Leaders of Divided Cities Sign Agreement of Union at McCormack School Conference

By Olesia Plokhii

Before leaving Boston to head back to the divided cities of Mitrovica, Nicosia, Kirkuk, and Derry/Londonderry, all 30 delegates who came to Padraig O’Malley’s “Forum for Cities in Transition” conference at UMass Boston from April 14 through 16 signed an agreement to establish a permanent forum for dialogue.

O’Malley, the John Joseph Moakley Professor of Peace and Reconciliation at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, brought together Kurdistan, Arabic, Turkmen, and Assyrian representatives from Kirkuk in Iraq; Unionist, Nationalist, and Republican delegates from Derry/Londonderry in Northern Ireland; Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot representatives from Nicosia in Cyprus; and Albanian and Nigerian representatives from Kirkuk in Kosovo in hopes of testing his now famous thesis for peace on a new group of divided cities.

“People in divided societies are in the best position to help people from other divided societies,” said O’Malley, who has helped with conflict resolution in Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Iraq. Despite their unique conflicts, O’Malley believes that each city shares ethnic, religious, or nationalist divisions—a commonality which he hoped all four delegations would use to their benefit by agreeing to establish a permanent forum for discussion on the last day of the conference.

The agreement, titled “Call to Action,” states that participants from all cities affirm “to create a Forum for Cities in Transition, with those present becoming founding members, […] that the forum’s purposes shall be to address common problems […], [and] to deepen and broaden the network by taking ownership of the Forum’s future, by one city assuming the Presidency of the Forum each year and planning to host future Forum annual events in their territories in conjunction with civil society and educational institutions.”

As the single document was signed an agreement to establish a permanent forum for discussion on the last day of the conference.

The conference was just the latest chapter in Padraig O’Malley’s efforts to bring together divided societies. (Photo by Harry Brett)
Divided Cities Conference (cont. from page 1)

passed from delegate to delegate around the table, representatives from two cities announced a desire to host the next event in 2010.

“I fully support the paper and want to express our wish to host the next forum in Mitrovica,” said Sadrri Ferati, an ethnic Albanian who is the Minister of Local Governance in Mitrovica, a city with a majority of Serbs in the north and Kosovar Albanians in the south. “I hope everyone will agree to that.”

Gerry Diver, mayor of Derry/Londonderry, said his delegation would happily defer hosting the first forum to make way for Mitrovica.

“I’m sure I’m speaking for all of the delegation [when I say] how moved we are by the leadership demonstrated by our colleague from Mitrovica,” Diver said.

“They have shown that the true value of the conference has taken root in work done over the last few days.”

Former Red Sox Goes Blue for a Day

Former pro baseball player Pumpsie Green, the first African American to play for the Boston Red Sox, stopped by the Quinn Building in April to chat with Chancellor Motley. During his visit to Boston, Green was also honored in a pregame ceremony by his former team, the last in the majors to integrate when Green joined the club in the summer of 1959. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Patrick Meets with Ethnic Media (cont. from page 1)

met with about 20 ethnic-media journalists in the Healey Library. Center director and Newswire editor Frank Herron hopes to expand on the success of the event by hosting regular meetings with newsmakers on the local, state, and even national levels.

“I look at this as a sort of editorial board get-together for the ethnic media of New England,” he said. “We would like to have a ethnic media of New England,” editor Frank Herron hopes to expand on the success of the event.

“Despite the fact that he faces falling approval ratings and one of the worst state budget crises in memory, Patrick was in good spirits at the press conference, joking with reporters and chatting in the packed room to extend a welcoming handshake to each of the participants.

“This is your house,” said Patrick. “I hope you have come to this meeting in that spirit. We want to have a partnership with you.”

After Patrick’s opening remarks, the reporters began lobbing an arsenal of questions, ranging from hot-button issues such as immigration reform and drivers’ licenses for undocumented immigrants to more mainstream issues, such as the spending of recovery bill hands to a proposed commuter rail extension on the Stoughton line.

For the most part, Patrick was engaged and talkative—answering questions at length, allowing the conference to run over its scheduled time, and encouraging the reporters to schedule regular meetings in the future. Patrick also beseeched the reporters for help promoting a 10,000-job summer work initiative that his office is sponsoring.

For many of the reporters, it was their first trip to the State House, said Eduardo de Oliveira, the health reporter for the New England Ethnic Newswire.

“We don’t have many ethnic media covering the State House and politics as often as the mainstream media,” he said. “For them to have a chance to talk with the governor was really great.”

The benefits of open communication go both ways, said Herron. “It’s also a way for politicians to engage communities they might not be able to reach through the mainstream press.

“The Arabic translation is not perfect; the insinuations and innuendos in the language are inaccurate,” Hama-Jan said. “I don’t agree to the term ‘province divided,’ even if this is agreed by government; as delegates, we are defending the real fact that we don’t want to portray the wrong image in Kirkuk.”

After the wording of the document was amended to reflect delegate concerns, however, every representative of the conference, including those from Nicosia and Kirkuk, signed on.

“What we learned from this conference was the problems and conflicts of other cities; we learned what the process was and how they solved their problems,” said Abdullah Sami Assi, an Arab member of the Kirkuk Provincial Council. “These problems are common with ours and we can transfer the way they solved and implemented them as a model to solve our own problems.”

Be the event of an emergency, subscribers to the UMass Boston Alert System receive text, email, and voice messages with instructions on how to stay safe. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Screener-Age.

The test went well, but O’Connor and Agee share one concern: While everyone with an active UMass Boston email address is in the system, not everyone has entered cell phone information to receive test messages. The system is free, but normal text messaging costs apply. The university plans to use the system only for routine testing and critical emergency messages, so costs should be minimal.

“Adding your cell phone number into the system generally means you’ll get quicker access to that information through texting or mobile email,” says Agee. “Keep in mind that no system is foolproof—that’s why we test the system and employ various means of emergency communications.”

The system test itself and the efforts to promote it helped increase the number of cell phone contacts added to the system. After the test, cell phone participation jumped by 21% for students and 36% for faculty and staff.

“The benefits of open communication go both ways, said Herron. “It’s also a way for politicians to engage communities they might not be able to reach through the mainstream press.

“This is all about access—access to the governor, but also vice versa. The governor and others need access to these professionals and the populations they represent,” Herron said.

De Oliveira agrees. The political power of ethnic communities is on the rise, and politicians would be wise to take heed, he said.

“The election of Obama shows that the electoral map of America is changing rapidly,” he said. “More and more, we are part of the political discussion in this country.”
UMass Boston Launches Live TV News Segment

By DeWayne Lehman

UMass Boston, in partnership with New England Cable News, last month launched a weekly TV news segment featuring university faculty and staff providing commentary on timely news issues.

Broadcast live from the university’s studio in Healey Library, “Affairs of State” is aimed at covering a broad range of newsworthy subjects that relate to local, national, and international governmental and societal issues. The intent of the weekly news segment is to enhance the exposure and reputation of UMass Boston faculty and staff as go-to media experts and provide them with experience in a live TV interview setting.

“This is a great opportunity for the university to showcase the talent and expertise of our faculty and staff and enter into important discussions of the day that affect us all,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “I look forward to seeing ‘Affairs of State’ become a weekly draw for NECN’s newscast.”

Work toward connecting UMass Boston’s video studio in the Lower Level of Healey Library via a television-grade fiber-optic connection to media outlets began in December, around the same time that discussions began with NECN to develop a news segment from UMass Boston. The resulting “Affairs of State” premiered on NECN on April 2 and has had four successful installments, including: Associate professor Paul Watanabe on the political travails of the Patrick administration; New England Ethnic News worsening editor Frank Herron on the financial crisis facing the Boston Globe; McCormack School dean Steve Crosby on the House budget; Assistant Professor Maurice Cunningham on Mayor Menino’s announcement that he is running for a historic fifth term; and Associate Professor Alan Clayton-Matthews on the state’s worsening budget picture.

“As a 24/7 news organization, we see UMass Boston as a great partner and valuable resource providing additional insight and commentary to our news lineup,” said NECN president and general manager Charles J. Kravetz. “The ‘Affairs of State’ segment gives viewers a unique, authoritative perspective from the Boston area’s only public university.”

The effort to provide UMass Boston faculty a platform for live TV exposure on NECN is one of several initiatives that the Office of Communications has undertaken recently to raise awareness among media coverage and issues, including organizing media panels and training and education sessions.

Older Workers Conference Brings International Expertise to National, Regional Problems

By Muna Killingback

People aged 55 and over, now one-quarter of the Massachusetts population, have longer periods of unemployment and often receive lower wages or are underemployed when they do find jobs, said Eleanor Shea-Delaney, interim secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs in her opening remarks at the UMass Boston symposium on older workers on April 24 and 25.

Coupled with an increasingly older population and large budget cuts for elderly services, Shea-Delaney urged participants to look for “innovative solutions.”

“Older Workers and Social Policy in the 21st Century: International, National, and Regional Perspectives,” a symposium organized by the Gerontology Institute in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, brought together international renowned gerontology scholars to share the latest policy research from around the world.

UMass Boston Gerontology Institute director Maximiliane E. Staebler said that despite the increasingly aging population, which means that there are more older workers, “there hasn’t been that much policy research into the issue. The economy is globalized, and aging is a global issue. It is good to learn about what other countries are doing...The issues are slightly different and there are different approaches, but some of them are applicable here.”

Philip Taylor, professor of employment policy at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, summed up the situation in many countries: “The virtues of older workers have been extolled in the face of population aging and stressed social security systems.” He noted that until recently, public policy encouraged early retirement and “labour market policy aimed at tackling youth unemployment.”

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) senior economist Mark Reeve said that in fact, “Earlier retirement schemes don’t help. Someone has to pay. Firms have to pay and have less money to hire younger workers.” He pointed out that early-retirement schemes also discourage firms from investing in older workers since they believe they will soon leave.

Professor Taylor and other speakers highlighted the “disadvantaged status of older workers” who face lower new-hire rates, and despite a rate of job loss similar to that of younger workers, experience longer periods of unemployment as well as “large wage losses when re-employed.”

Trends in the global economy also affect the plight of older workers, he said: “Labor shortages are forecast for the OECD countries, but global labor supply is expanding, especially in East Asia...Globalization can lead to insecurity in older workers.”

Many researchers advised a “life course approach” to employment policy, which factors in demands of caregiving at varying times of life. A phased retirement in contrast to an abrupt exit from the labor force was also recommended; this could include greater flexibility and options to adjust hours or take on different types of work.

However, for some workers with health problems or lower educational levels, extending their working lives might be difficult or impossible. Several speakers expressed special concern for lower-wage workers, who often have the most difficulty finding employment at older ages.

Dr. Stephen McNair, director of the United Kingdom’s Centre for Research into the Older Workforce, called for new approaches: “The current model of retirement is 30 years out of date.” He noted that the life phase between ages 25 and 30 is one of “high stress” characterised by heavy demands of both work and caregiving, while the phase between ages 50 and 75 includes a complex labor market exit and, frequently, underuse of skills. “Should we not rethink the distribution of activity across the life course?” he asked.

Many emphasized that older workers are a diverse group and one policy will not fit all. Sally Bould, University of Delaware Professor Emerita of Sociology and fellow of the UMass Boston Gerontology Institute, said that “social policy must not be gender neutral or gender blind—data needs to be disaggregated.”

Several presenters looked at the impact of older women’s greater caregiving and community engagement responsibilities on their employment options.

Quality, targeted training and more and better programs designed for older job seekers could increase their employability, it was generally agreed. Dr. Laura Romeo Gordo of the Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen (the German Centre for Gerontology) found that on-the-job training was more effective than classroom training in helping older workers find new jobs.

Looking at the U.S. context, Richard Johnson, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute, reported that a survey of job demands showed that physically demanding jobs had declined between 1992 and 2002, but other jobs, including very stressful ones and those requiring good eyesight, intense concentration, and dealing with others, had increased.

Paradoxically, workers in worse health were most likely to have physically demanding jobs and those with cogently rather than physically demanding jobs retire later. The survey also showed an increase of 121 percent in jobs “dealing with unpleasant people.”

Professor Steve Sass, associate director for research at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, found that many American employees believe they don’t have enough money to retire, and baby boomers often want to work longer even if they don’t want to. In the absence of mandatory retirement ages and an institutionalized process, retirement can be “disorderly and unpredictable,” creating a lot of anxiety: “Employees don’t know when they’ll be let go, and employers don’t know when these older employers will leave.”

In addition to encouraging older workers to work longer, UMass Boston professor of gerontology Yung-Cheng Chen, who holds the Frank J. Mannering Chair for Gerontology, believes that to stem the impending worker shortage due to baby boomer retirement, more workers will need to be drawn from among young people, women, and persons with disabilities. He and Andrea Tull, a PhD student in the Gerontology Program, advocated the concept of “Universal Design,” which both increases access for persons with disabilities and improves conditions for all workers.

Both academics and policy makers took away new ideas from the symposium. “There were a lot of lessons learned that I think are very applicable to our public policy here,” said Ruth Palombo of the Office of Program Planning and Management in the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The Executive Office partners with the McCormack School on an initiative promoting the civic engagement and employment of older adults led by the National Governors Association.

Many graduate students in the Gerontology Institute, and the largest programs in the country, also attended as well as members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UMass Boston, which offers a range of educational programs for adults age 50 and over.
Guatemalan Nobel Laureate Visits UMass Boston

By Olesia Plokhii
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her work publicizing the plight of indigenous Guatemalans during that country’s five-decade civil war, was warmly welcomed by the military, used her time on the podium vowing to “defend the text of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” and issued a call to action for Bostonians, especially lawyers, to do the same, because very few of the those responsible have been punished. Despite a 1999 UN Truth Commission report on the civil war documenting the military responsible for 93% of the vote, only garnered her three percent of the vote. Those with headphones. “It’s very important to know that although peace agreements say wonderful things, wonderful things were not done.”

Menchú, who currently serves as the president of a Mexican pharmaceutical company whose mission is to offer inexpensive generic medicines, also spoke of the need to improve health policy in Guatemala.

“Children are suffering from chronic malnutrition and 95% of indigenous women are giving birth without any professional medical assistance,” she said.

Perhaps the most anticipated part of the hour-and-a-half address was when Menchú answered public questions about her contentious autobiographical testimony, I, Rigoberta Menchú, and her disappointing 2007 Guatemalan presidential bid, which only garnered her three percent of the vote.

“I am honored to be a controversial person,” Menchú said, before turning toward a more serious note. “Many people would have wanted me to die [already].”

Menchú took time out of yesterday’s address to exonerate herself of accusations by American anthropologist David Stoll that she fabricated parts of her testimony.

“His skin is a little whiter than mine,” Menchú joked less-than-cordially as she defended her written statements about the manner in which her mother, father, and brother died.

“What do you believe is better?” she asked. “To hear that your mother died after being thrown from a helicopter, or that her body was found shackled around a tree, tortured, and raped?”

Answering a question about her presidential bid, Menchú said her loss could be attributed to divisions in her inner circle, their lack of funds for campaigning, and the fact that she’s a woman. Menchú also hinted at a possible run in the 2011 presidential elections.

“We were not a party, we were just a movement,” she said of her bid in 2007 before announcing her intentions for the next election. “One thing is to participate, and another is to compete.”
Welcome Day 2009 in Pictures

Hundreds of accepted students and their families flocked to Columbia Point on Saturday, April 4, for a preview of what they’ll experience when they begin their studies at UMass Boston in September. University Photographer Harry Brett was there; here are just a few of our many favorite photos of the day.

[Images of students and activities at Welcome Day]
By Danielle Shuckura

The National Science Foundation recently funded the third stage of the Compostable Genome Project (CGP) for over $8 million. Biology professor Rick Kesseli is part of the collaborative project, along with Indiana University, the University of California, Davis, the University of Georgia, and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

The project focuses on weeds and other invasive species in agriculture, which cost farmers $34 billion per year in the U.S. alone. Some of the most damaging plants such as thistles, knapweeds and dandelions, belong to the Compositae family, better known as the sunflower family of flowering plants, which includes both the invaders as well as plants used in food and medicine. To fight the damaging species while encouraging the useful ones, the CGP develops comprehensive gene catalogs and fully sequences genomes for both.

“The CGP has developed extensive resources for functional, comparative, and evolutionary genomics for species in the sunflower family,” says Kesseli. “These resources include the recent submission of over three-quarters of a million gene sequences to the National Center for Biotechnology. These will aid efforts to improve crops and to manage invaders. These resources are also letting us dissect the genomic changes that led to the rapid evolution changes that produced some of these nasty invasive species.”

The grant also includes extensive funding to support teacher education programs already in place at UMass Boston, and to support undergraduate research and internships on the campuses.

In April, Assistant Professor Billie Gantic of the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs served on a panel, titled “Overcoming Barriers for Latinos Reaching Higher Education,” as part of “Uniting Latino Scholars” Exploring Contributions around the World,” a reunion of Yale Latinos held at Yale University in April.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Jalal Alamgar delivered a paper in a panel on “Explosions of Democracy” at the annual convention of the Association for Asian Studies, held in Chicago in March.

On February 13, Assistant Professor of American Studies Lynnell Thomas was the featured speaker for the Black History Month program at The Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter School in Hyde Park. Thomas also organized and chaired the panel “New Orleans Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries: Race, Hurricane Katrina and the Re-Imagining of an American City” at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, held in Seattle, Washington, from March 21 through March 29. She presented the paper “Constructions of Blackness in Tourist New Orleans.”

Joan Garvey, associate professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, presented papers titled “Listening Scientist’s Use of Ethical Theory” and “Ethical Decision-Making Models” at the Oxford Round Table, Oxford University, England, on March 21, and at the first annual UMass 5-PhD Nursing Student Forum, held in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, on April 13. She will also present a paper titled “Alzheimer Family Care Giving: Past, Present, and Future Directions” at “A Map Through the Maze: Interdisciplinary Conference for Alzheimer Care Professionals,” sponsored by the Massachusetts Alzheimer’s Association and Hebrew Senior Life, in Marlborough, Massachusetts, on May 13.

Associate Professor Eben Wotizman of the Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolution conducted a workshop on “Managing Organizational Conflict During Disasters” for the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit, held in Dallas, Texas, in April.

MaryAnn Byrnes, associate professor in the Graduate College of Education, was an invited participant in Boston mayor Thomas Menino’s Summit on Autism on April 3. She facilitated the strategy session in “Transition: Postsecondary Education and Employment.”

Jack Wiggins, director of the Urban Harbors Institute, made a presentation on the theory and application of marine spatial planning in ocean management to the Massachusetts Ocean Advisory Commission on March 4, and at the New England Aquaculture Research Society conference in Salem, Massachusetts, on April 2.

Glenn Gabbard, associate director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE), was a featured panelist during one of four keynote sessions at the Achieving the Dream Strategy Institute, held in San Francisco in February. The session, titled “Putting Equity at the Heart of Achieving the Dream: A Case Study on Navigating the Challenges,” focused on the uses of institutional data to create a robust campus-wide commitment to equity in a community college setting.

Assistant Professor of Political Science C. Heike Schotten presented her paper “Reading Nietzsche in the Shadow of the 2009 War on Gaza” at the annual Nietzsche in New York conference, held April 30 through May 2. She will also give the plenary address at the first annual Nietzsche Workshop at the Centre for the Study of Theory and Social Criticism at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, on May 12. The title of her address will be “Reading Nietzsche in the Wake of the 2008-09 War on Gaza: On Masters, Slaves, and the Politics of Philosophical Consistency.”

Assistant Professor of English Scott Masiello gave a talk, titled “Des cartes avec Milton: The Automata in the Garden,” at the Humanities Research Center at Rice University in Houston, Texas, on March 27. Masiello was also an invited participant at the Northeast Colloquium in Early Modern Studies, hosted by Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, on April 4, and he presented “Speculating on Shakespeare Futures: Science Fiction and Cultural Value” at the annual convention of the Shakespeare Association of America, on April 10 in Washington, D.C.

Graduate College of Education associate dean Felicia Wilczenski and lecturers Robert Gracia, Katherine Gray, and Rebecca Shimahcer presented a paper titled “Urban Partnerships for Educational Equity: Networking for Successful Educational Transitions” at the annual meeting of the National Office of School Counseling Advocacy, sponsored by the College Board and held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Susan Moor, director of the Labor Resource Center, was a panelist at a forum on the gaming industry hosted by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO at the State Archives Building on March 19. Dr. Moor presented the LRC’s recent study “Gaming in Massachusetts: Can Casinos Bring ‘Good Jobs’ to the Commonwealth?”

Melissa Pearrow, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology, was a cochair of the convention committee of the National Association of School Psychologists, held in Boston in February. She also conducted two presentations with graduate students: “The School Psychologist as Researcher and Change Agent Using Participatory Action Research,” and “Youth Empowerment Programs with Urban and High-Risk Youth.”

Professor of Gerontology Nina M. Silverstein gave an invited presentation on elder driver research at the 2009 Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities, held in Nashville, Tennessee on March 30. She also gave a speech titled “The Outcome & Mobility: The Impact of Dementia on Driving and Community Mobility” at the 2009 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference & Expo, held in Houston, Texas from April 23 through 26.

Professor of Sociology Siamak Mohaveld presented a paper, “Unconscious Re-enactment Through Language,” at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore, Maryland on March 19.

Professor Ron Foppo of the Graduat e College of Education and two of her graduate students, John Fitzgerald and Kevin Trant, gave a presentation titled “The Politics of Literacy” at the 40th Annual Conference of the Massachusetts Reading Association (MRA), held in Stur-
Assistant Professor Katherine Gibson and Assistant Professor Brian White, both of the Biology Department, and College of Science and Mathematics dean Andrew Goswosky have been selected to participate in the 2009 National Academies Summer Insti-
tute on Undergraduate Education in Ten Easy Steps. The institute will be held June 22 through 27 at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

On April 2, Center for Social Policy research director Françoise Carrel gave a presentation at the Beacon Hill Seminars titled: “Continuity and Change in Low-Wage Work in Retail Trade.” She also participated in meetings from March 16 through 20 on informal employment in Mexico, organized by the Cornell University Department of Applied Economics, the global research network WIEGO, and the Indian membership organization SAMT, and on March 30, she presented a coauthored paper titled “Working in Large Food Retailers: A France—United States Comparison” at the Conference on Undergraduate Education at MIT’s Institute for Work and Employ-
ment Research seminar.

On April 1 and 16, Assistant Pro-
fessor of Public Policy and Public Administration Ramool V. Srinivasan, assistant professor Donna Haig Friedman, and lecturer Theresa Roberts, along with Dr. James Jennings of Tufts Uni-
versity, presented their research at the Immigration Grant Workers in the Massachusetts Health Care Industry: A Report on Status and Future Prospects,” to com-
mittee members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Economics department chair Janis Kapler delivered a “mini-lecture,” titled “The Global Financial Crisis in Ten Easy (sort of) Steps,” for ac-
cepted students at a “Welcome Day.”

Environmental, Earth, and Ocean sciences assistant professor John Duff moderated a panel discussion, titled “International Law of the Sea,” at the United Nations-Nippon Foundation International Law Con-
vention, held in Tokyo, Japan on April 13. Duff also delivered a presentation on U.S. ocean policy at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociologi-
al Society in Seattle on March 5.

Professor of Psychology Ed Tronick recently presented a paper titled “Relational Psychophysiology and Meaning Mak-
ing in Therapy” at the Therapeutic Action of Psychodynamic Therapy conference, held at Harvard Medi-
cal School.

Professor and Chair of the Department of Counseling and Psychologi-
galpe presented “Developing a Systems of Care Faculty Learning Community” at the Child Behav-
ioral Health Frontier Initiative 17th annual Con-
cference, held in Piscataway, New Jersey.

Arthur MacEwan, professor emeritus in the Department of Economics and Senior Fellow in the Center for Social Policy, presented a paper titled “An End in Itself and a Means to Good Ends: Why Income Equality Is Important?” at a conference on Employment, Growth, and Poverty presented at the Cornell University at the Political Economy Research Institute at UMASS Amherst on March 27; addressed the Association Internationale de l’Économie des Femmes in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on “The Outlook for Puerto Rico and the United States in 2009”; and presented a talk at the Well Coroll’s Medical School in New York City on “The Massachusetts Healthcare Reform and Its Implications for National Reform.”

Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics in the Department of Politics, along with featured speakers at the Amherst College Colloquium “Racial Politics in American Culture: A Continuing Constitutional Democracy,” held April 24 through 25. The topic of Hardy-
Fanta’s speech was “When Race and Gender Collide: Presidential Politics, Constitutions, and America’s Future.”

ON A P R I L 1 8 , C O N S E R V A T I O N S 1 8 0 9

On April 2 UMass Boston’s Department of Performing Arts and Rox-
bury Crossroads Theatre presented a staged reading of the play, a Professor Robert Johnson Jr.’s recent play Cell Phone Blues which he wrote while on sabbatical leave at the University of North Carolina. The play will premier this September 12 at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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bury Crossroads Theatre at the Arsenal Center for the Arts Charles Museum Theatre in Watertown, Massachusetts, from April 19 through May 10.
GIS to Develop a Geographic Education Model for Alternative High Schools. The team also includes EEOs professors John Looney and Curtis Olsen and PhD candidate Jun Zhu. GIS units will be provided through the Location in Education Program, sponsored by the Geo- Spatial Information and Technology Association (GITA).

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Wei Ding is the co-principal investigator of a NASA grant-funded project, “Automatic Detection of Sub-Kilometer Craters in High Resolution Planetary Images.”

Associate Professor Wei Zhang of the Chemistry Department received a Joseph P. Healey Grant for a proposal titled “Development of Green Medicines for Traditional Chinese Medicines Applications.”

The College of Management and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) have launched a new program which provides stream-lined access to UMass Boston’s MBA program for top graduates of MCPHS, to help address the growing need in the life science industry for professionals with expertise in both health care and business management.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Professor of History Vincent Can- nata has been accepted as a 2009-10 Academic Fellow with the Founda- tion for the History of Virginia, which has offices in Washington, D.C. As an FDD Fellow, he will participate in a unique educational program, to be held in Israel from May 30 through June 11, that focuses on the threat of terror- ism to democracy.

Dann Simmons, research analyst in the Office of Institutional Research and Policy Studies, has been ap- pointed as a Fellow of the 2009 Na- tional Academy of Public Policy Institute to be held in Potomac, Maryland, in June. The Institute is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Center for Educational Statistics, and the Association for Institutional Research.

A partnership between the Gradu- ate College of Education and Lesley University has been recognized by the advocacy group VSA arts with an “Outstanding Community Partner Award.” VSA arts is a Washington, D.C.-based group which works to increase access to education and the arts for people with disabilities.

McMurrich Graduate School Dean Stephen P. Crosby has been ap- pointed by Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick to lead a review of compensation packages of the Com- monwealth’s quasi-public agencies.

Hispanic Studies lecturer Jean- Philippe Belcau has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by the Humanities Center at Harvard Uni- versity for academic year 2009-10. Belcau will use the fellowship year to advance his research on cultural border-crossing and identity in the Global South.

A product developed by man-agement and marketing lecturer Paul Debey was recently awarded a 2009 National Health America Health Devises Product of the Year Award. The product, the Intelli Health Guide, was designed to assist health care professionals who man- age patients with chronic conditions.

Professor Rosa Flippo of the Gradu- ate College of Education has been appointed to the new International Reading Association (IRA) Literacy Assessment Committee. This is a two-year appointment.

EVENTS

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy held its 27th Women’s Research Forum on March 24. The event included a screening of the film Pray for the Devil Back to Hell, which chronicles the Liberian wom- en’s peace movement, followed by a moderated discussion with Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies Ammiel El Jack. The event was cosponsored by the Office of the Chancellor, the Center for the Study of Gender, Secu- rity and Peace, and Human Rights, the Arkansas Students Union, and the Women’s Studies Department.

Professor of Psychology Ed Trondel recently led the graduation of 30 fellows in the University of Mas- sachusetts Infant-Parent Mental Health Certificate Program in Napa, Califomia. The guest of honor was Dr. Louis Sander, a world-renowned researcher on infant mental health.

IN THE NEWS

Joan Garity, associate professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was profiled as an alumnus in the Winter 2009 issue of Fontbonne University’s Fontbonne Newsletter.

Professor Pamela Jones of the Art Department was interviewed for a BBC television program, The Private Life of a Masterpiece: Caravaggio’s “Taking of Ciesz.” The program aired in Great Britain and will be shown in the United States at a later date.

A book by professor Rosa Flippo of the Graduate College of Education, Preparing Students for Testing and Diabetes in School, was reviewed in the winter issue of the journal The Reading Professor.

The Center for Social Policy report “Brokering Up: The Role of Temporary Staffing in Overcoming Labor Market Barriers” was mentioned and quoted in an article in the Man- nespolis Star Tribune on March 31. On April 29, Professor Randy Al- belda of the Economics Department and the Center for Social Policy was a guest on Action Speaks, a live com- munity forum and radio broadcast conducted by WRNI, Rhode Island public radio station. The topic was “Growing the Green Economy.”

The McCormick Graduate School’s Program for Women in Politics and Public Policy was the subject of the lead story in the April 20 issue of ElectWomen magazine.

A study led by Associate Professor Lisa Cosgrove about financial ties between pharmaceutical companies and psychiatrists was reviewed in the Boston Globe and the blogs of the Wall Street Journal and USA To- day, as well as in the Fierce Pharma newsletter and on All Headline News.

Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Christian Weller was interviewed by CNN on March 3, March 26, April 1, and April 9 about the state of the U.S. and world economies, by the BBC Busi- ness Journal and BBC News Hour, and quoted in the February 29 edition of Investment Management Weekly about public pension plans; and in the April 1 issue of the Associated Press on March 31 in stories about the Social Security system.

Michael Keating, associate director and senior fellow at the McCormick School’s Center for Democracy and Development, wrote a guest editorial for the Liberian Journal on April 1.

Professor of Psychology Jean Rhodes, coauthor of a book about Manny Ramirez, was quoted in an April 1 MBL.com article about Ramirez. A trip to Haiti by CPCs professor Adeneere Astone and State Represent- atives Marie St. Fleur and Mariety Walsh was the subject of a feature article in the March 19 Dorchester Reporter.

A review of salaries and benefits at state agencies that is being led by McMurrich School dean Stephen Crosby at the request of Governor Deval Patrick was the subject of a March 25 Boston Globe feature and quoted on the same topic in the April 14 Boston Globe. Crosby was also interviewed about the review on March 26 on WGBH’s Greater Boston with Emily Rooney.

Associate Professor of Political Sci- ence and director of UMass Boston’s Institute for Asian American Stud- ies Paul Watanabe was quoted in a March 25 Boston Globe article about Boston city councilor and mayoral candidate Sam Yoon, and again in the April 15 Boston Globe about the article “Patrick ‘Trims an Extra 750 Jobs.’” Assistant Director of Career Services Cathy Larson was quoted in a March 25 Boston Metro article, “Students Wearily Eye Post-Graduation Life.”

Gary Siperstein, director of the Center for Social Development and Education, was quoted in the April 1 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette about a CSDSE study which found that the Special Olympics had a positive im- pact on how intellectually disabled people are perceived by the general public.

Professor of Political Science Thomas Ferguson discussed the economic stimulus package in a March 26 Real New Network video clip.

The Calendar of Events is pub- lished monthly by the Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. From off campus, dial (617) 28 and the last five digits listed below each event. Submit events to new@umb.edu.