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Siperstein Wins President’s Public Service Award

By William Wright

Professor Gary N. Siperstein, founder and director of the Center for Social Development and Education at UMass Boston, has been named one of six recipients of the 2007 President’s Public Service Awards.

Siperstein received the award in recognition of his work in addressing the needs of at-risk children and families, and founding the Center for Social Development and Education, recognized nationally for its expertise in enhancing social development of children with learning and behavioral problems.

The President’s Public Service Awards are presented annually to faculty members from the university’s Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Worcester campuses who have been nominated by the chancellors of their respective campuses for providing exemplary public service to the Commonwealth.

“This is the tenth anniversary of the university’s President’s Public Service Awards and this year’s winners continue in the impressive tradition of the earlier winners,” said UMass President Jack M. Wilson. “The achievements of these six professors are a credit to all of the dedicated, talented and hardworking faculty members who teach at our campuses in Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Worcester and also contribute so much to our communities, locally, statewide, nationally, and globally. Their passion concerning their professional fields and their commitment to their students, colleagues, and fellow citizens are exemplary.”

President Wilson added, “We want to add our own recognition to that which they typically receive from national and even international organizations. It is important that we acknowledge how much we value their presence within the UMass system.”

$7.7 Million NIH Grant Will Address Community Health, and Health Care Disparities

By Jim Mortenson

The University of Massachusetts Boston will establish an exploratory research center for health and health care disparities. The community-based project is funded by a $7.4 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The center will be called the HORIZON Center, to reflect its four core missions of providing healthy options, research, interventions, and community organizing.

“UMass Boston is proud to partner with the Harvard School of Public Health in working with the Cherishing Our Hearts and Souls Coalition of Roxbury to address and resolve health disparities in our communities,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “We propose to increase the number of local agencies, community organizations and residents who contribute to and participate in research, training, health promotion, and community organizing activities.”

The Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) has played a major role in the development of the project since its inception five years ago. The grant comes directly from the NIH’s Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The HORIZON Center’s four core missions, as well as its research and pilot projects, are all designed to strengthen the evidence-based practices and strategies for understanding and training practitioners in reducing health disparities.

The HORIZON Center will focus on community-based participatory research in neighborhoods with high levels of health disparities. HSPH has been working in partnership with a community research advisory board and participants from the Cherishing Our Hearts and Souls Coalition, based in Roxbury. This Roxbury partnership will be a vital part of the new HORIZON Center. Roxbury has the youngest, poorest, least educated, and least employed population of all of the Boston neighborhoods. In the recently released Boston Public Health Commission’s Disparities Report it was reported that across a lifespan Boston’s racial and ethnic groups have strikingly disparate risks of illness and death. Black Bostonians as a group have the worst health compared to all other residents on a broad range of indicators, with higher rates of preterm birth, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, hospitalization, cancer mortality, and premature death from a variety of conditions.

In addition to producing evidence-based models for eliminating health disparities in urban communities, the project, led by UMass Boston, sets the stage for tremendous institutional capacity building and even greater opportunities for reducing health disparities in minority communities in the United States.
Me and My Shadow: Job Day Inspires Dorchester Students

By Nanette Cormier

Who’s writing Chancellor Morley’s letters these days? Usu-
ally the chancellor himself, as recipients of his heartfelt, hand-
written notes know.

But during National Ground-
hog Job Shadow Day, Sandy
Rivas, a tenth grader at the
Academy of Public Service at the
Dorchester Education Complex,
was Morley’s “ghostwriter.”
Rivas was joined by 18 other
“shadows” who worked along-
side UMass Boston employees
as part of the Private Industry
Council and Boston Public School
program to offer teens a glimpse of
potential jobs and careers.

While shadowing University
Advancement Assistant Vice
Chancellor Nan Cormier, Rivas
helped draft an acknowledg-
ment letter to the Bernard Osher
Foundation for its recent grant of
$1,050,000 to the Osher Reentry
Scholarship Program.

“It was cool how we picked
the best words to say thanks,”
Rivas said afterward. “And amaz-
ing to see a check with all those
zeros.”

Rivas wasn’t the only one
running things. Students from
the Noonan Business Academy
and TechBoston studied the wir-
ing of computers at Information
Technology’s repair shop, helped
draw blood for a research study at
the GoKids Boston youth fitness
center, and reviewed statistics on
enrollment at the Office of Insti-
tutional Research.

Yahaira Garcia, who shad-
owed Jennifer SKinnon, admin-
istrative assistant in Institutional
Research, tried to make sense of
statistics on student ethnicity, in-
cluding the impact of philanthropy at
the university, Janyll said, “Wow.
I learned so much.” By the end of
the day, Janyll said she wanted to be
a hairdresser.

Flynn’s calendar included a
meeting with Associate Chancel-
lor Winston Langley, and she
brought Janyll along. In discuss-
ing the impact of philanthropy at
the university, Janyll said, “Wow.
I didn’t know that money mat-
tered so much.” By the end of
the day, Janyll had changed her
mind about her career. She said
she might like to be a professor
like Langley.

“Clearly the day forged new
connections between school and
work,” said Flynn.

Top to bottom: Sharyce Morgan and Kelly Meehan; Jefferson Pierrette and Charlie Times; Nan Cormier and Sandy Rivas. (Photos by Harry Brett)
IC! Receives $1.4 Million to Improve Disability Coverage

By Julia Reischel

In 2004, the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), UMass Boston’s center for disability advocacy and research, partnered with the UMass Medical School in a massive effort to overhaul the way nursing students learn to handle the day-to-day challenges of insuring and caring for its disabled patients.

The IC! performed well enough that it’s been invited back this year to share a new installment of the grant, which is funded by the national Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

This year, the IC! will receive $1.4 million from the CMS through the UMass Medical School, which it will use to transform the infrastructure of disabled care in Massachusetts.

“We are doing a wide range of research activities to look at and understand the experiences of people with disabilities,” says Cindy Thomas, the coordinator of employment services at IC!. “One of the groups we are focusing on is people who are working and want to go to work, to help them reach their employment goals.”

The grant from CMS is a so-called “infrastructure grant,” which means that the funding can be used to simply provide services, but must play a role in changing the way those services are delivered. “There’s a systems-change focus,” Thomas says.

One of the delivery methods the IC! and UMass Medical are considering to change is Commonwealth Health, the Medicaid “buy-in” program that allows disabled residents of Massachusetts who don’t meet the income requirements for Medicaid coverage to pay a premium and receive Medicaid or MassHealth benefits.

“If you’re a person who requires a personal care assistant to assist you with dressing or bathing, that’s not a service that is covered under a typical health insurance program,” explains Thomas. “It is covered under Medicaid. The Commonwealth Health program allows you to purchase those more comprehensive services, such as personal care assistants or durable medical equipment such as a wheelchair.”

By helping disabled people finance their health needs through the buy-in program, Thomas says, the IC!’s grant will begin to lower the barriers facing a disabled person’s entry into the workforce. Ironically, she adds, many of these barriers are introduced when a disabled person begins earning a salary, thereby pricing him or herself out of the health coverage that allows them to work in the first place.

“We know that for people with disabilities, a major issue is the impact that work can have on government benefits,” Thomas says. “There is a huge impact that going to work will have overall on their financial well-being, particularly for people who may be going part-time and therefore aren’t completely stable.”

The grant is funding other ways of changing the ways in which Massachusetts’ disabled population receives affordable health care coverage. One project, spearheaded by the IC!, explores the effects of educating “peer-to-peer” networks of disabled people about their health care options.

“People trust their peers,” Thomas says. “We call our neighbors for a reference on an electrician. So we want to create a cadre of people with disabilities who can speak directly as trusted sources to the options that are really available within benefit plans for people to go to work.”

The effectiveness of training experts within the disabled community is untested, so part of the IC!’s effort will be to evaluate how well peer-to-peer education works. “Did the peers we train provide accurate information? Did they change any attitudes? These are the questions we’ll ask,” Thomas says.

Thanks to the support of UMass Medical and the CMS, the IC! hopes that in four years, this work will fuel confidence and self-sufficiency in Massachusetts’ disabled community, as well as shore up the state’s workforce.

“The system and services that currently exist will have changed in ways that will lead to more employment outcomes for people with disabilities, and ultimately that people with disabilities can be part of the solution when we talk about what our labor force might look like five years from now,” Thomas says. “We’re very excited.”

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February 2008 • The University Reporter • 3
Pryor Brings Media and Political savvy to WUMB Public Affairs Show

By Danielle Dreilinger

To understand new Commonwealth Journal host Janis Pryor's resume, you need a split screen. On one side: media. On the other: politics. The unifying principle? Her engagement in both action and ideas.

WUMB station manager Pat Monteith said of the 40-plus applicants, Pryor "had the widest range of information. She knew a little bit about everything. That's obviously what you want when you have a program that's as wide-ranging as Commonwealth Journal.

The show has aired every Sunday since 1999. Even before Pryor took over in September of this past year, she already had a full plate, including acting as a consultant to corporations and governments on what she calls "hard-to-talk-about issues," working on the second edit of a memoir about her mother, making art with abstract pastels. She has also studied architecture—which will come in handy when former Boston University president John Silber stops by to talk about his new architecture book—and is talking to a friend about creating "a more democratic" interior design business that wouldn't break clients' banks.

Pryor considers her range of interests "both a blessing and a curse," she said. "I'm someone who gets bored easily, and frankly the appeal of both the media and politics is that it changes."

Coming to Commonwealth Journal "was not planned!" Pryor said. A friend sent her the part-time job listing. Still, "she walked in the door and it was obvious she wanted the job more than anyone else," Monteith said.

Despite her long list of activities, in fact, Pryor had felt a little disconnected working on her own. "I was looking for a way to get back into the world," she said.

In years past, Pryor produced documentaries about Jesse Jackson; worked as an independent video producer; and consulted on media relations for the then-fledgling, now-influential TenPoint Coalition against local violence. She worked on all the major television networks, and even though she hadn't been an on-air host in years, Pryor landed the job, and says she's enjoyed it even more than she had imagined.

"I didn't expect it to be fun!" she said, citing an interview with a man who collects thermometers.

This kind of story, she continued, contrasted with her work on live television, where "if something was fun it's very fleeting."

Her goal for Commonwealth Journal matched the station's, Pryor wanted "to bring a more conversational tone to the program, to make it more accessible—slash-comfortable." She added, "I don't want the audience to either yawn or go, 'Wha?'"

Monteith said WUMB was looking to make the show "more like a Terry Gross-type program, Fresh Air." The station has retained a consultant to overhaul its programming mix who coaches Pryor from time to time. As for the topics to talk about, Pryor felt that her input is welcomed but said she largely left choices to the producers. "I highly respect the role of the producer, having been one," she said.

Monteith said 30-40% of the show's interviewees come from UMass Boston. The challenge is balancing the show's role in the university with the need to please the broad spectrum of listeners, given that thirty stations carry the program statewide.

To accomplish that, the production team digs to find out what's going on. Many faculty and staff focus on their work, not getting publicity, Monteith said. Pryor puts equal value on airing stories that go deeper than the day's headlines. "First and foremost we need to inform people" and get beyond "if it bleeds, it leads."

She said, "The more complex things are, the more we need to know. My first line of attack is to inform and educate."

The university can play a role in creating this dialogue, she thought—not only through Commonwealth Journal but by simply continuing to thrive. Since coming on staff, she's found UMass to be "an extraordinary place," she said. "It really reflects the world as it is. UMass Boston makes the city of Boston honest people." Pryor explained that she came to Boston via New York City and the deep south in the 70s, just at the time Ted Landsmark was attacked on City Hall Plaza. She concluded that "this was a place that black people were not safe anywhere where there was a white person.

In the intervening years, however, UMass Boston has become a microcosm of the new Boston. "What institution or institutions reflect the goal of what Boston wants to be? UMass Boston," she said. "It's a great mix of the reality that is the city and the world."

She looked forward to continuing to connect that spirit and the community. In fact, she's even considering finding a second job—at WUMB.

UMass Boston, Partners HealthCare Promote Diversity in Nursing

By Kaushik Prakash

Through its College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), the University of Massachusetts Boston is focused on addressing a critical need in healthcare: increasing the diversity of the nursing workforce so that it more closely mirrors the composition of the patient population. As part of this initiative, UMass Boston is collaborating with Partners HealthCare to embark on an innovative initiative that aims to provide opportunities for certain students to enroll in a high-quality nursing education program.

The initiative, called The College of Nursing and Health Services/Partners HealthCare Clinical Leadership Collaborative (CLC), is facilitating the successful progression of socioeconomically disadvantaged students through the generic nursing program offered at CNHS. Students in the program are provided with full tuition, fees and stipends. Upon successful completion of the program, each student will be offered full-time employment as a registered nurse in a Partners HealthCare institution. Partners has agreed to fund this collaboration for two years.

According to Marion E. Winfrey, EdD, RN, associate dean of the CNHS and project director, the collaboration is the kind of investment in the future that will pay dividends for years to come. "Our students will receive excellent clinical experiences, financial support, and learn under the guidance of a professional mentor who is a Partners HealthCare nurse," Winfrey says. "And when these students have completed their training, Partners HealthCare will know that there is a group of well-prepared nurses who not only will provide outstanding care to patients but will also reflect the multiplicity of cultures that make up our society today."

The CLC initiative is being co-ordinated jointly by Greer Glazer, PhD, RN, dean of CNHS, and Jeanette Ives Erickson, RN, senior vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital. Ives Erickson says finding creative and effective ways to diversify the workforce is critical to the future of nursing. "The good news is that what we are, in fact, starting to see a shift in the composition of the nursing workforce to more accurately mirror the composition of our patient population," she says. "But clearly we have much more work to do. To build on the emerging multiculturalism in nursing, we must offer rewarding clinical experiences and connect students with supportive and committed mentors who can help guide them into their nursing careers. Mass General and Partners HealthCare are very pleased to be part of this important program."

The need for such a program was brought to light in the Sullivan Commission's 2004 report, In the Nation's Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce, which pointed out that even though African Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans comprise 25% of the U.S. population, only 9% of the nation's nurses belong to these groups. The CNHS and CLC collaboration would make a significant contribution toward increasing this number.

To participate in the CLC, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and a good record of leadership activities in class, clinical settings, or the community, and full-time student matriculation in the CNHS generic nursing program. Nineteen students have been selected for the initial pilot. The program will lay emphasis on imparting strategies for effectively managing the various socioeconomic issues that CLC students may encounter in their professional careers as RNs. The project will also provide participants with academic and professional career support services to facilitate success in the baccalaureate program.
By Julia Rotchel

Christian Weller, an associate professor of public policy who took up his post at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies last September, doesn’t really mind being called a pundit. "I call it ‘insta-pundit,”’ he chuckles.

Though he has become a popular economic commentator who regularly makes appearances in media outlets like Bloomberg News, The New York Times, and Lou Dobbs Tonight on CNN, Weller thinks of himself first and foremost as a working economist. During his first semester at UMass, he vigorously taught and published even as he kept up his hectic schedule of explaining economic issues to the press.

Weller didn’t set out to be a talking head. He began his career in 1985 as a banker in Germany, where he spent more than a decade working for Commerzbank, one of the largest banks in the country, eventually helping open new branches in East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall. After that, Weller decided to leave the business world to study the forces behind the money he was handling.

“I wanted to do something that I felt was more socially valuable,” he says. “Always liked writing, speaking, and academia, and I wanted to have more control over the kind of work that I do.”

So Weller came to the United States, where he earned his PhD in economics at UMass Amherst. After he graduated, however, he felt himself drawn away from pure economic theory and toward the hurly-burly world of developing economic policy. So he moved to Washington, D.C., where he immersed himself in the nuts and bolts of American economics by working at the AFL-CIO and began to develop his current specialties: Social Security, pensions and other retirement issues, and large-scale macroeconomics.

Soon, he was hired by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), a Washington-based think tank. There, Weller learned to put his knowledge of economic policy into action, by learning to translate the often impenetrable language of economics into something regular people could understand. Eileen Appelbaum, Weller’s boss at EPI, remembers Weller’s enthusiasm for the job and his natural ability to explain complex economic issues to laymen. “Christian learned a lot while he was here,” she says.

“EPI was a great training ground for learning how to apply what I learned in grad school to policy, and to communicate,” Weller agrees. “[Economists] serve a gatekeeper function. The more we talk in jargon, the less people understand.”

At the same time, EPI sowed the seeds for Weller’s return to the academy. “EPI always valued the participation of researchers in the academic field,” Weller says. “It taught me that I liked both.”

But Weller wanted to do more than discuss economic policy—he wanted a hand in shaping it. That’s how he got a job at the Center for American Progress (CAP), a progressive Washington, D.C., think tank that advises legislators, politicians, and the media on policy issues.

At CAP, Weller honed his communication skills and began his climb up the punditry ladder, with help from CAP’s very active press outreach staff.

“We applaud UMass Boston’s passionate commitment and deep capacity to serve diverse and developing urban students of all ages and at all stages of their lives,” said Mary Bitterman, president of the Bernard Osher Foundation, which makes annual $500,000 grants to other institutions to match their investments in the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning, offering a learning environment that enriches the intellectual, social, and cultural lives of adults aged 50 and over who share a love of lifelong learning. An annual membership in the program entitles individuals to participate in over 70 non-credit courses and other educational offerings specially designed for older adults on a variety of topics from global studies and poetry to negotiation skills. The Bernard Osher Foundation, a 30-year-old philanthropic organization headquartered in San Francisco, supports higher education and the arts. Post-secondary scholarships are provided to selected institutions nationally, with a recent emphasis on meeting the needs of reentry students. The Foundation also funds integrative medicine centers at Harvard University, the University of California, San Francisco, and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, as well as a career development awards program at NIH’s National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Arts grants, generally made to organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area and the State of Maine, seek to bring new and younger audiences to classical music and the performing arts.

March 20, 2008 • The University Reporter • 5

Osher Foundation Grant to Fund New Scholarships

By Kaushik Prakash

The Board of Directors of the Bernard Osher Foundation has approved $2.1 million for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and the Reentry Scholarship Program at University of Massachusetts Boston.

The Foundation, established in 1977, provides post-secondary scholarship funding to colleges and universities across the nation, with special attention to reentry students. The Foundation also supports a growing national network of lifelong learning institutes for seasoned adults located at nearly 120 colleges and universities from Maine to Hawaii.

The funding represents the largest private gift in the history of UMass Boston. Two grants of $1 million each will support separate endowments for the OLLI and Osher Reentry Programs, while the remaining $100,000 will provide funding for current operations. The Osher Foundation’s endowment gifts will be matched by $500,000 each through the Massachusetts Public Higher Education Endowment Incentive Program.

“We applaud UMass Boston’s passionate commitment and deep capacity to serve diverse and developing urban students of all ages and at all stages of their lives,” said Mary Bitterman, president of the Osher Foundation. “We are confident that the endowment gifts for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Osher Reentry Scholarship Program will receive excellent stewardship, and we are delighted that the matching Endowment Incentive Program will allow the benefit of our contribution to be greatly enhanced.”

“UMass Boston is committed towards providing the best education to one of the most diverse student bodies in the U.S.,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “This investment by the Osher Foundation will enable the university to live up its dream of providing the best education to students of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds.”

The Bernard Osher Foundation is a 30-year-old philanthropic organization headquartered in San Francisco, supports higher education and the arts. Post-secondary scholarships are provided to selected institutions nationally, with a recent emphasis on meeting the needs of reentry students. The Foundation also funds integrative medicine centers at Harvard University, the University of California, San Francisco, and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, as well as a career development awards program at NIH’s National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Arts grants, generally made to organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area and the State of Maine, seek to bring new and younger audiences to classical music and the performing arts.

February 2008 • The University Reporter • 5

Weller in his office, getting ready for the next interview. (Photo by Harry Brett)
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February 2008

Genzyme/UMass Program Will Help Fill
Life Sciences Job Pipeline

At the Life Sciences Talent Summit at UMass Boston last week, the University of Massachusetts and Genzyme Corporation announced the launch of an innovative new scholarship and internship program for University of Massachusetts students.

Called the “Genzyme/UMass Scholars Program,” the partnership will give a select group of UMass undergraduate students from across the university’s four undergraduate campuses the opportunity to participate in a hands-on summer internship program at Genzyme. Upon successful completion of their internship placement, the UMass/Genzyme Scholars will receive a grant of $5,000 each toward their senior-year tuition and fees. As students enter their senior year, Genzyme’s University Relations Department will assist each student with potential job opportunities at Genzyme.

“It is critical for Genzyme and for others in the life sciences industry to strengthen our connection with UMass and with the other local academic institutions that have helped to create a world-class culture of innovation in this region,” said Henri A. Termeer, chairman and chief executive officer of Genzyme Corp. “We are very excited to partner with UMass on this program that will support students eager to pursue careers in biotechnology and which will help us identify talented young people who may one day make important contributions to our company and the patients we serve.”

The internship and scholarship program will strengthen the partnership between Genzyme and the University of Massachusetts and connect students with valuable internship experiences at Genzyme which could lead to career opportunities there and at other Massachusetts life sciences companies after graduation.

“I want to thank Genzyme for its strong commitment to University of Massachusetts students. This is yet another example of the benefits of private-public partnerships—it provides great opportunities for our students, opportunities that can help them begin careers in the growing field of biotechnology, and it also supports Genzyme’s ability to train and recruit skilled workers in Massachusetts,” said UMass President Jack M. Wilson.

Starting in summer 2008, after an open but competitive selection process, up to 10 highly qualified UMass undergraduate students will spend the summer as paid interns at Genzyme following their junior year. The students will take on specific work assignments reporting to Genzyme managers and will also participate in structured learning opportunities focusing on leadership and career development. The internship experience will be designed to enable them to develop a personal perspective on how Genzyme’s biotechnology products are developed and brought to market. They will also see how these products are helping to improve the quality of life for healthcare patients around the world. Genzyme currently offers more than 150 internships and cooperative opportunities across all areas of the company.

“The Board of Higher Education [BHE] is pleased to support the Genzyme/UMass Scholars Program,” said Dr. Patricia Plummer, chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. “A STEM Scholar Intern Matching Fund has been established through the BHE to match private scholarships with internships to attract and retain students in these difficult fields. This collaboration between Genzyme, the University of Massachusetts, and the BHE could be a model for other corporate leaders wishing to ensure that Massachusetts has the life sciences and overall STEM workforce to maintain its leadership position in these fields.”

Looking Good in Blue at Winter Blast

During the kickoff of Winter Blast, students, staff, and faculty enjoyed coffee and snacks, and modeled their always-fashionable UMass Boston ski hats. (Photos by Harry Brett)
On January 6, François Carré, research director of the Center for Social Policy at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies and Public Policy PhD candidate Brandynn Holgate presented a paper at the 2008 meetings of the Labor and Employment Relations Association at the Allied Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The paper, co-authored with Professor Tilly of UMass Lowell, is titled “Continuity and Change in Low-Wage Work in U.S. Retail Trade.”

Arthur Eisenkraft, Distinguished Professor of Science Education, presented the keynote address at the Washington State LASER Instructional Materials Showcase, and delivered an invited paper at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) January conference. Dr. Eisenkraft is also serving as an expert reviewer for the Washington State Science Standards.

Professor Samak Movahedi of the Sociology Department discussed the conference presentation of “I Love You That’s Why I Ignore You” at the Scientific Meeting of the Psychosomatic Society of New England, East, on January 12.

Professor Edward of the Department of Counseling and Director of the Assistant the keynote address, “Curriculum, State, Policy and the Importance of Chinese American History,” at the Annual Meeting of the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association in January.

Professor of Gerontology Nina M. Silverstein made two presentations at the 87th Annual Conference of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) in Washington, D.C.: “Twentieth Anniversary of Special Issue on Enabling Safety Mobility of Older Drivers,” and “Fitness-to-Drive in Early-Stage Dementia: Two Instrumental Vehicle Studies.”

Denise Patton, an associate professor in the Graduate College of Educa- tion, was a keynote speaker for the 12th Annual Faculty Development Workshop at Rhode Island College on January 15. Her presentation was titled “When Soliloquy Becomes Dialogue: Teaching Them All.”

Professor of gerontology Nina M. Silverstein coauthored a review of Teaching the Caregiver in Dementia: A Guide for Health Care Professionals for the journal Aging and Society on January 4.


Assistant Professor Darren Kew of the Dispute Resolution Program traveled to Taiwan for two weeks in January to lecture on “Building Citizen Engagement and Conflict Resolution Skills in Civil Society: An Exchange Program for Nigerian Youth Leaders.”

Assistant professor Karen Dick of CNHS received a $49,000 grant from the Health Resources Service Administration for “Advanced Edu- cation Nursing Traineeships.”

Center for Social Policy Research Director François Carré has completed a national study of employment change and job quality in U.S. retail trade. The study, titled “Continuity and Change in Low-Wage Work in U.S. Retail Trade,” was published in the U.S. retail trade.


“The Chair’s Role in Resolving De- partmental Conflict,” an article by Professor David Matz, appeared in the fall 2007 issue of The Depart- mental Chair.

Robert Weiser, director of the gradu- ate program in International Rela- tions at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, published a chapter, “Whither Moldova—East or West?”, in The Boundaries of EU Expansion, published by Palgrave MacMillan.

Lloyd Schwartz, the Frederick S. Troy Professor of English, co-edited Elisabeth Bishop: Poems, Prose, and Letters, which was published by the Library of America. The book includes a number of previously unpublished poems, as well as drafts and letters.

Distinguished Professor of Biology Kamaljit S. Bawa coauthored an editorial in the January 11 issue of Science.

Professor of gerontology Nina M. Silverstein coauthored a review of Teaching the Caregiver in Dementia: A Guide for Health Care Professionals for the journal Aging and Society on January 4.

Assistant Professor Heidi Stahn- shof of the Department of Exercise Science coauthored a paper received a $75,000 grant from the Medical Foundation, Inc, for “A Peer-Guided Exercise Program for Adolescents with Intellectual Disabilities.”

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The College of Management has received approval from the Board of Higher Education to offer another new graduate degree, the Master of Science in Finance. This is the fourth specialized graduate degree pro- gram approved since 2003. The new program is expected to be launched in the fall of 2008.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Associate professor Mary Ann Byrne of the Graduate College of Education has been appointed to the Compre- hensive System of Personnel Develop- ment (CSPD) Advisory Committee for the Massachusetts Department of Education. CSPD provides guid- ance regarding initiatives related to personnel development in the field of special education.

College of Management associate professor Pratul Chibar received the College of Management’s 2007 CM Commonwealth Award, which recognizes scholarly or professional work that focuses on increasing understanding of the components that drive the state’s economy. Chibar was honored for his continuing work in the field of econometrics of the ACM. His work focused on technology adoption by micro-, small-, and medium-sized manufacturing firms in Boston.

College of Management associate professor and chair of the Depart- ment of Accounting and Finance (OSPI) January confer- ence.

Ivan Sascha Sheehan of the Graduate College of Education was appointed to the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Advisory Committee for the Massachusetts Department of Education. CSPD provides guidance regarding initiatives related to personnel development in the field of special education.

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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.

**Thursday 7**

**WUMB Member Concert**
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Wheeler, 1st floor, Snowden Auditorium. Country and American music by John McEuen, founding member of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

**Friday 8**

**Biology Department Seminar**
2:30 p.m., Science Building, 1st floor, Small Science Auditorium. Mark Allegrucci of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole discusses the mechanisms of cell differentiation.

**Monday 11**

**Colloquium**
1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m., Wheeler, 3rd floor, room 125. Mark Lyons of Boston University presents “The Vietnam Era Twin Study of Aging.” Sponsored by the Gerontology Institute.

**Casa Latina Career Fair**
2 p.m. – 4 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd floor, balcony.

**Tuesday 12**

**Gaston Institute Speaker Series**
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd floor, room 3340. Sponsored by the Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy.

**Anthropology Conference**
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd floor, ballroom. The Department of Anthropology presents a conference called “Engaging Indigenous Critique: Reconsidering ‘Race,’ Gender and Politics in Native New England History.”

**Entrepreneurship Forum**
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd floor, room 3345. Sponsored by the College of Management.

**Wednesday 13**

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**
10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Campus Center, 1st floor.

**Acoustic Showcase**
Noon – 3 p.m., Campus Center, food court dining room. The Entertainment and Promotions Club presents lunchtime entertainment.

**Dispute Resolution Colloquium**
5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Wheeler, 4th floor, student lounge. “Conflict Prevention on the Streets,” led by Christopher Byrnes, Youth Services Unit Manager, Boston Centers for Youth & Families.

**Wednesday 14**

**Valentine’s Day Event**
7 p.m. – 11 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd floor, balcony. Sponsored by the Haitian American Society.

**Friday 15**

**Biology Department Seminar**
2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., Small Science Auditorium, S-1-0006. David Pellman of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School discusses the cell cycle, chromosome segregation, and polarized morphogenesis. Hosted by Adam Colon-Carmona.

**Monday 18**

**Presidents’ Day (no classes).**

**Tuesday 19**

**To Kill a Mockingbird Discussion**
5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m., Healey Library, 4th floor, Center for Library Instruction (0015). The Big Read of Eastern Massachusetts hosts a discussion on *To Kill a Mockingbird* as part of its semester-long celebration of reading.

**Wednesday 20**

**African American Contribution to Art in America**
2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd floor, ballroom. A lecture sponsored by the Black Student Center and the Trotter Institute in honor of Black History Month.

**Thursday 21**

**Coffee Break**
9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., McCormack Hall, 3rd floor, Ryan Lounge.

**Speaker Series with Alvaro Lima**
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Healey Library, 11th floor, conference room 9. The Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy presents Alvaro Lima, who will be giving a lecture titled “Transnational Communities: Not Your Grandfather’s Diaspora.”

**Friday 22**

**Biology Department Seminar**
2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., Small Science Auditorium, S-1-0006. Katherine S. LaComare and Jennifer Goldstein, biology PhD candidates, discuss their work. LaComare will present a talk entitled “Habitat Ecology of Anhinga Manatees in the Drowned Cays Area of Belize, Central America,” and Goldstein will discuss “Bluefin Tuna in the Gulf of Maine: Reproductive Status and Foraging Energetics.”

**Tuesday 26**

**Critical and Creative Thinking Program Gathering**
6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Wheeler, 4th floor, student lounge 0148. The Subdepartment of Critical and Creative Thinking presents “Our Lives and Other Worlds: Writing, Stories, and Reflections from Graduates of the Critical & Creative Thinking Program.”

**Wednesday 27**

**Open Mic Lunch**
Noon – 3 p.m., Campus Center, 1st floor, food court dining room. Lunchtime entertainment sponsored by the Entertainment and Promotions Club.

**Reading**
12:30 p.m., Campus Center bookstore. Creative Writing faculty Joyce Pease and Joe Torra (fiction).

**Thursday 28**

**Public Hearing on New Regulations**
Noon – 4 p.m., Healey Library, 11th floor, University Club. Sponsored by the Department of Early Education.

**Friday 29**

**Biology Department Seminar**
2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., Small Science Auditorium, S-1-0006. Nick Rhind of UMass Medical School discusses the global coordination of DNA replication origins. Hosted by Linda Huang.

**Lecture**
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Healey Library, 11th floor, room 0011B. “Deconstruction Layers: Tracing Palestine inside Israel,” by English professor Linda Dittman and Deborah Bight of the Rhode Island School of Design.

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**Governor visits campus for Life Science Summit**
Governor Deval Patrick chats with Chancellor Keith Molsey at the Life Sciences Talent Summit, held at the Campus Center on February 1. At the summit, leaders from the business, political, and higher education worlds met to discuss ways to better coordinate the state’s economic and academic efforts. (Photo by Harry Brett)