

University of Massachusetts Boston

## ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

---

1996-2009, University Reporter

University Publications and Campus  
Newsletters

---

1-1-1999

### University Reporter - Vol. 03, No. 05 - January 1999

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university\\_reporter](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. 05 - January 1999" (1999).  
*1996-2009, University Reporter*. 80.  
[https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university\\_reporter/80](https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_reporter/80)

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](mailto:scholarworks@umb.edu).

# Reporter

News and information about the University of Massachusetts Boston

Volume 3  
Number 5  
January 1999

## End of Life Care Research Sheds Light on Issues of Dying

.....

IN THIS ISSUE:

CSR Research Story ..... 1,8

PeopleSoft and ARD.....2

Board of Trustees Mtg ..... 3

Grandparenting ..... 3

New Grad Certificates ..... 4

Spotlights.....5

The Wicked Child.....6

Garrity Papers ..... 6

Campus Notes ..... 7

John Henry Review.....8

.....

Because of advances in technology and improved techniques of diagnosis, more and more of us will know that we're going to die before we do—and we can anticipate more decision-making at the end of life rather than less, says Brian Clarridge, senior research fellow of the Center for Survey Research (CSR), who has investigated four studies on end of life issues since 1994.

Several issues—including the role of managed care, the legal and ethical issues around euthanasia and physician assisted suicide\*, and how doctors manage transitions to palliative care for patients who are terminally ill are factors in how we die. In addition, says Clarridge, philosophical questions, such as “What is a good death, and how is that achieved?” are also critical to explore.

In one study of terminal care Clarridge conducted with Jack Fowler Ph.D. and Ezekiel Emanuel, M.D., Ph.D., questions such as what characterizes a good or bad death, what obstacles prevent a good death, and what factors make the process go well, were asked of 80 participants in 10 focus groups. Four overlapping “domains”—psychological, physical, social and spiritual—in which certain needs must be met in order to have a good death, were identified. “The domains embrace the issues confronting people before they die, and finding ways to address those issues,” says Clarridge. Terminally ill persons, caregivers, significant others, well elders, pastoral caregivers, and health care professionals participated.

A different study sponsored by the American Cancer Society, “Assessing Attitudes of Patients, Physicians, and the Public Towards Euthanasia,” consisted of interviews with 700 cancer patients, physicians, and members of the public. Participants responded to vignettes describing end of life scenarios, focusing mainly on physician-assisted suicide and patient-requested euthanasia. Among the findings: two thirds of cancer patients and the public found euthanasia and physi-

*continued on page 8*

# ARD and PeopleSoft

## 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.sky.cc.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.

Picture this: you've just slid into the seat of a rollercoaster. The shoulder straps come down with a thunk, leaving an alarmingly big space between your shoulders and the safety of the metal bars. An attendant, who looks to be about 12, pulls absentmindedly at the safety bar and gives the operator a quick thumbs up before shuffling back to his comic book. Your car lurches forward a few feet and then begins a perilously steep climb, the chink, chink of the metal chain pulling the cars upward echoes in your ears and you begin to wonder if you'll ever reach the top...

These first moments of the roller coaster ride are a metaphor for the work being done laying the foundation for PeopleSoft implementation. Sounds like a stretch? Not if you consider the amount of preparation that must be accomplished before these systems can work effectively, kind of like the slow, steady upward climb that precedes the fun part of the ride.

PeopleSoft is a comprehensive software system that allows universities to provide services without duplicating information unnecessarily. It offers a logical approach where everyone uses information provided by three main systems: Student, Financial, and Human Resources. Each system is comprised of smaller modules; for example, the Financial system includes the General Ledger, purchasing, accounts receivable and payable modules. Depending on the service you provide, you have direct access to the information you need right from your desktop.

To get these systems up and running involves more than simply plugging them in. According to Craig Pearson, assistant project director, "We're not simply 'technologizing' the current system. Instead, we're finding ways to implement the modules so they meet the needs identified in ARD groups and in other campus activities. We also want to avoid customizing the software to any large extent—and that may mean changing our business processes." For each module there is a team of people who are working through the documents produced by ARD groups to identify the tasks they will have to complete. The module teams work with an advisory group that reviews the information and guides the team as they complete these tasks. One module leader, Stephanie Moore (who provided the roller coaster image) says that PeopleSoft is a tool for implementing the ideas generated by ARD and encourages everyone to talk to the module team members. She says this work acts as building blocks for PeopleSoft implementation: "Once everything is in place it's like the rollercoaster: you pick up momentum and then the fun really begins!"

—by Ellen Evans



# Board of Trustees Meeting Held Dec. 1 & 2

## Alumnus donates \$1 million to endow science & math chair

President William Bulger announced the gift of \$1 million toward the endowment of a science and math chair from alumnus Alton Brann. This is UMass Boston's first endowed chair and second \$1 million gift this year.

## Student population on the rise

The 1998 numbers are in and the news is good. New freshmen admissions system-wide is up 7 percent. Among new students, SAT scores and high school GPAs are also higher, according to Bulger.

Conversely, the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs plans to investigate a survey which determined a 2 to 4 percent decrease in the number of students of color admitted university wide. The number

cannot be considered statistically significant, but the results will be researched as a possible trend.

## New Tuition and fee rates to be decided in February

Bulger is reviewing possible changes in student tuition and fees, and plans to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees in February.

While the university system is on "solid financial ground," Bulger is considering possible changes following the Board of Higher Education recommendation to decrease year 2000 tuition by 5 percent, and a possible increase in fees as a result.

## University system reaching for development goal

According to Trustee Robert Mahoney, the university system is one-third of the way toward its \$77 million goal. Last year the

university raised \$60 million.

"Last year at this time we were also one-third of the way there even though we were half way through the year," Mahoney said.

The Foundation will focus on donor recognition and making sure donors are conscious of the importance of their gifts.

## ARD under Administration/ Finance oversight

Trustees voted to place the Administrative ReDesign (ARD) project under the auspices of the Committee on Administration and Finance, altering its status from an ad hoc committee.

According to Trustee William Giblin, "It's really time for us to internalize and take it on our own." The move will institutionalize ARD under the standing committee.

The ARD project is now over three years old and, according to Giblin, is gathering momentum.

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Topic of Jan. Conference

The challenges faced by grandparents raising grandchildren will be the topic of a teleconference held at UMass Boston, Jan. 12, co-sponsored by the Gerontology Institute. "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Implications for Professionals and Agencies," a national satellite program originating from the University of Wisconsin, will address how professionals and organizations can support grandparents who face the challenges of aging and child raising at the same time. Nationally, 4 million children are living in a grandparent's home. The teleconference will be held at 300 sites around the country.

The program includes a two-

hour satellite video and on-site activities. Participants will have opportunities to call in or fax questions to panel members, and time is set aside before and after the video conference so that participants can engage in specialized discussions, activities, and network. Prof. Nina Silverstein of the Gerontology Center and Institute and director of the Undergraduate Program in Gerontology is coordinating the conference on campus.

Featured at the conference will be Dorchester's recently opened Grandfamilies House, the nation's first supportive housing for grandparents raising children.

Grandfamilies House provides 26 housing units, and is designed to meet the needs of these special families. "We're very excited that the Grandfamilies House will be featured at the conference," says Wichian Rogawanon, senior program developer/policy analyst at the Gerontology Institute, who organizes a series of free workshops on issues such as nutrition and behavior for residents. The free workshop series is co-sponsored by The Gerontology Institute, with funding from a UMass Boston Public Service Endowment grant. Grandfamilies House was featured on the *Today* show shortly after its opening.

—By Anne Joyce-Brandt

# New Graduate Certificate Programs to Commence in Spring '99

Consider these scenarios: Gloria is a social worker who's looking to better understand and serve her clients with mental illnesses or substance abuse problems. Will is a computer programmer who needs to develop skills in database technology so that he can progress professionally. Diane is a teacher who wants to understand and apply new statewide curriculum frameworks for the wide range of students, including special needs students, in her class.

New graduate certificate programs, three of which will be offered for the first time this spring, have been designed with professionals like these in mind, who are looking for further education and skills, but do not wish to enroll in traditional graduate programs.

A 16-credit, graduate certificate program in Forensic Services will be offered by the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology, in collaboration with Department of Psychology, the joint CPCS/CAS Criminal Justice Program, and UMass Medical Center. It will offer an interdisciplinary approach for social services professionals who wish to strengthen their knowledge of behavioral sciences and gain practical skills. Coordinating the program is Prof. Stephanie Hartwell.

A 12-credit graduate certificate program in database management is also being offered for the first time by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Graduate Computer Science Program.

This program is geared towards individuals with substantial computer programming experience, who wish to acquire a systematic education in database management.

A third graduate certificate program, "Charting the Course: Adapting Curriculum Frameworks for All Learners," will also be launched this spring. This 12-credit program will look at the intersection of education reform, special education reform, curriculum frameworks and how these apply in the classroom. The program has been developed by the Center for Social Development and Education, and is coordinated by MaryAnn Byrnes.

Two more graduate certificate programs, one focusing on non-profit management, proposed by the Master of Science in Human Services program of College of Public and Community Service, and another on teaching writing in the schools, proposed by the Boston Writing Project of the Graduate College of Education, are under development.

All of the new programs were developed in response to a call for graduate certificate proposals issued in the Spring of 1998 by Graduate Dean Martin Quitt and Dean of the Division of Continuing Education (DCE), Theresa Mortimer. Eventually, five proposals were chosen for development—one from each college and one from a center.

According to Quitt, the collaboration between Graduate Studies and DCE is an excellent one, enhancing the university's ability

to develop graduate certificate programs which serve a real need in the marketplace, generate income for the university, and preserve the values inherent in our graduate studies programs. "Dean Mortimer has built her continuing education programs by maintaining high academic standards—she is always concerned with the quality of the programs she supports," adds Quitt. Adds Mortimer: "Drawing on the strengths of the existing faculty and operating at no additional cost to the Commonwealth, these programs are also a cost-effective way for the University to expand its outreach into corporate and professional areas."

The idea for developing these programs originated when Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Ron Polito returned from a Northeast Association of Graduate Schools conference in the Spring of 1997 with the news that everyone was talking about the potential of these programs. "One reason is that for the past several years, graduate enrollments nationally have declined (although not at UMass Boston) yet the demand for post-baccalaureate training has increased," Quitt adds.

Unlike certificates which have long been offered through the university's academic departments and programs, these new certificate programs will not necessarily be permanent fixtures. "Another major aspect is that these programs will be reviewed annually, and if they are not justified by interest, then we can let them go and develop new ones," says Quitt.

### ● **MaCIE Conference Draws UMass Boston Participation**

The 7th annual conference of the Massachusetts Council on International Education (MaCIE) featured six UMass Boston speakers and panelists participating in discussions on the topic, "Preparing Globally Competent Learners for the Next Millennium." The keynote address on properly educating students for dealing with an increasingly global village was given by Leonard Robinson, Visiting Fellow, McCormack Institute.

Patricia Davidson, CAS Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost for Academic Support Services, was a panelist on the topic of "Internationalizing the Campus: Views from the Top," and students Yamrot Mulugeta and Sherley Thibaud were panelists on the topic "Study Abroad Internships." Economics Prof. Irving Gershenberg was a panelist on education and development in Africa, and Prof. Clara Estow of Hispanic Studies was a panelist on languages on campus.

In addition, Prof. Reza Fazel of the anthropology department was named one of two MaCIE Lecturer of the Year, and will present "Autocracy and the Rise of Islamist Movements in the Middle East," at two member institutions this spring. Lurlene Van Buren, assistant administrator of international services and study abroad coordinator was named vice president of MaCIE at its October board meeting.

### ● **New Partnership Links Grad Studies, Florida A & M University**

On Nov. 9, Chancellor Penney signed an agreement between UMass Boston and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) making the two schools partners in a program meant to increase the numbers of qualified African American students enrolled in UMass Boston graduate programs. As partners in the FAMU Graduate Feeder Scholars Program, liaisons on both campuses will work to identify candidates and ensure that accepted students are fully supported.

Discussions with FAMU began in April of 1998. FAMU representative Linda Nixon Hudson visited UMass Boston in November, meeting with deans and graduate program directors before the agreement was finalized. Graeme Griffith of Graduate Studies will be UMass Boston liaison to the program. UMass Boston joins 33 universities across the country, including The University of Michigan, UCLA, Vanderbilt, American, Howard, and Syracuse Universities as partners to FAMU in this unique program.

### ● **UMass Boston Radio Ads Feature Alumni/ae and Faculty**

If your radio dial is tuned to WBZ 1030 AM, WJMN 94.5 FM, or WUMB 91.9 FM, then you've probably heard that "A UMass Boston education can take you places you've yet to imagine." This theme sets the tone for a radio ad campaign featuring faculty members Monica

McAlpine, Donaldo Macedo (a UMass Boston alum), Lloyd Schwartz of the English department, English Prof. Neal Bruss, now CAS Dean of Liberal Arts, Theatre Arts Prof. Steve Sweeney (also an alum), and Art Prof. Paul Tucker. Other alums featured in the ads include Joseph Abboud, Eric Harris, Jean Elrick, Josephine Dixon-Hall, Patricia Hanratty, Jim Lonberg, Betty Yau, and Dr. Gary Taylor.

The radio campaign, which was launched in November to publicize the first University wide open house, first aired with Steve Sweeney reflecting on attending UMass Boston after graduating from Charlestown High School. "When I came to UMass Boston I had dreams...UMass Boston taught me that it's okay to dream bigger dreams." Sweeney is a well-known comedian recently featured in the summertime hit movie, "Something About Mary," and in ads for Honey Dew Donuts.

The ad campaign is a collaboration between Kathleen Teehan, associate chancellor for enrollment and communications, and Michael Luck, vice chancellor for institutional advancement. Sherry Thomas, director of enrollment marketing, worked with consultant Pamela Conn to create and produce the spots. Jon Hutton, supervisor, admissions information services, and Noel Cotterell, publications and advertising production manager, were also integral to the success of the campaign. The next series of spots will air in mid-January.

---

## 'Respecting the Wicked Child'

### Philosopher Tackles Topic of Secular Jewish Identity in New Book

"What motivates me is what motivates lots of philosophers. They have some practical problem and their training and inclination get them to think about it in philosophical terms." So says Mitchell Silver, who has been teaching philosophy at UMass Boston since 1982. Silver also directs a secular Jewish Sunday school where reconciling secular values with Jewish identity is of constant concern. Hence his new book.

In *Respecting the Wicked Child: A Philosophy of Secular Jewish Identity and Education*, just published by the University of Massachusetts Press, Silver speaks directly to a sizeable group. "Give me someone who rejects God and wants to

remain Jewish," he says. "Some people might say, 'Look, if you reject God it's crazy to keep on wanting to be a Jew.' I want to claim, 'It's not a crazy feeling. It's rational to want to stay Jewish. Furthermore, here is, in broad general terms, a practical means of doing it.'"

The book's title refers to a Passover story about the responses of four sons to the Seder ceremony. "The wicked son's question is 'what does this have to do with me,'" says Silver, "and the answer is 'this has nothing to do with you because you've put yourself outside of this.' I think they've misinterpreted the wicked son's question. He's not saying 'I don't want to identify with this.'

After all, he's at the Seder." Silver's book—"a more respectful answer to the wicked child"—offers both a philosophical basis for secular Jewish identity and proposals for drawing upon Jewish history, thought, and practices to support an intellectually and spiritually satisfying way of maintaining this identity over generations. The book also reaches beyond its immediate audience. "Part of it deals with being Jewish within America—that double identity," says Silver. "I hope it will speak to other ethnic groups that feel 'It's important to me to see myself as an Irish American, or as an African American, or as part of some other ethnic tradition.'"

—by Jeffrey Mitchell

---

## Judge Garrity Donates Desegregation Papers to UMass Boston

One of the most famous court cases to affect the Boston Public Schools has found a home at UMass Boston. Over 60 boxes of files from the 1972 court case, *Morgan v. the Boston School Committee*, have been donated to the Healey Library by U. S. District Court Judge W. Arthur Garrity, who presided over the case.

The donation was marked by a reception on Tuesday, Dec. 8 in the University Club. Chancellor Penney introduced Garrity to the audience, which include students, faculty and staff, members of Garrity's family, and the media. She told those in attendance that UMass Boston is "dedicated to making papers like these accessible to anybody doing public policy research."

Garrity, a graduate of Holy Cross and Harvard Law School, addressed the question of "why UMass Boston?" He pointed to the logic of a public case going to a public institution and to the proximity of the Healey Library to the JFK Library, the new Federal Court House, and to South Boston High School — one high school which was greatly affected by the decision to desegregate. Another reason is the participation of UMass Boston Sociology Professor Robert Dentler, who served as the court appointed expert for desegregation of the Boston Public Schools. He also expressed admiration for UMass Boston's public policy focus through its colleges, centers, and the Trotter and McCormack Institutes. But Garrity said the "underlying reason is ideological. The Uni-

versity of Massachusetts Boston has a special commitment to a traditionally underserved population with specific attention to urban populations."

Several television stations, including *WCVB*, *WBZ*, and *WFXT* aired segments on the event. The decision in the case, which desegregated the Boston Public Schools by busing, still attracts controversy to this day from many who opposed his decision. Garrity responded by saying that opponents "have a right to be vocal. But I have a sworn duty to uphold the Constitution of the United States." Files from *Morgan v. the Boston School Committee*, which include some of Garrity's personal notes, will be housed in the University's archives and special collections. —By Patrick Dwyer

Conferences and Presentations

Philosophy Prof. **Lawrence Blum**, Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Education, delivered the Lawrence Kohlberg Memorial Lecture to the Association for Moral Education on Nov. 20 at Dartmouth College. The title of his lecture was "Race, Community, and Moral Education."

**Albert Cardarelli**, senior fellow, McCormack Institute, served as chair and discussant on a panel, "Applications of Community Policing," at the November annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Washington, D.C..

Prof. **Siamak Movahedi**, director of the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology presented a paper, "Diagnosis of Mental Illness and the Emotional Position of the Therapist," at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Science in Halifax, Canada, Oct. 28.

**Michelle Fazio**, graduate student in English, presented a paper, "Raimondo Fazio: A Stranger in Family History," at the 31st Annual Conference of the American Italian Historical Society, held at Hunter College in November.

Publications

History Prof. **Julie Winch** has had two articles published on James Forten, a 19th Century African American businessman and reformer. "James Forten, Conservative Radical," was published in *Black Conservatism*, published by Garland Press, and "James Forten" has been published in *America and the Sea: A Maritime History*, published by Mystic Seaport Publications.

College of Nursing doctoral student **Maureen McDonald** contributed two chapters in the textbook, *Pharmacology*, published by W.B. Saunders Co. The chapters were on antiviral and antifungal medications, and on hypertensive drug therapy.

Two poems written by **Kevin Bowen**, director of the Joiner Center, appeared in anthologies published in November. The anthologies are *The Vietnam Reader*, edited by Stewart O'Nan, published by Anchor Books, and *From Both Sides Now*, edited by Jim Mahoney, published by Scribners.

English Prof. **Elizabeth Fay**, director of the Senior Honors Year in English, has written a new book, *A Feminist Introduction to Romanticism*, published by Blackwell Publishers.

**Albert Cardarelli**, senior fellow, McCormack Institute, co-authored an article, "The Rhetoric and Reality of Community Policing in Small and Medium Sized Cities and Towns," published in *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, in November.

Music Prof. **Joseph Dyer's** essay, "The Introit and Communion Psalmody of Old Roman Chant," appeared in a collection of essays in honor of Canadian scholar Terence Bailey, in October.

ECOS Prof. **William Robinson** and graduate student **P. Satish Nair** have published a paper, "Calcium Speciation and Exchange between Blood and Extracellular Fluid of the Quahog Mercenaria mercenaria," in *Biology Bulletin* 195.

Honors and Appointments

Music Prof. **Joseph Dyer** has been appointed chair of the board overseeing the Organ Library, founded by the American Guild of Organists. The collection includes organ music, books, manuscripts, recordings, and archival material relating to the organ and organ music. He was also named to the Council of the Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society (UK) and serves as co-editor of the Society's journal.

Prof. **Gail Russell**, director of the Ph.D. program in nursing, was honored with the distinguished alumna award from the School of Nursing at UMass Amherst at the school's Oct. alumni luncheon. Russell's excellence in nursing education as a leader and scholar, and contributions to professional organizations and community health agencies were lauded.

English undergraduate student **John Doherty** was chosen to participate in a poetry reading at the Kennedy Library on Nov. 1. Doherty was selected by Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky as one of 13 people from eastern Massachusetts to read poems as part of his national Poetry and the Public project. He was the only student chosen.

**Gary Siperstein**, director of the Center for Social Development and Education, has been appointed to the Department of Mental Retardation Statewide Advisory Council by Gov. Paul Cellucci. Siperstein will advise the Department's Commissioner Gerald J. Morrissey, Jr., on policies, program development, and priorities for a three year term.

**Rebecca Breedlove**, head of Acquisitions and Serials,

Healey Library, was formally inducted into the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (Flotilla 4-15, Danversport) on Dec. 9. She has been appointed Flotilla Staff Officer in charge of publications.

ADA Compliance Officer **Carol DeSouza** joined Secretary of Education Richard Riley, Members of Congress, members of the civil rights and education communities and persons with disabilities, at the 25th anniversary of Section 504, which prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities. The event, which she helped plan, took place Dec. 8 in Washington D.C.

On Stage

Prof. **John Conlon** of the Communications and Theatre Arts department appeared in *A Christmas Carol* at the Company Theater in Norwell through Dec. 20. The production also included Alums **Pat Brawley** in ensemble roles, and Alum **Dennis Luciani** as light board operator.

In the News...

Prof. **Daniel Shimshak** of the Management Science and Information Systems department, was a guest panelist on *Powerpoint*, a National Public Radio talk show, on Nov. 29.

**Debra Wein**, general manager of the Beacon Fitness Center, was interviewed by *FOX 25 News* on the topic of healthy holiday eating tips and stress-free holidays on Nov. 25.

History Prof. **Julie Winch** was interviewed for an upcoming television program on the history of Philadelphia's African American community by *WHYY-TV*, Philadelphia's public television station

---

## 'John Henry' Premiere Hits UMass Boston Stage

For years Professor Emeritus Louis Roberts would stand in front of the mirror to shave and one phrase would enter his mind. "John Henry has committed treason against the United States of America."

Finally, he has written a play based on that phrase. The American premiere of "John Henry: A Play of Perversity" opened at the McCormack Theater Dec. 4. The student cast and crew rose to the challenge of adapting a British-style humor for an American audience, said Roberts.

"It was a tremendous challenge. This is an extraordinarily complicated piece both in the writing, in the twists and turns of plots, and in the staging," Roberts said.

Roberts credits director Diane Almeida, set designer Ron Nash, and the actors for an "admirable" job on a play he characterized as, "a tremendously demanding play."

The play opens with Roberts' haunting line, but rather than treason against the U.S., the play is set in the 1898 fictional Balkan Duchy of Tsardonika. The cast spends its time trying to determine who is John Henry and what, if anything, he has done. This mystery plays out with amorous subplots against a backdrop of war with a number of unexpected staging illusions to catch the eye.

"John Henry" originally opened to raves last spring in Bristol, England and is expected to return

to England and then move on to Ireland. It is one of Roberts' 29 original plays, added to his 20 translations and adaptations, which have been produced in 10 different countries.

As the former theater department chair, Roberts says the UMass productions hold a special meaning.

"We are a recognized entity in the theater community," he said, identifying several graduates who have gone on to work in Boston theaters and write for television.

Even with three plays in production, Roberts is working hard on two more he hopes to complete soon.

---

## CSR Research Story

*(continued from pg. 1)*

cian assisted suicide to be acceptable if the patient experiences unremitting pain, while in no vignette presented, did more than half the physicians find it to be acceptable. Patients with depression, rather than pain, were more likely to discuss ending their lives. Physicians were asked if they had helped any patients end their lives—the first U.S. data on the frequency with which physicians actively help their patients die—resulting in the finding that one in seven had done so.

A study sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Oncology looked at how member physicians work with patients who have six

months or less to live. A fourth study followed 300 terminal cancer patients, interviewing them on issues such as plans for care at the end of life, the care they receive, and the degree to which their wishes have been communicated.

After four years of work on the topic, Clarridge says that end of life issues continue to hold great research promise. "With appropriate attention, I believe we can have fewer horror stories about a bad end compounded by bad care management. There is hope of making societal changes. It's a topic with a lot of work going on, and it will continue because there

is a real need to explore it, especially in health care management."

Clarridge and Fowler, also a senior research fellow at CSR, collaborated with researchers from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Brown University, and the Picker Institute of Boston on these studies.

*\*Physician-assisted suicide is defined as a patient's choice of suicide, for which a physician may provide instructions or pharmacological means to end the patient's life. Euthanasia is the active delivery, upon the patient's request, of medication or other means to end life.*