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Searching for a Better Understanding of Mentally-Disordered Perpetrators of Violent Crime

By Stefanie Lacey-Loya

The question of mental disorder and violence has long captured our imaginations, with moral philosophers no less than Aristotle distinguishing "people of weak will who do wrong against their wishes and with consent and with conviction." So writes Professor Paul Nestor of the Psychology Department in a recent article titled "Competence to stand trial: A Neuropsychological Inquiry."

Nestor focuses his research on developing a descriptive taxonomy of mentally disordered offenders—the Aristotelian group who act without criminal intention. However, he is quick to emphasize, "From the agitated street person to the erudite "Unabomber," the mentally disordered among us are too often unfairly portrayed and stigmatized as violent. Yet while more are indeed no more violent than the rest of society, a subset of mentally disordered persons do show elevated risk of criminal violence."

Now considered a public health problem, these offenders are estimated to be responsible for five percent of all homicides in the United States, fifteen percent in England, and eighteen percent in Sweden. Nestor believes that by examining the interaction between the nature of the criminal act and the characteristics of the mental disorder, violence may not only be prevented, but public policy will be better refined to distinguish those who long ago were considered "mad" from those seen as "bad."

Using subjects from Bridgewater State Hospital, the only state hospital designated as a maximum security facility in Massachusetts, Nestor has developed four categories of mentally disordered offenders. People in these categories are 1) psychotic organized, 2) psychotic disorganized, 3) substance abused/depressed/suicidal, or 4) psychopathic. Nestor is especially interested in distinguishing between the psychotic offender and the psychopathic offender, the former being the truly mentally ill person and the latter being the most prevalent. Nestor states, "The symptoms of psychosis that have been linked to violence are typically seen as acute and fleeting. These include intense paranoia related to perceived imminent personal threat or feelings and thoughts of the self or others being under some kind of alien control. Perpetrators who commit violent crimes while in such states therefore believe themselves to be acting in self-defense, "a form of psychotic self-defense that represents a truly irrational criminal motive."

Regarding psychopathy Nestor adds, "Unlike psychotics, it is seen as an enduring and malignant personality syndrome characterized by callousness, deceit, emotional shallowness, manipulation, social deviance, and impulsivity." This disorder is related to antisocial personality disorder, which serial killer Ted Bundy was diagnosed with, and is not considered a mental illness as the offender kills for personal sat.

Women's History Month is Reason to Celebrate

By Professor Jean Homes and Janet Ruzicka-Higginson

Women's History Month in March follows right on the heels of Black History Month—fittingly so, since the American women's movement has derived inspiration and organizing strategies from the struggles of African Americans and their allies for freedom, full citizenship, cultural and social self-definition, and public visibility. And just as the black community comes in all shapes, sizes, colors, and political complexities, so American women have always had multiple and complex identities. There are many contemporary issues on which women disagree, but at least one idea has proved irresistible—the importance of promoting public awareness of women's historical roles and contributions.

Scholars invented the field of women's history thirty years ago, energized by the women's movement. They began to ask why women were not more visible in the history books, and in public imagery of the American past such as monuments, memorials, and murals. What had women been doing all these years, and why hasn't historians bothered to write about them, even when (as it later turned out) there was plenty of information to be found?

Recovering and interpreting women's past was an enterprise that necessitated asking new questions, exploring new or forgotten sources, and rethinking themes and topics from a female perspective. One notable example is Laurel Ulrich's Pulitzer-Prize-winning A Midwife's Tale (1990), based on the diary of an eighteenth-century Maine "housewife" and midwife, Martha Ballard. Ballard's diary, far from being the trivial record of one woman's daily life, actually "transforms the nature of the evidence upon which most of the history of the period has been written," according to Ulrich, by "restoring a lost substructure" visible in the documents left by the male professionals and record-keepers.

But exciting work in the academy does not automatically trans.

Got Used Music?

WUMB 91.9 FM is looking for your old music—records, tapes, and CDs for its upcoming LP and CD Sale, which will be held March 18 and 19 in the McCormick Cafeteria. If you have nothing to donate, come to the sale and choose from thousands of records and CDs, including many collectibles. Proceeds benefit the Boston Folk Festival. For more information, call 7-6900.
Focus on Affordability and Excellence at Trustees Meeting

By Anne Marie Kent
At the February 2 Board of Trustees meeting held at UMass Boston's University Club, the Board voted to freeze in-state tuition and fees for the fifth consecutive year.

University of Massachusetts President William Bulger stated, "The University of Massachusetts is committed to providing an educational experience of the highest quality for the lowest possible price."

Focusing on high quality and collaboration, the graduate deans of all five campuses offered a slide presentation entitled "Five Campuses: One University." Led by Dean Jerome L. Hojnacki of UMass Lowell, the deans outlined the overall excellence of systemwide graduate offerings and concentrated on improvement in intercampus collaboration, including such new administrative efficiencies as simplified cross-registration and grade transfers.

Also highlighted were the growing popularity of graduate certificates, five-year "fast track" combined bachelor's and master's programs, distance learning possibilities among campuses, on-site industry training, the 495 Technology Center, and the new Graduate School of Marine Sciences and Technology.

During his presentation, UMass Boston Dean of Graduate Studies Martin Quitt reported that 12,449 graduate students were enrolled in the UMass system last fall. Noting that 65% of UMass graduate alumni go on to work in Massachusetts, Quitt added, "The contribution that our graduate students are making to the Commonwealth is tremendous."

Chancellor Sherry Penney noted that between 1988 and 1998, the number of UMass Boston's doctoral programs grew from one to nine and external research funding increased from $7.1 million to $17.2 million.

We Break for Ice Cream!

An ice cream social sponsored by the ARD Experiencing the Community Committee brought approximately 350 faculty and staff together for some Ben & Jerry's ice cream on February 14. The happy faces belong to (left to right) Rita Netherole, Shirma Nguyen, Cheryl Harris, and Carol Callen, all from the Office of Graduate Studies. (Photo by Harry Breet)

Rockefeller Grant Funds Joiner Center's Project Diaspora

By Dick Laurie
UMass Boston is about to become the site for one of the most important programs to emerge from the continuing study of Vietnam, Vietnam-US relations, and the Vietnamese community abroad. Funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, and under the administration of the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences, a four-year Rockefeller Fellowship Program will bring to this campus distinguished scholars and writers from around the world to be involved in what's called "Project Diaspora: Study of the Vietnamese Overseas."

This project grows out of the unique place UMass Boston already holds as a center for academic, research, and outreach programs in this area. Since 1982 the Joiner Center has sponsored courses, research, workshops, and public forums; facilitated humanistic, literary, and educational exchange programs with Vietnam; and earned high regard as a scholarly institution in Vietnam studies.

Other partners in the project include the Asian American Studies Program and the East Asian Studies Program—offering courses in their respective fields that are often cross-listed with disciplines in the arts, humanities, and social sciences; the Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY), providing support services and educational resources for high school youth; and the Institute for Asian American Studies, which gathers resources from the University and the community to conduct research and support Asian American development initiatives in Massachusetts.

The faculty and staff committee whose hard work developed the successful proposal includes Kevin Bowen and Nguyen Ba Chung of the Joiner Center; Heip Chu of the Institute for Asian American Studies; Madhulika Khandelwal of the Asian American Studies Program; Peter Kiang of GCOE; Michael Lafargue of the East Asian Studies Program; Trinh Thi Tuyen Nguyen of CAPAY; and Rajini Srikanth of the English Department.

This project fits into the wider discipline of diaspora studies. As explained by residency program director Nguyen Ba Chung, some historically significant diasporas—Chinese, Japanese, South African, Jewish, among others—have been well studied; the Vietnamese diaspora, both before and after the Vietnamese-American war, has not. Now, 25 years later, he says, "there is enough distance to look at it objectively," and as he notes, in Vietnam as well as elsewhere, the diaspora and the questions it raises are "one of the bigger issues at the turn of the century."

Those questions, according to the project's initial documents, include, for example, "Can a fragmented community develop and sustain a sense of collective identity and common purpose?" and "Is there a set of facts, a body of literature, an education curriculum, a model of community organization, etc., that can act as a catalyst for further dialogue and deeper exploration of the fragmentation itself?"

The project has called for proposals from prospective fellows, each of whom would be on campus for one or two semesters. Decisions on the first group of fellows are expected in March. So far eighteen proposals have been received, from respondents in the US, Great Britain, France, Norway, and Vietnam, where some of the most important Vietnamese writers concerned with Vietnamese overseas have expressed interest. Joiner Center director Kevin Bowen says the decision process won't be easy, due to the quality of the proposals. Fellows may be undertaking their scholarship in either English or Vietnamese, and built into the project are some first-time events, like Vietnamese journals publishing a selection of scholarly work in English.

Bowen has hopes that this new program will spark even more interest in Vietnamese and Vietnam-American studies at UMass Boston, and it seems probable that, like a self-fulfilling prophecy, those involved with the Diaspora Project have already done much to bring that about.

The University Reporter

University Communications
Third Place
Quinn Administration Bldg.
100 Morrill Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3399
617-287-5380
E-mail address:
unireport@umb.edu

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De-Mystifying the Financial Aid Process

By Kathleen Tochan, associate dean for Enrollment Services

To help members of the UMass Boston community improve their understanding of financial aid and offer support to students during the application process, the Enrollment Services Division provides the following information:

The financial aid application cycle is already underway for academic year 2000-1. Prospective and continuing UMass Boston students are invited to apply in February to determine their eligibility for funding for next academic year. To be considered for the first round of awards, students must apply by March 1. Students who apply after that date may be eligible for some federal and state funds, but their eligibility for campus-based funds will be limited, as these are exhausted early.

To apply, students must first complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is available on paper or at the Office of Financial Aid Services and on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Some students who have previously received aid will be sent a renewal FAFSA that will just need updating. Others who have previously filed on line will receive a PIN from the Department of Education to access the renewal form on the web and update their information electronically.

Eligibility for aid for 2000-1 is based on 1999 federal income tax information. Applicants who have not completed federal tax returns should still apply on time, using income and tax estimates. One important new question on the FAFSA relates to convictions for drug offenses. Applicants must complete this item; if it is left blank, the FAFSA will be rejected.

About three weeks after filing, applicants will receive a pink Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail, and UMass Boston will receive the same information electronically. Applicants should check to be certain that the information on the SAR is correct, paying particular attention to any comments in Part I. If referred to Financial Aid Services, they should follow up immediately.

Some applicants are chosen for verification, which means that they must verify or submit further information about their application and status. Verification can be triggered randomly, by questions left blank on the form, or by inconsistencies in information provided. Applicants who are flagged for verification cannot receive aid until they complete the verification process. Generally this requires submission of all applicable tax forms, W-2 forms, bank statements, and other investment records, as well as documentation of some non-taxable income. Financial Aid Services can verify any flagged applications and any in which the staff notes inconsistencies.

During the first week in April, Financial Aid Services will begin issuing award letters to applicants whose files are complete, including any verification documentation requested. Undergraduate awards are based on the assumption of full-time enrollment and are adjusted according to actual enrollment after the add/drop period. It is necessary to assume full-time enrollment since registrations occur later in the cycle.

To complete the application process and avoid delays, students must follow all instructions in the award letter. If an applicant is awarded a Stafford loan, Financial Aid Services will submit a loan request to the Guarantor for processing. The Guarantor will send a promissory note to the student to be completed and returned. When the promissory note is complete and the loan approved, the Guarantor sends certification to UMass Boston, and funds are credited to the student's account.

Students who have received an award letter will have their aid posted to their account in the Bursar's office. Stafford loans are not posted until the Guarantor's certification is on file. Students should complete any loan processes at least eight weeks before the semester begins to be certain that funds will be available before school starts. Remember that after add/drop the aid can be adjusted downward if a student enrolls part-time.

Financial aid is sometimes seen to be a very complex and challenging process. But in most cases, if applicants complete forms fully, provide accurate information, and read and follow instructions carefully, all goes smoothly. Financial Aid Services encourages students to contact them directly for advice or guidance.

McCormack Institute Forms New Partnership in Senegal

By Kim Burks

The McCormack Institute has launched a partnership with the Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis in Senegal thanks to a two-year, $100,000 grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This marks the first time USAID has awarded a grant to UMass Boston. This highly competitive grant will allow the University to strengthen Gaston Berger's capacity to offer instruction and conduct research in political science, the needs of local government, and business law, as well as promote economic development in the surrounding communities.

Three representatives of UMass Boston recently went on a ten-day assisted trip to Gaston Berger. They were Professor Edmund Beard, director of the McCormack Institute and the principal investigator for the project; Professor Jemadari Kamara, chair of the Africana Studies Department; and Margery O'Donnell, administrator for the Center for Democracy and Development of the McCormack Institute. While there they met with Bahacar Kante, director of the Unité de Recherche de Etudes Juridiques et Politiques, who is Bergen's counterpart at Gaston Berger.

This partnership will present Gaston Berger with an American educational model to compete with the French model that they are presently using. To accomplish the goals of the grant, there will be faculty exchanges, workshops and site visits, networking and outreach programs, and fund-raising with the goal of eventually creating an Africa-based public policy research center. Though the project was proposed by the McCormack Institute, it does not exclude participation by the rest of the University.

That was made quite clear during the assessment trip by the video conferencing technology that was transmitted from UMass Boston by John Jessoe of the Distance Learning Center. The technology will soon link UMass Boston with Gaston Berger. This new capability will allow students and faculty to interact with counterparts in Africa as never before.

O'Donnell acknowledges that the McCormack Institute has a "deep commitment to Africa" and has other initiatives in Mali and Cameroon. Those other connections in Africa bring their own reward. O'Donnell asserts that "each time we set foot in Africa we generate and develop new initiatives that are subsequently funded by outside agencies.

Two New Computer Labs in McCormack Hall: Students Networked for Success

By Anne-Marie Kent

Serving students in distinct categories—those enhancing information technology career skills and those beginning undergraduate careers—two new computer labs have been created on the third floor of McCormack Hall.

Boasting seventeen Pentium III Dell 9.6-gigabyte PCs, each running Windows NT 4 Serverpack 4, with a Dell PowerEdge 2300 server, the Division of Continuing Education's new lab (M-3-129) supports classes including "Network Essentials," "Creating Webpages with Macromedia Dreamweaver," "Developing Web Pages with Frontpage 2000," and "Webpage Design." The workstations are all connected to the World Wide Web and the UMass Boston network.

“Our objective was to quickly bring to the public a list of training topics responsive to current workplace needs," says Continuing Education's director of professional training programs, Jack Hughes. He adds, "By seeking the advice of faculty such as Oscar Gutierrez and practitioners such as Kristen Sutton from Polaroad, we have been able to determine the cutting edge." Down the hallway, another lab is slated to open in June. This "smart classroom" (M-3-017) is the result of smart thinking by Vice Provost Patricia Davidson, who realized that facilities made possible by a Board of Higher Education grant for board-mandated entry testing could also serve twenty sections of UMass Boston's new quantitative reasoning general education course each year. Professor Mark Pawlak, who teaches a pilot quantitative reasoning course (INTR-D 114), explains that computers enable students to visualize and manipulate complex data in ways that are impossible with simple chalkboard teaching.

Vice Provost Davidson credits a long list of individuals for their assistance, including Lee Nason, James Morrison, Charlie Boland, Joan Becker, Mark Pawlak, Linda Kinne, Cynthia Jahn, Endell Ditch, Joey Horosky, John Applebee, Julie McCauley Sanabria, Steve Kisler, and Ray Melcher. "There are still many steps to be taken before the classroom becomes a reality," Davidson says. "The efforts of everyone involved are greatly appreciated."
Recipients of Public Service Grants Named

By Kurt Cole Eidrig

The University of Massachusetts President's Office announced that more than $20,000 in public service grants were awarded to recipients from UMass Boston for 1999-2000. The awards fund seven separate proposals submitted by UMass Boston full-time faculty or professional staff, for a variety of short-term research projects which received anywhere from $500 to $3,500. The UMass Boston Office of the Vice Provost for Research explains that through the public service grant program, the University of Massachusetts system "promotes public service by making available the expertise of faculty and staff to government, business, industry, and the citizens of the Commonwealth in general."

The grant recipients, who were required to submit proposals for a mid-December deadline, represented a broad range of fields. Alice Carter of the Clinical Psychology Program was awarded $3,500 to pursue the project "Early Detection of Autism: Enhancing Assessment in Early Intervention." According to her application, the project "aims to improve early detection of autism/PDD spectrum disorders to inform intervention efforts."

Offering public service in a completely different manner is John McGah of the McCormack Institute, with his documentary film "Give Us Your Poor: Homelessness and the United States," McGah's project received $3,500 as well. He hopes that his work will "1) educate a national audience on the complexities of homelessness, 2) dispel myths about homeless people, and 3) generate community discussions through free showings of the film."

The remaining public service grants went to: Steven Ackerman, Brian White, and Elizabeth Davis of the Biology Department for the "Development of Animations/ Videos for Middle School, High School and College Biology Courses"; Jie Chen and Thomas Ferguson of Computing Services for "Analyzing the MCAS," Patricia Monette of WUMB Radio for the "Distribution of the Commonwealth Journal Radio Program"; Martha Montero-Sieburth of the Graduate College of Education for a "Collaborative Public Service Project for Latino Parents," and Paul Watanabe and Shauina Lo of the Institute for Asian American Studies and the Political Science Department for "Facilitating Interethnic Relations by Supporting Educational Opportunities: A UMass Boston/Nisei Student Recreation Commemorative Fund Collaboration."

Forum Presents Views of Boston's Young Leaders

By Melissa Faust

An enthusiastic group of young leaders took the stage at State Street Bank on February 9 for the fourteenth Forum for the 21st Century: "Boston's Young Leaders Speak Out." Speakers from various local organizations offered their perspectives on the many challenges and concerns facing Boston's youth today.

Chancellor Penney introduced the forum by reminding the audience of the importance of listening to young voices at UMass Boston, especially since it is the only public university in the city. Alan Khazei, co-founder and CEO of City Year, a national service organization dedicated to community service and leadership, and moderator of the event, remarked on the number of "firsts" that have occurred in Boston. Boston had the first public school (Boston Latin School), the first public park (Boston Common), and the first public library. Khazei would like to see Boston become the first city to truly empower and support its youth.

Young Nguyen, a recent immigrant from Vietnam now a junior at Boston College High School, stressed the importance of improving young people's tolerance of other cultures when asked what troubled him most about life in Boston. Nguyen cited personal experience of people making fun of his accent and cultural differences, and said that he feels "very separate because of [his] ethnicity."

Responding to the question "What can be done to make diversity work better for our city?" William Dorcena, president of the board of directors of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, said that business leaders should become more involved in Boston neighborhoods. He sees strengthened relationships between neighborhood residents and business leaders as a way of bridging a socio-economic gap. If business leaders knew what was going on in the neighborhoods—what residents are working on and the struggles they face—a strong collaboration might be developed.

Anissa Essabbi, president of the Columbia/Savin Hill Civic Association and Dorchester activists, pointed out that city and state officials, while concerned about problems facing Boston's neighborhoods, "don't live and work in them every day" and base legislation on the views they get from a building overlooking the city.

When asked about her goals as a young leader, Karilyn Crockett, a co-founder and director of Multicultural Youth Tour of What's Now (MYTOWN), said she'd like Boston's focus to be on creating a climate of inclusion, "so that everyone can feel at home."

MYTOWN's approach is to build that connection by helping young people to research individual families' historical roots to the city.

Kerry Thompson, director of South Boston Catholic Youth Ministry, offered his insights into possible solutions for problems facing youth, with specific reference to young people living in Southie. Thompson sees a collaboration of churches, local organizations, and communities in supporting young Bostonians as a method of decreasing crime and suicide among youth.

 Reverend Ray Hammond, founder and pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, served as commentator for the event. Look for the next forum to take place in the fall.

Wide "Awake" At Harbor Art Gallery

By Kurt Cole Eidrig

The Harbor Art Gallery is showing a terrifically original show titled "Awake: a group exhibition which explores the intersection of contemporary art and the Tibetan Buddhist tradition" now through March 18. UMass Boston is the exclusive stop for this collection of works by ten Boston-area artists, all of whom either practice Tibetan Buddhism or have stylistic ties to Tibetan art. The works are startlingly different from each other, and as curator and gallery director Noel McKenna points out, the exhibit was difficult to lay out because they vary so much. "But I think it fits together pretty nicely and has a sense of flow," he says.

At first one might wonder about any possible connections among the pieces being exhibited, other than the ties to Tibetan Buddhism. The digital works by Linda Brown—"Hearing What I Said," "Saying What I See," and "Seeing What I Mean"—seem a far cry from the Buddha heads of Paolo Savarino. Yet seeing "Awake" creates many conscious connections. McKenna surmises that "a link is that the work is so strong and very resolved. There is "a consistent strength," he said. "This is an area where the path of making art is similar to the spiritual path. It takes looking at things over and over from different perspectives to begin to figure out what's going on."

The curator explains these similarities best when he says, "In Buddhism there is a term called 'dharmas' which has a couple of meanings. Dharma is the word for Buddhist teachings. It is also the word for 'truth.' For these artists the word dharma might refer to the various truths of their lives, truths which come out in the work." "Awake" also includes the work of Bona Anderson, David Brown, Mary Lang, Connie Bigony, Audrey Goldstein, Rachel Paxton, Kris Snibbe and Paul Stopforth. The gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 12:30-6pm, and Saturday, 1-4pm.

Mary Ellen Brett contemplates a sculpture on display at the Harbor Art Gallery at part of "Awake," a show highlighting the intersection of Tibetan and modern art. (Photo by Harry Brett)
National Consortium for Academically Gifted for his work with youth and student-athletes to pursue higher education. The consortium of 183 colleges and universities advocating balance between athletics and academics, and dedicated to providing opportunities for current and former student-athletes to pursue higher education while addressing social issues in the community. Titus has directed athletics at UMass Boston since 1980, and also serves as head men's basketball coach. He is a 1972 graduate of Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, which recently recognized Titus as an outstanding alumnus. He presently serves as associate commissioner for Boston Parks and Recreation Commission, and on the board of directors for the Roxbury YMCA, Roxbury Boys and Girls Club, the City of Boston Youth Council, the Crime and Justice Foundation, and Freedom House Coalition.

Three students move to final round of the Fulbright Competition

Three UMass Students are in the running for a Fulbright Scholarship for the first time in UMass Boston's history. They are Annie Gaugher (BA 5/99), Alexander Pena (BA, 6/00) and Colin Ward (BA, 12/99). Established in 1946, The Fulbright Program awards scholarships to recent BS/BA candidates, master's and doctoral candidates and young professionals and artists. The original goal of the program was to establish a student exchange program to promote positive relations among all nations in an effort to avoid armed warfare. Today's goals are much the same—promoting a better, safer and more informed future for all through cross cultural studies and first hand experience of other cultures. Several factors are examined when a student applies to the program. Among the criteria are scrutiny of each person's motive for foreign study, quota and availability of awards in designated area of study, and relevance of intended field of study in relationship to the program. The Fulbright application process alone warrants a sharp mind and ambitious spirit. The application consists of seven pages of information including three references and a detailed statement of the proposed project. A screening process filters out the finalists. The field is highly competitive and accomplished in their choice of study. Each UMass Boston candidate has reached the final stage and is currently being assessed in their country of choice. United Kingdom for Gaugher and Ward, and Norway for Pena. Professor Paul Bookbinder of the History Department is the campus Fulbright representative.

Wein Appointed to Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports

Debra Wein, MS, RD, general manager of the Beacon Fitness Center, has been appointed to serve on the Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports. Wein promotes health and fitness on campus, teaching seminars on fitness, nutrition, and weight management at the fitness center and in the Learning Center, and throughout the Commonwealth for such organizations as the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Heart Association. In addition she has coordinated the National Eating Disorders Screening Program for the campus community. She will also be teaching an academic class on nutrition and sports this summer. The Massachusetts Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports (GCFPS) was founded in 1973 to promote sports and fitness activities that improve the health and well-being of the citizens of the Commonwealth. Members of the Committee are appointed by the Governor and represent fields from sports medicine to public health to amateur and professional sports. The Committee members meet monthly to distribute grant money to fund community programs and propose and promote initiatives. Wein will serve a two-year term expiring June 23, 2002.

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Mass Field Center for Teaching and Learning Conference to be Held March 10

"Teaching for Understanding in a Standards-Based Environment" is the theme of a conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning and the Leadership Academy of Massachusetts, located at the Graduate College of Education. The featured speaker is Grant Wiggins, president and director of programs for the Center on Learning, Assessment and School Structure (CLASS), a not-for-profit educational organization in Pennington, New Jersey. The day-long conference takes place March 10 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center in Westford, Massachusetts. The conference will focus on providing approaches to curriculum and instruction to engage students in inquiry, establish curricular priorities, and assessment methods to determine student understanding. For more information, contact the Mass Field Center at 7-7600.

University Arranges Special Hotel Rates for Visitors

The Office of Student Employment and Housing Services has arranged for UMass Boston visitors to receive special corporate rates at four local hotels. Prospective students and their parents, UMass Boston employees, visiting scholars and others will now be able to take advantage of this opportunity. The hotels are the Boston Park Plaza, the Club Hotel by DoublesTree Boston Bayside, the Holiday Inn Express, and Susse Chalet Boston. Certain "blackout" dates may apply, and individual hotels should be contacted for details. You can find a listing of the hotel rates online at www.umb.edu/umb/sehs.

College of Nursing Hosts Distinguished Scholar

The College of Nursing Ph.D. Program began its Spring Distinguished Scholars Guest Speaker Series with a presentation by Mary Jane Hanson, PhD, RN, FNP, director of the Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Scranton. Hanson presented her research paper on "Gender Differences in Predicting Smoking Behavior Among College Students." She has spent many years studying the predictors and behavior of smoking among ethnic, social and gender groups, her presentation indicated that while there are gender differences related to smoking, no single theory can predict why people start smoking. One of the goals of her research is to better understand what motivates people to smoke in order to tailor new research and smoking intervention programs to meet the specific needs of that group. She will be sending her new research to various peer-reviewed journals and will also attend a conference in Washington D.C., sponsored by The Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco. Following her presentation, the College of Nursing's Ph.D. Program recognized Hanson with the College of Nursing's "Distinguished Scholar at UMass Boston" certificate.

Conference Co-Sponsored by Greater Boston Manufacturing Partnership Promotes Lean Production Systems Design 2000

A conference held January 19 to 21 was sponsored by the Greater Boston Manufacturing Partnership (GBMP) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) presented a national and international audience with hands-on learning of manufacturing concepts and systems known as Lean Production Systems Design 2000. This system aims to increase productivity, product delivery speed, and floor shop space while reducing unnecessary inventory, errors and shift changeover time. Manufacturers attending the conference also benefit from the placement of MIT students in their factories to help with implementation of the system. The GBMP assists small to medium sized manufacturing companies become more productive and competitive. It is located in the College of Management.

UMass Poll Identifies Major Shifts in Voter Trends leading to New Hampshire Primary

The University of Massachusetts Poll was the first, and sometimes the only tracking poll to identify major shifts in voter trends leading up to the New Hampshire presidential primaries. In the final week before the primary, the UMass Poll showed a 15 point margin for republican John McCain, while all other polls had McCain's lead in the single digits. He won by 19 points. The UMass Poll is based at the Center for State and Local Policy, McCormack Institute, and is supported by the Donahue Institute. The UMass Poll is directed by Lou DiNatale, who also directs the Center for State and Local Policy.
Nestor Research (continued from page 1)

isfaction, in an often premeditated and instrumental way. Typically, only offenders diagnosed with psychopathy were a source of appropriate insinuity plea cases. And only a very small percentage will be acquitted, usually in the most severe of these cases in which rationality, intentionality or reality testing might be substantially eroded by serious mental illness.

The fact that there are far more male than female psychopaths who commit violent acts has led Nestor to investigate possible neurohormonal components of psychopathy. His research has shown that these male offenders have better spatial than verbal abilities, with a smaller testosterone for possible answers. He believes that the differential gender distribution of testosterone could be linked to the over-representation of male psychopathy. “Supporting evidence from both animal and human studies has demonstrated that variations in testosterone levels correlate to changes in the expression of a number of behaviors relevant to psychopathy, including aggression, social dominance, reading abilities, and spatial cognition.” The link is tautological. A better understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms of psychopathy could lead to more effective therapies for the disorder.

Nestor’s research is unique in that previous studies have investigated the neuropsychological and psychophysiological components of psychocursion and psychopathy independently, but few if any have directly compared these conditions. In doing so, Nestor moves closer to establishing definitive models of these disorders that will help both the justice system and its penal institutions better understand and treat mentally disordered violent offenders according to the nature of their disorders and the characteristics of their offenses.

Women’s History (continued from page 1)

lace into inspiration that will help girls and women imagine roles for themselves beyond the traditional limits. Hence Women’s History Month and related activities—all dedicated to getting the word out, especially about the movers and shakers!

Women’s History Month itself has a relatively short history. The idea of selecting a particular time for public celebration of women’s historical influence on society and culture dates back at least to 1909, during the final push for women’s suffrage, when the American Socialist Party began to sponsor a Woman’s Day in late February. During the late 60s and early 70s, International Women’s Day (March 8) was reclaimed as a time to reaffirm the egalitarian political vision of the women’s liberation movement by grass-roots women’s organizations such as the Dorchester Women’s Committee. In 1981, Rep. Barbara Mikulski co-sponsored the first Congressional resolution designating a week in March as Women’s History Week. In 1987, the National Women’s History Project was instrumental in pushing Congress to dedicate the entire month of March to women’s history.

Women’s history projects and events can now be found not only in schools, colleges, libraries, and museums, but also in streets and parks, and even in cyberspace! Here on campus, the Sixth Annual Women’s History Month and National Women’s Day Celebration is a series of events co-sponsored by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, the Women’s Center, and the Women’s Studies Program. Among this year’s offerings are a lecture by Prof. Weil Ye on “The Myths and Realities of ‘Ssent-Down Girls’; a Chinese Memoir”, a discussion of the impact of education on low-income women; and the Women’s Research Forum. Watch for the Women’s History Month event calendar or call 287-6785 for further details.

In the streets and parks of Boston, you can celebrate Women’s History Month by taking a walk down the Boston Women’s Heritage Trail, or visiting the newly enhanced Harriet Tubman Park on Columbus Avenue in the South End, or participating in the Boston Women’s Memorial Gala Fundraiser, which will be hosted by Mayor and Mrs. Menino at the Fairmont Copley Plaza on March 9, and will honor American women as represented by Boston’s Alagal Manna, Phyllis Wheatley, and Lucy Stone.

Cyberspace is full of vibrant Women’s History sites. Check out the National Women’s History Project (http://www.nwhp.org) where you will find “A Text Your Women’s History IQ” featuring questions about influential women who should be better known—including Mary Harris Jones, Dolores Huerta, Madam C.J. Walker, Queen Liliuokalani, and Sarah Winnemucca. One a month is too short for all the learning now available. On to women’s history all year round!

Director Hired to Aid Outreach in Urban Education

By Anne-Marie Kent

In recent years, UMass Boston alumna and current doctoral candidate Pamela Trefler has donated $3.6 million to aid UMass Boston’s outreach to Boston public schools including Dorchester, East Boston, Madison Park, and English high schools. This January, the effort entered a new stage as former Boston Foundation Vice President Christine Green was hired as director of the Initiative for Excellence in Urban Education. “Working with the Graduate College of Education and the Trefler Foundation, I can help connect and create a body of knowledge and help add to the investment in the schools,” Green explains.

With a doctorate in educational leadership, administration, planning and policy from Boston University, Green is experienced in strategic planning, grant initiation, development, grantmaking, nonprofit research, operations design, and evaluation.

Graduate College of Education Dean Virginia Smith Harvey notes that Green will be helpful in terms of “looking at which areas are most effectively targeted when funds are provided to the schools by either public or private sources.”

In addition to working for the Boston Foundation and consulting for the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund and the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, Green has also had direct experience working with the Boston Public Schools. From 1985 to 1987, she served as director of the Boston Public Schools/ Boston University Urban Initiative, working to develop school and university partnerships. In her current role, Green is still in an information-gathering stage. She says, “I’m taking a look at how the programs operate, and thinking about how to get more resources, how to elevate the profile of this work both locally and nationally.” Pamela Trefler welcomes the addition. “We think that she will take the work that we’re doing to a much higher level,” she says.

URBAN SCHOLARS PLANT SEEDS OF SUCCESS

By Kim Burke

At the end, the conference room at the John Hancock Conference Center looked as if a bunch of teenagers had just left—as in fact they had. But these were no ordinary teenagers: they were participants in the Urban Scholars Twelfth Annual Student Conference. Called “Planting the Seeds for Our Future,” it included 14 workshops on very diverse topics that touched on central themes of teamwork, self-motivation, and education. These are key ingredients the students will use to build their future.

CPCS faculty member Kelly Matthews, co-facilitator for the conference (along with Urban Scholars Director Adeline Mirabal), has great enthusiasm for the program. She has seen it work, both as a teacher in the Boston public school system and now as an advisor. Matthews says the program “makes a strong commitment to kids” and that approximately 90% of Urban Scholars students go to college. By organizing a conference on their own, the students learn to take on more responsibility.

The conference was planned by sixteen Urban Scholars who served on various development committees.

Program Committee member Andrea Ramkisson noted that the workshop topics were chosen according to what the committee members thought would hold greatest interest for the participating students. And they had their interest held, by workshops on theater, HIV awareness, teen empowerment, and dispute resolution, to name only a few topics. Jeremiah E. Burke 10th grader Otto James McGee, who is also in the Admission Guaranteed Program at UMass Boston, answered with a definitive “yes” when asked if the conference had motivated him. He said the conference will help him “make the right choices” for his future and gave him access to resources that will help him plan ahead.

Keynote speaker Pamela Trefler, executive director of the Trefler Foundation, stressed that the "most important thing education can give you is choice." She praised the Urban Scholars Program as "one of the best programs in Boston and that I’ve seen in the country," she said. The lessons learned at this conference will certainly echo into the future.
Honors and Awards

Michael Borek, director of the Harbor Explorations Program at the Gliddon Institute of Education, is the recipient of the 1999 Public Award given by the New England Water Environment Association, an organization that promotes the objectives of cleaner water and increased public awareness of water pollution.

Music major Daniel Barrett Sumber co-produced, played guitar, and sang on the album "Silver Bowl" which was recently nominated for a Boston Music Award. The album features vocalist Kristin Cifelli and was nominated in the Best New Folk Album category. Sumber is a student of Professor David Patterson.

Publications


Professor Donald Macdeo of the English Department and Applied Linguistics has written a new book, Dancing with Bigotry. Beyond the Politics of Toleration co-authored with Professor Lia Bartkow of the English Department and published by St. Martin's Press. He also co-authored with Bartkow "El Racismo en La Era de la Globo Locazon" published in La educacion en el siglo XIX. Los retos del futuro inmediato edited by Francisco Ibarbour. This text was published by Editorial GIAO, Barcelona in 2000. In addition, the following articles by Macdeo have been published: "The Illiteracy of English-Only Literacy" in Educational Leadership; "Decolonizing the English-Only Movement" published by Harvard University Publishing Group; and "Freire: el pedagogo mas importante del siglo XIX" which appeared in Educacion Social, Barcelona, Spain.

A critique of the Interkom's web-based learning center by Professor Margarita Driscoll, director of the Instructional Design Program was a keynote speaker at the United States Air Force Special Operations Base at Hurlburt Air Force Base in Florida, where she delivered a talk on web-based training, "Beyond the Page. Turner."

Professor Frederic C. Gamst of the Anthropology Department made several presentations on labor and safety issues in the railroad industry in December and January. One of only three faculty members invited to serve on the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee to the Federal Railroad Administrator, Garnet helped formulate industry automation standards in December following two years of research. His findings, which led to a prohibition of one-person freight train cars, was among the topics he presented to railroad unions in December, and in January, he presented on the same topics to the Transportation Research Board's subcommittee on Human Factors of Fixed Guideway Transportation Systems.

Adrian Hauagoboek, assistant dean of students, was the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams on February 12. He also facilitated the opening and closing sessions of the conference, the theme of which was "CAUTION: Leaders under Construct-..."
Wednesday 8


Thursday 9

Writing Effectively
9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Learning Center, Healey Library. Presented by SEU 285, a Worker Education Program. Call 541-6847 ext. 126 for more information.

Friday 10

Massachusetts Field Center Conference: "Teaching for Understanding in a Standards-Based Environment." 8:30 - 10:00 a.m., Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center, Featuring Grant Wiggins. Co-sponsored by the Teacher Leadership Academy of Massachusetts and the Graduate College of Education. Call 7-7960 for more information.

Monday 13

Spring Break Begins.

Tuesday 14

First University of Massachusetts Counselor Conference 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., UMass Lowell Campus, Keene's Room, Featuring Dr. Pat Martin of the Education Trust, "Achievement in America: A New Vision in Public Education." Call 978-654-4000 for more information.

Effective Communication
9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Learning Center, Healey Library. Presented by SEU 285, a Worker Education Program. Call 541-6847 ext. 126 for more information.

Yoga
1:15 - 2:00 p.m., McCormick, 1st floor, room 208, Free, drop-in basis. Beginners are welcome, instruction provided. Mats provided, no change of clothes needed.

The Bernard A. Stokely Lecture Series
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Media Auditorium, Lower Level, Healey Library. Prof. Spencer Orsella will lecture and present the film, "The Righteous Enemy." All are welcome. A reception with light refreshments will follow. Sponsored by the McCormick Institute. For more information call 7-6560.

Wednesday 16

Writing Effectively
9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Learning Center, Healey Library. Presented by SEU 285, a Worker Education Program. Call 541-6847 ext. 126 for more information.

Friday 17

Evacuation Day.

Women's History Month Lecture
1:30 p.m., McCormick, 2nd floor, room 207. "Myths and Realities of 'Sent-down' Girls: A Chinese Memoir," presented by Women's Studies professor Wei Yi. For more information, call 7-6785.

Yoga
1:15 - 2:00 p.m., McCormick, 1st floor, room 208. Free, drop-in basis. Beginners are welcome, instruction provided. Mats provided, no change of clothes needed. Sponsored by Health Promotion Program.

Women's History Month Special

Thursday 22

Gerontology Program Dissertation Defense
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Administration, 3rd floor, room 308. Mr. Wei will present his dissertation, "Supplementing In-home Care of Frail Elders with Formal Services: A comparison of White, Hispanic, and Asian Non-Spouse Caregivers. Call 7-7302 for more information.

Guest Speaker Judy Shepard on Anti-Hate Crime Legislation and Initiatives
1:30 p.m., Science Building, Upke Auditorium. Seating is first-come, first-served. Co-sponsored by the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Center, Stuent Trustee Ed Rogers, and the Affirmative Action Office. Call 7-7971 for more information.

Environmental, Coastal & Ocean Sciences Department Seminar: "The Business of Biotechnology." 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., Science Building, 1st floor, Small Science Auditorium. Featuring Dr. Arnold Demain, Professor, Department of Biology, MIT. Call 7-7440 for more information.

WUMB 91.9 FM Concert
2:00 p.m., UMass Boston, Wheatley Hall. Presented by the McCormack Libraries. For more information, call 7-6568 ext. 126.

Women's History Month Workshop
1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Wheatley Hall, 4th floor, Student Lounge. "The Impact of Education on Low-income Women." Sponsored by the College of Public and Community Service and the Women's Center. For more information, call 7-6785.

Tuesday 28

Public Policy Faculty Proposals Due
Professional Development Grant proposals for instructional technology for academic development due. Notification to take place by May 15, 2000. Call 7-6789 for more information.

Effective Communication
9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Learning Center, Healey Library. Presented by SEU 285, a Worker Education Program. Call 541-6847 ext. 126 for more information.

Yoga
1:15 - 2:00 p.m., McCormick, 1st floor, room 208. Free, drop-in basis. Beginners are welcome, instruction provided. Mats provided, no change of clothes needed.

Public Policy Post-Residency Dinner
5:30 p.m., Healey Library, 10th floor, room 541. Please RSVP Call 7-6789 for more information.

Wednesday 29

Women's Research Forum
2:30 to 4:00 p.m., The Chancellor's Conference room, 3rd floor Administration Bldg. Featuring faculty members from the College of Nursing who will speak about current research on women's health. Co-sponsored by the Center for Women in Public and Policy, the Office of the Chancellor and the Women's Studies Program.

Thursday 30

Writing Effectively
9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Learning Center, Healey Library. Presented by SEU 285, a Worker Education Program. Call 541-6847 ext. 126 for more information.

Women's History Month Workshop
1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Wheatley Hall, 4th floor, Student Lounge. "The Impact of Education on Low-income Women." Sponsored by the College of Public and Community Service and the Women's Center. For more information, call 7-6785.

Miscellaneous

The Catholic Campus Ministry
Catholic student meetings on Mondays from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., McCormick Bldg., 3rd floor, room 717. Bible study held every Tuesday from 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Masses held Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m., and Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Call 7-6569 for more information.

Grief Support Gatherings
Tuesdays, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., McCormick Bldg., 3rd floor, room 717. Individual support sessions are also available. Call 7-5298 for an appointment or for more information.

Alcohol Screening
Free and confidential screening for insight into use of alcohol. Individual and confidential free consultation appointments are also available. For more information call Linda Jorge at 7-6560.