UMB Alert: New Emergency Notification System for UMass Boston

By Anne-Marie Kent

This month, UMass Boston unveils the new UMB Alert emergency notification system, which will be used to provide critical information to faculty, students, and staff when university officials perceive a significant threat to their safety. Public safety officials and university administrators will have the ability to send alerts in response to situations such as criminal acts, fires, explosions, chemical accidents, severe storms, or any local incidents that are seen to pose a threat to the safety of the community.

In addition to text messaging, the university will use other message and information systems such as alarm systems, loudspeakers, electronic messaging systems such as the lobby TVs, and WUMB radio as well as local media contacts.

The security and health of all our students, faculty, staff, visitors, and neighbors remain the single highest priority of this university,” said Chancellor Keith Motley, who last month praised the efforts of the University-Wide Safety Planning Committee.

“While the events of September 11 powerfully illustrated the need for effective communication in an emergency event, the tragedies at Virginia Tech, LSU, and NIU demonstrated this need all too clearly in a university setting,” said Public Safety Program Manager Richard Lee, who is also a certified National Incident Management Systems/Incident Command System trainer for the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. Pointing to The Virginia Tech Report as well as the Governor’s Commission on Campus Public Safety from Florida and Wisconsin, Lee stated that fast, efficient emergency notification is key to campus safety efforts.

The UMB Alert system relies on technology from Dialogic Communications Corporation (DCC), a company contracted by the University of Massachusetts President’s Office to serve all five UMass campuses. Its clients include other large universities, including Harvard, Columbia, and Vanderbilt, as well as other Massachusetts state institutions.

“This is not just an email system. It is a multi-tiered emergency notification system that uses email, text messaging, and phone calls as one part of a larger emergency operational plan,” explained Chief Information Officer Anne Scrivener Agee, who is also co-chair of the university-wide Safety Planning Committee. “The concept is to contact all members of our university community to the best of our ability using a variety of means, including email and text messaging.”

(continued on page 2)

Indonesian Educational and Civic Leaders Sign Memorandum of Understanding with UMass Boston

By Will Kilburn

A high-level delegation from Indonesia visited UMass Boston on February 29 to meet with the dean and faculty of the College of Public and Community Service, as well as Chancellor Keith Motley and Provost Paul Fonteyn. The delegation included Dr. Tutty Alawiyah, the Rector of the University of As-Syafi’iyah and a former Minister for Women’s Affairs in two previous governments in Indonesia, Dr. Firdaus Pramono, Chairwoman of the Indonesian Women’s Alliance for Sustainable Development.

During their visit, possible areas of collaboration between the two universities were discussed, along with plans for an upcoming conference, “Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for Children and Their Families After Disasters,” which will be held at UMass Boston later this year. The visit also included a public presentation by Firdaus and Alawiyah, titled “Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for Children Orphaned by the Asian Tsunami in Indonesia.” Following the presentation, the delegation met with Chancellor Motley in the Quinn Building, where a memorandum of understanding between UMass Boston and the University of As-Syafi’iyah was signed.

“We’re looking forward to building a relationship with the University of As-Syafi’iyah,” said UMass Boston Chancellor Keith Motley. “Like UMass Boston, the University of As-Syafi’iyah strongly believes in service to the community around it, and although our surroundings and the challenges

(continued on page 3)
Emergency Notification System (cont.)
(continued from page 1)

“The implementation of a system such as this as part of our overall emergency preparedness planning is a reflection of how seriously and aggressively we seek out the best options to maintain our community’s safety in these times of heightened awareness and concern,” said Administration and Finance Vice Chancellor Ellen O’Connor, committee co-chair.

Agee, who also chairs the Safety Awareness subcommittee, added that a major awareness effort later this month will help members of the university community better understand emergency preparedness and campus safety. Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Kelly Meehan and Assistant Dean of Students Joyce Morgan are spearheading this effort with the assistance of Richard Lee and student Michael Metzger.

“The implementation of an emergency notification system is another important tool in our efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment for our community,” said Morgan. “While it is regrettable we need such systems, we will do all that we can to use this new technology as part of our overall efforts to keep our students safe.”

Meehan explained that the rollout effort will include opportunities for those who have not yet signed up for the UMB Alert system to do so via laptops provided at tables in the University Terrace. Visitors to the system portal are given options to designate cell phone numbers, alternate email addresses, or text messaging numbers where they wish to be contacted in an emergency situation. Students who sign up at this time may be eligible to win one of a number of prizes.

“The publicity effort will spot-light not only the emergency notification system, but also the new safety Web site and other safety-related efforts underway,” said Meehan.

Led by the university-wide Safety Planning Committee, the system includes the Web site, a revised emergency operations plan, continuity of operations plans, a new emergency response guide, special Incident Command training for key university employees, flu-prevention efforts, and the introduction of special interventions for “distressed and distressing” individuals.

UMass Boston has always explored different methods of emergency planning to maintain the safety of all university members. We all need to be part of the effort for it to be effective.”

Black History Month at UMass Boston

Top left: Arthur Jones of The Spirituals Project sang for part of his presentation, “Negro Spiritual & Slave Songs: What Did They Mean?,” in the Alumni Room. Top right: At the Harbor Gallery, a staged reading of August Wilson’s play Fences. Bottom left: Documentary photographer LeRoy Henderson took a Harbor Gallery audience through four decades of history, from the 1960s through today. Bottom right: Barry Gaither, head of the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists in Roxbury, delivers a lecture on African-American artists at the Harbor Gallery. Events at the Harbor Gallery were part of the Trotter Institute’s Black History Month celebration, titled “Changing History on the Blackside: Yesterday and Tomorrow in Music, Photography, Art, and Drama.” (Photos by Harry Brett)

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The symposium was one of a series of Native American events on campus. (Photo by Harry Brett)

UMass Boston to Partner with Indonesian University (cont.)

By Danielle Dreilinger


The symposium underlined the fact that local Native American cultures still thrive, addressing far deeper issues than casinos.

The event, organized by anthropologist professor Amy Den Ouden, was “part of an effort to build an ongoing relationship with Native American communities in the area,” said Den Ouden. UMass Boston and its Native American Studies Department co-sponsored the event, along with Plimoth Plantation and the Harvard University Native American Program.

The university doesn’t have a formal Native American studies program, but Den Ouden said there’s significant demand for the courses. Both sections of her introductory class fill consistently, and a spring 2006 event with Winona LaDuke drew “several hundred people.”

“I think we’ve done a lot of consciousness-raising,” she said. “In order for all of us to be responsible citizens, we need to have a grasp of the complexity of our history.”

In addition, students are building social connections on campus outside a forum in which Native voices can be heard” and combat isolation.

“Native American students are out there, and they need our support,” she said.

Marge Bruchac, an Abenaki scholar at Tufts, commended the progress UMass Boston has already made, adding that she and others are working toward a long-term goal of “not just teaching about Native communities but teaching with native communities,” she said. In general, continued Bruchac, people focus either on contemporary issues or history, failing to draw connections between the two.

The February 12 event aimed to do that. Harvard professor Sarah Den Ouden; Maurice Foxx, the Mashpee Wampanoag chair of the state Commission on Indian Affairs; Daniel Mandell, history faculty at Truman State University; and David Wilkins, a visiting Harvard professor and member of the Lumbee nation.

As Mandell ran through a series of portraits he’d found depicting Native people in New England history, an audience member chastised him: “You’re treating these people as history—she’s my relative. I grew up hearing about her.”

The panelists discussed ways historical treatment of Native Americans—broken treaties, religion, intermarriage—affected Natives today, including who even gets to be considered “Indian.”

“Who is ‘indigenous’?” Wilkins asked. “I could sit you down with five different Lumbees and they all have a different definition.”

The census counted about 38,000 Native Americans in the state two years ago, but that’s only a piece, he said. “We have Natives from all over the country here. ... We need to create a situation where we can bring our people back.”

Foxx said, “This idea of a full-blooded Indian is a modern concept, a modern construct,” adding later, “I personally am ‘too dark’ to be a Native. I’ve been told that.”

Moderator Brooks underlined the different ways Native people and European colonists/American officials have defined “Native American” identity, with scholar and Mashpee Wampanoag Anne Fox (Maurice’s relative) questioning the psychological effects.

Bruchac knew some of that impact firsthand through her mother’s difficulties growing up between cultures. “I often say that all the work I do is dedicated to telling the stories I was not told,” she said, choking up. She started learning the Abenaki language by learning how to pray.

All in all, the evening was one step to “make UMass Boston the kind of place that reflects the diversity it’s committed to,” Den Ouden said. The next? Kevin Gover, Executive Director of the National Museum of the American Indian and former head of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, will speak on April 28.

The symposium was one of a series of Native American events on campus. (Photo by Harry Brett)
By Kaushik Prakash

Through its Graduate College of Education, UMass Boston is partnering with three local school districts to address a critical need in education: Increasing the interest and awareness of working sciences. The initiative, called the Watershed-Integrated Sciences Partnership (WISP), is a collaboration between UMass Boston, Boston Public Schools, Milton Public Schools, and the Dedham Public Schools, in which ten graduate students will be placed with ten teachers each year.

WISP is a part of the Boston Science Partnership (BSP), a joint initiative involving Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University, Northeastern University, Tufts University, and UMass Boston. The initiative began in September 2004 and is funded by a five-year $12.5 million Math Science Partnership grant from the National Science Foundation. The BSP offers several different opportunities for learning, teaching, and service to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) faculty at UMass Boston and Northeastern University. The BSP also offers programs for Boston Public School students, administrators, and teachers.

The initiative is aimed at recruiting more middle school students into science careers and at creating lifelong connections and experiences for graduate students with K-12 education. The program's outdoor "classroom" will be the Neponset River Watershed, which runs through all three communities and will provide the common thread to contextualize curriculum content derived from existing science instructional systems. Using the watershed as an integrating theme, WISP will demonstrate to students that communities of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds have many commonalities and natural connections.

"UMass Boston is proud to continue its efforts to enhance the quality of urban education in the U.S., and WISP is an extension of this effort," said UMass Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley. "Our graduate students will gain excellent educational experiences by igniting the interests within these young minds. UMass Boston has consistently laid emphasis on this, and is proud to establish partnerships with other institutions in the region that recognize and nurture the talents of their students."

As part of this effort, in February the Graduate College of Education hosted 63 students from Sarah Greenwood School in Dorchester and Tucker Elementary School in Milton. Students participated in a variety of workshops, ranging from an introduction to electronic circuits to familiarizing themselves with the tools of oceanography to collect and study plankton.

In the latter exercise, the students were thrilled to be given hands-on exposure to using water test kits and were able to differentiate samples of water based on their color, composition of nitrates, and oxygen content. Students were also engrossed in the lesson about electronic snap circuits, in which UMass Boston graduate students guided the middle schoolers to use educational test kits to switch light bulbs on and off.

WISP is being coordinated by the Dean of the Graduate College of Education, Carol Colbeck, and Professors Robert F. Chen, Adam Colon-Carmona, Arthur Eisenkraft, Hannah Sevian, and Marilyn Decker of the Boston Public Schools.

"It was great to see these diverse sets of aspiring children getting to see a major research university for the first time," said Chen, principal investigator of WISP at UMass Boston. "It was an energizing experience to see the young minds’ enthusiasm, curiosity, and interest in science education. Most of them were excited to be on campus and were even considering careers in science."

Leading the cohort in a closing exercise, Marilyn Decker, also a principal investigator of the project and the director of science for Boston Middle Schools, asked the crowd if this was their first visit to a university. More than half nodded. When she asked how many would like to come back someday to UMass Boston, each and every hand soared high into the air.

Community Activist, Founder of Multi-Service Center, and CEO of Community Health Center to Be Honored at Community Breakfast

By Kaushik Prakash

William Walczak, founder of the Codman Square Health Center, and Frederica Williams, CEO of Whittier Street Health Center, and beyond, as the residents and business leaders of Boston to building stronger communities," Chancel lor Motley said. "Bill Walczak's dedication to the Codman Square Health Center and beyond, as well as Frederica William's and Leah Bailey's emphasis on exemplar corporate citizenship are richly deserving of our recognition and our thanks."

Dedicated to strengthening medical and other clinical services to local communities, the Codman Square Health Center has seen significant neighborhood development under Walczak’s leadership. Thanks to his initiative, the health center has more than 100,000 visits annually with a budget of more than $17 million.

Walczak’s activism has stretched beyond community welfare into the efficient management and networking of non-profits in Massachusetts. He is the founding chairman of the Massachusetts Non Profit Network. Walczak, a UMass Boston graduate, is also the vice chairman of the UMass Boston Alumni Association.

Frederica Williams was appointed president and CEO of Whittier Street Health Center in 2002. Since that time, the center has grown in revenues by over 60 percent, and has expanded its range of services to the community regarding clients’ ability to pay. Williams has overseen the expansion of the center’s infrastructure in terms of improvements in operations, diversification of funding sources, and the development of entrepreneurial activities. She serves as a board of trustees member for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

Williams is actively engaged in supporting improvements in the health of diverse immigrant populations living in Massachusetts by promoting access to quality, culturally competent health and social services enhanced through education, research, and community partnerships. She also participates on several community initiatives focused on providing high-quality, reliable, and accessible health care and support services to the elderly, disabled, immigrants, children, and the uninsured and underserved.

Leah P. Bailey is Executive Director of Community Affairs at the Boston Globe Foundation. She joined the Globe in 2002 and is responsible for overseeing the distribution of nearly $2 million annually in Foundation grants and corporate sponsorships in greater Boston.

She has addressed several local and national organizations, including the 2006 Hands On Network National Conference, the 2004 National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service (Points of Light Foundation), as well as conferences for the Connecticut Council on Philanthropy, the National Conference on Educational Leadership of the Graduate Colleges of Massachusetts. She was a founding member and director of The Aurora Women and Girls Foundation in Hartford, Connecticut, and served two elected terms on the Wethersfield, Connecticut Town Council.
McCormack Fellow Hopes to Bring Diversity to Local Leadership

By Geoffrey Kula

Having spent 42 years as a Boston Globe reporter and editor covering everything from former Massachusetts state representative Mel King’s activism and his two runs for mayor to Boston’s busing conflict, 64-year-old Robert Turner has seen the good, the bad, and the ugly of Boston’s past.

Now, as the first Boston Globe Fellow at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, he faces his biggest challenge yet: trying to ensure a more equitable future for the city and its residents.

According to McCormack Graduate School Dean Steve Crosby, Turner’s primary role is to serve as director of the Commonwealth Compact, a leadership group undertaking diversity initiatives in Boston-area business and civic organizations.

Crosby calls the compact “one of the single most important initiatives I’ve undertaken since coming to the university.”

Crosby says that after UMass Boston conducted a survey of racial and ethnic attitudes revealed “a tremendous disparity” between the ethnic and gender makeup of the Boston-area population and its leadership boards, he and Turner conceived “in broad brushes” a plan to remedy this imbalance.

Their ideas, along with input from Boston Globe publisher Steve Axley, evolved into the Commonwealth Compact.

The Compact, Turner says, has two primary goals: to illustrate that racial attitudes have and are continuing to improve in Boston, and at the same time to recognize there are still serious problems that need to be addressed.

“There’s a real frustration around the country that Boston has a reputation of being hostile to outsiders and people of color,” Turner says, recalling the words of NBA All-Star Kevin Garnett when the Celtics acquired him from the Minnesota Timberwolves in 2004: “I want to play for the Celtics, but do I want to live in Boston?”

“The reputation isn’t as de- served as it once was — since bus- ing and the Charles Stuart affair,” Turner adds, citing Deval Patrick’s election as governor as an example of the state’s improving race relations.

“But Boston still deserves part of that reputation, and we’re working to change that.”

To do this, the Compact has convened a group of approxi- mately 50 civic and business leaders who helped create a series of diversity benchmarks for or- ganizations to meet voluntarily. The advisory panel members are also on board to recruit organizations to join the Compact. “Once we get a dozen or so [organizations to join], we plan to go public with it,” Turner says, predicting that the press will cover this achievement in the coming months.

Turner doesn’t think the Com- pact’s proposal will be a hard sell. “Most people understand diversity is good for business, not just as a do-good impulse, but because with more diverse people making and implementing decisions, there will be more options to choose from” and businesses will see an improved bottom line as a result.

“Historically, how has Boston kept its status as a center of the nation’s economy?” Turner asks. “Innovation has been the key.”

He lists the shipping, textile, and footwear industries as just a few of the many breakthroughs that have kept the Boston-area economy thriving, noting that about half were conceived by women or people of color. “If we want to remain vital, we need to tap all our available resources,” he asserts.

Perhaps understandably, some organizations have questions about how the information provided to the Compact will be used. “People wonder if it will come back to haunt them if they don’t score well on the benchmarks,” he admits. “Absolutely not. This information will be kept strictly private.” Additionally, Turner hopes enough organizations join the Compact so results can be aggregated by sector and any one organization can see how it ranks against others in its field.

Turner already has goals for the UMass Boston resources at his disposal. Following the lead of the Massachusetts Government Appointment Project — a coalition of women’s organizations whose purpose is to increase the number of women appointed to senior-level cabinet positions by any new governor — he plans to assemble a database of minority job seekers and allow organizations to access it to find qualified candidates for open positions, envisioning mem- bers enlisted from area technical schools, minority business school graduate organizations, and other professional/social institutions.

Having this database readily available, he says, will solve the problem of those who have told him: “We can’t find the right person.”

“One of the benefits of having the Commonwealth Compact at UMass Boston is that the school represents the common ground of the city,” he says. “The student body points to the direction of where organizations should be headed, more so than the crowd at Fenway.”

Hockey, Basketball Teams Go “Pink” to Promote Cancer Awareness

By Alan Wickstrom

The University of Massachusetts Department of Athletics recently held a pair of events to promote cancer awareness. Both the women’s and men’s ice hockey programs promoted awareness on February 15, sporting pink bandana- nas, pink laces, and pink stick and sock tape for their home games against New England College and Williams College through the “Pink at the Rink” initiative, while the women’s and men’s basketball programs did the same with pink laces and warm-up shirts at their February 19 home doubleheader against UMass Dartmouth as part of the “Think Pink” initiative.

Prior to the start of the games, the names of friends, family members or mem- bers of the UMass Boston athletic family who have been affected by cancer were read in tribute and remembrance.

“I think it was a very important cause for our team to get behind,” said women’s ice hockey head coach Maura Crowell. “I’m happy that we were able to participate in this year’s Pink at the Rink event. Our players were decked out in pink that day and clearly were behind the event. They had a great game that night and played like it was an important event. It was a great night and I hope to do it again, even bigger and better, next year.”

Fans, coaches and administra- tors also got into the spirit, don- ning pink shirts, scarves, bracelets, sweaters, ties, and even wigs, while being educated about cancer statis- tics through announcements made during the games. At the hockey games, Karen Burns-White of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute was on hand to provide information in addition to a table stocked with educational information, while during the basketball games, Dana- Farber’s Blum Family Resource Center Mobile Van made the trip and was stationed adjacent to the Clark Athletic Center in the parking lot, where RN Erica Proto educated people about cancer awareness.

“I think it was an incredibly successful event,” said Charlie Titas, Vice Chancellor of Athletics & Recreation, Special Programs and Projects and head men’s bas- ketball coach. “It certainly put our students in the frame of mind of being educated about cancer awareness and some of the things that they can do to help fight it. I think it’s always a tremendous opportunity to put students in that position. It also allowed us to enhance our relation- ship with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which is an extension of the relationship that the university has with them as well.”

Also during the events, the Athletic Department raised $700 for cancer research through $50/50 raffles, and close to 1,800 fans were educated about cancer awareness, prevention, and treatment. The “Think Pink” campaign originated at the NCAA level with the Wom- en’s College Basketball Association, and is now a global, unified effort for the WBCA’s nation of coaches to assist in raising breast cancer aware- ness on the court, across campuses, in communities, and beyond.

“It’s an important event for us to have, because it raises awareness for breast cancer,” said women’s basketball head coach Shawn Renee Polk. “It’s something that could eventually affect us all, and us supporting it and bringing more awareness to it is huge. Our team support was great, and they were excited about it all week.”

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A Hunger for More: Fuld Trust Scholarships Make Second Careers in Nursing Possible

By Nanette Cormier

While Jean McGinty captured awards as a pastry chef and Jon Debach developed software, Salley Burkart balanced corporate books. Around the same time, all three of them hungered for something more. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) at the University of Massachusetts Boston embraced these three career-changers, and the Helene Fuld Scholarship Program is now making their professional goal of a nursing career possible.

Jean, Jon, and Salley were three of the ten 2007 Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship recipients, all students pursuing a BS in nursing, honored last month at a CNHS luncheon. Selected from a pool of 121 applicants, the recipients are chosen for academic excellence and contributions to community service. They are the “cream of the crop,” says CNHS Dean Greer Glazer.

Provost Fonteyn lauded the recipients and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences for landing this prestigious funding.

“The Fuld Health Scholarship Program substantiates the quality and commitment of our nursing program, of our students,” said Fonteyn. “We know that the success of patients is directly proportional to the quality of care given by nurses,” he added, noting admiringly that his wife is a PhD nurse at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Fuld Scholarships are available to those seeking second degrees, unlike most financial aid, says John C. Mitchell, student affairs specialist. The common theme among this year’s awardees is their desire to work with the unprivileged or on local or international levels. “Our scholars have rich experience and community service, which they bring to their studies. They set the bar high and deeply learn for everyday living,” Mascetta adds.

“A calling comes to you at different times,” says recipient Salley Burkart. Hers came during an internship at the Brockton YMCA working with overweight teens as part of a CNHS-sponsored health science study. Salley says she learned how to “really listen to people from many different backgrounds,” and that skill helped them to change habits and prompted her interest in nursing.

A breast cancer diagnosis and successful recovery only furthered Salley’s commitment to emulate the clinicians who “seem beyond themselves in providing care for me.”

“UMass Boston understands non-traditional students and sees their promise,” says Jon Debach.

“There is a tremendous attitude of empathy here,” adds this former anthropology major and future RN who hopes to become a nurse practitioner or to teach nursing.

Fuld Scholar Sara Stankiewicz was joined by her parents, including mother Linda Stankiewicz (MA ’99), also a nurse. Sara and her mother remember the luncheon when Sara, a 2004 graduate of Providence College in political science, admitted she wasn’t sure why she selected that major. As Sara refined her career interest, her mother’s stories of profound patient appreciation were a motivating factor. Now, soon to graduate, Sara is already making a difference in global health. She has joined three groups providing healthcare in Kenya as part of a non-profit she and other UMass Boston students have started. “Sara is precisely the type of student the Fuld Program wants to support,” says Prof. Deborah Mahony, CNHS director of student and academic affairs.

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PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

On February 13, Robert Weiner, Graduate Program Director of International Relations, McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, presented a seminar on “The Transnistrian Conundrum and Moldovan-Russian Relations,” at the Comparative Economics Center at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University.

Virginia Harvey of the Department of Counseling and School Psychology in the Graduate College of Education made three presentations at the annual conference of the National Association of School Psychologists in New Orleans, Louisiana. These included a professional development workshop, titled “Empowering Learning Through Study Skills and Self-regulation,” and two papers in a symposium on supervision: “Professional Development and Supervision of School Psychologists” and “School Psychology Internships: To Pay or Not to Pay?” Harvey will also present a seminar at the New Hampshire Association of School Psychologists’ Winter Meeting in Concord, New Hampshire, titled “Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas and Decision Making.”

College of Public and Community Service gerontology professor M. Silverstein presented “Teaching Transportation & Aging (Resource Exchange)”; at the 34th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, held February 21 through 24 in Baltimore, Maryland, and at the same conference was also a symposium coordinator and presenter of "When Life Exceeds Driving Expectancy: Implications for Gerontology and Geriatrics Education.”

Assistant Professor of Sociology Mohammad H. Tamdgidi made one roundtable and two panel presentations at the February 2008 annual conference of Eastern Sociological Society. The presentations were titled “Beyond Ourselves: Knowing the Globe Through the Self-Reflective Mode,” “The Sociology of Meditation: A Critical Autobiography of a Strange 10-Day Vipassana Meditation Experience,” and “The Engaged Buddhism of Thin Nhat Hanh (Thay): The Globally Transformative Mode of ‘Interbeing’ of a Meditative Man.”

Gerontology professor Young-Fung (Bing) Chen presented a paper, “Re-Envisioning Social Insurance: The Case of Medicare,” at the International Industrial Relations Association (Study Group #9) meetings, held January 4 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In February, Professor Jennifer Raden of the Philosophy Department spoke at a workshop on personal identity, multiple personality and responsibility at the University of Dortmund in Germany.

On February 10, 2008, as an invited panelist at a Massachusetts Chapter of the Fulbrightright Association event, “2008 American Elections in Perspective,” Center for Social Policy Director Donna Haig Friedman compared the policy positions of the leading presidential candidates on poverty alleviation in the U.S.

On February 14, Center for Social Policy Research Director Françoise Carré gave testimony about CSP research on independent contractor misclassification to the Vermont State Senate’s Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs.

Christian Waller, an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, gave a presentation on the future of defined benefit pensions to the joint annual meeting of the Labor and Employment Relations Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Professor of music Jon C. Mitchell presented the address “Unknown Works by Gustav Holst” on February 22 at the College Orchestra Directors Association national conference, held at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Associate Professor of Mathematics Maura Mast gave a presentation titled “Mathematics and Voting” to the Association for Women in Mathematics chapter at Dartmouth College on February 4, and on February 22 took part in a panel discussion titled “Cultivating General Education Outcomes: Perspectives of the Disciplinary Societies” at an Association of American Colleges and Universities conference in Boston titled “Integrative Designs for General Education and Assessment.”

In February, Professor of Education and Director of the Asian American Studies Program Peter Kiang was an invited panelist at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he spoke on the topic “From Monolithic to Authentic: Challenging One-Dimensional Views of Race and Ethnicity.”

English Department lecturer Carol Chandler-Rourke presented “Building Alliances with Other Ethnic Community-Based Organizations” on February 20 at the joint annual International Rescue Committee/Office for Refugee Restetlement’s “Innovative Partnerships for Refugee Integration” conference, held in Washington, D.C.

In January, College of Public and Community Service professor Carorry U. “Cul” Ferguson presented at the Association for Humanistic Psychology’s Professional Conference in Cancun, Mexico, on the topic “The Human Synergistic Movement: A New Humanistic Movement For Our Individual and Collective Life Spaces.”

Shirley Tang, assistant professor of American Studies and Asian

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American Studies, moderated a panel, “Breaking Asian American Stereotypes,” at the 14th Annual Asian Pacific American Conference on Law and Public Policy, held at Harvard University February 29 through March 1.

Joyce Posner, director of the Creative Writing Programs, served on the panel “Literary Boston in the 20th and 21st Century” at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, held in New York City on February 2.

PUBLICATIONS

Julia Tripp, constituent coordinator at the Center for Social Policy at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, coauthored Consumer Integration and Self-Determination in Homelessness Research, Policy, Planning and Services, recently issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Christian Weller, an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, wrote a review of Clyde Prestowitz’s book American Progress. Weller also coauthored an article with Dr. Heather Boushey from the Center for Economic and Policy Research, titled “Has Growing Inequality Contributed to Rising Household Distress?” in the Review of Political Economy, and co-authored a report on credit card debt, titled “House of Cards,” with the newly forming umass Center for Economic Justice.

Frederick S. Troy, professor of English, has contributed a chapter on his ten literary influences to the book Post’s Bookshelf: 100 Contemporary Poets on Books That Shaped Their Art, published by Barnwood Press.


Associate Professor of Management Science and Information Systems Pratvish Bhatti coauthored a chapter, titled “Effective Product Customization on the Web: An Information Systems Success Approach,” in Innovative Technologies for Information Resources Management, published by IGI Global. Bhatti’s coauthor was Abhijit Chaudhury, a former UMass Boston faculty member now with Bryant University.

Join the Book Club!

Do you spend your commute to UMass Boston “lost” in a good book? Have you thought of joining a book group but can’t find time in your schedule for it? The newly forming UMass Boston Book Club for you! The Book Club is open to all members of the community – staff, faculty, and students. Together, we’ll choose books to read and gather together monthly on campus to discuss them over lunch. If you’re interested, please contact Ellen Flaming at ellen.flaming@umb.edu or at 7-5327.

Assistant Professor of Family Therapy Laurie L. Charles has written her second book, a qualitative study of a hostage negotiation, titled When the Shooting Stopped: Crisis Negotiation at Jefferson High School, or published by Rowman & Littlefield.

College of Public and Community Service professor of gerontology Nina Silverstein coauthored the article “Gender Differences in Contributory Behaviors Among the Oldest-Old Chinese in Shanghai” in the journal Aging International.


Assessment of the University’s Office of the Vice President for External Relations, Policy, Planning, and Services, recently issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.


An article written by Assistant Professor of Economics Arjum Janwade, titled “Reforms Fail to Put an End to Agrarian Distress,” appeared in the February 9 Economic Times.

EXHIBITS, READINGS, PERFORMANCES, AND RECORDINGS

Assistant Professor of English Patrick Barron, in company with Irish poet Mary Donoghue, published a recent work of the Blacksmith House Poetry Series in Cambridge on February 11.

Associate Professor of English Askold Melnychuk did two panel presentations at the AWP (Associated Writing Programs) Conference in New York City, titled “Literary Boston: 20th & 21st Centuries” and “The Role of the Public University in Fostering Contemporary Literature.”

GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND PROJECTS

In February, John McGah of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies was honored for his work with the Give US Your Poor campaign as one of five “Angels of Hope” honored at a black-tie gala in New York City during a celebration of the Jericho Project’s 25-year anniversary.

A segment from the pilot episode of As I Am, a radio newsmagazine program produced by the Institute for New American Studies, won an American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) Gracie Award for Outstanding Special Program.

Christian Weller, an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, has joined the board of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, one of the country’s largest and oldest professional associations in the fields of labor and industrial relations.

Professor of music Jon C. Mitchell received an award for his work as founding editor of the CODA Journal at the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Eastern Connecticut State University, held at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in February.

In January, the city manager of Cambridge appointed Charles F. Craddock, professor of political science and senior fellow of the Center for Democracy and Development in the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, to a new joint task force comprised of city officials and residents to deal with city-wide problems of refuse, rodents, infrastructure, and related issues.

Professor Nancy Sieber of the Art Department has begun a five-month fellowship at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study, where she is writing a history of modern Dutch architecture commissioned by Reaktion Books of London.

EVENTS

On February 7, the Center for Women in Politics and Policy held a forum, titled “Gender, Race and Presidential Politics: From Iowa to Super Tuesday,” the forum featured Boston Globe columnist Joan Vennochi.

On February 20, the Center for Women in Politics and Policy convened a workshop on Coastal Inundation Modeling and Sending. The workshop was attended by approximately fifty scientists, students, and environmental managers, including representatives from city, state, and federal agencies.

On February 11, the Stuart Masque” in The News was reviewed on WHDH television’s Urban Update program and on WHDH television program and on WGBH television’s Urban Update program on March 2.

Emerging Leaders program director Pat Neilon and three Emerging Leaders participants were interviewed on WHDH television’s Urban Update program on March 2.

On February 20, Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, was interviewed on CNN’s The Situation Room for a story on Hillary Clinton’s decreasing support among women voters and an article published by Unwired TV on February 25 for a story on the impact of Ralph Nader’s announcement that he is running for president as an independent, and also appeared on WGBH’s Greater Boston television program and on NewsNight on New England Public Radio.

Hardy-Fanta was also quoted in a February 6 Lowell Sun article titled, “Experts: Clinton Win Could Boost

Recently, Jim Allen of the Biology Department hosted students from the South Boston Boys and Girls Club’s photography class at the university’s rooftop greenhouses. (Photo by Harry Dunall)
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 10**

“Mockingbird Under Glass” 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. All week. UMass Boston Dining Services will serve “Mockingbird Under Glass” and other southern delicacies each day as part of “The Big Read,” a celebration of Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird. Reader’s guides and other Mockingbird materials will be displayed.

**Tuesday 11**

Deliberative Dialogue Noon – 2 p.m., Campus Center, Founders Room. Part of “We Need to Talk,” a series of free, topical discussion forums. Topic: “Violent Kids: Can We Change the Trend?” Organized by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution and Public Collaboration (MODR). For more information, contact tatre@umb.edu.

**Wednesday 12**

Harper Lee biographer interview 10 a.m., Campus Center, Alumni Lounge. As part of WUMB’s “Big Read” initiative in celebration of To Kill a Mockingbird, the program Commonwealth Journal will be conducting a live interview in front of a studio audience with Charles Shields, biographer of the book’s author Harper Lee. Reservations are required; please call 7-6900.

**Thursday 27**

Deliberative Dialogue 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., Campus Center, Fonders Room. Part of “We Need to Talk,” a series of free, topical discussion forums. Topic: “Racial and Ethnic Tensions: What Should We Do?” Organized by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution and Public Collaboration (MODR). For more information, contact tatre@umb.edu.

**Friday 28**

Conference 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m., Healey Library, 11th floor, room 001B. Topic: “Gender and Cultural Diversity,” sponsored by the Research Center for Urban Cultural History.

**Monday 31**

Gerontology Colloquium 1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m., Wheatsley, 3rd floor, room 125. Topic: “Elder Substance Abuse,” led by Douglas M. Ziedonis of University of Massachusetts Medical School.

**Reading**

4 p.m., Campus Center Bookstore. Fiction writer Nicholas DiBianco reads from his latest novel, Spring and Fall.

Women Candidates in Mass.” in a February 19 Boston Globe article titled “Clinton’s Struggle Vexes Feminists,” and in a February 7 Worcester Telegram article about Clinton’s win over Barack Obama in the Massachusetts primary.

In February, Christian Weller, an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, was quoted in the Brazilian newspaper O Estado de s. Paulo and in the magazine Better Homes & Gardens, was interviewed on Bloomberg television for their United Kingdom channel, was quoted in a USA Today front-page story and interviewed on CBS radio on the use of credit card debt instead of mortgages to make ends meet, and was interviewed live on CNBC on the U.S. dollar. Also, a report coauthored by Weller was cited on the NBC Nightly News.

Frederick S. Troy Professor of English Lloyd Schwartz appeared on the Max-Neljéh螺 NewsHour, where he spoke about a book he co-edited, Elizabeth Bishop: Poems, Prose, and Letters, recently published by the Library of America.

Women’s Studies chair Jean Humce, author of Harriet Tubman: The Life and the Life Stories, was mentioned on the History News Network for contributing to a “richer and more authentic understanding of the woman behind the iconic symbol.”

Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction Luma Lo was quoted in a February 9 Boston Globe article, “Asian Students Come Up Short on Special Education.”

A show of support for NIU

Many students, staff, and faculty signed a banner of support for the people of Northern Illinois University following last month’s deadly shooting. (Photo by Harry Brett)