College of Nursing and Health Sciences Researcher Examines Costs of Home-Based Alzheimer's Care

By Anne-Marie Kent

According to the National Institute on Aging, close to four million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease (AD) or a related disorder. While half of nursing home residents have some form of dementia, most with AD live at home and are cared for by family or friends. College of Nursing and Health Sciences professor Brooke Harrow is the lead author of a new study measuring the costs of home health care for AD sufferers. Harrow and her seven coauthors used baseline data for 1,200 family caregivers participating in the NINR- and NIA-funded REACH (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer Caregiver's Health) study, a multi-site intervention trial. Seven sites were involved: Birmingham, Boston, Memphis, Miami, Palo Alto, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, which served as the coordinating center. At all sites, researchers estimated costs of assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, eating, and the use of informal care represents relative to caring for persons with AD in an institutional setting." She adds, however, that unpaid care is not free care and the economic burden to families should not go unnoticed. The study, funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA), offers insights into the costs of home-based caregiving and the various factors influencing whether relatives or paid professionals provide this care. Harrow's team of researchers determined that the annual cost per care recipient averaged $23,436 for care provided by relatives, plus an additional $8,064 for care provided by formal care providers.

The study extends previous research by estimating costs using a large ethnically and geographically diverse sample of AD care recipients. Harrow and her seven coauthors used baseline data for 1,200 family caregivers participating in the NINR- and NIA-funded REACH (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer Caregiver's Health) study, a multi-site intervention trial. Seven sites were involved: Birmingham, Boston, Memphis, Miami, Palo Alto, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, which served as the coordinating center. At all sites, researchers estimated costs of assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, eating, and the use of informal care represents relative to caring for persons with AD in an institutional setting." She adds, however, that unpaid care is not free care and the economic burden to families should not go unnoticed. The study, funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA), offers insights into the costs of home-based caregiving and the various factors influencing whether relatives or paid professionals provide this care. Harrow's team of researchers determined that the annual cost per care recipient averaged $23,436 for care provided by relatives, plus an additional $8,064 for care provided by formal care providers.

Executive Forum Brings Distinguished Business Leaders to UMass Boston

By Anne-Marie Kent

Imagine: you're going for your MBA and you have the opportunity to meet and interview top people in business and finance—CEOs Ronald Skates of Data General and Michael Ruettgers of EMC; and industry leaders David Weinstein, chief of administration for Fidelity Investments, Inc., and Cathy Minehan, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. For UMass Boston MBA students, these opportunities are real, part of the Senior Executive Forum, which was initiated by College of Management Dean Philip Quaglieri back in 1998.

Provost Finalists Selected for On-Campus Interviews

By Leigh Dupuy

The candidate search for a new provost has narrowed to a field of six finalists, who are scheduled to visit UMass Boston for interviews in late February and early March. The six were selected from a pool of 80 applicants by a search committee of faculty and staff. The candidates are Kent Chabotar of Bowdoin College, Paul Fonteyn of San Francisco State University, Walter Harris of North Carolina Central University, Cynthia Harrel of SUNY Plattsburgh, Arthur MacEwan, who currently is serving as interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, and Nancy Usher of the University of Mexico.

The candidates will have a full day of interviews with members of the university community, including an open meeting for faculty and staff from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Candidates will also meet with deans, vice chancellors, senior provost's office personnel, students, the search committee, and the chancellor.

Candidate visits are scheduled for February 25 (Arthur MacEwan), February 27 (Cynthia Harrel), March 4 (Paul Fonteyn), March 6 (Walter Harris), March 11 (Nancy Usher), and on March 13 (Kent Chabotar). A university memo with locations of the open meetings and biographical information will be distributed.
Campus Enhancements Foster Sense of Community and Appeal

By Leigh DuPry

"We must have a physical plant that is an attractive setting for work and for learning," said Chancellor Gora, citing one of her action plans in her faculty, students, and visitors. Whether it is the new technology classrooms, outdoor and indoor signage, or furniture for the Win's End, UMass Boston has developed a new sense of welcome and appeal.

As part of a three-year plan to improve facilities, Chancellor Gora seeks to refurbish key areas such as classrooms, function rooms, and university landscaping. Classrooms and hallways in Wheatley Hall, McCormack Hall, and the Science Center are slated for new painting and reflooring, in three successive phases. Bathroom partitions and ceiling tiles will also be repaired in the academic buildings. Plans are underway to renovate the University Club, with new painting, carpets and chairs, and clean windows.

In preparation for spring, administrators are working with an outside landscape group to create a more welcoming entrance to the university by planting of more flowers and replacing of trees. "Not only does it make the campus more attractive," notes Gora, "but these changes make the university a place people want to be." Visitors can easily identify buildings by the outdoor building signs as they drive around campus. Students can gather in the lobby of Wheatley Hall for the new Win's End kiosk or get a breath of fresh air on the Win's End patio, which features new outdoor furniture and umbrellas. Faculty and students can connect and learn through use of technology in the new classrooms. These enhancements, combined with the construction of the new campus center and projected on-campus residential housing, promise to renew the university's community and connections.

Design Firm Selected for Residential Housing Feasibility Study

As the March issue of the University Reporter went to print, we learned that the design firm Sasaki Associates, Inc. was selected to complete a feasibility study for residential housing at UMass Boston. See the April issue for more details.

UMass Boston Alumnus Competes at the Olympic Winter Games

By Leigh DuPry

It was only last February that Alexander Penna learned how to cross-country ski for the first time. A year later, the UMass Boston alumnus competed at the Olympic Winter Games at Salt Lake City in the 50-kilometer cross-country event. "I liked that I have started from the beginning and I am just going to do my best," he explained. This is the kind of determination that has always distinguished Penna, who was one of the first-ever UMass Boston students to receive a Fulbright grant.

Penna learned how to cross-country ski while living and working in Norway, where he had traveled in 2000 with the Fulbright grant to study Norwegian party politics. After only a few weeks of skiing, he learned to love the country's national sport and began to compete in races of 50, 60, and 90 kilometers. However, it wasn't until a friend urged him to think about competing in the Olympics that Penna began to think about the possibility of participating in the winter games. He spoke with Olympic committees in Sweden, who were helpful and suggested that he contact the committee in Brazil, where his father is from. The Brazilians offered Penna a chance to compete for their country in the event. With their sponsorship, Penna was the first competitor to represent Brazil in Olympic cross-country skiing. "It was a full-time job," Penna said, describing the hard work of planning logistics and training at Lillehammer. However, the experience was worth it - Penna walked during the opening ceremonies of the Olympics and finished 58th place in his event.

Penna credits UMass Boston for teaching him how to actively pursue goals that interests him. He says, "I was treated as an adult and was responsible for what I wanted to do. It's real life. It was this and an American sense of self-empowerment that I can do anything that inspired me." The conclusion of the games does not end Penna's ambitions. He is considering competing in the 2006 Winter Games and is also working on a book on the privatization of the petroleum industry in Europe.

Chancellor Gora Discusses the University's Strengths on BNN's Visions

"We have a fantastic culture of commitment to our students," Gora noted in describing the strengths of UMass Boston. She retold her many conversations with students, "the most honest audience," about the university. Every student, she said, told an inspiring story about a faculty member who had made a difference in his or her life. This connection is especially crucial for a commuter campus, Gora said, so she has been looking for ways to foster these connections. These initiatives include the recent technology and facility enhancements which have reshaped the university since her arrival.

However, with these changes, the university does not lose sight of its urban mission, Gora explained. "Our mission is to serve the community, provide input and resources... We are trying to play a role in the community."

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Geographic Information Technologies Professor and Students Provide Consulting to Local Businesses

By Leigh DaPey

Professor Zong-Guo Xia and his students in the Geographic Information Technologies Program will lend their skills to help local business owners map their territory and better understand the demographic characteristics, economic activities, infrastructure, land use zoning, marketing, and revitalization needs for the area. It is just one of the ways Xia and his students offer professional consulting service to community organizations.

Xia’s latest project is to use geographic information systems (GIS) analysis to plot the area of the Newmarket Business Association (NBA), a non-profit group of over 200 members. Their businesses are located in the waterfront area extending from UMass Boston to downtown Boston. It is a unique parcel: the only area within Boston that is zoned for industrial development. Xia notes, “The territory is of core economic importance for the City of Boston.” Under Xia’s leadership, he and his students will provide NBA with a series of maps, charts, and overlays that contain detailed information about their territories. By the time the project is complete, the NBA will have a database of maps and will have received basic training to use geographic information systems in routine operations.

“It is a wonderful opportunity to map our ‘backyard,’ Xia says. “The data could help revitalize the city. This fits in wonderfully with UMass Boston’s urban mission.”

Xia is also working with the Nature Conservancy as a GIS consultant. He will analyze data from five areas in Western Massachusetts to assess the most critical areas for conservation efforts and land acquisition.

Many of Xia’s former students continue to provide service for Massachusetts, working as environmental scientists, consultants, and urban planners for organizations including the Massachusetts Geographic Information System, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Barstelle Coastal Resources and Environmental Management, Passon Brinckerhoff, Inc., and Applied Geographics, Inc. The Program in Geographic Information Technologies is known as the most comprehensive in New England, noted for having one of the best computer facilities in the country.

Flexible and Dynamic: University Debuts New Home Page

By Joe Peters

Facelifts continue for the UMass Boston home page. This month, the Web Services Department put the final pieces on a lengthy transition. Changes, which began a year ago with the reorganization of the main buttons, have progressed to a new “Happenings @ UMB” column and a new color scheme and organization.

Overall, the page has shifted from one dominant image and a set of links to several smaller images and more options for finding information on the university Web site. This format is very common among many other colleges and reflects the evolution of the Web from an attraction to a vital resource.

Some early college home pages were what many Web developers now call a “splash page,” which was something designed mostly for visual appeal. Perhaps the greatest misconception used in regard to the Web use is “surf.” Time has borne out that people do not click through Web sites like they surf the channels of a TV, waiting for something to catch their eye. Most people arrive at a Web site seeking specific information. In this context, the splash page doesn’t work for organizations like colleges and universities, which have a lot of information to share.

At UMass Boston, Web Services has responded with a home page that is much more flexible than the old design. With the new look, it is very easy to insert new images and text into the page. One week the page might feature an aerial of the campus, and the next week visitors could be greeted by commemorative images promoting upcoming honorary degree recipients.

Changes under the old design were very involved because of the way the links were part of the image. The new look has lost those image links, but has gained a great deal in terms of being dynamic.

In addition, the new design features search functions and additional text links to allow people to find what they are looking for. Overall, the home page can be better tailored to the wide audience it serves. On average, the main site sees about 32,000 hits per day.

Faculty and staff are welcome to forward their comments about the home page and the site in general to webmaster@umb.edu.

“Technology Goes Home” Helps Bridge Digital Divide

By Anne-Marie Kent and Kim Trausenich

With society and the workplace relying more on technology, the need to bridge the “digital divide”—the gap in computer literacy between the poor and affluent—has become a major public policy concern.

One new way UMass Boston is helping to close that gap is through a new partnership with the City of Boston supporting the second phase of the Technology Goes Home (TGH) program.

TGH began in 1998, when Echo Tsi, CEO of HQ Computers, donated 1,000 new computers to the city, enabling Boston Mayor Tom Menino and the Boston Digital Bridge Foundation to launch the neighborhood-based family computer training program.

“Currently, TGH has provided training and computers to 300 families in its first year of operation,” says John Ciccarelli, Chancellor Gora’s special assistant for economic development. “The Boston Digital Bridge Foundation wants to increase the scale of the program by training up to 3,640 families over the next two years at the fourth grade level through a new, school-based program called Technol-ogy Goes Home @ School. We at UMass Boston are excited to help them in that effort.”

This month, UMass Boston’s Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education and the Boston Public Schools Office of Instructional Technology will train six fourth grade teachers in how to teach the TGH curriculum. Through this pilot program, 60 families from four schools will then be trained and equipped with free computers, printers, and Internet access for a year. A parent and child from each family selected to participate in the program will receive training from March through April, when they receive their equipment. Additional training will be held in May and June and over the summer, and graduation will occur in mid June, before summer vacation.

The McCormack Institute’s Center for Social Policy is assessing the first round of TGH and will evaluate both the pilot and full roll-out phases of Technology Goes Home @ School.

Alzheimer’s Research (cont.)

flexible, as well as for costs of activities such as providing cooking, laundry, and transportation services. They measured the costs of informal, family-provided care, as well as for formal care by paid professionals, and also looked at geographic variation in the cost of this care, controlling for caregiver and care recipient characteristics.

The Boston site reported the highest use of professional, formal services, with 86.9 percent of caregivers using some service at an average monthly cost of nearly $1,200. Memphis and Birmingham reported the lowest formal service usage and corresponding costs. In Massachusetts, caregivers are encouraged by their health care providers to use home health aids, and numerous adult day care programs are available. In contrast, caregivers in Memphis and Birmingham did not have as many programs available. However, further study is needed, says Harrow, to determine whether findings reflect differences in access or availability rather than regional preferences.

Harrow says that geographic variation may suggest regional preferences, ethnic and cultural values and norms, or socioeconomic factors. She cautions that “geographic variation may indicate unmet need or undue caregiver burden in certain areas. Caregivers need to be made aware of the variety of caregiver services that have been and could be developed. It should not be limited to those only available. Unless the consumer is aware, demand cannot be created.” She adds, “Clearly, there is a need for policy approaches to ease family burden that are sensitive to geographic or racial and ethnic differences in need for and use of services. Regional variation and access issues continue to exist and challenge us to address them.”
Chancellor Discusses University Plans with Dorchester Civic Associations

By Anne-Marie Kent
The new 331,000-square-foot Campus Center is fast taking shape for a December 2003 opening. With plans for student housing moving ahead and fundraising for a new Environmental Science and Technology Center in the planning stages, UMass Boston is in the process of transforming the Dorchester waterfront. Chancellor Jo Ann Gora vows that this will not take place without community input. At a breakfast held at The Phillips Old Colony House on February 8, Chancellor Gora offered members of Dorchester civic associations and local political leaders a seat at the table. "UMass Boston is of the community and for the community," said Gora. "It is crucial that we involve the community at the outset to share information about our plans for the campus and listen to their concerns." One concern, voiced by Representative Maureen Feeney, had to do with the cost of these projects. Gora said that the Environmental Science and Technology Center would rely on outside funding and that dorms would not be built with state or tuition monies, but rather with revenue bonds, the debt service on which would be paid by students living in them. Asking whether the creation of dorms would change university's mission, Representative Jack Hart said, "UMass Boston has served the City of Boston like no other university has. The fear is that building dormitories makes it a place that people can't access anymore."

"There's no way that can happen," responded Gora, stressing that the plans are for only 2,000 units, a small fraction of the 13,000 total enrollment. "We're trying to offer this type of campus experience to any student who wants it at an affordable price," Gora said. Others wondered about student demand for nightlife. Gora said the university would try to meet the challenge in the new Campus Center. It was also noted that downtown Boston is a 15-minute train ride away and that hundreds of UMass Boston students already live in the immediate area.

The meeting ended with an agreement to continue the discussion and find willing UMass Boston leaders to serve the community through their research efforts and outreach.

By Kim Burke
UMass Boston's first-ever coach for the new women's ice hockey team brings with her a piece of Olympic glory. Laura Schuler was a part of Canada's 1998 silver-medal-winning women's ice hockey team and brings with her 11 years of experience with Team Canada. At age 19 she was selected as Team Canada's youngest player to compete in the inaugural World Championships in 1990.

In addition, Schuler spent four standout years playing with Northeastern University, where she made four appearances in the ECAC semi-finals, played in the ECAC championship, and led the team in scoring her sophomore year. She was named captain her senior year.

Athletics Director Charlie Titus has the utmost confidence in his new coach. "We searched for a young, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic coach... We are convinced we have that person in Laura Schuler," says Titus. Schuler gained coaching experience in her native Ontario and says she is looking forward to the "challenge of coaching at the varsity level" and having the opportunity "to give back to my sport full time."

Laura Schuler is the first-ever head coach for the women's varsity ice hockey team at UMass Boston. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Best Practices: "Stop Outs" Are Invited Back to Complete Their Studies

By Sherry Rhyno and Anna Tarquino
Nearly 100 undergraduates who left the university in good academic standing prior to completing their degree requirements are readmitted every semester. We call this the return of the "stop out," a student who has taken a leave of absence and then returned to complete university study. Approximately one third of all of our graduated students have "stopped out" at one time or another, staying away for one or more semesters. Some return after determining a new course of study or career interest. Re-admitted students are attracted by the desire to complete their studies, as well as by our quality academic programs, accelerated faculty, flexible options, and the support services.

Each semester, the Office of Enrollment Marketing and Information Services mails an information packet and a personalized letter to "stop outs." The mailing includes an invitation to rejoin the university, information on the "how tos" of returning, a current schedule of courses booklet, a deadline notice, and a waiver of the re-admission application fee.

The university readmits students in good standing, with a minimum 2.0 GPA, until the last day of the add/drop period. The process of updating a student's file, assigning a pin number, and completing a transcript or degree audit typically takes about five minutes. Once re-admitted, the student makes an appointment with an academic adviser, either in his or her major department or in the University Advising Center. When a student begins the process early, the advisor can conduct a thorough evaluation of the student's academic record and review any curriculum or graduation requirement changes that may have gone into effect since the student left the university. This can be especially important when the student is deciding on a new major. Re-admitted students meet briefly with an advisor on a walk-in basis right before classes begin and during the add/drop period, but they are advised to make an appointment for a more in-depth advising session for more thorough review and discussion.

Re-admitted students have expressed their gratitude for being contacted by the university and invited to return with information on how to do so at no additional charge. Re-issuing the schedule of courses booklet is also a plus; they say it provides concrete information on when a re-admitted student would take new classes.

The idea for this best practice came out of activities generated by the University Retention Committee a few years back under the leadership of Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Kathy Teahan, Registrar David Cesario, and former Associate Provost Patricia Davidson. Since then, we have taken related measures to revise the schedule of courses book and expand touch-tone and web registration information.

Sherry Rhyno is director of marketing, and Anna Tarquino is associate registrar for the enrollment management area. The column is a part of a continuing monthly series featuring best practices at UMass Boston.

Dean Cherry to Retire from College of Nursing and Health Sciences

After thirteen years of valuable service, Brenda Cherry will retire as dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, a position she has held since 1989. During her tenure, she helped develop a doctoral program in nursing, facilitated the reorganization of the college into three departments, and created a new governance structure for the college. She also revised the undergraduate nursing curricul-

lum, established a baccalaureate completion program for RNs at Cape Cod Community College, and prepared the college for the upcoming accreditation review by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Cherry will be leaving the university by the end of the spring 2002 term. The Office of the Provost will appoint an interim dean and anticipates conducting a search for a permanent dean in 2002 – 2003.

By Sherry Rhyno and Anna Tarquino
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Winch’s New Book Celebrates A Gentleman of Color

By Jeanne Wallace-Buckley

In her fourth book, A Gentleman of Color: The Life of James Forten, published by Oxford University Press, UMass Boston history professor Julie Winch rediscovers one of the most influential African Americans of the nineteenth century. “Forten was very outspoken on the subject of slavery, alcoholism, and women’s rights,” says Winch, “but in conducting my research for the book I realized that I also needed to know how he made his money.” She adds, “I hope to restore Mr. Forten to the position that I think he deserves.”

Winch researched Forten’s life for twelve years, reflecting tremendous dedication. She says, “I would like people to look more critically and questionsingly at the nature of race in the early republic.” Forten’s life was expansive. Born a free African American, he proudly served America in the Revolutionary War and made a small fortune as a sailmaker.

Publisher’s Weekly calls Winch’s scholarship “both outstanding and vital,” but Winch was particularly delighted by a comment made by actor Ossie Davis who plays the “voice” of James Forten in Lights and Liberty, a sound and light show in Philadelphia’s Independence Hall. “This book” said Davis, “put me in the presence of Mr. James Forten, an African American, who in the time of slavery, was indeed a gentleman.... It was a great pleasure to have spent some time in his company.”

Winch actively lectures on the subject of African American history. Her “public scholarship” includes participation in WGBH’s series on Africans in America, for which she has served both as interviewee and as a member of the production team. Winch has been teaching at UMass Boston since 1985.

What a Scoop at the Annual Ice Cream Social!

By Kim Trauceniek

Marshall, Clare Poirier, Anne Riley, Michael Forcier, Ed Gagnon, Forrest Speck, and Dick Louie to serve over 400 employees—and a few stray students—who gathered for the 4th annual celebration of community spirit and fabulous ice cream, courtesy of Ben & Jerry’s. The event is sponsored by the ARD Experiential Community Committee, which seeks to foster community spirit and provide opportunities for employees to meet. Other ARD-hosted events include trips to Foxwoods Casino and NYC.

ARD invites and welcomes new ideas for trips or events; e-mail Clare.Poirier@umb.edu.

HonorWomen’s History Month at UMass Boston

By Carol Hardy-Fontà

UMass Boston traditionally offers a wide range of activities to help us celebrate Women’s History Month. The McCormack Institute has invited Mary Frances Berry, the chair of the Commission on Civil Rights, to speak at a public forum on March 13. On the following day, she will join a group of women leaders from around Greater Boston in a discussion of one of her books, The Politics of Parenthood: Child Care, Women’s Rights, and the Myth of the Good Mother. Sponsored by the McCormack Institute’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, the event is by invitation.

The student-run Women’s Center at UMass Boston is developing an exciting line-up of events during March. First, they hope to bring a women’s filmmaker on campus to preview one of her films. Second, Equality, a professional theater company, will come to campus to do a play on acquaintance date rape. At the event the Women’s Center will have tables with literature and information pertaining to date rape and domestic violence. They also expect to bring women poets, including students at UMass Boston, to share their works. Greater Boston offers many opportunities for learning and activism around women’s history and women’s rights. The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy is pleased to co-sponsor the local celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8. This event will be held at Simmons College Conference Center from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. As space is limited, RSVP by contacting the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women at 617.626.6520.

New Words Bookstore at 186 Hampshire Street in Cambridge is hosting a number of events in March, including an appearance by Chitra Divakaruni, who will read from The Vine of Desire on March 13 at 7:00 p.m. There will also be an “open mic” for women on March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Find out more about their offerings at 617-371-7124.

This is only a sampling of events around Greater Boston. By March 1, the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy will have a more complete listing on www.mccormack.umb.edu/Center/cwppp of what to do on campus to join people around the globe who promote the U.N. affirmation that “women’s rights are human rights.”

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Marshall, associate vice chancellor for administration and finance, and human resources, Clare Poirier, director of personnel administration, and Anne Riley, trust fund budget manager, are all smiles in serving ice cream to employees. (Photo by Harry Brett)

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By Kim Trauceniek

Marshall, associate vice chancellor for administration and finance, and human resources, Clare Poirier, director of personnel administration, and Anne Riley, trust fund budget manager, are all smiles in serving ice cream to employees. (Photo by Harry Brett)
PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

On January 29, Professor Paul Arnow of the William Joiner Center and the American Studies Program spoke at the Martin Institute at Stonehill College on "The Role of the Press in Advancing or Suppressing Our Understanding of the Current Crisis." Gonzalo Bacigalupo, assistant professor in the Graduate College of Education, presented "Listening to Latino Insured Patterns in Massachusetts Developing a Model of Barriers to Health Care Access and Quality" at the Hispanic Health Services Research Conference, held in Houston in February.

Ellen Bruce, associate director of the Gerontology Institute, was selected as one of 200 delegates to the 2002 National Summit on Retirement Savings, held from February 27 through March 1 in Washington, D.C.

Rich Delaney, director of the Urban Harbors Institute, attended a meeting of the Second Summit Preparatory Committee at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in January to assess ocean and coastal issues and develop recommendations for the upcoming 2002 United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, was the featured speaker at the January 25 meeting of Governor's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues. She spoke about the policy agenda and recommendations from the Mass Action for Women Audit.

Professor Philip Hart, director of the Trotter Institute, gave the keynote address at the Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus Black History Month Luncheon on Tuesday, February 5. Hart was given proclamations by Governor Swift, Senate President Tom Birmingham, Speaker of the House Tom Finneran, State Auditor Joe DeNucci, and the Mass Black Legislative Caucus.

Professor Robert Hayden of the General Center presented a slide talk on William Monroe Trotter, "The National Civil Right Activist from Sawyer Avenue," at the backstage of the Historical Society on February 24.

In January, Nina Greenwald of the Graduate Program in Critical and Creative Thinking led a workshop on the application of surprise, critical and creative thinking strategies to authentic case material for social service coordinators, forensic biologists, and chemists from the State Crime Lab.

Jacqueline Fawcett, professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, presented an invited lecture, "Using Nursing Conceptual Models and Theories to Guide Evidence-Based Nursing Practice," at Hampton University School of Nursing on January 29.

Esther Kingston-Mann, history and American studies professor, gave the keynote address at the Rhode Island College Conference "Bridging Gaps: Toward a Multi-Voiced Academy" on January 15. Her topic was "Diversity and Academic Standards: Allers Rather than Adversaries."

Kathleen Golden McAndrew, associate professor of nursing, was a guest speaker for the North of Boston Association of Nurses in the Arts on February 28.

MaryAnn Byrnes, assistant professor of the Graduate College of Education, was the academic editor of Talking Sage: Clashing Views of Controversial Issues in Special Education, which was published in January by Dushkin McGraw-Hill.


In March the Liberty Fund will republish Nathaniel Culverwell's An Elegant and Learned Discourse of the Light of Nature, edited by Robert Greene of the English Department and Hugh MacCallum. Originally published by the University of Toronto Press in 1971, this edition will be republished with a new foreword by Greene in one of the first two volumes of a projected sixty-volume series, Natural Law and Enlightenment Classics.

Jacqueline Haslett of the Africana Studies Department presented the foreword for Rare and Commonplace Flowers, a biography of Elizabeth Bishop and Lota De Macedo Soares by Carmen Oliveira. She also wrote the article "I Could Write a Book: Popular Song Lyrics of the 20th Century," which is published in Parnassus.

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Administrators Head Back to the Classroom

By Leanne Marden

The semester is well underway, and so are preparations for the new financial system that will be introduced to the campus soon. In the summer of 2002, financial administrators at UMass Boston and across the University of Massachusetts will begin using the new PeopleSoft administrative system for financial operations.

Getting to this point required many hours of hard work, and many trips to Worcester, where three long-time UMass Boston employees—Bobby Kartagorulis, Dennis Loughlin, and Richard Simmons—joined colleagues from all of the university campuses and the President's Office to design the system according to UMass specifications. Once designed and developed, the system was ready for testing. Testing involved trying out all the features of the system and seeing if the results were as expected. And as if testing were not enough to keep the finance team busy, the time for training others on campus has now arrived.

In early February, the first of many transition workshops was held for campus staff, including central financial administrators and departmental staff persons who make purchases and manage budgets for their units. These workshops serve as pre-training information sessions, introducing new features and terminology, and important changes. During the month of March, the same financial administrators will begin receiving e-mails, directing them to the on-line web registration system to find out what courses are recommended for them and when the courses will be offered. With a few simple keystrokes and mouse clicks, our PeopleSoft finance students can enroll in the necessary training courses at times most convenient for them.

Some users may need to attend only one course, while others may be slated to attend many. "Finance Fundamentals" will be offered for all staff members who will be working with the new PeopleSoft administrative system. Other courses will teach users how to access financial information on-line, access reports electronically, and make purchases using the new PeopleSoft finance system.

All finance systems users should "stay tuned" for more specific information about training and general preparations for the new system. Attendance at training and information sessions will make the transition to PeopleSoft a smooth and enjoyable experience.

New Web Cam for Campus Center

Suffolk Construction begins to build the columns that will support the roadway and sidewalk of the new Campus Center, as seen here in a photo taken on January 24. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Campus Center fans will now be able to watch the up-to-the-minute construction progress of the university's new $331,000-square-foot building on a newly created web cam site. The site is linked to university's home page, features still shots of construction, updated every two minutes. The site also includes the architecture's rendering of the finished building and, in the future, will offer viewers a virtual tour of the building's interior rooms, hallways, and function rooms through a photo collection. These renderings offer a realistic preview of the campus' center's interiors, views, and facilities. Check out the latest development at www.umass.edu/about/umb/campus_center.

Construction continues to proceed ahead of schedule as builders continue to add decking to the building's steel skeleton. The completion of the steel foundation phase is expected in April or May.

Executive Forum (cont.)

"The College of Management's Senior Executive Forum provides a rich opportunity for our students to meet the top leadership from some of the most significant organizations in greater Boston—including those in financial services, banking, technology, and retail; and the public and private sectors, for profit and not for profit," said Quaglieri.

On February 13, another CEO, named by Quaglieri as "Distinguished Visiting Professor of Marketing," visited the campus, this time from the world of New York fashion: top designer and 1972 UMass Boston graduate Joseph Abboud, CEO of J. A. Apparel Corporation. As part of a creative arrangement allowing him to share his expertise in various areas, Abboud spent the day—one of three planned visits to campus—teaching in various settings. In the morning, he lectured in Marketing 403. In the afternoon, he delivered the main address, "Managing the Creative Organization," at the College of Management Convocation. Later in the day, he offered students career advising.

Abboud said, "Coming back to the University of Massachusetts Boston is always a fulfillment of my dreams and it proves you can come home again." His career has taken him from the classrooms of Wheatley Hall and onto the fashion runways of Paris and New York.

After studying comparative literature at UMass Boston, he went on to the Sorbonne in Paris, where he grew to love what he calls "the sophisticated polish of European style.Over the course of twelve years, he worked for the prestigious retailer Louis of Boston, where he served as buyer, merchandiser, and eventually coordinator of promotions and advertising. Three years as director of menswear design for Polo/Ralph Lauren further refined Abboud's own vision of men's style.

Abboud launched his signature menswear collection in 1987. Two years later, he joined forces with GFT USA Corporation to form J.A. Apparel Corporation. Since the debut of his collection, Abboud has won numerous honors. He was the first menswear designer to have received the coveted Menswear Designer of the Year Award two years in a row (1989 and 1990) from the Council of Fashion Designers of America. In 1995, he was honored for "excellence in American can design" by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and in May 1997 he was presented with the Michael Award for Menswear Designer of the Year.

Abboud will share more of his expertise in future visits to the campus on Thursday, March 7, and Wednesday, April 10. He will speak on topics including advertising, creativity, and marketing management, and conduct sessions with honors students on career preparation and entrepreneurship. During the April 10 visit, he will meet with MBA students enrolled in the Senior Executive Forum.

"This is a great opportunity for us to have an internationally recognized business and fashion leader share his experiences with us," said Quaglieri. "We look forward to having him challenge our ideas and offer his expertise on leadership and creativity."

Other speakers planned for the coming semester include Boston Mayor Thomas Menino '88, Christopher Probyn, chief international economist for State Street Global Advisors; UMass Boston alumnus Barry Bycroft '70, chairman, president and CEO of Netegrity Incorporated; and Robert Mudge, president of Verizon, Massachusetts.

Managing Conflict in Large Groups: Helping Organizations Confront Difficult Issues

Thursday, March 14
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Featuring Barbara Bunker, organizational social psychologist.

Quinn Administration Building, 3-308.

Sponsored by the Benjamin and Sylvia Slomoff Visiting Lectureship in Dispute Resolution.

Contact: 7-7421 for more information.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 6

Gaston Institute and Trotter Institute Joint Speakers Series: Using Data to Challenge Racial Inequality—Creating Schools that Promote Hope and Justice
9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Healey Library, Presentation Room 2. Learn the new contract-for-service procedure and form, with new monetary limits set for services. To register, contact Janis Mahoney, 7-5068.

East Asian Studies Lecture: East Asia The Next Frontier of Aging and Social Security
2:30 - 4:00 p.m., Healey Library, Provost's Conference Room. Featuring Professor Yung-ping Chen of Harvard University.

Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences Seminar: Ocean and Coastal Water Quality: A Policy Analysis of Threats and Opportunities
2:30 - 3:45 p.m., Science Center, Science Auditorium, 1-006. Featuring Timothy Ephraim of The Ocean Conservancy. Contact: 7-7440.

THURSDAY 7

College of Management Seminars: The Alhoub Collection
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, 2-214. MKT 430 Creativity. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Healey Library Staff Lounge: Entrepreneurship Seminars. 4:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Quinn Administration 6th floor, Chancellor's Conference room. CCT 612 Seminar in Creativity. Contact: 7-7700.

FRIDAY 8

Biology Department Seminar Series: Evolution of RNA Viruses
2:30 p.m., Science Center, Small Science Auditorium, 1-006. Featuring Paul Turner of Yale University. Special seminar co-hosted with the Robert McNair Program. Contact: 7-6600.

MONDAY 11

Gerontology Speaker Series: The Cost of Caring for Community Residing Elders with Dementia
1:00 - 2:15 p.m., Wheatley Hall, 4-147-2. Featuring Brooke Harrow, professor in the Ph.D. in Nursing Program. Contact: 7-7330.

Alcohol and Drug Discussion Group
2:30 - 3:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, 2-414. Weekly support group, safe and confidential, for individuals trying to live free from alcohol and drug abuse. Contact: Donna Durfee at bumb.edu or 7-6548.

Tuesday 15

Student Lunchcheon with Chancellor Gora
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until March 7. Students wishing to attend should call the Office of Student Affairs, 7-5800.