Reverend, Activist to Deliver 40th Commencement Address

By Kaushik Prakash

Gloria White-Hammond, one of Boston’s—and the world’s—most distinguished humanitarians, will deliver the principal address at the University of Massachusetts Boston’s 40th commencement ceremonies, to be held on Friday, May 30. She will also receive an honorary degree, as well three other eminent guests: Ronald Logue, Sarah Moten, and Dan Rea.

“Championing the cause of providing the best urban education to the most diverse student body in New England, UMass Boston is extremely proud of the fact that more than half of its undergraduates are first-generation college students,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “Reverend White-Hammond’s efforts at spearheading and revolutionizing the cause of international development in the field of education, and spearheading and revolutionizing media outreach in Boston. The Reverend Gloria E. White-Hammond, M.D., is co-pastor of Bethel AME Church in Boston and a pediatrician at the South End Community Health Center. She will be honored for decades of humanitarian efforts, both local and international, that range from founding the Boston-based “Do the Write Thing” program for high-risk black adolescent females to extensive medical, missionary, and humanitarian work in regions of Africa including Darfur.

Ronald E. Logue, the chairman and CEO of State Street Corporation, will be honored for his extraordinary contributions to Boston’s business and civic life. He has held increasingly responsible positions at State Street since 1990, serving as well on boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, the United Way, the Institute of Contemporary Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts.

Sarah E. Moten, Ed.D., will receive her honorary degree in recognition of long and distinguished international service, on behalf of her country, to people in need. She is currently education division chief for the Africa Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development and has previously served as deputy assistant secretary of state for international refugee assistance and as Peace Corps country director in Swaziland, Kenya, and Sierra Leone.

Dan Rea ’70, now the host of “Nightside with Dan Rea” on WBZ Radio, will receive his honorary degree in recognition of his distinguished career in Boston journalism. From 1976 to 2007, he graced the reporting staff of WBZ-TV, focusing on breaking news stories and local and national politics. Among his honors are two Emmy awards and a lifetime achievement award from the New England Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

For Commencement Day information and schedules, go to www.umb.edu/commencement.

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Center on Media and Society Launches Ethnic Health Reporting Service

By Frank Herron

In an effort to improve health reporting in immigrant and non-English-speaking communities, The New England Ethnic Newswire (www.ethnicnews.org/) is creating a health reporting service. The new service, which is available free to ethnic media outlets throughout New England, was launched April 18 at a luncheon and media briefing hosted by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, which along with the Boston Foundation, Partners HealthCare and MetroWest Community Health Care Foundation is helping to fund the initiative.

The ethnic health reporting initiative is based at the Center on Media and Society, which operates the New England Ethnic Newswire at the University of Massachusetts Boston’s John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies. The Center will train and deploy a professional journalist to report about health issues that relate to immigrant and ethnic populations. These original stories will appear in the ethnic media, on the sponsors’ Web sites, and on the New England Ethnic Newswire. Plans are in the works to translate stories into English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Haitian Creole.

The program is designed to help ethnic media pass on time- and health-related information through free news stories and other features, including an “Ask the Doctor” column. The goal is to get a flow of valuable health and medical information from and to these often underserved populations, according to Ellen Hume, founder and publisher of the Newswire.

“Health reporting is important to everyone, but especially to those who live in and serve ethnic and immigrant communities,” said Hume, the research director at MIT’s Center for Future Civic Media. “We may be the first in the nation to create this special cross-ethnic health beat. We will report and publish original, high-quality stories that you can’t get elsewhere. Race and ethnicity correlate with persistent health disparities which have been well documented in both national and local studies. While many important health-related stories are covered effectively by the mainstream media, many immigrants rely on non-English-language media for their health information. The Center’s health reporting initiative seeks to bridge the health information gap and help immigrant communities have better health outcomes. Participating ethnic media partners include the Boston Haitian Reporter, El Planeta, El Mundo, the Brazilian Journal, Portuguese-language WSRO-AM (650) radio, the Mattapan Reporter (African-American), and others.

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To provide original content, the NEWs has selected Eduardo de Oliveira of Nashua, N.H., as the Center’s first health reporting fellow. A former columnist for the Nashua Telegraph and a former editor of the Brazilian Journal, de Oliveira has already begun to write and develop sources for the new beat.

Jarrett Barrios, the former state senator who now is president of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, has been a leader in organizing the project.

“The media play a critical role in keeping people informed about what’s going on in health reform. The Ethnic Newswire reaches a population that the mainstream media often miss,” Barrios said. “That’s why the Foundation is helping to fund this vital initiative.”

Partners HealthCare official Matt Fishman agrees.

**By Brian Middleton**

UMass Boston's Management of Aging Services (MAS) program has been named Outstanding Credit Program for 2008 by the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). Lillian Glickman and Ellen Birchander, the program's co-directors, were presented with the award on March 28 at the UCEA national conference in New Orleans.

The MAS program, a track of the Master of Science in Gerontology, was selected for its innovation and creativity. In presenting the award, UCEA noted that the aging of the American population is creating a need for expanded services and for workers trained in managing those services. The MAS Program responds to this need by offering mid-career professionals in the aging field as well as those new to the field with an advanced degree that combines both information on aging issues and managerial skills. The concept of the MAS program is to train individuals to assume management positions in agencies that deliver services to elders. The program began in 2003 as a collaboration between the Gerontology Department and the Division of Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education. The Program offers both online and on-campus courses and has over 33 graduates and 176 annual enrollments.

**UMass Hosts Chinese Speech Contest**

By William Wright

Local high school students William Dunn and Michael Spence of Belmont Hill School placed first and second, respectively, in the national "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Chinese speech contest, held on Saturday, April 19, at UMass Boston.

The contest was the finals of the third annual competition, bringing together top American high school students from across the country who have been studying Mandarin Chinese. It is sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute, located at UMass Boston, and CLASS, the Chinese Language Association for Secondary Schools.

"In today's globally integrated and interdependent world, our students need to understand other cultures and develop foreign-language skills to succeed academically and in the careers of tomorrow," said the university's Confucius Institute's Arthur Hendricks. "Confucius Institute is here to promote Chinese language and culture and to provide opportunities for community and cultural events." The university's Confucius Institute offers a wide array of programs and services, including teaching the Chinese language, the training of Chinese teachers, Chinese curriculum development, and Chinese language and cultural events. It also provides learning opportunities for the community, a clearinghouse of Chinese language and cultural materials, and a platform for research into Chinese language and culture. It is one of about 30 institutes of its kind in the United States established by the Hanban, China's international education office, and it was the first Confucius Institute in New England.

Twenty-four students competed on Saturday; Dunn and Spence were among six Massachusetts high school students who qualified for the finals. Dunn won the competition, and Dunn and Spence won the opportunity to compete in the finals of the competition in Beijing, sponsored by the Hanban. Students in that program will compete with students from around the world in a contest to win a year of study in China.

**Gerontological Honor Society Hosts Top Federal Official’s Talk on Aging**

By Rosemarie B. Barker and Robert Geary

On April 15, the Gerontology Department of the McCormack Graduate School sponsored an annual Induction Ceremony of the Sigma Phi Omega National Gerontological Honor Society. The ceremony was keynoted by Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration.

According to Goss, the issues of an aging population, falling birth rates, and the inevitability of rising health care costs require solutions that can be generated only through the political process. Goss believes there are solutions that would address the challenges; however, the process must be collaborative and acceptable to the public. He concluded that our only “real” investment in the future is the next generation, who will produce the goods and services to be shared by all. In addition, each new generation will be called upon to participate in the political process and help develop the solutions for maintaining the Social Security and Medicare programs for America’s aging society and future generations.

Goss was inducted into the Honor Society, along with Dr. Elizabeth Clemens, five doctoral students (Rosemarie B. Barker, Kristen Brueck, Deborah Ann Gray, Samantha Levien, Robert Sherman, Andrea Tuill), six management in Aging Services students (Annette Hodes, Kristen Marchle, Camille Sparks, Amanda Speakman, Julie Spencer, and Teresa Stephen), and three undergraduates (Terri Fitzgerald, Susan Lubin, and Donna Funston). The Chapter officers are Professors Nina Silverstein and Yung-Ping Chen.

**No Rain, Plenty of Smiles on Good Neighbor Day**

The weather was better this year as UMass Boston staff, students, and faculty helped out neighbors at projects both on and off campus. Clockwise from top left: just a few of the 50 holes needed for new rosebushes at St. Christopher’s; Father George Carrigg of St. Christopher’s with UMass Boston’s Rodney Hughes; Head Women’s Basketball Coach Shawn Renee Polk spruces up the Walter Denny Youth Center’s new teen room; a team does the same for the Center’s playground equipment. (Photos by Harry Brett)
Dukes Wins Stanford Fellowship for Work on Climate Change

By Lisa Harris

You might think of the Boston Area Climate Experiment as a sort of million-dollar Petri dish.

Studying the effects of global warming is one of the toughest problems science has to offer. You can’t just turn up the heat outside by a few degrees and see what happens. So assistant biology professor Jeffrey Dukes decided to try something ambitious: In 2006, with ceramic heaters to raise the temperature, and sprinklers over-head to control “rainfall,” Dukes began setting up 36 different simulated climates on small plots of land on an old farm in Wiltham.

His research group is now watching them to see what happens to the plants and other organisms living and growing there.

Dukes’ life would probably be simpler if he’d decided to study something a little less complicated. The subjects of his research—complex ecosystems and how they respond to disturbances like global warming and invasive species—contain some of the most difficult riddles in science to unravel. But Dukes is undeterred by tough problems.

“I get excited about doing science in areas where there are environmental challenges,” he said.

This spring, Dukes was one of nineteen environmental scientists across the nation to receive the prestigious Aldo Leopold Fellowship. The fellowship, a program of the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University, is given annually to a group of the best and brightest in ecology, environmental engineering, and other environmentally focused fields.

For Dukes, the fellowship will be a chance to focus on another kind of research problem: how to increase scientists’ public leadership on environmental issues.

Although the public is increasingly savvy about the environmental problems we face as a society, he said, there is still much work to be done to bring scientists and the general public together on these issues.

“It’s been gratifying to see increased awareness in problems associated with invasive species, and particularly the problems that are going to be associated with climate change,” he said. “But there’s still a heck of a lot to be done. Just because we understand it’s a problem doesn’t mean we understand the nature of the problem very well.”

As part of the fellowship, Dukes and his colleagues will be trained in how to talk to politicians and the media about environmental problems, and will then spend a week in Washington, D.C., where they will meet with elected officials and participate in a mock Congressional testimony.

The idea is to help scientists communicate with the public and with elected officials about our most important environmental challenges, said Woods Institute managing director Pam Sturner.

“I think that there are so many pressing environmental problems that are extremely complex afoot today. There’s such a need to bring science to bear on that decision making,” she said. “As issues like global warming become more and more pressing, having that information in front of decision makers is incredibly important for the long-term health and sustainability of the planet.”

Alas for UMass Boston, Dukes will be leaving this summer: He’s accepted an assistant professorship at Purdue University, where he will work with fellow climate-change scientists at the Purdue Climate Change Research Center. But Dukes says he’ll keep one foot on the UMass campus, keeping the BACE running, advising graduate students, and continuing to collaborate with his UMass colleagues on the research he’s begun here.

“I don’t want to sever ties with this place at all,” he said. “I will shift the main core of operations to Purdue. But I’ll still keep the BACE going here, I’ll still have students here,” he said.

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By Jim Mortenson

The University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston) and a $1.4 million, four-year grant to enhance the academic and research experiences of underrepresented students at the undergraduate level, in order to increase the number of minority students pursuing doctoral study in biomedical fields and attaining doctoral degrees.

“While we are a major force for ensuring the diversification of our future life sciences workforce in Massachusetts,” said Dean Andrew Grossovsky, “we have a significant opportunity to enhance the education and research experiences of underrepresented students. The grants will provide a significant boost to our efforts.”

Associate Professors Rachel Skvirsky and Adán Colón-Carmona of the Biology Department are the project’s lead investigators, though many other science faculty will play key roles in the program. A key component of this project is the University’s U6 partnership with the Dana Farber/ Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC), the main goal of which is to address health disparities in minority populations and to improve research, training, and mentoring opportunities for minority students.

The IMSD project is just one facet of a larger, unified plan for student development in the sciences at UMass Boston. “We are building a portfolio of programs designed to increase the number of students, especially those from underrepresented, low-income, first-generation backgrounds, who successfully pursue science careers,” said Grossovsky. “UMass Boston is at a tipping point in terms of implementing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, programs that reach out to minorities. We are confident that the IMSD project will be another important initiative that will tip the scales in favor of this goal and, ultimately, lead to permanent institutional change.”

According to Skvirsky and Colón-Carmona, IMSD students will have access to mentored research opportunities both here and at DF/HCC. Scheduled to begin in summer 2008, IMSD will provide year-round structured enrichment activities, including research experience, faculty and peer mentoring, academic preparation for application to PhD programs. The program will emphasize high achievement in courses and the development of independence in research.

Using a proactive recruitment strategy, IMSD will identify underrepresented minority students at the sophomore level who are currently taking science courses will be recruited to apply to become IMSD affiliates. Affiliates who successfully complete at least the first level of the UMass gateway courses with a grade point average of 3.0 or better and who are within two years (60 credits) of graduation will be encouraged to apply to become IMSD fellows. The program will develop a community of science learners with a drive to excel academically. Each IMSD affiliate will be coached by an upper-class IMSD fellow and will also be mentored by individual faculty, either at UMass Boston or DF/HCC, who are researchers in the fellow’s area of concentration as well as by the program’s co-directors.

“We believe students are going to fully embrace the mentoring component of this program,” said Skvirsky. “Every IMSD and DF/HCC faculty member will mentor our IMSD fellows.”

By Kari Rust

The Center for Social Development and Education showcased its notable contributions to the field of research on children with disabilities at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual National Conference, held in Boston April 3 through 5.

More than 6,000 teachers, school administrators, and researchers convened at the conference, where CSDE researchers presented on issues inclusion in and out of the classroom, the benefits of recreational programming for children with disabilities, the challenges of serving children with emotional and behavioral disorders, the relationships between siblings in families with a child with autism, and the effectiveness of violence-prevention programs for youth.

“The CEC conference gave CSDE the opportunity to provide educators with practical methods to improve educational outcomes for children with disabilities in the classroom and the broader community,” said CSDE director Gary N. Siperstein, PhD, who was also recently named one of the 2008 winners of the Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Scholarship.

“The conference also gave our researchers the opportunity to discuss with educators the real-life implications of research upon classroom settings and beyond.” As a part of a showcase for the Division of International Special Education and Services, Siperstein and Co-Director of the Special Olympics Global Collaborating Center Jennifer Norins Bardon presented findings from their major Multinational Youth Attitude Study, which to date involves more than 14,000 youth in the United States, Japan, and China. The presentation demonstrated that youth attitudes toward students with intellectual disabilities are a major barrier to inclusion worldwide, but can be changed if educators focus on highlighting the competence of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion and acceptance were also themes in “Summer Camp Can Promote Positive Adjustment for Children with Intellectual Disabilities,” a presentation about the successes of UMass Boston’s Camp Shriver. Siperstein and staff members Gary Glick and Danna DeGesse Bille introduced the concept of Camp Shriver as a fully inclusive recreational experience that promotes social inclusion among children. Chief among the presentation’s findings was the fact that campers with and without intellectual disabilities were found to be equals when it came to making friends with other campers.

In a different session, Paddy Favaaza and Gary Siperstein introduced their audience to another recreational program, the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program, one of the only physical activity programs for young children with developmental disabilities/delays.

CSDE’s evaluation of the Young Athletes Program showed that the program improved these children’s development in language, motor, skill, and social skills.

In “School Context and the Characteristics of Students Identified as Emotionally Disturbed,” Andrew Wile presented findings from one of CSDE’s grants, Research for Education Partnerships, which describes a large sample of children served for ED by schools that differ in income and performance. Researchers have shown large differences in academic achievement between students with ED from high- and low-income schools as measured using national norms, but no differences in relative achievement (as measured compared to same-school peers). Students with ED from low-income schools exhibited more outwardly directed problem behavior, while students with ED from high-income schools exhibited more anxiety and withdrawal.

Researchers and practitioners alike recognized the implications of the findings for improving services and supports for this vulnerable population.

Paul Bensol, senior research associate and associate professor of sociology, brought attention to another critical issue in the field: relationships in families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Bensol discussed a unique aspect of his ongoing study of families of children with ASD in a presentation called “Behavioral Adjustment of Siblings of Children with ASD: A Comparison between the mental health problems of siblings of children with autism and without a diagnosis of developmental, learning, or emotional problems.

In his study, Bensol found that 25% of siblings were diagnosed with ASD, ADHD, or other disability. While siblings with a disability were found to be more disordered than children drawn from the general population, siblings without a disorder were no more maladjusted than their typical peers.

The findings of CSDE’s evaluation of the Teen Empowerment youth violence-prevention program in Boston were also presented in a poster session, led by Melissa Pearrow, assistant professor in the Graduate College of Education. The session focused on the effectiveness of programs that utilize inner-city youth as mentors and advocates in violence-prevention programs for teens.

“In as many ways past, the work of the Center for Social Development and Education was prominent in the annual meeting of the CEC,” said Rick Brigham, PhD, President-Elect of CEC’s Division of Research. “The Center has been very important in supporting the mission of the organization in promoting high-quality research in the field of special education. The increasing prominence of the Division for Research is due in large measure to the involvement of Gary Siperstein and his colleagues at CSDE in the organization.”

National Institutes of Health Awards $1.4 Million for Minority Undergraduate Scientists

By Jim Mortenson

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded UMass Boston a $1.4 million, four-year grant to enhance the academic and research experiences of underrepresented students at the undergraduate level, in order to increase the number of minority students pursuing doctoral study in biomedical fields and attaining doctoral degrees.

“We are becoming a major force for ensuring the diversification of our future life sciences workforce in Massachusetts,” said Dean Andrew Grossovsky, chair of the College of Science and Mathematics. The project’s official title is the Initiative for Maximizing Undergraduate Diversity (IMSD) and similar programs are great models for ensuring student success. One of my top priorities for the College of Science and Mathematics—students, faculty, administrators, and staff—is to institutionalize a culture of student success within the college,” said Grossovsky.

“Since my arrival at UMass Bos- ton eight months ago, I have been overwhelmed by the level of committment of our faculty and staff, as individuals, to our students. What I have also observed, in contrast to this incredible human commitment, is that we are, as a university, just beginning to lay the foundation for institutionalizing this commitment. So this is an incredibly exciting time for all of us.”

For additional information about the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity at UMass Boston, please contact Associate Professor Rachel Skvirsky or Associate Professor Adán Colón-Carmona.
By Aimee Blacquiere and Kaushik Prakash

For the second year in a row, UMass Boston has won a silver medal at the New England Spring Flower Show. James Allen, Greenhouse Manager for the Biology Department, and Music Professor David Patterson collaborated to create “Biology and Music: Rhapsody in our Greenhouses!” This year’s silver medal duplicates the showing of last year’s exhibit, “Can You Reduce Global Warming? Yes You Can!”

The New England Flower Show, which is sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, is now in its 137th year and has grown to be the third-largest flower show in the world. This year’s show featured 38 gardens, 222 retail vendors, and 192 floral arrangements, as well as live music performances, lectures, demonstrations, and competitions, all taken in by just under 100,000 people.

The Camellia japonica hybrid, flowering shrubs and close relatives of Camellia sinensis (the plant most of us would know as green and black tea), which has traditionally adorned the UMass Boston campus since 1980, was the highlight of this year’s show. The UMass Boston exhibit consisted of the arrangement of the hybrids with colorful posters on the hermit thrush, a bird which inspired David Patterson’s compositions. Patterson’s music included the pieces, “The Hermit Thrush Orchestra Plays Bill Evans,” in which the bird’s harmonies resemble those of the jazz pianist, and “The Hermit Thrush Orchestra Plays Vivaldi,” which rhapsodizes upon bird calls and the sounds of the Baroque master.

“I believe lightning has struck us twice here with this exhibit. For a second year in a row, we have won a silver medal!” said James Allen. “You never really know, as an exhibitor, what is going to appeal to the judges of a flower show exhibit. The lightning metaphor is that luck, good or bad, has something to do with the judging process.”

One of the judges at the show noted that “Music explains beautifully the natural world,” and that the exhibit’s signage was “helpful in understanding the relationship between the originally composed music and horticulture.”

Right, top photo: Music Professor David Patterson and James Allen, Greenhouse Manager for the Biology Department, at their displays. Bottom: The silver medal and a closeup of a Camellia japonica hybrid. (Photos by Harry Brett).
Professor to Spend Summer Bringing Better Mental Health Care to the Central African Republic

By Julia Reisichel

This summer, Assistant Professor of Family Therapy Laurie Lopez Charlés will leave the comfort of her office in Wheatley Hall to volunteer with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, or Doctors Without Borders) in Central African Republic, a country that most other aid operations avoid for safety reasons.

“It’s understood that you’re going to a place where there is conflict,” she says, explaining that she and her husband are preparing for her departure by updating their wills. “I’m definitely prepared to go. After last summer, I’m much more aware of my priorities.”

Last summer, Charlés received a diagnosis of a hidden health problem that could have killed her at any time. It was a bolt from the blue, and it transformed her life. “In between classes, I remember working on my will,” she says. “I had to plan how to program my cell phone so that someone could reach [my husband] if I died on the T.”

A complicated procedure cured the problem, but the reminder of her own mortality in the midst of her otherwise safe and comfortable life in Boston brought her life goals into sharp, fresh focus.

“That experience really clarified what I want to do,” she says.

As a mental health officer stationed with a MSF staff in CAR for the next few months, Charlés will work with a team of volunteers distributing free health care to the traumatized population of the city and the surrounding countryside, which has been scarred by years of coups and war and violence and trains graduate family therapy students to do the same. The skills she has honed at UMass Boston, as well as her French-language skills (CAR is a Francophone country), are the reasons why she was chosen for the MSF post. Over the course of her career, Charlés has been no stranger to dangerous situations.

She spent 18 months in the Peace Corps in Togo, a West African country where, she says, there were “guns everywhere.” For her doctoral dissertation at Nova Southeastern University in Florida, Charlés conducted an exhaustive study of the dynamics of hostage negotiation during a school shooting. She interviewed FBI and police crisis negotiators, listened to numerous audio recordings of live hostage negotiations, and traveled to the FBI Academy in Virginia to conduct research. The resulting case study is an intricate account of how to communicate with people in dangerous situations.

What ties all of her work together, she says, is her interest in “how people elicit information in difficult circumstances,” and her desire to put that information to therapeutic use.

Her field strives to do exactly that. Its goal is “to look at people in their context.” The field focuses on those who are the least likely to be able to navigate the state and system on their own—“the people who don’t show up,” as Charlés and her students who are teaching refugees, victims of domestic violence, and illegal immigrants.

Charlés came to UMass Boston’s Family Therapy department two years ago because she admired the school’s emphasis on serving exactly these groups. “It was mainly the urban mission,” she says. “It was impressive to me that the university talked about this. I needed to be someplace where I want to have tenure.”

At UMass, Charlés and her students study the problems inherent in providing therapy to marginalized groups in Boston. This fall, she and her students will use funds from a Joseph P. Healey Endowment Grant to conduct ethnographic interviews with recipients of aid in Boston on the subject of “resilience.” What they learn they will use to improve the therapy they give to their clients.

“How do we incorporate them into our research—especially in health? What practices do we use to try to understand their experience?” Charlés asks. Answering her own question, she says that the key is humility. “It’s a position of curiosity you have to take. You have to let it all go. If you can make yourself an outsider, that’s a conducive way to learn.”

This lesson, which she will teach to her students next fall, she will learn again firsthand in CAR this summer as she struggles to understand and help the mental health problems of refugees and victims of violence living half a world away.

“I really think this is the kind of thing that you can do at UMass,” she says. “My students work with refugee clients; we also have students who are refugees. I am hoping that my experience in CAR will be an important contribution to the department.”

As for the fact that she will be plunging herself into danger overseas, Charlés says that though she is apprehensive, she knows that going to CAR will make her a better family therapist.

“(Travel) is how I get humbled about what I think I know. And the humility is what makes my work good,” she says. “And why not me? The people who live there have to live there every day.”

Professor to Spend Summer Bringing Better Mental Health Care to the Central African Republic

This summer won’t be the first time Laurie Lopez Charlés has worked in dangerous surroundings. (Photo by Harry Brett)
In April, Patrick Clarican, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, presented “Socioeconomic and maternal correlates of height and adiposity in Cambodian-american children in Rhode Island” at the annual meeting of the Human Biology Association in Columbus, Ohio. He also presented “Correlations between war-related experiences and health of Hmong in the U.S. and French Guiana” at the International Conference on Hmong Studies in St. Paul, Minnesota. 

Susan DeSanto-Madaya, Assistant Professor of Nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, presented a paper at the Eastern Nursing Society’s 27th Annual Scientific Session, titled “Methodological Issues and Approaches to Research with Ethnically/Racially Diverse Adolescent Children of Mothers with Breast Cancer.” 

Patricia Gallagher, a senior research fellow at the Center for Survey Research, is presenting a paper, titled “The Validation of Self Identifiers in Persons with Mobility Impairment,” at the 63rd Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research in May in New Orleans. 

Anthropology Department lecturer Lauren Sullivan presented a paper titled “Co-authored Affirmative Action: Women’s Women in the Classroom,” at the Society for American Archaeology’s (SAA) 73rd annual Meetings in Vancouver, Canada, in May. Assistant Professor of Classics Jacqui Carlson spoke at Boston University on April 11 at the 2008 Boston Area Roman Studies Conference, “Hu, and Hae, Declining Masculinity and Femininity in Ancient Rome.” Her talk was titled “Terror becomes Plato’s: Redeeming Femi- nine Virtue.” 

Professor of History James Green discussed UMBC’s new WPA program in public history at a workshop on civic engagement at Tufts University on April 18 and at a New England Historical Society conference on April 26. 

Jay R. Dee, associate professor in the Department of Leadership in Educa- tion, presented the paper “Facilitator development as a self-organizing system” at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), held March 24 through 28 in New York City. At the same meeting, Dee also co-presented with Johannes Dupree, a 2007 grad- uate of the Higher Education Doctoral Program, the paper “Pedagogical change and institutional transfor- mation: The effects of public policy reform in community colleges,” and co-presented a third paper, “Social and psychological dimensions of role transition: Faculty’s preparedness for change” at the national conference Southeast Asians in the Diaspora, held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. 

College of Public and Community Service Associate Professor Andrew Leong presented at the George- town Journal of Critical Race Perspectives Symposium: Bridging the Gap Between Scholarship and Ac- tivism at the American University Law Center in Washington, D.C., on April 4. He spoke as a panelist on “How does our scholarship contribute to re- sistance as activists?” and was also a discussant during the roundtable dis- cussion on “How can a journal most effectively support activists’ work?” Professor Leong was also a panelist at the Annual Meeting of the As- sociation of American Geographers on April 18 on the panel “Right to the City: Social Justice Activism in Boston.” 

Mary Oleskiwicz, Associate Pro- fessor of Music, presented the in- vited paper “Handel, Quantz, and the International Harpsichord” at the 19th Annual Magdeburg Telescope Festival and International Scholarship Conference on March 14. 

Associate Professor of Africana Studies Marc Prow was invited by Professor Jesse Speed, Guest Editor at Haupt’s European cultural and social history to High school teachers and staff at the Milton Public Schools on April 9. 

Associate Professor of Mathematics Maura Mast was the keynote speaker at the Mathematics Across the Cur- riculum conference held at the Borough of Manhattan Community College on March 28. Her address was titled “Quantitative Reasoning: The Quantitative Literacy.” Assistant Professor of Sociology Mohammad Tamdgidi presented an invited paper titled “Beyond Islamophobia and Islamophobia as Western Epistemic Racisms: In- sights from North Africa” at the 16th annual conference “Deconstructing Islamophobia: Immigration, Globalization, and Community Building in the Border and Community Organized and held in Arizona by the Center for Race and Gender at the University of California, Berkeley.” 

Assistant Director of Environmental Studies and Lecturer in Environ- mental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences Nimian Stein organized and was a co-sponsor for a symposium on March 27, titled “Shapeshifting: Materiality in North America’s First European Settlements, Society for American Archaeology,” at the Society for American Archaeology’s annual meeting in Vancouver, Brit- ish Columbia. As part of the panel, Stein presented a paper titled “The English, of the full ripe corn ground, makes the simple corn grow.” The Adoption of Maize and Related Cultivation Technology by Early European Settlers in Southern New England.” 

Virginia Smith Harvey of the Coun- seling and School Psychology Department at the Graduate College of Education recently published Profes- sional Development and Supervision of School Psychologists: From Intern to Expert. 

Professor Rona Filippo of the Depart- ment of Curriculum and Instruction at the graduate College of Educa- tion also published “The effects of research, social skills, reading, and literacy motivation of pre-school and kin- dergarten children: A good fit?” in the IIE Networker. 

Joe Miyoshi, the lead author of his chapter “Social Cultural Activism” in The Sage Handbook of Cultural Analysis. 

Professor Meng Zhou of the Depart- ment of Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences (EEOs) gave an invited seminar, titled “What we can learn from the patterns of plague in oceans,” at the Horn Point Ma- rine Laboratory at the University of Maryland. 

Associate Professor of Modern Languages Alex Des Forges was a discussant on the panel “Words Changing Hands: Translations and Cultural Circulation in Late Qing and Republican China” at the annual meeting of the Asso- ciation for Asian Studies on April 5. 

Hispanic studies lecturer Patricia Andrade presented her paper “The Female Law” at the annual ACRS (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies) conference in February. 

Philosophy professor Lawrence Blum presented “Races and Racialized Group” at the “Words Change the World (RCW)” conference on April 28 at MIT to the Addir fellows titled “The Pluralism of World Views.” 

College of Public and Community Service Professor Emerita Marie Ken- nedy gave the following lectures: “Editing the Voices of Women, Women,” at the Crossing Borders Conference, held by the University of Michigan Ann Arbor’s Center for the Education of Women on April 28 in Detroit, Michigan; “Transformative Planning for Community Development,” at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, on April 1, and again at UMBC on April 3; “Horizontalidad—choices and challenges of movements in Argentina” at Amuse- ment Interna- tional’s chapter at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 

Gerontology professor Nina Silver- stein of the College of Public and Community Service served on an expert panel, “Strategic Planning for Older Driver Safety,” organized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Office of Behavioral Safety Research and held on April 28 in Bethesda, Maryland. 

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Calendar of Events - May 2008

Thursday 15
The Second Annual Technology Education Conference will be held at MIT, BU, UMass Boston, Yale, Wellesley Public Library, the Arsenal in Central Park, the Philadelphia Free Library, and Hartwick College. He was also the guest speaker at the Friends Speaker Series at the Howard Gotlib Archival Research Center at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Libraries of Boston University, and will serve as chair and moderator for the presentation "The UA School of Writing: Elizabeth Bishop in America" at the American Literature Association Convention in San Francisco on May 23. A concert of musical settings of his poems by the Tanglewood Composition Fellows will take place at Tanglewood on July 29.

Theatre Department lecturer Michael Fennimore is appearing on national television in a commercial for Accu-chance to get started in using some Faculty presentations will be paired of ways in which your colleagues

Wednesday 21
College of Public and Community Service Honors Convocation and Reception 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., Commonwealth Center Point Lounge and Campus Center Ballroom.

Tuesday 28
College of Liberal Arts Honors Convocation and Reception 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., Commonwealth Center Ballroom and University Terrace.

Friday 30
Graduate Studies (including Education and McIlhenny) Honors Convocation and Reception 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., Commonwealth Center Ballroom and Student Dining Room.

In the News
Joyce Pevsner, Director of Creative Writing, was quoted in the Boston Globe by columnist Ellen Steinbaum in “What’s in Poets’ Monthly Planner” on April 13.

Christopher Wilber, an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, was quoted in U.S. News & World Report, Boston Now, AARP Bulletin, the Palm Beach Post, Builder Magazine, the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, and the Lansing State Journal, interviewed on the Boston radio stations WRQ, WRX, on German public radio, on the Los Angeles station KCRW’s program To The Point, on the podcast Stock Shots, and appeared on television on R.I. TV, CNBC, Bloomberg’s German channel, CNN, and Dan Rather Reports.

Frederick S. Troy, Professor of English, was interviewed on NPR’s News from England and culture program about Bishop: Poems, Prose, and Letters, a book he edited about poet Elizabeth Bishop.

CAMPUS NOTES

The Institute for Community Inclusion conducted an initial stage of project evaluation for the state of Washington’s Jobs by 21 Partnership Project, a project designed to expand interagency collaboration to support the transition of young adults with intellectual and development disabilities from school to work.

Gerontology Professor Nina Silverstein of the College of Public and Community Service and Engineering-Department lecturer Tomas Marzourek, along with Ger Adler of the University of Houston, received a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to study how people with neuromuscular disease travel by vehicle. The team found that traditional vehicle instrumentation make a difference in decision-making for fitness to Drive in Early Stage Dementia: An Intervention Study.

The Second Annual Technology Education Conference will be held at MIT, BU, UMass Boston, Yale, Wellesley Public Library, the Arsenal in Central Park, the Philadelphia Free Library, and Hartwick College. He was also the guest speaker at the Friends Speaker Series at the Howard Gotlib Archival Research Center at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Libraries of Boston University, and will serve as chair and moderator for the presentation "The UA School of Writing: Elizabeth Bishop in America" at the American Literature Association Convention in San Francisco on May 23. A concert of musical settings of his poems by the Tanglewood Composition Fellows will take place at Tanglewood on July 29.

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book he edited about poet Elizabeth Bishop. The fun includes Boston's best Magician, caricaturists, face-painting, kite-making, and more.

Science, received a Joseph F Healey Grant to fund his ongoing research program on the interpretation of Spanish indefinite noun phrases.

Mary Oleskiewicz, Associate Professor of Music, discovered a previously unknown musical composition by the composer Johann Friedrich Fasch, resulting in the invitation to present the report "Eine Wiederentdeckte Tristamson von Johann Friedrich Fasch" as well as the first modern performance of the work at the 10th International Scientific Fasch Conference and Festival, held in Zerbst, Germany, on April 12. An interview with Oleskiewicz concerning the discovery was published in the newspaper Zerstrome Volksstimme on April 14.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Management and Marketing Lecturer Edward Romain has been named a Fulbright Scholar. Romain will spend the year teaching at the University of Pannonia in Veszprem, Hungary.

Assistant Professor of Biology Jafrey Dukes has been selected as a 2008 Leopold Leadership Fellow by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University. The Fellows take part in intensive leadership and communications training to hone their skills in delivering scientific information to decision makers, the media, and the public.

Professor Meng Zhou of the Department of Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences (EEOS) received the 2008 European Union Marie Curie People Fellowship for reinforcing the scientific excellence of Europe through knowledge sharing as an opening-topoposciences researcher. Zhou was also selected to serve on the U.S. Antarctic Research Vessel Oversight Committee (ARVOC) for advising the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Raytheon Polar Service Company (RSPC) on marine operations, sciences, and designing new polar research vessels.

Joan Garity, an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, received the Pearl Rodensdahl Award for Excellence in Nursing Education at the Annual Induction of Theta Alpha (USTA) Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing on April 27.

Professor Rona Hippo of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Graduate College of Education has accepted an invitation to be on the National Reading Conference’s Political and Legislative Issues Committee from 2008 to 2010.

Susan DeSanto-Madaya has been asked by the Family Research Interest Group to serve as a discussant for a paper session, “Focusing on Family: Local and Global Practice.”

Gerontology Professor Nina Sil-verstein of the College of Public and Community Service received the 2008 Louis Lowy Award at the annual meeting of the Massachu-setts Gerontology Association on April 13.

Mary Oleskiewicz, Associate Professor of Music, has been awarded a 12-month Research Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany, with residency during 2008 at the University of Arts in Berlin.

Professor Felicia Wilczenski of the Graduate College of Education was recently elected Vice President for Counselor Educators for the Massachusetts School Counselor Association.

Jacqui Carol, assistant professor of Classics, received the Barlow-Reach Award at the annual meeting of the Classical Association of New England (CANE), which was held at Connecticut College on March 14-15.

Water Logos, a novel by English Department lecturer Laurie Marks, has been included on the honors list for the James Tiptree, Jr. Literary Award, which recognizes science fiction or fantasy that explores and expands gender roles. The book is the third in a four-novel series, the first two of which have each won the Gaylactic Spectrum Award for best novel.

The Gerontology Department’s Management of Aging Services Master’s Program has won the 2008 Outstanding Credit Program by the National University of Managing Education Association (UCEA). The award was presented at the annual conference of the Association on March 28. Congratulations to Ellen Bruce, Gerontology Graduate Program director, and Lillian Glickman and Ellen Birchander, co-directors of the Management of Aging Services Master’s Program.

A case presented by College of Management Assistant Professors Marty Calkins and Nick Dedek, “Mattel Inc.: Lead-Tainted Toys,” has been selected as one of 4 finalists (*runners-up*) in the 2008 Dark Side Case Competition, sponsored by the Critical Management Studies Interest Group and the Management Education Division of the Academy of Management.

EVENTS

The Institute for Community Inclusion’s State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) conducted a web conference on April 10, titled “State Employment Practices: Funding for Employment Services,” followed by a four-part web conference series titled “A Working Life: Towards a Work-able Future for People with Significant Disabilities and had 60 participating sites and an estimated several hundred participants.

The Chinese Bridge Speech Contest, held at Boston College on April 18, was mentioned in the April 24 Bay State Banner.

WUMB’s Mockingbird Fest was mentioned in the NEAI Big Read Blog.

The launch of the New England Ethnic HealthCare's health reporting service was mentioned in the April 21 edition of the Boston Globe.