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Volume 5
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News and information
about and for the
University Community from
the Chancellor's Office

Campus Notes

The 3rd annual Julie Rodick scholarship race was hosted by family and friends on Thanksgiving in Weymouth, attracting over 600 participants. Rodick, a graduate of UMass Boston, died in an auto accident in Hingham. The race has raised over \$25,000 for the scholarship fund during the past three years.

Prof. Margaret Pappalardo-Musmon of the Theater Arts Department and the Human Performance and Fitness Program has been appointed Director of Periodicals for the National Dance Association. She will redesign and edit the National Dance Association's publication, *Spotlight on Dance*.

Adaptive Computer Technology Specialist Charlotte Corbett of Computing Services has been named a member of the Special Needs Advisory Board of the Museum of Fine Arts. She will update their computer-based visitor service systems by assisting with a new Web site and a CD-ROM disk that will help those with special needs.

Mary Bonner, Administrative Assistant of the English Master's Program, was invited to read her honors thesis on 18th Century actor and writer Charles Macklin at the 6th Annual Charles Macklin Autumn School in Donegal, Ireland.

The William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences recently sponsored a poetry reading by Irish poet John F. Deane. Born on Achill Island in County Mayo, Deane is the founder of Poetry Ireland, a national poetry society, and editor of the Daedalus Press.

Two members of the Healey Library staff received professional development awards during the summer. Rebecca Breedlove, Serials Acquisitions Librarian, received a \$500 award from Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education to support her attendance at the Women's Association of Research Library Leadership Conference. Kimberly Brookes, Assistant Archivist, received the Richard W. Hale Jr. Professional Award from the New England Archivists, which enabled her to attend the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists.

Professor Richard Hogarty, Director of the McCormack Institute, has been named to the National Advisory Board of the Center for National Policy, which is an organization based in Washington, D.C.

Professor Lawrence Greene of the Anthropology Department organized a three-day symposium in Cortona, Italy this summer on the topic of Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency, an enzyme deficiency closely associated with vulnerability to malaria. Co-organizer of the conference was Professor Marica Danubio of Italy's University of L'Aquila, who has taught courses in the Anthropology Department for the past two years through UMass Boston's International Studies Program.

Registered Nurse Ivor Holder of the College of Nursing was awarded an American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Advancement Scholarship for \$1,500 to support undergraduate study during the 1995-96 academic year.

On December 5th, Research Associate of the Gastón Institute Luis Falcón, will present a lecture, "Racial and Ethnic Context of Job Search for Latinos, Blacks, and Whites in Metro Boston." The lecture will be held in the Healey Library, 11th floor, library staff lounge from 12:00 until 2:00 pm. Falcón is also a professor in the Sociology Department at Northeastern University.

On Tuesday, December 12th, Sumer Verma, M.D., Associate Professor of the Boston University Medical School and specialist in geriatric psychology, will speak on "Decisions at the End of Life: Depression in the Elderly and Physician-Assisted Suicide." The event is sponsored by the Gerontology Institute and Gerontology Center and UMass Boston's Ethics and Social Policy Group, a working group of Philosophy Department faculty. This program will take place from 6:45 to 8:00 pm in Wheatley, first floor, room 41.

Contrary to the November 17th issue of the *Friday Report*, Rosanne Donahue is the Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. It was reported incorrectly that she was the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

New Method Charts Toxins in Boston Harbor

Professor Robert F. Chen of UMass Boston's Environmental Science Program received a two-year \$337,284 research grant from the Department of Energy to examine Boston Harbor and San Diego Bay sediments for possible carcinogens. The sediments are sources of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as "priority" pollutants and are suspected of causing human cancer by contaminating edible fish and shellfish.

Chen will collaborate with Steven Lieberman and Bart Chadwick of the Naval Research and Development (NRaD) lab in San Diego. They will use an innovative method of discovering fluxes of petroleum hydrocarbons from contaminated sediments to overlying seawater.

"Our method for studying the fate and distribution of these contaminants, is characterized by a Latin phrase *in situ*, meaning 'in place,'" commented Chen. "This is different from the traditional, costly methods in which samples are taken back to a lab to be analyzed. Our method will allow rapid assessment of the Boston Harbor pollutants on the University's research vessel, the *Neritic*."

"We will take a fiber optic cable and place it slowly into the sediment and then carefully through the water. This way we can measure the pollutants in the sediment as well as in the sea water," said Chen.

"The cable, which can measure up to 50 meters, carries an ultra-violet laser light, causing a reaction known as fluorescence," stated Chen.

The harmful contaminants which Chen will be studying appear in fluorescent blue, although harmless compounds also appear colored. "Through a process of time-resolved fluorescence we will see harmful fluorescent compounds among the others."

Chen will be assisted in his analysis by two Ph.D. students from the Environmental Science Program, Gongmin Lei and Steven Rudnick.

This technique has been used in San Diego Bay since March, 1994. Chen plans to travel to California this January, returning to finish work that was begun this past summer. He hopes to see measurements taken from Boston Harbor by the beginning of January, 1997.

In a related research project, Environmental Science doctoral student Steven Rudnick will begin to make monthly surveys this December to map organic pollutants in Boston Harbor. The research will be conducted on the University's research vessel, the Neritic, with \$121,622 funding from MIT SeaGrant to Professor Robert Chen and Ph.D. Research Associate George Gardner.

Students Undertake Ecology Research Projects

Fourteen biology majors from eight colleges and universities prepared and presented original research projects this summer at UMass Boston through the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program.

UMass Boston was chosen by the NSF as an REU research site in biology, but to provide a coherent experience for students, the focus was narrowed. "We chose to focus on ecology and conservation biology because it is a strength in our department," said Professor Jeremy Hatch, Director of the program. Nine biology faculty members served as research supervisors.

Of the fourteen students who participated in the program, seven are students at UMass Boston. The others attend Brown, Harvard, St. Lawrence and Iowa State Universities; and Allegheny College, the College of the Atlantic; and the University of Colorado. Each student received a \$3,100 stipend.

Through the REU program, UMass Boston undergraduate Amy Tucker continued research on the evolution of separate sexes in a plant which she had begun studying the previous year. She spent her summer mapping genes on the x and y chromosomes of *silene latifolia*, commonly known as white campion, a European import found across New England. *Silene latifolia* is dioecious, which means that an

individual plant is either male or female. The development of dioecy in *silene latifolia* is a topic Tucker continues to research this semester in Professor Richard Kesseli's lab.

"One of the best things about REU is that it gave me time to devote just to research," said Tucker. She, like many UMass Boston students, juggles courses, work, and other obligations during the school year. "The experience dispelled my fears about going on to graduate school by giving me a taste of what work will be like on that level." A senior, Tucker plans to take a year off after graduation and attend graduate school the following year.

Other research projects include studies of the parental roles of common terns in normal and supernormal clutches, the distortion of sex ratios in the endangered roseate tern, honeybees' ability to predict the locations of spatially variable food resources, and a plan for migratory animal conservation in Costa Rica. UMass Boston is one of approximately fifty universities which serve as REU research sites, and will offer the program again next summer.

Attention Readers

Send news information to Annette Fernie or Donna Roveto at the Office of Public Information, Second Floor, Quinn Administration Building.

Minority Recruitment Focus of Videoconference Linking 175 Colleges

To recruit and retain minority faculty and administrators, universities and colleges must make a multi-leveled effort to set goals, gain strong support for those goals across the campus community, and have top administrators “model” those goals.

This was the message of a videoconference entitled “Creative Ways of Finding and Keeping Faculty and Administrators of Color,” presented by the journal *Black Issues in Higher Education*, sponsored by the Chancellor’s Office and coordinated by UMass Boston’s Office of Affirmative Action and Multicultural Relations.

The videoconference linked 175 institutions of higher education around the country to moderator Julian Bond, host of the syndicated news show “America’s Black Forum,” member of the Georgia General Assembly for 29 years and active participant in the civil rights movement, and a panel which included Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in America, University of Colorado at Boulder; Brenda Richardson Malone, Vice Chancellor, Faculty and Staff Relations, City University of New York; Judith M. Gappa, Vice President for Human Relations, Purdue University;

Omero Suarez, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Planning and Research, City Colleges of Chicago; Donald J. Stedman, Professor and Dean, School of Education, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Trevor L. Chandler, Executive Director of Academics, Affirmative Action and Diversity, University of California, Davis. The panelists discussed strategies for attracting minority candidates to college campuses and answered questions from participants.

Although progress in recruiting faculty and administrators of color nationwide was cited, employment figures are relatively low. For example, statistics gathered by *Black Issues in Higher Education* show a six percent increase in the number of African American faculty members on U.S. campuses between 1981 and 1991; however, African Americans still represent less than five percent of full-time university and college faculty nationwide.

A discussion of how to increase the pool of candidates elicited suggestions such as hiring individuals who are in a position to finish their Ph.D.’s quickly rather than requiring them to have their Ph.D. as a job prerequisite; redefining scholarship to include areas of expertise such as community service in order

to enlarge candidate pools; and creating university programs which aim to identify and develop promising scholars at the high school and undergraduate levels.

Panelist Donald J. Stedman noted that strategies for attracting and keeping minority faculty and administrators will be determined by the institution’s mission and goals and their commitment to creating a diverse community. “I think that our ability to attract people of color improves when we can define our own goals clearly,” he stated, noting that the goals of a research university and a community college are quite different.

“Despite the abolition of affirmative action by the California Board of Regents this summer, institutions of higher education by and large continue to embrace affirmative action,” said Charles Diggs, Interim Director of Affirmative Action at UMass Boston. “I thought it was important to note that it is possible to have diversity in the university while still not having it within the colleges. Often, minorities are concentrated in certain areas or disciplines. There can be areas which are not diverse. There is still work to be done.”

Network for Women in Politics and Public Policy Has First Fall Event

“Beyond Beijing: A Look Back, A Look Forward,” a conference held on October 10th sponsored by the Network for Women in Politics and Government, assessed the impact of the “United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women” in Beijing last summer. The Network’s event was held on the UMass Boston campus through the support of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy of the John W. McCormack Institute.

The conference was the first major event of the 95-96 season sponsored by the Network, an organization of public policy analysts, legislators, scholars, journalists, faculty, advocates, and students of politics and government from the Boston area concerned with women’s participation in politics.

It opened with remarks from Elizabeth Sherman, Director of the Center, Jillian Dickert, President of the Network for Women in Politics and Government, and Janine Getek, Director of the Network. “The motivating force behind this conference was to promote the exchange of information from women to women,” explained Getek. “Those women who attended the conference in Beijing had a responsibility to share what they observed with those of us

who were unable to travel to China. Through our event that responsibility was fulfilled.”

Professor Molly Mead of the Urban and Environmental Policy Department at Tufts University said that at the 300 workshops held during the Beijing conference, men and women were brought together to discuss issues of economics, education, environmental concerns, health, and violence.

“One panel that I was able to attend discussed the fact that in many agricultural countries only one crop is grown, and it is solely to export,” said Mead. “This approach to agriculture is bad for the soil. It is also detrimental to the local people. Countries that grow food for export often fail to grow enough food for the people who live in that country.”

Mead described a quilt that women from Botswana had sewn and brought to the Beijing conference. “Each panel of the quilt memorialized a woman or girl who had died before her time,” she explained. “Some of the most striking panels were of young girls who had been killed at age two, or age eleven, or age eight, by a man in the country.” The women

who had made the quilt held a vigil and displayed the quilt for hours while participants of the Beijing conference viewed it.

Other members of the panel who discussed their experiences at the Beijing conference were Diane Balser, former Director of the Women’s Statewide Legislative Network; Meizhu Lui, Coordinator of the Boston Health Access Project; Mary Yeaton, Director of Health Care for All Hotline, and Loretta McLaughlin, a former *Boston Globe* editor.

“We are thinking of working with the Massachusetts Caucus of Womens Legislators in order to hold another forum at the State House,” said Sherman. “This meeting would serve as a retrospective of the Beijing conference and would be attended by lawmakers and other government officials.”

Nancy Carapezza, President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, has been named the Network's Woman of the Year. Carapezza will be honored at an awards dinner on December 6th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at the University Club in the Healey Library. For further information please contact Janine Getek at 287-5562.

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