University Reporter - Volume 13, Number 03 - November 2008

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_reporter

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_reporter/8

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications and Campus Newsletters at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1996-2009, University Reporter by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.
Chancellor Addresses Budget Concerns

By DeWayne Lehman

Facing reduced state funding for the University of Massachusetts Boston, Chancellor J. Keith Motley addressed faculty, staff, and students last Monday morning to outline initial steps toward addressing the shortfall and soliciting input from the university community. The address followed a series of weekly email correspondence from the chancellor to the university community since the scope of the state’s fiscal crisis became known and set the stage for an inclusive, transparent belt-tightening process.

Due to the slowing economy and declining state revenues, Governor Deval Patrick’s administration last month ordered broad cuts in state funding appropriations. For UMass Boston, the cuts translated to a decline in state funding by approximately 5 percent for the current fiscal year, 2009, or $5.5 million. And while all UMass campuses face similar funding reductions, they are each developing their own plans for how best to meet the fiscal challenge.

“It is our intention here at the University of Massachusetts Boston to address 50 percent of this reduction through the use of reserve and trust funds,” Chancellor Motley told the gathering of nearly 200 faculty, staff, and students in the Ryan Lounge. “We will address the remaining 50 percent through cost reductions.

“We are committed to protecting the core faculty and staff,” he continued. “And, assuming no further 9C cuts, the president, chancellors, and trustees will not request a mid-semester fee increase; nor will we be making any cuts to student financial aid.”

Chancellor Motley and UMass President Jack Wilson at the Ryan Lounge. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Campus Gears Up to Serve Returning Vets

By Geoffrey Kula

With the recently-passed GI Bill doubling the amount of tuition assistance available to veterans, and the largest number of soldiers in history returning from overseas conflicts, UMass Boston is not only preparing for a likely increase in veteran enrollment, but also positioning itself to become the region’s one-stop resource center for troops who need assistance re-starting their civilian lives. The urgency of these efforts has been given an additional push by the UMass Board of Trustees, which has voted to waive $1,000 per semester of curriculum fees for eight semesters for vets.

For the UMass Boston, this is familiar territory—it has the most vets of any of the UMass campuses, and has a strong tradition of supporting veterans and working with those who have suffered injuries to their bodies and minds, in particular those with conditions such as traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). But today’s returning soldiers face are different from the last big wave of veterans who came home from Vietnam: On average, they’re older, they’ve been deployed longer, and—unlike Vietnam—many are female. These factors led Carol DeSouza, assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Special Projects, to wonder: “What services as an institution do we need to offer?”

“Step by step, piece by piece, we’ll have to deal with these eventually one on one,” DeSouza said of the school’s goal to facilitate vets’ experiences on campus and off. To achieve this, she said, university staff and faculty must take a more proactive approach in recognizing, identifying and addressing each vet’s needs and determining which services would benefit them. It’s a challenge, said DeSouza, in a place where departments are “siloed,” and paths need to be worked out so that “one department can support another without taking over their territory.”

For those returning to studies at UMass Boston, DeSouza says the plan is clear: “Where you left off is where you’ll continue.” If, due to circumstance or injury, vets are unable to immediately return to the same level of studies they had reached prior to their deployment, the school will provide educational support as needed until they’re back on track. She also noted that UMass Boston has agreements with area community colleges to accept any course credits vets may have from other schools should they transfer.

Another initiative under way is translating field experience into course credit. While some military training certainly qualifies, DeSouza conceded that “not all experience fits well.” For example, not everything learned about working on computers in Iraq or Afghanistan is directly related to a Computer Science course. UMass Boston offers. Complicating matters further, a head injuries can introduce learning difficulties. In preparation for these types of scenarios, DeSouza said the school will offer academic support and career as well as life counseling.

DeSouza also said that UMass Boston is also leveraging its many formal and informal connections with government, quasi-government and private agencies to help veterans.

“These relationships make UMass well positioned to deliver individualized services to each of our returning soldiers; a place for military personnel and their families to learn what benefits are available to them, and to act as a center that can cut through red tape to get them those benefits,” she said.

“We want to grease the wheels of existing programs to better serve the anticipated needs of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom vets.”

Vets returning to school can also benefit from Veterans Upward Bound, a pre-collegiate program that prepares them for classes via a 16-week program that meets twice a week to teach study skills, three levels of math, (continued on page 2)
Senator Hart Tours VDC

State Senator Jack Hart recently took a tour of the Venture Development Center with Chancellor J. Keith Motley. Hart, who represents Dorchester, South Boston, Mattapan, and part of Hyde Park, has been one of the VDC’s biggest supporters on Beacon Hill; an economic stimulus bill he sponsored provided $5 million in funding for the Center, which is opening this winter. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Budget (cont. from page 1)

Despite the grim economic outlook and budget crunch, Chancellor Motley, in his October 27 address, encouraged the university community to stay focused, look beyond the immediate impact, and see the challenge as an opportunity.

“The intention here is that we all put our critical skills to work on this problem, so that we all are included in the process, which will culminate in recommendations for future actions,” Chancellor Motley said. “Any recommended reductions must remain consistent with the Boston campus’s strategic priorities. It is absolutely critical at this moment in our history ... that whatever reductions we make not compromise our commitment to excellence nor obstruct our progress toward becoming a world-class, student-centered, urban public research university. This includes continuing the master planning process and progress toward our first new academic building in 40 years.

“We are a university community of faculty, staff, and students that understands that ‘trials come to make you strong,’” Chancellor Motley continued. “We as a university community—students, faculty, and staff—are being presented with just such an opportunity now to become better, stronger, more focused and engaged in our common purpose. It is our time!”

For a complete transcript of Chancellor Motley’s address, visit the UMass Boston Web site at www.umb.edu.

Veterans’ Programs (cont. from page 1)

two levels of writing, computer skills, Spanish and social sciences. Last year, 124 vets went through the program—the only Veterans Upward Bound program in New England—with roughly 88% of the graduates going on to college.

Army veteran Barry Brodsky, the program’s director, understands that soldiers want to improve their lives by going to college and wants to assure them he and his team won’t give up. “We’re here for you as long as you need us,” he said. “You can’t flunk out; there’s no dismissal for academic deficiency. We’ll provide tutoring for anyone enrolled.”

Echoing DeSouza’s call for staff and faculty to proactively reach out to veterans, Brodsky would like to see vets automatically receive information about Veterans Upward Bound and other services as soon as they check the “Veteran Status” box during the application process. He would also like an assessment tool to determine vets’ level of readiness to re-enter society. Results could prompt meetings or counseling, and the school’s ties to local agencies would help open doors for those in need.

Once on campus, vets can find peer support and camaraderie, as well as information about services offered, at the Student Veterans Center. Center coordinator Dominaque Powell, who also works as a math tutor at Veterans Upward Bound, aims to raise awareness of vets on campus and synthesize opportunities that pertain to their needs. She does this through outreach activities, social events where vets can network and support one another, educational seminars where vet-specific issues are discussed, and career-related events such as resume workshops, career counseling and workshops in leadership training and communication skills.

The educational seminars the center holds are two-way functions. “Some of the faculty don’t know how to address the needs of military students,” Powell said, citing an example of deployed students dropping out of classes and receiving failing grades because the process of “freezing” one’s status was unclear to both student and teacher. “I want our events to increase cross-departmental communications and facilitate the lives of our veteran students,” she said. “It could only benefit the vets to collaborate more.”

Along a similar vein, DeSouza noted: “It’s not people with disabilities who need to take a disabilities course.”

“I hope people would care more about vets’ experiences,” Powell said. “It’s important to serve one’s country, and their needs are different than the average student’s.”

Now an Air Force reservist, Powell’s four years in the Marines left her feeling “less than human,” and she credits Veterans Resource Center Coordinator Gus St. Silva with helping her cope with her ensuing depression and assimilation back into civilian society. That, paired with her own experience seeing how war affected fellow soldiers and her family, prompted her to join the Student Veterans Center and “do all I can to help other veterans.”

Ultimately, Powell’s vision for the center mirrors the university’s efforts. “Together with the rest of the departments we can take better care of the vets. Together, the university can better serve its veteran community.”

While the Student Veterans Center assists in serving veterans’ immediate needs, another campus organization—the William Joiner Center—takes a longer-term approach to vet issues. Associate director Paul Camacho said the center’s role is focusing on the future of advocacy for veterans, and providing legislative guidance for those returning from OEF and OIF, so society doesn’t treat them “like they were from outer space,” as he said Vietnam vets were after the war.

A Purple Heart recipient for his service in Vietnam, Camacho says his brethren were the recipients of “official neglect” from the government and wants to make sure this doesn’t happen again. “It’s the ‘smiling faces’ problem,” he explained. “Everyone supports them, but there’s no commitment.”

Camacho’s dedication to aiding fellow soldiers stems from the Vietnam Veterans of America motto: “Never again will one generation leave another.”

“We need to take care of the veterans we sent over,” he said. One effect dear to Camacho is veteran entrepreneurship and small business development. “Guys who start small businesses should get a piece of the federal contracts,” he said, suggesting that a vet-owned business could easily landscape VA grounds or launder its linens. Citing the fact that 9% of National Guardmen are small business owners whose businesses are hurt when they’re called to duty, Camacho plans to develop a consortium to discuss ways to help them recover.

The Joiner Center’s next conference is slated for November 14, and topics to be covered run the gamut from health care, homelessness and housing, veterans’ benefits, employment issues and small business development to the future of veterans’ advocacy. It is also sponsoring an exhibit on the fifth floor of the Healey Library, titled “Veterans’ Benefits from Babylon to the Present,” in another effort to raise awareness.

The center also studies war and its social consequences; the most recent focused on Somalia. Camacho believes the next topic to analyze is “What’s the right mix of hard and soft power for the U.S.? When will we realize there’s a better way . . . than holding a gun to someone’s head?” he asked. “Clear, Hold and Build” needs to be supported by ‘Hold, Build and Defend.”

The results of this research may eventually find its way into UMass Boston’s curriculum, mirroring an evolution that took place in the 70s. Following the Vietnam War, the school developed American Studies courses focusing on the culture of the 60s and war and its consequences; what began as a few courses is now a full-study program.

“The University Reporter is published ten times a year by the Office of Communications. It is free to all UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students.

Send your news items to: The University Reporter at news@umb.edu.

The University Reporter
Office of Communications
Third Floor
Quinn Administration Building
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
(617) 353-5317
news@umb.edu

Peter Gremmen, Senior Editor
DeWane Lehman, Editor
Will Kilburn, Associate Editors
Sarah Weatherbee, Art Director
Michael Ward, University Photographer

Contributing Writers
Nina C. Cornett
Robert Geary
Lana Harris
Sharday Johnson
Geoff Kula
Kashish Prakash
Michael Ward

The University Reporter
November 2008
Collins Center's goal: Help state and local government work better

By Michael Ward

At no time in our lives has the need for effective government been more apparent: Whether talking about matters as mundane as pothole repair or as essential as clean air, safe streets, good public education, and well-functioning capital markets, when government fails to do its job well, people suffer. To help prevent this from happening, a new Center has been established on campus, the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, to help governments do their job not just well, but really well.

With new funding in the FY09 state budget, the Collins Center for Public Management is focusing first on helping local and state governments in Massachusetts. The Center has not wasted any time getting started: It is already working with several Massachusetts municipalities to help them compare program costs and performance, and cut costs by promoting collective purchasing arrangements and service exchanges.

“Serving state and local government is one of my highest priorities at the McCormack School,” said McCormack School Dean Steve Crosby. “The Collins Center is an embodiment of that commitment.”

Over the summer, Crosby recruited nationally renowned government performance expert Shelly Metzenbaum to be the Center’s founding Director. Metzenbaum has worked in high levels in state, local, and federal government, serving as an Associate Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Undersecretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Director of Capitol Budgeting for the Commonwealth, and Director of the City of Boston’s Washington office. While a Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland, she studied, wrote and taught about government performance management and ran a consortium of state environmental agencies working to improve the measurement and management of their compliance programs. She also served as Director of the Performance Management Project at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

“I am very excited to come to UMass Boston to establish the Collins Center. UMass Boston is an exceptional place, with strong, diverse faculty and students committed to making the world a better place,” said Metzenbaum. “I look forward to building the Collins Center here as an institution that celebrates public service and public servants even as it asks hard questions about whether programs are working as well as they could be and as it pushes new technologies and ways of thinking so governments can deliver more with budgets that are always too tight.”

The Center is named for Edward J. Collins, Jr., a highly-respected public servant who devoted his career to improving state and local government in Massachusetts. Collins served as head of the state’s Division of Local Services, Town Manager of Saugus, and the chief financial officer for the City of Boston. For more than 30 years, he has mentored hundreds of state and local officials, many of whom currently serve in leadership positions all over the Commonwealth.

Dedicated to making government more effective, the Center will focus on three areas: people, performance, and productivity.

To advance the quality of people in government, it will assist governments in recruiting, retaining, celebrating, and educating outstanding public servants. To improve government performance, it will help governments—through analysis of experience and practical experiments—identify practices that work and those that don’t. To enhance productivity, the Center will promote cost-saving collective purchasing and service exchange arrangements. It will also advance essential governance reforms and encourage innovation and analysis to find cost-cutting opportunities.

The Collins Center will also offer executive education, conduct research, provide direct assistance to local and state governments, and serve as a catalyst to advance overdue change. It is committed to delivering practical management tools and ideas that help state and local governments become more effective and efficient.

Located on campus, the Center hopes to partner with faculty and students on action-focused research projects to identify increasingly effective government interventions and promote their adoption. “In addition to working with the other MCGS Centers and Institutes, the Collins Center is eager to work with faculty and students in the outstanding schools of UMass Boston to identify ways to improve government,” said Metzenbaum. “With the growing trouble in the economy and so many people facing hard times, it is more important than ever for governments to deliver public services effectively and efficiently. I’m thrilled that the McCormack School is able to provide another resource to help them do so.”

A Labor of Love: Assistant Chancellor Continues Student Focus

By Anne-Marie Kent

UMass Boston has a new assistant chancellor, but as new as she is to the job, Theresa Mortimer is by no means a stranger to the campus or to its student-centered focus.

“I was excited to receive an invitation to join the Chancellor’s staff,” says Mortimer. “I think we share the same values. We are both passionate about excellence in public higher education. We are both passionate about UMass Boston and passionate about student success.”

Mortimer, formerly vice provost for academic support services, associate provost, and dean of continuing education, considers her last three decades of service in public higher education as a “labor of love.”

As part of her duties as vice provost for academic support services, a position she held for seven years, Mortimer worked to expand research opportunities for undergraduate students. She chaired the Undergraduate Research Award Committee and served as the faculty advisor for the UMass Boston Chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta, a national honor society for freshmen.

To join, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or better. More than 200 students were eligible to join this fall.

Vice Provost for Academic Support Services Theresa Mortimer.

(continued on page 4)

Teach Next Year program expands to Randolph

By Lisa Harris

It’s only their first year of graduate school, but the twelve students in Randolph Teach Next Year are already facing the toughest test of their lives: a turn at the front of the classroom.

This year, UMass Boston expanded its urban teacher training program to Randolph, hoping to replicate the success of the 11-year-old Boston program. For the teachers in training, Teach Next Year is an opportunity to finish their teaching degrees in half the typical time, work closely with a mentor teacher, and get real-world experience in the high-intensity environment of an urban school district.

For Randolph, the students are a much-needed infusion of human capital which coincides with a much-needed boost of financial capital this year, following several years in which declining funding led to cuts in staffing and programs in the town’s schools.

Though they’ve only been teaching together a few months, Teach Next Year student Maria Ponte and her mentor, Carma Ohimor, have clearly hit their stride. Since classes began this fall, Ponte has been assisting in Ohimor’s science classroom at Randolph Community Middle School, gradually taking on more responsibility as her skills and confidence grow. By February, Ponte will be teaching solo. Ohimor says she’s ready.

“By the time she takes over her classroom, you won’t be able to tell she’s a first-year student,” says Ohimor.

Founded with a grant from the Trefler Foundation, the Teach Next Year program has been operating at the Dorchester Education Complex (formerly Dorchester High School) for over a decade. The project—modeled after medical residency programs—has served as a pipeline for funneling talented teachers into troubled city schools, inspiring the city of Boston to develop a similar program called Boston Teacher Residency.

A few years ago, struggling with low school scores and labeled an “underperforming” district by the state, Randolph administrators approached the university about bringing Teach Next Year students to their schools. At first, director Lisa Gonsalves was skeptical that a program designed to help city schools would truly be needed in a South Shore suburb. But a closer look at the district changed her mind.

“I saw the statistics, and I saw how much Randolph had changed,” she says. “All the struggles urban school systems have, they have.”

(continued on page 4)

November 2008 • The University Reporter 3

Vice Provost for Academic Support Services Theresa Mortimer.

(continued on page 4)

Teach Next Year program expands to Randolph

By Lisa Harris

It’s only their first year of graduate school, but the twelve students in Randolph Teach Next Year are already facing the toughest test of their lives: a turn at the front of the classroom.

This year, UMass Boston expanded its urban teacher training program to Randolph, hoping to replicate the success of the 11-year-old Boston program. For the teachers in training, Teach Next Year is an opportunity to finish their teaching degrees in half the typical time, work closely with a mentor teacher, and get real-world experience in the high-intensity environment of an urban school district.

For Randolph, the students are a much-needed infusion of human capital which coincides with a much-needed boost of financial capital this year, following several years in which declining funding led to cuts in staffing and programs in the town’s schools.

Though they’ve only been teaching together a few months, Teach Next Year student Maria Ponte and her mentor, Carma Ohimor, have clearly hit their stride. Since classes began this fall, Ponte has been assisting in Ohimor’s science classroom at Randolph Community Middle School, gradually taking on more responsibility as her skills and confidence grow. By February, Ponte will be teaching solo. Ohimor says she’s ready.

“By the time she takes over her classroom, you won’t be able to tell she’s a first-year student,” says Ohimor.

Founded with a grant from the Trefler Foundation, the Teach Next Year program has been operating at the Dorchester Education Complex (formerly Dorchester High School) for over a decade. The project—modeled after medical residency programs—has served as a pipeline for funneling talented teachers into troubled city schools, inspiring the city of Boston to develop a similar program called Boston Teacher Residency.

A few years ago, struggling with low school scores and labeled an “underperforming” district by the state, Randolph administrators approached the university about bringing Teach Next Year students to their schools. At first, director Lisa Gonsalves was skeptical that a program designed to help city schools would truly be needed in a South Shore suburb. But a closer look at the district changed her mind.

“I saw the statistics, and I saw how much Randolph had changed,” she says. “All the struggles urban school systems have, they have.”

(continued on page 4)
with us to ensure that this great university—Boston's only public university—continues to provide a superior, accessible education,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley as he welcomed guests at the Campus Center. “Thank you for investing in research that ex-
pands knowledge, informs public policy, and ultimately advances the university's capacity to im-
prove lives.”

The Founders Circle pays trib-
ute to the great philanthropy that is giving to the university at is $100,000 or more for individuals, and $250,000 or more for organi-
zations. Founders Circle members are now permanently honored within a wall of recognition in all reg-
isters the first permanent display that UMass Boston has created to recognize the importance of charitable support for its mission. As a special tribute to the lasting impact that these benefactors have had at the university, each of these honorees was hosted at the event by a student, faculty or administrator who had benefited from their charitable support.

University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees Chairman Rob-\nert Manning, Chancellor Motley, Vice Chancellor for University Ad-

vancement, and former UMass Boston Professors William H. J. Kennedy, Jr., show the influence of philanthropy at UMass Boston. One featured student scholar-ship recipients, and the other showcased faculty and programs that have benefited from private support. College of Management MFA student and State Street Professor Elena Allsop ’08, an immi-
grant from Albania, also shared her personal perspective on what her scholarship has meant to her. As a result of participating in this scholar program, she took her first professional position in loan servicing at State Street following her graduation.

In her remarks, Allsani ac-
nowledged her mother and the College of Management faculty for their support of her studies. She also told the audience about the tremendous impact that chari-
table support has on student life. “I look forward to developing my career, I also recognize that there are many other UMass Boston scholarship recipients like me in this room,” Allsani said. “On their behalf, I would like to say thank you to all the donors who are providing them with financial support to get a great education. What you're doing for them, as State Street did for me, is helping us fulfill our dreams.”

To learn more about the Found-

ders Circle, please contact Gina 
Cappello, Associate Vice Chan-

celler, University Advancement.

To learn more about the Chan-


cellor's Council, please contact 
Kelly Westerhouse, Director, 

UMass Boston Fund, University Advancement.

Individual donors (cont. from page 1)

Former Governor speaks on health care costs

By Robert Geary

On September 15, as part of the Gerontology Colloquium Series, Distinguished Professor Michael Duk-

akis (Northeastern University and UCLA), former Governor of the Commonwealth, and fellow Presidental candidate, spoke on controlling the costs of health care in the Ryan Lounge.

In his speech, Dukakis noted that although the U.S. out-

spends many other nations on health care, a number of coun-
tries with government-run health systems have equal or better out-

comes at half the cost. Speaking of Ireland's health care system, Duk-

akis related firsthand stories of after breaking his collarbone while visiting Dublin, Duka-

kis said he received appropriate treatment for which he paid nothing. Why, he asked, can other countries offer this but the U.S. doesn't, despite spending $2.5 trillion per year on health care?

Citing a recent survey on in-
ternational health care, Dukakis noted that there are reasons health care in the U.S. is so expensive: High insurance premiums, reli-

ance on high-tech treatments when simpler options may work just as well, high costs of doctors' educations. Businesses also suffer: Employer cost for one employee's family health plan is approximately $13,000 per year, and growing 9% to 11% per year.

Many want no government inter-

vention at all, but Dukakis takes a different view, citing a number of government health care organizations where there is some cost control: Medicare, the congressional health care system, state health care systems, and also wants the Department of Health and Human Services to be given the ability to bargain for the costs of medications as the VA does now.

Without regulation, Dukakis concluded, more people will have to make difficult choices between their medical care and other ne-

cessities—a choice far too many already face now.

Teach Next Year (cont. from page 3)

This year also marks the pro-

gram's first venture into the ele-

mentary and middle school levels. If the Randolph experiment goes well, says Gonsalves, she hopes to expand the program, eyeing Brockton as a possible third site.

In a regular two-year teach-

ing degree, students get just one semester of student teaching. In Teach Next Year, students start teaching in September after just a few months of preparatory coursework. By the middle of the school year, they begin teaching their own classes. Math teacher Jessica Skolski, who is mentoring Teach Next Year student Fred Hinck, says there's no substitute for the experience of standing in front of a real classroom.

"You can't learn to teach by being in a class with a professor," she says. "The only way to learn to teach is to teach." Hinck—a 30-year-old former engineer—discovered this for himself recently when he taught his first class alone, after several months of teaching at Skolski's side. "It was scary," he laughed. "They were like, 'What are you doing up front? Where's Ms. Skolski?'"

Many of the those in Randolph will go into math and science teaching—areas that face a criti-

cal shortage of qualified teachers. Three years ago, the National Science Foundation awarded Teach Next Year a $100,000 grant through the Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, which helps support the math and science teachers in the program.

The students receive a small stipend from the Randolph schools, enough to cover the $7,200 tuition. In addition to their classroom duties, Teach Next Year students are expected to fill in as substitutes as needed during their free periods. On top of that, they're taking night classes at the university. It's a grueling schedule—but at the end of the year, they'll be accredited teachers, and many of them will likely be hired by the schools they've worked in.

"I would be confident in hir-

ing them. I think they're a great
group of candidates for any posi-
tion," says Randolph Community Middle School principal John Sheehan.

Sheehan says the Teach Next Year students have already proved a valuable addition to the Ran-
dolph community.

"They've really become part of our faculty," he says. "I think it's been a benefit for them, but it's been a benefit to our teachers and students—another set of hands, another set of eyes, another caring adult in the build-

Labor of Love (cont. from page 3)

“My role allows me the pleasure of bringing some of those creative activities to fruition. That experi-
tence is tremendously rewarding. In this new capacity, the assistant chancellor also addresses many of the critical issues that arise in the Chancellor's Office.”

Mortimer's experience teach-

ing and motivating students can be traced back to her days serv-

ing as a member of Boston State College's Department of Foreign Languages faculty, as well as in several administrative posts there.

She arrived at UMass Boston in 1982 as an associate professor in the department of Hispanic Studies during the merger, and quickly set about shaping a new community college education. From 1986 to 1999 she directed UMass Boston's continuing edu-
cation efforts, first as an associ-
ate provost and subsequently as dean of the Division of Continu-
uing Education. In that role, she grew the division into a complex educational enterprise that offered credit, non-credit, and corporate programs, on- and off-campus, which served more than 11,000 individuals each year.

"Professor Mortimer is widely admired for her commitment to enhancing the mission and reputation of UMass Boston," says Chancellor J. Keith Motley. "She is regarded as an effective consensus-builder and a creative problem-solver whose collabor-

ative approach, fairness, and thoughtfulness have contributed significantly to faculty, student, and staff development."
Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolution hosts Nigerian Leaders

By Kaushik Prakash

With a population of 146 million which is roughly fifty percent Muslim and forty percent Christian, Nigeria is on the front lines of the interfaith divide, with religious conflicts sometimes exploding into violence. With this in mind, the Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolution hosted eighteen Nigerian leaders between the ages of 25 and 35, half of them Muslim, the other half Christian, for three weeks in June for an intensive training program in conflict resolution techniques.

The first few days of the program, which was funded through a grant from the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, were spent building relationships among the participants and utilizing their own ethnic and religious differences to explore how religion and ethnicity impact conflicts. The group also met with a number of experts in dispute resolution and learned about the latest models in conflict resolution. Sani Suleiman, General Secretary of the Muslim Students Society and the National Union of Muslim Youths, said that violence during an election campaign a few years ago motivated him to take a proactive approach to preventing conflict. The exchange program, he continued, will make his efforts more effective.

“New tools and skills that I have learned here have not only widened my horizon, but have also enriched me. I will now be able to bring myself to the level of the youth and empathize with them,” said Suleiman. “This will give me a clear idea on how to transform their thinking and influence their minds.”

Associate professor of dispute resolution Darren Kew, principal investigator of the program, said that the chance for the Nigerians to freely mix was a key benefit of the program, as well as an unexpected one for many of them.

“Nigerian opinions of Americans, like much of the rest of the world, are heavily influenced by the images that our media projects. They are well aware of the democratic values we promote and of our realistic society, but I think it was still very surprising to them to see for themselves just how diverse we are, and how we are able to manage our many differences and still move forward as a nation,” said Kew. “One moment that summed it up was when the entire group went together to attend Friday services at a mosque in Cambridge, and then Sunday services at a church in Boston. One of the participants told me that he had never had Christians join him for services at his mosque back home, and he was deeply moved by the experience.”

A Christian participant also said that visiting UMass Boston and working with faculty and students was an eye-opener in itself. “It’s a wonderful, wonderful experience; UMass Boston is a global university and the learning environment is very vibrant,” said the Rev. Francis Danjuma Koko, a parish priest of St. Peter’s Bobi and an Assistant Coordinator for the Justice, Development and Peace Committee in the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria. “The Chancellor and other staff have been so friendly, charming and lively. Meeting them alone made us feel like we belong to the university family.”

The next phase in the program involves conflict resolution professionals from U.S. partner organizations, as well as some of the UMass Boston students who participated in the training. They will work in Nigeria for a two-week period. The group of 12 will attend seminars presented by Nigerian partner organizations on local approaches to conflict resolution, and will also take part in general discussions of the work of these groups. In addition, the professionals will run four training sessions hosted by the Nigerian partner groups.

Presentation Notes

Associate Professor of Chemistry Wei Zhang gave an invited presentation, titled “Fluorous Technologies for Library Synthesis,” at the Combatoria. Annual American Chemical Research Conference, held August 31 through September 5 in Magdalen College at the University of Oxford. He also gave the talk “Fluorous Technologies for Library Synthesis: At the American Chemical Society’s 12th Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference in Washington, D.C. on June 24.

Vice Provost for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Anne Sweeney also participated in a panel on Social Networking, titled “Tapping into the Groundswell,” at the CIO Executive Summit in Boston in October. She also presented a full-day pre-conference seminar entitled “CIO 101: Surviving your first year as a CIO” for the EDUCAUSE national conference in Orlando in October.

Three members of the American Studies faculty presented papers at the annual American Studies Association conference, held October 13 through 19 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Professor Lois Rudnick gave the paper, titled “Cady Wells and Southwestern Modernism,” on a panel she organized, “Queering Regional Modernism: Santa Fe, Taos, and Seattle.” Assistant Professor Lynnell Thomas presented “We are Open, Fully Prepared, and Eager to Welcome All of Our Visitors Again: Tourism Stories and Post-Katrina Realities in New Orleans” as part of the panel “Crossroads in New Orleans: Storytelling and Counterhegemonic Geographies in Pre- and Post-Katrina Orleans;” and Assistant Professor Marisol Negron gave the paper, “Salsa as Commodity and Cultural Signifier: At a Crossroads Between Cultural Authority and Intellectual Property,” on the panel “Music Production, Exchange, and Performance: On-line Video, Cultural Authorities, and Transnational Entertainment Gateways.”


Senior Research Fellow Patricia Gallagher of the Center for Survey Research was a presenter at the CAlHP User Network Webcast, sponsored by the federal agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, in September. She presented findings from the development of a pediatric instrument for the CAlHP Clinician & Group Survey.

Hispanic Studies Department lecturer Charwei (Joe) Chinhauw will present his paper “Outing Don Juan: Gregorio Marañón’s Medical Preface to Homosexuality” at the conference “Masculinities, Femininities and More,” and will also serve as panel moderator for the Inter-American Literature section at the conference, which will be held November 6 through 8 at the University of West Georgia.

Psychology Professor Ed Tronick gave the keynote address and led a full day training at the Adelphi University Institute for Parenting on “Meaning, Making and Parenting,” and gave a speech titled “Beyond affective attunement: considerations on relational disconnection in the mother-child relationship” authors (Rosario Montirosso, Ed Tronick, Renato Bergotti) at The XIV National Congress of the Italian Society of Cognitive Therapy.

On October 7, Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Christian Wellers testified before the House Committee on Education and Labor on “The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Workers’ Retirement Security.” In his testimony, Wellers suggested Congress pursue legislation that would create “automatic IRAs” that would require that every employer with 10 or more employees would have to offer employees the opportunity of automatic payroll deductions into designated IRAs.

Pep Leostina of Applied Linguistics was invited to meet with two sections of the course Culture and Power at Emerson College to talk about the making of his documentary film “Class Dismissed: How TV Frames the Working Class,” and to discuss representations of the working class by corporate media. He also was invited to give a talk on Neoliberalism and the state of the economy, and to screen “Class Dismissed” for the One Book Project at Bunker Hill Community College.

Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Counseling and School Psychology Gonzalo Bacigalupo gave an invited keynote speech, titled “Relational and intercultural therapy and consultation with Latine families,” at the University of Oregon’s School of Education in September, and “Health care for immigrant Latinos in Cataluña, Spain and Massachusetts, USA: A comparative intercultural analysis” at the American Public Health Association’s annual meeting in San Diego in October.

Labor Resource Center director Susan Moir gave the keynote address, titled “Today’s U.S. Economy and its Impacts on Workers in the Higher Education Workplace,” at the Service Employees International Union Local 615’s Higher Education Division Conference, held in Boston on September 27.

During October, Peter Taylor, a professor in the Critical & Creative Thinking Program, was a visiting fellow at the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research in Austria, where he gave a talk titled “Farms, families, and fantasies of control: Puzzles in the history and philosophy of heredity that warrant more attention.”

Professor Felicia Wilczenski of the Graduate College of Education presented a paper, titled “Engaged pedagogy: involving youth in service learning to build developmental assets;” at the 13th annual conference on Advancing Mental Health, sponsored by the University of Maryland’s School of Medicine and held in Phoenix, Arizona in September.

Professor of Gerontology Nina M. Silvestein and several of her students gave two presentations in October: “Living with Alzheimer’s Disease: A.cpu: A Tool for Cognitive Asessment in Massachusetts;” and “It is a 20- mile drive to get a shower curtain. Older Adults Share Their Perceptions of Livability through Focus Groups in 3 Massachusetts Communities;” both at the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors Annual Fall Conference, held October 16 in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Honors Program associate director Dick Cluster was the featured speaker at the September 27 “Learn About Cuba” seminar in South Tar- man, MA and New Bedford, sponsored by Bayana Journal in association with Latin America Working Group and the Center for Cuban Studies. His illustrated talk covered the history of Havana.

The Institute for Community Inclusion, in partnership with the Center for Health Policy and Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, hosted three forums for indi- viduals with disabilities, community service providers and businesses. Diane Loud, Jennifer Sulewski and

November 2008 • The University Reporter • 5
Cindy Thomas facilitated topical sessions. John Butterworth presented a session on "Expanding Employment Opportunities for Individuals Developing New "Work" Ethics," and Amy Gelb and Rick Kugler presented on the value of competitive employment for people with mental illness.

Carol Hardy-Fanta, Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, gave the Annual Wiss Lecture in Women’s Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on October 23. The title of her speech was “Elección Latina: Gender, Rights: Reflections on Education and Community in Boston's Chinatown and Beyond,” for the Board of Directors of the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center.

Gerontology professor Yung-Ping (Bing) Chen presented a paper, titled “Potential Labor Supply and Flexible Work Options for Older Workers,” at the National Issues Forum deliberative politics and Public Policy, participated in "Young Poets Workshop and Writing and MFA Program, and Joyce Peseroff’s Extending Worklives.”

The work of three English Department faculty members has been included among the Notable Excerpts from 2007 Dominica reissued in paperback, “Working Longer in An Age of Employment Flexibility: Imagining the Resilient Older Worker,” a coauthored paper, “Mixing Labor Market Flexibility with Institutional Support: The Role of ‘Flexicurity’ in Extending Worklives.” Joyce Peseroff, Director of Creative Writing and MFA Program, and students from the MFA program led the “Young Poets Workshop and Cafe” for the Festival in Lowell on September 25.

In October, Peter Kiangan, Professor of Education and Director of the Asian American Studies Program, delivered an invited presentation, "Voice, Space, and Social Rights: Reflections on Education and Community in Worcester on recent revisions by John Butterworth,” and presented a coauthored paper, “Mixing Labor Market Flexibility with Institutional Support: The Role of ‘Flexicurity’ in Extending Worklives.” Joyce Peseroff, Director of Creative Writing and MFA Program, and students from the MFA program led the “Young Poets Workshop and Cafe” for the Festival in Lowell on September 25.

Christa Kelleher, Research Director at the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, participated in a National Issues Forum deliberative dialogue on the Cost of Health Care on September 25.

On September 22, John Halliday and David Hoff of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented in Worcester on recent revisions by John Butterworth,” and presented a coauthored paper, “Mixing Labor Market Flexibility with Institutional Support: The Role of ‘Flexicurity’ in Extending Worklives.” Joyce Peseroff, Director of Creative Writing and MFA Program, and students from the MFA program led the “Young Poets Workshop and Cafe” for the Festival in Lowell on September 25.

Christa Kelleher, Research Director at the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, participated in a National Issues Forum deliberative dialogue on the Cost of Health Care on September 25.

On September 22, John Halliday and David Hoff of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented in Worcester on recent revisions by John Butterworth,” and presented a coauthored paper, “Mixing Labor Market Flexibility with Institutional Support: The Role of ‘Flexicurity’ in Extending Worklives.” Joyce Peseroff, Director of Creative Writing and MFA Program, and students from the MFA program led the “Young Poets Workshop and Cafe” for the Festival in Lowell on September 25.

Christa Kelleher, Research Director at the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, participated in a National Issues Forum deliberative dialogue on the Cost of Health Care on September 25.

On September 22, John Halliday and David Hoff of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented in Worcester on recent revisions by John Butterworth,” and presented a coauthored paper, “Mixing Labor Market Flexibility with Institutional Support: The Role of ‘Flexicurity’ in Extending Worklives.” Joyce Peseroff, Director of Creative Writing and MFA Program, and students from the MFA program led the “Young Poets Workshop and Cafe” for the Festival in Lowell on September 25.

Christa Kelleher, Research Director at the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, participated in a National Issues Forum deliberative dialogue on the Cost of Health Care on September 25.
Pratyush Bharati has received a Sloan Foundation Travel Grant, which will pay for travel to Stanford University where he will present his research to international soft- ware services industry.

The Institute for Community In- clusion’s Education and Transition group has received the Equity & Excellence: Universal Course Design 3-year research, training and techni- cal assistance grant to determine the effectiveness of web-based tools in assisting community college faculty who teach developmental courses in developing more universally designed courses. The group was also awarded the “Center on Postsecondary Edu- cation for Students with Intellectual Disabilities” grant, through the Department of Education’s National Institute on Disability and Rehabili- tation Research (NIDRR) program on Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRR).

Undergraduate Nursing Program director JoAnn Mulready-Shick was awarded a grant for the 2008-2009 academic year from the National Student Nurses Foundation for fac- ulty development in simulation and universal design.

Management and Marketing Depart- ment chair David Levy is the co-prin- cipal investigator on an $824,000 Marsden research grant to examine claims of carbon neutrality.

Assistant Professor of English Patrick Barron will be presented with the Raisseval-Palch Translation Prize by the Academy of American Poets on November 28 at an awards ceremony in New York.

Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolu- tion director Joshua Jacks has been appointed Director of Metropolitan Mediation Services (MMS), a community mediation program serving the region which provides alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services to many Boston area schools, courts, housing authorities and other venues.

Connie Chan, Chair of the Depart- ment of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the McCormick Graduate School, has been elected as a Fellow to the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues, Division 45 of the American Psychological Assoc- iation. She also gave two presentations at the recent Asian American Professionals Association Convention.

Katharine Galaitis, Director of Online Programs in the Division of Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education, received the Outstanding- service award from the New England regional chapter of the United States Continuing Education Association (UCEA). The award was presented at the October 29 at the annual New Eng- land Regional UCEA Conference at Woodstock, Vermont.

Gerontologist professor Yung-Ping (Rong) Chen has joined the board of advisors for the Association for the Study of Grants Economy.

Undergraduate Nursing Program director JoAnn Mulready-Shick has been appointed to a national task force on Diversity in the Nurse Educa- tor Workforce.

Professor and Acting Dean Car- ray “Cap” Ferguson of the College of Public and Community Service made history again by being elected to an unprecedented third term as president of the Association for Hu- manistic Psychology (AHP). He ini- tially made history in July of 2006 by becoming the first African American and first person of color to be elected president of the AHP.

College of Management director of Graduate Studies William Kout- her has been appointed to the posi- tion of Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs.

Associate Professor of English Ashok Menon, a member of the faculty, which including the recently-published The House of Wodius, gave a reading of his work in Wheatley Hall on September 24.

On September 27, the Twu Zaa- mni (Three Friends) Project held its kickoff ceremony on the campus of Greater Dorchester. The Project, which ad- dresses the stigma associated with mental illness in the Haitian commu- nity, is a partnership of the Institute for Community Inclusion, Haitian American Public Health Initiative (HPH), and CARE Mosaic of the Haitian Media Network.

IN THE NEWS

An article about Assistant Professor of English Patrick Barron’s transla- tions of Italian poet Andrea Zanzotto was published in the fall issue of American Poet: The Journal of the Academy of American Poets.

Associate Professor of Sociology Xiaogang Ding was interviewed by Free Radio Asia nine times between April and August on various issues related to China, including the psychological impacts of natural disasters on children, the emergence of civil society in China, college programs for gifted students, teenage smoking, gender inequality, college kids’ marital problems, and the challenges facing children of migrant workers in urban areas.

Assistant Professor Melissa Pearew of the Department of Counseling and School Psychology was interviewed by WFDH-TV (Channel 7) for an investigative report on school disci- pline policies on September 30.

Assistant Professor of American Studies Lynnell Thomas was inter- viewed by the WBZ-TV (Channel 4) for a story titled “Local Katrina Victim Recalls Hurricane Devasta- tion” on August 29. Thomas was

also featured on WUSM-FM’s Com- munity Journal radio broadcast, titled “Three Years After Katrina,” which aired October 6. The program was the first of a four-part series on this topic which aired October 6. The program was the first of a four-part series on this topic.

In October, associate professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Christian Weller was interviewed by the Bloomberg network, the Guardian (U.K.), Aftonbladet (Nor- way), the Washington Post, the Atlanta Journal Constitution, La Opinion, Di Volkseblatt, Investor’s Business Daily, the Boston Herald, the Los Angeles Times, the Wash- ington Times, CQ Researcher, the Associated Press, El Diario, the Sarasota, Florida Herald Tribune, and National Public Radio’s To the Point. Also, his testimony before U.S. House of Representa- tives Committee on Education and Labor was covered by a number of media outlets.

Quinn Barbours of the Institute for Community Inclusion was quoted in the August 31 New Hampshire Union Leader in an article about Daniel Habib and his film, Including Samuel.

The Institute for Community Inclu- sion’s Susan Foley was interviewed on WBZ Radio (AM 1330) on September 7. During the interview, she promoted a service, available through Family Institute of Greater Boston, called “IYPR,” which allows parents of children with special healthcare needs to connect and share experiences and concerns.

Professor of political science Thomas Ferguson was quoted in a September 30 Washington Post story about the U.S. economy.

Associate professor of history Vin- cent Cannato was quoted in the New York Times on October 1 in a story about the former mayor of New York.

Professor of Political Science Paul Watanabe was interviewed on WBUR on October 10 and in the Boston Herald about a controversial race for a state seat in Boston, quoted in the Brockton Enterprise on October 9 about the declin- ing popularity of the Republican Party in Massachusetts, and again on October 11 in a story about voter turnout; in the Patriot Ledger in a September 29 article about South Shore residents’ assessments of the state of the nation; and again on October 1 in a story about State Treasurer Tim Cahill, in the Boston Globe on September 26 in a story about a possible run for mayor by Boston City Councilor Sam Yoon, and again in the Globe on October 11 about the restructuring of an Assistant District Attorney’s office in the Worcester Telegram on September 21 in a story about the influence of outside groups on state ballot ques- tions in Massachusetts.

Assistant professor of leadership in education Jack Leonard was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 5 in a story about a plan to shutter and consolidate a number of Boston’s public schools.

Professor of economics Arthur Mace- wan was interviewed on WBZ radio on September 26 about a proposed rescue plan for the U.S. economy.

Associate professor of Public Pol- icy and Public Affairs Alan Clay- ton-Matthews was interviewed on WBUR on October 9 about the state treasury’s sale of so-called “revenue anticipation notes;” interviewed on Newser Center on October 7 about state bond tender offering in Massachusetts; quoted in the Boston Globe on September 26 in a story about the state’s economy, in the October 7 about state’s economy; and again on October 17 about predictions of shortfalls by Governor Patrick; and quoted in the October 27 about a proposed fiscal austerity plan in Massachusetts; and quoted in the Boston Globe on October 19 in a story about an increase in panhan- dling in Boston.

Professor of economics David Torick was quoted in a September 21 Cape Cod Times story about the high cost of living on Cape Cod.

Gerontologist research institute fel- lowship and Fellowship in Geriatrics and Gerontology as a Schizophrenia and Aging: Research and training in the study of aging.

Assistant professor of sociology Laura Hansen was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 19 in a story about an increase in panhan- dling in Boston.

Professor of economics David Torick was quoted in a September 21 Cape Cod Times story about the high cost of living on Cape Cod.

Gerontologist research institute fel- lowship and Fellowship in Geriatrics and Gerontology as a Schizophrenia and Aging: Research and training in the study of aging.

Assistant professor of sociology Laura Hansen was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 19 in a story about an increase in panhan- dling in Boston.

Professor of economics David Torick was quoted in a September 21 Cape Cod Times story about the high cost of living on Cape Cod.

Gerontologist research institute fel- lowship and Fellowship in Geriatrics and Gerontology as a Schizophrenia and Aging: Research and training in the study of aging.

Assistant professor of sociology Laura Hansen was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 19 in a story about an increase in panhan- dling in Boston.

Professor of economics David Torick was quoted in a September 21 Cape Cod Times story about the high cost of living on Cape Cod.

Gerontologist research institute fel- lowship and Fellowship in Geriatrics and Gerontology as a Schizophrenia and Aging: Research and training in the study of aging.

Assistant professor of sociology Laura Hansen was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 19 in a story about an increase in panhan- dling in Boston.

Professor of economics David Torick was quoted in a September 21 Cape Cod Times story about the high cost of living on Cape Cod.

Gerontologist research institute fel- lowship and Fellowship in Geriatrics and Gerontology as a Schizophrenia and Aging: Research and training in the study of aging.

Assistant professor of sociology Laura Hansen was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 19 in a story about an increase in panhan- dling in Boston.

Professor of economics David Torick was quoted in a September 21 Cape Cod Times story about the high cost of living on Cape Cod.

Gerontologist research institute fel- lowship and Fellowship in Geriatrics and Gerontology as a Schizophrenia and Aging: Research and training in the study of aging.

Assistant professor of sociology Laura Hansen was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 19 in a story about an increase in panhan- dling in Boston.

Professor of economics David Torick was quoted in a September 21 Cape Cod Times story about the high cost of living on Cape Cod.

Gerontologist research institute fel- lowship and Fellowship in Geriatrics and Gerontology as a Schizophrenia and Aging: Research and training in the study of aging.

Assistant professor of sociology Laura Hansen was quoted in the Boston Globe on October 19 in a story about an increase in panhan- dling in Boston.
The Calendar of Events is published monthly by the Office of Marketing and Communications. 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.

Monday 3
Putting the Pol in Policy: How the Presidential Election Impacts Public Policy Analysis 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., McCormack Building, third floor, room 204A. Professor of Political Science Eric O’Brien and Professor of Political Christian Weller will discuss the election based on their expertise in U.S. politics and economics.

Gerontology Institute Speeches Series 1 p.m. – 2 p.m., Wheatherly Hall, third floor, room 125. “Privatizing Social Security in Chile: Reform of the Reform,” by Stephen J. Kay, director of the Urban and Regional Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Director of the Mass Small Business Development Center.” Presented by the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center at 7-7750 or register online at www.src.umb.edu.

Tuesday 4
Sales and Marketing Basics 6 a.m. – 8 p.m., McCormack Hall, second floor, room 204A. “A small business workshop that weds creative writing and writing about the environment, with talks by Jonathan Skinner of Bates College, Bonnie Costello of Boston University, and Eve Sorum of UMass Amherst. Moderated by Assistant Professor of English Patrick Barron. Presented by the Research Center for Urban Cultural History.

Wednesday 5
Colloquium: Four Instincts that Lead us to Language 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., McCormack Building, third floor, room 204A. Presentation of the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center at 7-7750 or register online for details. For more information, contact Katiria Adorno-Vasquez at 7-7750.

Thursday 6
Open House for Critical Thinking Program Open 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Healey Library, fourth floor, organized by the Community Relations Office. Call Gail Hoben at 7-5310.

Friday 7
You will learn about developing concepts, strategies and tactics. Free. Contact your nearest SBDC office or call 7-5726.

Saturday 7
Making Math Accessible Through Universal Course Design (UCD) 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Healey Library, fourth floor, Center for Library Instruction. Speaker: Prof. of Linguistics Judy Reigl of the University of Maine. Sponsored by the Department of Spanish Studies, the Undergraduate Program in Linguistics, and Friends of the Healey Library.

Wednesday 11
Veterans’ Day University closed.

Wednesday 12
Fits and Starts: The Difficult Path for Single Working Parents 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., Nurses Hall, State House. Presentation of a policy brief by the Cinnamon Women’s Union and the Center for Social Policy at UMass Boston; speakers include CSP director Donna Haig Friedman and CSP senior fellow Randy Albedo. Event sponsored by the Honorable James B. Elledge.

Women’s Research Forum: The Private Safety Net 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Chancellor’s Conference Room, third floor, Quinby Building. Organized by the Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy at UMass Lowell. Free. For more information, call 7-5541 or email christal.kelleher@umb.edu.

Talks: Joans and Genes: The Art and Science of Teaching 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., Campus Center, Alumni Lounge. Featuring professor Lois Rudnick and associate professor Brian White. A conversation between two award-winning teachers about the pleasures and pains of teaching. Free, at the discretion of the classroom.

Thursday 13
Book Release 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., Campus Center, second floor. Discussion and book signing by former UMass Amherst faculty member Bill Fletcher, who recently coauthored the book Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path Toward Social Justice. For details contact tress.cwning@umbu.edu or 7-7352.

Friday 14
Conference: Italy and the Holocaust 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom. Conference includes a panel discussion, a short film, and presentations by survivors of internment camps in Italy. For more information, contact maria.lombardi@umb.edu or 7-5786; to register, go to holocaust@umass.edu or call 7-5726.

Student Conference: City, Ciudad, Cidade, City: Teaching and Thinking Cities 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Campus Center, room 3545. Presentations by Honors students Gabriela Antunes, Michelle Domine, and Alana Wensley. Free. For more information, contact the Mass Small Business Development Center at 7-7750 or register online at www.sbdc.umb.edu/training.

Saturday 15
Spanish Workshop: Para español, opima dos 9:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., Healey Library. Presented by the Spanish Research Center (www.src.umb.edu).

PHENOM Summit 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Healey Library, fourth floor. Also Sunday 16. Conference of the Public and Higher Education Network of Massachusetts. Organized by the Massachusetts State Representative’s Office. Free. For more information, call 7-7750 or emailchristal.kelleher@umb.edu.

Sunday 16
Conference: Rebuilding Sustainable Communities and Their Families After Disasters Through Wednesday 19, various locations. Inaugural event of the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities and Families, part of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies. For more information, go to www.rebuilding.umb.edu.

Monday 17
Global Entrepreneurship Week 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., McCormack Hall, third floor, Ryshon Lounge. Exhibition includes mini-workshops and presentations, a resource fair and a special competition called Big Idea Pitch Pitch! Organized by the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center. Contact Katina Adburo-Vasquez at 7-7750.

Geronology Institute Speakers Series 1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m., Wheatherly Hall, third floor, room 123. “The structure and function of apologies,” by Dr. Aaron Lazar, the Celia and Isaac Hashak Professor of Medical Education and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Chancellor and Dean, 1990-2007.

Thursday 20

Friday 21
Annual Multi-Cultural Dinner 4 p.m. – 7 p.m., McCormack Hall, third floor, Room 204A. Organized by the Early Learning Center. Contact Gema Gray at 7-4159.

J. Keith Motley Scholarship Event 5:30 p.m. – 11 p.m., Campus Center. Fundraiser for J. Keith Motley Scholarship. Contact Allison Duffield at 7-3322 for more information.

Saturday 22
Red, White and Black Ball Celebration 7 p.m. – 10 p.m., Campus Center, third floor, Ballroom. World AIDS Day celebration, organized by the HIV/AIDS Alliance: Keep a Child Alive. Contact Student Activities at 7-9750 or 7-7952 for more information.

Monday 24
Poetry Reading 4 p.m., Campus Center Book Store. Reading by poet Kevin Young, author of six collections of poetry. Part of the Global Voices reading series.

Thursday 27
Thanksgiving University closed.