idea the short story would become his first published full-length novel. But that novel, *Country of Memory*, is scheduled to be released by Permanent Press Nov. 15.

The novel has already been met by critics with applause, like the *Publisher's Weekly* review that concluded by calling Frederick, "a writer's writer."

Frederick has a hard time describing the story he says developed as he wrote. In the end, he calls it a novel about awakening and discovery. "It came chapter by

chapter," he said. "The circumstances determined what was going to be there in front of me... When it was over, it seemed like the only place it could go."

It's partly the mystery that keeps Frederick writing.

"I always think of it as a dialogue between you and the work of fiction," he said. "One minute you're talking to it and then it's talking to you and you have to listen."

Frederick has written, and published, several short stories in the past. He wrote "Country of Memory" first as a short story in 1992. The next year he returned to the work and decided to try lengthening it.

"In some sense it's never over," he said. "You write something and come back a couple years later and look at it in a different way."

Frederick, who is on leave from UMass Boston but plans to return next semester, hopes to set up book signing events. He already has a reading planned in New Orleans in January.

Still, he's not letting the dust collect under his word processor. Frederick is already working on his next novel, a story about three refugees learning to live in a new culture. He hopes to finish that work soon. "I keep saying it's weeks away - it could be three weeks or 300 weeks."

Publications

Chemistry Prof. **John Warner** has co-authored a new book, *Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice*, published in September by Oxford University Press. It will soon be published in a Japanese language version.

Instructor **Margaret Driscoll** of the Instructional Design Graduate Program has written a book, *Web-Based Training: Using Technology to Design Adult Learning Experiences*, published in July by Jossey-Bass Pfeiffer.

Nursing Prof. **Lin Zhan's** book, *Asian Voices: Asian and Asian American Health Educators Speak Out*, has been published by Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Boston.

Sociology Prof. **Xiaogang Deng** has co-authored two articles, "Social Control and Recidivism in China" in the *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, and "Shoplifting: A Test of an Integrated Theoretical Model" in the journal *Sociology of Crime, Law, and Deviance*.

ECOS Prof. Emeritus **Joseph Cooney** and graduate students have published the following articles: "Effects of Marine Paints on Microbial Biofilm Development," in the *Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology*, co-authored by **R.-J. Tang**;

"Characterization of Organotin-resistant Bacteria from Boston Harbor Sediments," in the *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, co-authored with **A. Pain**; and

"Coliphages and Indicator Bacteria in Birds Around Boston Harbor," in the *Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology*, co-authored with **D.M. Ricca**.

English Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz's** translations of two poems by Brazilian author and poet Affonso Romano de Sant' Anna, "The Table," and "The Telephone," were published in a special translation issue of the journal *Agni*.

ECOS Prof. Emeritus **Joseph Cooney** has contributed a chapter, "Quantifying organic and inorganic tin compounds in environmental samples," to *Bioremediation Protocols*, edited by David Sheehan, published by Humana Press.

Anthropology Prof. **Frederick Gamst** had two encyclopedia articles appear in print: "Djibouti" and "Eritrea" in the *Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*, edited by Timothy Gall, published by Gale Research Inc.

Conferences and Presentations

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, distinguished professor of American Studies at Columbia University, spoke on campus Oct. 23. His appearance on campus was part of **Minority Awareness Week activities**.

Dr. Curtis Olson, who joins the UMass Boston faculty as chair of the ECOS department in February, spoke on "Integrative Science for Sustainable Ecosystems" to students and faculty on Oct. 26.

Prof. Phyllis Hudecki, associate director of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education at the University of California, Berkeley, made a presentation to students in the **Division of Continuing Education's** Occupational Educational Program. She spoke on the protocol of the National Certification Exam for Vocational Educators.

Chemistry Prof. **John Warner** gave a keynote address, "Non-Covalent Derivatization" at *Chemica '98*, the 26th annual Australasian Chemical Engineering Conference in Port Douglas, Queensland, Australia in September.

Nursing Prof. **Lin Zhan** presented a paper, "Substance Abuse of Asian Women of Childbearing Age: Exploring Resiliency Factors," at the 10th International Nursing Research Conference, Utrecht, The Netherlands, in July.

GCOE Prof. **Denise Patmon** delivered a paper, "Expanding Our Landscape of Consciousness: Incorporating Japanese Literature into the Western Curriculum," at the University of Bordeaux II in Bordeaux, France, in August.

The **ECOS department** hosted a panel discussion, "Rising Seas and the Massachusetts Coast," on Sept. 30. The event was co-sponsored by ECOS, the Urban Harbors Institute, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Panelists included ECOS Prof. **Jack Archer**, and representatives from the EPA, The Cape Cod Commission, and the WHOI.

The Division of Continuing Education took a leadership role in the recent Regional University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) Conference, "Spanning the Boundaries: Partnerships for Investment, Invention and Investigation," held in New Hampshire Oct. 28 to 30. **John Hughes**, director of professional training programs spoke on "The Challenges and Rewards of Forming International Partnerships." **Burton Holmes**, DCE director of marketing, supervised the production of the conference marketing brochures. Dean **Theresa Mortimer** is UCEA vice president.

ECOS doctoral candidate **Jean Poitras** presented a paper, "Integrated Coastal Management Partnerships" at the 18th annual meeting of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences.

Anthropology Prof. **Frederick Gamst** presented the opening of sessions paper, "The Transfer of Pioneering British Railroad Technology to North America," at the International Early Railways Conference, St. John's College, University of Durham, where he also chaired a session.

The **Gastón Institute** co-sponsored the 4th National Puerto Rican Studies Association Conference Oct. 15 to 17 at Brooklyn College in New York. The theme of the conference was "Affirming Identity, Citizenship, and Nationhood: Los Ultimos Cien Años." The conference drew over 300 scholars from 20 states and Puerto Rico. Prof. **Andres Torres**, acting director of the Gaston Institute, is president of the Puerto Rican Studies Association.

Appointments and Honors

English Prof. **Monica McAlpine**, director of the Honors Program, will serve on a national screening committee to select graduate students for Fulbright and foreign sponsored awards for 1999-2000. McAlpine's committee will convene at the United Nations in December.

John Applebee, former assistant vice chancellor of student affairs, was appointed director of University Advising in September.

Theater Arts Prof. **John Conlon** has been elected to the Board of Directors of the North Quincy Alumni Theatre.

Rebecca Breedlove, head of acquisitions and serials at Healey Library, has been appointed to the executive board of the Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education, serving as treasurer from 1998-2000.

Psychology Prof. **David Lisak** has been appointed editor of a new American Psychological Association journal, *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*. Volume I will be published in January, 2000.

Prof. **Lin Zhan** of the College of Nursing has been appointed visiting professor at the Shanghai Second Military Medical University, The People's Republic of China.

Chemistry Prof. **John Warner** has been named to the editorial board of *Crystal Engineering*.

Nursing Prof. **Mary O'Brien** has been appointed associate dean of the College of Nursing.

Prof. Emeritus **Joseph Cooney** has been appointed adjunct professor of microbiology at the University College, Galway, Ireland.

Grants and Awards

The **Gaston Institute** has been awarded \$232,900 from the Department of Health and Human Services Health Care Financing Administration for a two year Latino Health Care Initiative Project. The project is a collaboration with the Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance, Latino researchers at UMass Boston, and other educational and Latino health organizations.

Biology Prof. **Robert Stevenson** and Math & Computer Science Prof. **Robert Morris** have received a \$322,225 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project, "Electronic Field Guide: An Object-Oriented WWW Database to Identify Species and Record Ecological Observations."

Biology Profs. **Ron Etter** and **Michael Shiaris** have received a \$239,266 grant from the National Science Foundation for their project, "Genetic Variation in Widely Distributed Deep-Sea Molluscs: The Role of Oceanographic and Topographic Features."

In the News...

On Oct. 16, **Donna Haig Friedman** of the McCormack Institute and Prof. **Michael Stone** of CPCS were interviewed respectively on the increasing numbers of homeless in Massachusetts, and on difficulties in securing and keeping housing for low-income residents, on *WBUR* Radio.

English Prof. **John Tobin** was interviewed in the Sept. 27 *London Sunday Times* on the authorship of *Edward III*, a play written in part by William Shakespeare. Subsequent interviews appeared on the *BBC* program, "World Update," and on South African radio.

Nursing Prof. **Marion Winfrey** was quoted in an article, "The Growing Importance of Patient Education" which appeared in the October issue of *On Call* Magazine.

Kathleen Teehan, associate chancellor for Enrollment Services and University Communications, appeared on *WCVB TV's* "Chronicle" on Oct. 13. She was interviewed during a segment on college and university "best buys."

Psychology Prof. **Jane Adams** was interviewed by *Irish Public Television* on her accutane research on Oct. 14. The video documentary on accutane and its side effects will air in Ireland.

Art Prof. **Paul Tucker** appeared on the "Today" show on Oct. 7. He discussed the Monet Exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts of which he is guest curator.

Senior Fellow **Albert P. Cardarelli** of the McCormack Institute moderated three state senate debates for *Cablevision's* Election Watch during October.

Announcements

The **Joseph P. Healey Endowment Grant Program** has called for full-time faculty and professional staff to submit project proposals. All forms of research and scholarly activity are eligible for support through the program. The maximum award is \$3,500. A total of \$21,603 has been allotted for the program by the UMass President's Office. The deadline for proposal submission is Monday, November 30. For more information, contact **Marguerite McClellan** in the Office of Sponsored Projects at 75709. A grant writing workshop will be held in the Learning Center on Nov. 9. To sign up, call the Learning Center at 7-3990.

Congratulations

Nearly 100 employees participated in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" 5.6 mile walk, in memory of colleague **Mary Ann Allard**. \$4,634 was raised in her honor for the American Cancer Society.

.....

Mercury Project

continued from page 1

According to Wallace, there are three approaches to mercury reduction in these facilities. The first is source control, or reducing mercury use in the laboratory. Second, "point of use" reduction, eliminates the mercury before it enters the lab's wastewater (imagine a water filter which attaches to your kitchen sink spigot). Third, "end of pipe" treatment reduces or eliminates mercury at the point where all wastewater leaves the facility.

Both "point of use" and "end of pipe" technologies are being tested. According to Wallace, who provides analytic services and technical advice to the companies, both types of technologies have barriers that must be overcome.

While "point of use" technologies can be effective at eliminating "new" mercury from going into the system, it cannot reduce the release of "old" mercury—usually from contaminated pipes—from getting into the sewers. Efficient implementation means a knowledge of mercury concentrations related to activities within the lab—information that is difficult to measure, but necessary to pinpoint which labs require point of use technologies, and which labs have negligible discharges.

"End of pipe" technologies require a pre-conditioning of the wastewater to get the mercury into a reactive form that can be easily treated. Observations to date indicate that a significant fraction of the mercury is in a form not readily available to treatment. Superior results have

been achieved with a pre-conditioning step in the process.

"So far, three of the four vendors have shown that their technologies can reach the reduction goal of less than 1 microgram per liter of water under certain conditions in the field," says Wallace. However, reducing the mercury release to that standard consistently remains the goal.

The project provides significant benefits to the companies that are testing their technologies as well, says William Brah, director of the Environmental Business and Technology Center. "We are as much concerned with the technology as with the business venture, so we are trying to help them emerge from the tests with a business strategy." He says that ICET is now in a joint venture with an Ohio company that will produce its prototype mercury filtering system if it is successful. Testing will be completed by

.....

Gamson, Matz, to Deliver University's 1998-99 Distinguished Lectures

Two faculty members have been selected to present the 1998-99 Distinguished Lectures, based on their contributions to and impact made on their fields. Professor Zelda F. Gamson of the Graduate College of Education and director of the New England Research Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) will speak on "The Academy and the Public Realm" on Nov. 19. CPCS Professor David Matz, founding director of the Dispute Resolution Graduate Program, will speak on "The Emotional Life of a Mediation" on April 7. Both lectures will

take place in the Chancellor's Conference room at 4 p.m.

Since the inception of the Distinguished Lecture Series in 1984, approximately 45 faculty members have been invited to present their work through the series. "This is a record we should not take for granted," says Graduate Dean Martin Quitt, a member of the selection committee. "Only a small portion of the more than 200 colleges and universities in New England would be able to mount a comparable series."

UMass Boston has a talented array of natural and physical scientists and mathematicians, social and behavioral scientists, and humanists on faculty and staff, notes Quitt. So far, 23 academic and research units have been represented in the series. This year, three more units—the Doctoral Program in Higher Education Administration, NERCHE, and the Dispute Resolution Program—have been added to the list.

.....

Laria Receives Doctoral Dissertation Award Oct. 28

At the Third Annual Doctoral Student Luncheon held on Wednesday, Oct. 28, Amaro Laria, a graduate of the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, was officially presented with the Chancellor's Distinguished Dissertation Award, which carries a \$1,000 prize for his dissertation, "Disassociative Experiences among Cuban Mental Health Patients and Spiritist Mediums." The award is endowed by the Graduate Student Assembly. Laria gave a presentation on his research at the luncheon.