Creating a Path: Chancellor Outlines Vision for UMass Boston

By Ed Hayward

Chancellor Michael Collins used his Convocation 2006 address to unveil a collaborative vision to “renew and rebuild” UMass Boston, drawing upon the wisdom of the university’s founders, as well as pioneering thinkers in higher education, to outline a path for guiding the university from “excellence to perfection” through a broad strategic planning initiative and new approaches to teaching, learning, research, and service.

In speaking of the university’s bright future, the chancellor looked back to the first days of the university and the goals outlined by its founding leaders, as well as visions for higher education by Thomas Jefferson and Henry P. Tappan. “What once was seen as an out-of-the-way site for landfill is now recognized by many as the most beautiful location in our city; what was once seen as ‘an idea, a vision’ is now viewed as a great public university that holds tremendous promise,” he said.

In his address, Chancellor Collins outlined a plan to grow UMass Boston’s enrollment to 15,000 by 2010, serve those students with a new academic building, and explore the need for housing for up to 2,000 students in “living learning communities” on campus.

“I believe everyone in the university community must be focused on growth in our enrollment,” Collins told faculty, staff, and students gathered for the ceremonial kick-off of the academic year, held on September 14. “The value proposition of our university is superb: Our high-quality education is provided at a more reasonable cost than elsewhere in our marketplace.”

Collins said the university has the capacity to meet an enrollment goal of 15,000 students—the original target for the university when it was established in 1964—by improving student recruitment and retention, upgrading advising, increasing financial aid, and adding at least one classroom building. The Columbia Point campus, which opened in 1974, now enrolls approximately 12,300 students.

In addition to the “15 by 10” project, Collins unveiled strategic objectives designed to guide the campus as it pursues its urban mission, including:

• A commitment to build new

Africana Studies Professor Uncovers Nantucket Tragedy in New Play

By Anne-Marie Kent

Surveying the Nantucket graveyard where members of the island’s African-American community are buried, Africana studies professor, historian, and playwright Robert Johnson, Jr., searched in vain to find the grave of Patience Cooper, an onetime resident of the island in the mid-nineteenth century.

Although Cooper’s grave remains unmarked, Johnson has marked her place in history both in an essay published in the new book Nantucket’s People of Color: Essays on History, Politics and Community, edited by Johnson and recently published by University Press of America, and in his play Patience of Nantucket, which opened to a full house at the Plaza Black Box Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts on September 7 and ran through September 23. Selected last year for a reading at the National Black Theatre Festival, the play now features Marie Guimier.

The play is directed by theatre arts major Akiba Abaka and produced by her Up Your Mighty Race Performing Arts Company. One of the stars of the production is Boston attorney and CPCS graduate Robert Johnson, Jr., an attorney and executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights.

Visiting Nantucket on a trip related to the Africana Studies Department’s James Bradford Ames Fellowship Program, which supports research and publication of Black and Cape Verdean history on Nantucket, Johnson discovered Cooper’s story and began to find ways to place it in an historical context, showing its significance both as a gripping account of human tragedy and a troubling indicator of growing racial unrest in 1860 on the once-tranquil island.

Cooper was, in the words of Johnson, a “woman of unblemished reputation” until she was accused and later convicted of the manslaughter of a white shopkeeper, 62-year-old widow Phebe Fuller, who was brutally beaten during a November 22, 1860, robbery and later died from her injuries on December 12 of that year.

According to Johnson, the island’s newspaper, the Nantucket Weekly-Mirror, reported the robbery on November 24, 1860, and noted not one but two possible

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classroom and lab space on the 33-year-old campus.

- A strategic planning initiative comprising of six subcommittees and two resource groups, which will assess how the university can best meet the needs of students, faculty, and the commonwealth. The groups will develop recommendations for a final report to be completed by June 30, 2007.

- The launch of a campus master plan process for working with the university community, neighbors, elected officials, and the state to originate a blueprint for the future of the physical campus.

- The inclusion of an assessment of “living learning communities” in the campus’s strategic planning discussion to carefully consider the role on-campus housing should play in the long-term future of UMass Boston.

“The imagining of the future is a worthwhile exercise without also creating a path upon which to journey to destiny,” Collins said. The objectives developed by the strategic planning effort, he said, will inform the master plan process, which will involve both the campus and the university’s neighbors.

While the master plan process will take place during the next two to three years, Collins said, the university must move ahead quickly to create new classroom space. “I am committed to working with our faculty, staff, students and university colleagues to create and to construct an Academic Classroom Complex that rivals our new Campus Center,” Collins said.

Whether or not the campus should include a residential component is a question the strategic planning project will assess, Collins said.

“We are kidding ourselves if we think that our students do not search for housing because they inhabit our neighborhoods in large numbers,” he said. “We should be able to provide safe housing, encourage civil discourse, and provide an environment conducive to study that some students may not find at home, and we should do all this while maintaining the access and excellence that is the hallmark of our student body.”

Visit wwwUMB.edu for a copy of Chancellor Collins’s speech and more on the strategic planning process.

“The threat of rain didn’t dampen the spirits of Fest-of-Us celebrations that followed convocation speeches, held in the Clark Athletic Center, where staffers served barbecue fare, students enjoyed fun and games, and kids from the Early Learning Center picnicked with the grown-ups. (Photos by Harry Brett)"

“Think Anew,” Advises Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall

“I believe we need to interpret the constitution in light of current realities,” said the Honorable Margaret H. Marshall in her address. (Photo by Harry Brett)

By Leigh DuPuy

“Your voices are vital for our future,” said Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall to the many students who filled the Campus Center for her convocation address.

“Be Educated and Instructed in the Principles of Freedom.”

Speaking of the importance of youth, she said, “We need you as a leader to enter public life in every form of civil participation—you can accomplish great things.”

Marshall, the first woman to serve as the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, spoke to an audience that included colleagues from the bench and a delegation of six Chinese judges participating in a four-month program sponsored by the McCormack Graduate School and the Massachusetts Judges Conference. She spoke about the importance of freedom and respectful debate and said we need the “courage to question ourselves... to think anew, of truth, wherever it may lead.”

Education is key, Marshall said, to such pursuits. She shared her experiences growing up in her childhood hometown in South Africa, a place she described as small, isolated, and racially segregated.

“I never had a conversation with a person of color that was not a subordinate or servant,” she said, and remembers not noticing that this was unusual. Of herself and her peers, she said, “We were taught to sing in unison, but we sang a song of one note.”

Two early education experiences made Marshall question her beliefs. As an exchange student at a Wilmington, Delaware, high school in the early ‘60s, she was amazed by images on TV — critical news reports, and access to books banned in her country. “I was astonished by open debate, disagreements without apology and punishment...,” she said. She discovered that apartheid, the “lens which she was taught to view... [and]... was nothing more than a distorted prison of terror and fear,” she said.

Her second life-altering experience was as an undergraduate at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, where she got to know Black South Africans as her peers. Witnessing their daily hardships opened her “eyes to the cruel realities of my country... [and]... forced me to expand my intellectual and moral horizons,” she said.

“These two educational experiences instilled in me an intense desire to work for equality and justice,” she said. Marshall fought apartheid before coming to the United States to pursue graduate studies at Harvard University.

Key to her work and to the work of justice, she said, is the freedom to question, without which “justice and equality can never be achieved.” Marshall praised UMass Boston for its leadership and diversity and said to its students, “Your education will equip you to make your voices heard... We will be waiting.”
UMass Boston Alumnus Receives Fulbright to Study High Infant Mortality Rates in India

By Leigh DuPuy

UMass Boston graduate Tim Menz ’06, a pre-med student determined to champion children’s rights, was recently awarded a Fulbright grant to work alongside doctors seeking to improve the high infant mortality rate in India. Menz is UMass Boston’s fifth Fulbright winner in six years of competition.

In New Delhi, Menz will work with leading physicians to observe newborn care in rural and urban settings, evaluate hospital environments, and research the treatment of fifth week newborns. Menz will join Siddarth Ramji, head of the neonatology department at Maulana Azad Medical College, and participate in fieldwork with Santosh Bhargava, head of the pediatrics department at Sunder Lal Jain Hospital, to research the effects of the “Essential Newborn Care Program.”

“We are so proud of Tim and his accomplishments,” says Chancellor Michael Collins. “He is an extraordinary student and we look forward to following his career as he pursues admission to medical school.”

Tim Menz ’06 plans to travel and work with leading physicians studying ways to improve the high infant mortality rate in India. (Photo by Harry Brette)

Menz was originally chosen as an alternate for the Fulbright Program in April. He heard he received a Fulbright three days before setting off for England to work in a pharmacological lab and volunteer in a nearby teaching hospital while finishing applications for medical school.

A student who once struggled with tuition bills and academic motivation, Menz became known at UMass Boston for his dedication to his studies and commitment to helping others. He studied biochemistry as a pre-med student, mentored his peers as a teaching assistant in the Biology Department, and served as an AmeriCorps’ VISTA volunteer.

Menz’s academic career was marked by membership in two national honor societies, a place on The National Dean’s List, and participation in UMass Boston’s Beacon Leadership program.

“I want to pursue a lifestyle in a profession of helping people,” says Menz, who took time off from his sophomore year to work as an ambulance driver and a waiter and raise money for tuition bills at UMass Amherst, where he was originally enrolled.

While initially a tough time for Menz, he describes it as a terrific learning experience. “I learned that you need to go out and grab opportunities,” he says.

His work for Fallon Clinic left a significant impression on him. “I saw what elderly and people who were sick went through and it changed my life,” he says.

Menz transferred to UMass Bos- ton for his junior year, but it wasn’t until the following summer that he began to flourish academically. “I decided to get more involved in UMass Boston and it made all the difference,” says Menz. “I fell in love with the school.”

He began to work with Rick Kesseli, professor of biology, as a laboratory and teaching assistant, became involved in the University Honors Program, and volunteered through the Urban Scholars Program, helping to develop the science interests of high school kids.

“I would not be where I am today without the help of UMass Boston faculty—they are genuinely concerned about your life and your success,” says Menz.

Menz is the youngest of five children and credits his brothers and sisters for his upbringing and for his motivation to work with children. “They did so much for me, and I want to do the same for others,” he says. “Children need a special kind of attention.”

While in India, Menz also wants to get involved in the community and plans on initiating an after-school wrestling program for kids.

“Tim’s interest in helping others has been one of the driving forces pushing him to pursue medicine as a career,” says faculty advisor Kesseli. “He looks at a situation and really thinks ‘How can I make this better?’”

Menz is one of five honors students who have won Fulbrights. His award was preceded by two in 2000 and two in 2002. In the last six years, the program has also produced a Marshall Scholar, two Marshall finalists, two Rhodes Scholarship semifinalists, and four Fulbright finalists, two of whom were also designated alternates.

Patrick and Kerry Discuss Science with Students and Faculty at UMass Boston

By Ed Hayward

Fresh off his victory in September’s primary election, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Deval Patrick joined U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry on campus September 22 for a roundtable discussion with faculty and students from the Colleges of Science and Mathematics and Nursing and Health Sciences.

The impromptu visit from Patrick focused on research taking place at UMass Boston, as well as the projects and programs undertaken by faculty, staff, and students to benefit Boston and the Commonwealth. The senator and the candidate also discussed the need for improved lab space for researchers and financial aid for students.

“We need to understand the connection between the quality of the faculty and the kind of faculty that can be attracted and retained, and what opportunities that combination offers to young people going forward,” Patrick said after he and Senator Kerry met with faculty and students in the Green Chemistry Lab.

The discussion was moderated by Kenneth L. Campbell, associate dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. He was joined by Marion Winfrey, associate dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as faculty that included Carol Hall Ellenbecker and Sheila Cannon (nursing), Jeff Dukes and Linda Huang (biology), Bala Sundaram (physics), Michelle Foster (chemistry), and Robert Chen (EEOS). Also participating were students of 50. So my family has seen first-hand what’s required to raise a family, work full-time, and pursue a university degree. It is a special place that can serve students from so many backgrounds—from the working mom or dad to the fresh man just out of high school—and the Commonwealth needs to recognize that.”

said Patrick UMass Boston is an important part of the state’s public higher education system and not only educates a big part of the state’s workforce, but does so in a way that makes students feel at home.

“When I visit your campus I get the sense that this is a real community. It’s vital that we support this community—the students, faculty and staff of our public institutions like UMass Boston. The more support we provide, the more we can increase the magic that happens here,” he said.

Helene Fuld Health Trust Grant Award to Fund Scholarships at CNHS

By Ed Hayward

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has received a $550,000 grant from the Helene Fuld Health Trust, HSBC Bank USA, N.A., Trustee, the nation’s largest private foundation devoted exclusively to student nurses and nursing education. Dean Glazer recently announced. The grant will provide $500,000 for an endowed fund and $50,000 for the university to award as “current use” scholarships for nursing students seeking a baccalaureate degree.

The $500,000 endowment will receive an additional $25,000, or 50 percent in matching funds, from the state’s Public Higher Education Endowment Initiative Program (PHEEP) for a total of $750,000. “These monies will be used to establish the Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Fund, which will not only provide substantial scholarship support for undergraduate nursing students in perpetuity, but also strengthen the college’s efforts to attract and retain an even greater number of first-generation and racially and ethnically diverse students,” said Glazer.

Currently, students of color comprise nearly 38 percent of the college’s undergraduate nursing students and more than 40 percent of UMass Boston’s total student body. “Our nursing program is among the most diverse of any college or university in Massachusetts,” said Glazer. “The endowed Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Fund will allow us to maintain our leadership role in diversifying the nursing workforce, particularly within our local urban communities.”

Play (cont.)

suspects. Based upon statements made by the victim, the paper re- ported that the perpetrator was ei- ther a “colored woman” or a white man whom the shopkeeper had seen before but did not know.

Despite the likelihood that Cooper physically could have in- flicted the brutal beating sustained by Fuller and the absence of a motive, prosecutors dismissed the possibility that a white man had committed the crime and instead indicted Cooper. After two trials, Cooper was convicted of man- slaughter in 1863 and sentenced to ten years in jail. She ended her days on October 29, 1883, in the Nantucket Asylum, where she had stayed since 1873.

“Out of all the things that I do—playingwright is really what gives me the greatest joy,” said Johnson.

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“Let’s Get It Started” Connects Students to Campus for Fall Fun

By Leigh DuPuy

In the wake of another Labor Day, it was anything but the “same old, same old” at UMass Boston. The Campus Center, university plazas, and academic buildings were busting with students riding Segways, taking bike tours to Castle Island along the Harbor Walk, competing for prizes as “treasure hunters,” and having fun while learning more about what the university has to offer.

Organizers in the Division of Student Affairs created “Let’s Get It Started,” two weeks of strategic programming that built on traditional offerings from years prior with new events, prizes, and resources and connected opening week activities for the first time with convocation celebrations and WUMB’s annual Boston Folk Festival.

“We really wanted to create a cohesive series of programming that was fun, educational, and reached a broad range of students,” says Patrick Day, new vice chancellor for student affairs. “We didn’t want to just welcome students to our campus, we wanted to immediately connect with their needs and answer their questions.”

To do so, organizers offered information stations, open houses, and other educational resources throughout campus at a variety of times. “We found that students tend to get overwhelmed by too much information,” says Kelly Meehan, special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs, “and we wanted to catch everybody, graduate students and undergraduates, coming and going throughout the day.”

Embarking on a plan to build a stronger student body, Student Affairs organizers focused on different ways to bring fun to campus. “We created a number of welcome receptions to create more social opportunities for students to meet people,” says Meehan. More than 400 students sampled the food at the Taste of Boston reception, close to 500 students attended the Student Activities Fair, and about 138 students went to the Museum of Science “Nights on the Town” event, the first of its kind.

“The back-to-school season can bust stress, but we want to bring extra support,” says Kathleen Golden McAndrew, assistant vice chancellor of student affairs and executive director of University Health Services (UHS), who led the Stress Busters 101 event, held on September 5 through 17.

Stressed or not, students took advantage of the free massages offered by licensed practitioners and participated in mini wellness sessions on the importance of sleep or how to build relationships. Others learned more about MyStudentBody.com, which offers a suite of online resources on alcohol, stress, tobacco, sexually transmitted disease, and nutrition.

Many decided to take advantage of the free fitness sessions led by experienced instructors, which included a power walk, guided meditation, tai chi, Kripalu yoga, and African dance. Organizers gave away prizes at the event, including certificates for a spa or free facial, yoga lessons, or a massage session.

Health and wellness programs aren’t only for students, points out Golden McAndrew. More than 200 staff joined 200 students to participate in the UHS campus-wide initiative “Take More Steps: What Have You Got to Lose?”, a program that encouraged people to walk more. Those who participated received a free UMass Boston pedometer, logged their steps daily on-campus starting September 5 through 14 for a month, and received weekly prizes, including free membership to the Beacon Fitness Center and athletic apparel. For those who wanted to participate in alternative ways of exercise, the Beacon Fitness Center staff helped provide modifications.

“We’ve had a lot of positive feedback from faculty, staff, and students,” says Golden McAndrew. If you’d like more information about what UHS has to offer students and employees throughout the year, please visit //www.healthservices.umb.edu/.

University Health Services Help Students Bust Stress

By Leigh DuPuy

The back-to-school season can bring new pressures for students, and UMass Boston staffers are at the ready to help them learn new techniques on how to reduce and manage stress.

“There are many different ways to reduce stress levels and improve your health,” says Kathleen Golden McAndrew, assistant vice chancellor of student affairs and executive director of University Health Services (UHS), who led the Stress Busters 101 event, held on September 12 as part of the “Let’s Get It Started” opening activities.

The event featured a wide array of offerings from University Health Services, which includes resources and staff from the Health and Wellness Center, General Medicine, and the Counseling Center. The Beacon Fitness Center staff collaborated on offerings as well.

Stressed or not, students took advantage of the free massages offered by licensed practitioners and participated in mini wellness sessions on the importance of sleep or how to build relationships. Others learned more about MyStudentBody.com, which offers a suite of online resources on alcohol, stress, tobacco, sexually transmitted disease, and nutrition.

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Students were invited to the free “Colossal Comedy” at the Campus Center with VH1 and Comedy Central stand-up star Godfrey. “We want to build a culture of hosting nationally known talent here at UMass Boston,” says Meehan. “We want to bring a number of high-profile performers throughout the year.”

To encourage students to veer from their usual paths to and from the classroom, Day and Meehan organized Boston bike tours, trolley tours, sailing, and harbor cruises. “We want our students to reconnect and enjoy how beautiful this location really is,” says Meehan.

Student Affairs rewarded those out and about, proudly wearing UMass Boston paraphernalia with a coupon to Sodexo food services. The Division of Student Affairs helped to coordinate more than $6,000 in prizes and giveaways.

Athletics, fitness, and the promotion of student health and well-being were key in event planning. The Beacons on the Plaza regularly helped to build school spirit and promote attendance at future athletic events. In partnership with University Health Services (see below), Student Affairs offered new resources for stress reduction and management. Others who wanted to get involved in community service participated in the “Good Neighbor Day,” held on September 9 on the Campus Center lawn, building playhouses for children in shelters and community shelters.

“There are so many ways to be a part of UMass Boston’s thriving campus life,” says Day. “We are building a new culture of connection here and plan to build on this momentum in our future plans.”

Students moved around campus like never before with the “Let’s Get It Started” activities, held from September 5 through 17. (Photos by Harry Brett)
Folk Fans Enjoy Great Music, Dance, and Sunshine at Annual Festival

By Anne-Marie Kent

On September 16 and 17, the campus of UMass Boston was once again transformed into a folk music extravaganza for the WUMB 91.9 FM Boston Folk Festival. Now in its ninth year, the festival offered two full days of live entertainment, including singer-songwriter folk music, blues, bluegrass, and Celtic dancing—unparalleled variety on four indoor and outdoor stages.

“It was a fantastic event,” said WUMB general manager Pat Monteith. “The artists presented incredible performances, and once again, the WUMB volunteers did an outstanding job putting the whole thing together. It was also great to have university student groups participate, bringing their fund-raising efforts to the festival.”

Monteith noted that students from UMass Boston’s Women’s Center were able to collect 116 cell phones to the “Jane Doe Donate a Phone Campaign.” Students from UMass Boston’s Golden Key International Honour Society collected an estimated 600 pounds of food for Boston shelters, including 33 jars of peanut butter, in response to the group’s “getting nutty” theme. The Golden Key students also continued its “Links of Help and Hope Project,” this year fund-raising for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the world’s largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research, education, and patient services. The students raised nearly $500.

“I am touched by the kindness and generosity of all of those individuals who attend the festival each year. Golden Key and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society are thankful for all of their support,” said Golden Key president Christine DePalma.

As for the music, the Festival provided its dependably diverse variety of performers and venues, including a coffeehouse stage in the Ryan Lounge, a waterfront pavilion stage at Fox Point, a plaza-level stage for up-and-coming folk singers, and the main stage under the sculpture “Hurra.”

Saturday’s headliner, Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul, ended the day with a rousing set. The New York–born fiddler, once named “All-Ireland Champion” and known for her Celtic jigs and reels pushed and pulled by various surprising Latin and African rhythms, joked with the audience, “What part of Ireland am I from?” County Bronx.” Fresh-faced young dancers in traditional costume from the Walpole-based Harney Academy of Irish Dance joined Ivers and her band on stage for several pieces, much to the delight of the audience, members of which improvised their own jigs.

Other favorites on the main stage were folk legends Richie Havens, Bruce Cockburn, and Jesse Winchester. Many of the “folkies” sang along to songs included in a tribute to the late social and political crusader Phil Ochs. Other performers included Jennifer Kimball, Michael Troy, the Jake Armerding Band, the City of Roses trio, Liz Carlisle, and Chuck Hall.

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Students from Around the Globe Explore International Relations Study

Ida Abuabakar, one of Robert Weiner’s students, listens during a recent session of his class “Theories and Conceptions of International Relations.” (Photo by Harry Brett)

By Lisa Gentes

There’s a world of experience in Robert Weiner’s classroom. The chair of the international relations track of the master’s in public affairs program at the John J. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies is teaching students from across the globe this semester. His current class, “Theories and Concepts of International Relations,” has about 25 students from countries across the globe, including 35 jars of peanut butter, in response to the group’s “getting nutty” theme. The Golden Key students also continued its “Links of Help and Hope Project,” this year fund-raising for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the world’s largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research, education, and patient services. The students raised nearly $500.

“We’re getting students from everywhere,” said Weiner, a political science professor who holds a Ph.D. from New York University.

His students come not only from countries across the globe, but have a world of experience to share. One student had been working on oil rigs in the Caspian Sea, and another student’s father had served as a government minister in Somalia, he said.

Students are attracted to the two-year-old program because it is

the only one in a public institution of higher education in Boston that offers a master’s in international relations, it’s much more affordable than other universities, and UMass Boston has “top-notch quality” faculty, said Weiner.

As word spreads, the class size grows. The current class, composed of students who range in age from 20s to 40s, is the largest the program’s had to date, said Weiner.

Former students are now working in Washington, D.C., for international policy think tanks, or in international journalism, the professor noted. He has one former student who has been working for a newspaper in Peru.

Many international relations students participate in the two-year master’s program because they are interested in working for a government agency, such as the State Department, a multinational corporation, or in the military. Others have studied political science or international relations as undergraduates, or majored in business, history, or English, according to Weiner. Many have “extensive overseas experience,” including several of the American students, he said, who have lived in Japan, China and Nicaragua.

“It makes for such an interesting class and it’s the best way to run a seminar,” said Weiner.

One student, Jennifer Howard of Watertown, a native of Massachusetts, said it’s not only the cultural diversity that adds to the class.

“I think an important part, not just in [diversity is] background, but in age and life experience and professional background,” Howard said. “There’s definitely more than a handful of people going [back to] school after many years.”

This mother of one said that’s true for her and many others in the class. She said the life and world experience only adds to the classroom experience.

The diversity of the faculty brings new perspective to the program, Howard said. “I found that a nice part of the program. The faculty is diverse in experience, gender, age, ethnic background, and life experience.”

Fellow student Eunice Vasser of Waltham, a native of Kenya, is hoping to secure a job for a non-government agency after she receives her master’s. The full-time mother is pursuing her master’s degree while volunteering for the American Red Cross, serving as a companion to the elderly, and teaching immigrant students basic computer skills.

Vasser, who has lived in the United States for the past seven years, has an undergraduate and master’s degree in education from Kenya. Previously, she had worked as a home economics teacher.

“I’m making a big jump,” she said of changing career paths. After receiving her degree, she hopes to work with projects involving immigrants or refugees, possibly in Africa, she said.

Weiner is looking forward to seeing the diverse class grow. The program and university spread the idea that “there should be a connection to Boston and the rest of the world,” he said.

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A paper by Philip Granberry, PhD, candidate in the Public Policy Program in the McCormack Graduate School, “The U.S. Capital to Obesity for Mexican Immigrants,” was accepted for the conference “Activist Scholarship: Demographic Underdocumented Border Space,” held at UC Santa Barbara on October 5.

Peter Kiang, professor of education and director of the Asian American Program, presented “Community: Neighborhoods, Families, and the Asian American Caribbean community’s history of social studies curricular design.”

Arthur MacEwan, professor and chair of the Economics Department, delivered the speech “Puerto Rico and the International Economic Policies of the United States” to the Asociación Interamericana de Hombres de Empresa, in San Juan, Puerto Rico on August 10.

Joe Marrone, senior program manager for public policy at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), delivered the keynote address “Recovery: It is a Journey, not a Destination” at the Michigan Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association’s “EmpowerMints... Curiously Strong” conference.

Siamak Movahedi, professor and chair of the Sociology Department, presented the paper “Who is The Author of the Dream That Is Presented For Interpretation in Psychotherapy?” and copresented “The Discourse of Transference-Love or The Discourse of Cultural Socialization in a Difficult Project?” at the VIII International Congress of Fundamental Psychopathology, held in Brazil in September.

Mohammad H. Tamdgidi, assistant professor of sociology, presented the refereed paper “Utopiastics Beyond Marxism: Transgressing the Bordersland of Utopia, Mysticism, and Science” at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, held in August.

Russell Schutt, director of the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology, presented a poster at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting with alumnus Elizabeth Cruz and Nursing PhD student Gail Gall as coauthors, and presented “Pro-Commencement.” He also presented “Efforts to diversify the profession from UMass Boston.” He gave a talk at the Neuropsychology Laboratory of the Commonwealth Psychiatric Research Center on Mental Health, and Harvard Medical School, about the 10th Anniversary Symposium of the National Institute of Mental Health’s Office of Behavioral and Social Research Sciences.


Mary Kennedy, CPCs professor emeritus, published three articles, coauthored with UMass Lowell professor Chris Titcomb, based on their work in Latin America: “From Here to Autonomy: Mexico’s Zapotist Administration and Zapotist Issues,” “Zapotist’s New Fight” in the VII Annual Planning, and “The Zapotistas’ New Fight” in Against the Current.

Joe Marrone, senior program manager for public policy at the Institute for Community Inclusion, published three articles: “Recycling by a Needy or a Treadmill?” in the UMass Medical School Center for Health Research and Disability Issues newsletter.

Sathasivam Mathiyalakan, professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), published the article “Research Reporting Results: Implications for Nursing Practice Warrant More Than One Sentence” in Nurse Author & Editor and a letter to the editor in Advances in Nursing Science.


Stephanie Hirttwell, associate professor of UMass Boston’s Social Science & Community Advocacy, presented the article “Persons with Mental Illness Post Prison Release” with graduate student Sarah Kuck Jabsbert and colleague Karen Oh in Law Enforcement Executive Forum.

Roderick Jensen, the Alton Brann Scholar in Distinguished Professor of Physics, Biology, and Mathematics and director of the Center for Environmental Science, Health, and Technology, published the coauthored article “Replacing mRNA Targets with dRNA Reduces Microarray Cross- hybridization” in Nature Biotechnology with part-time faculty member Anthony Petruzzi.


Robert Weiser, director of the international relations track in the Master’s Program in Public Affairs, published two book reviews in the Summer-Fall-Winter 2016 issue of Canadian American Slavic Studies. He reviewed Robert Levy’s Ana Pauker and Vladimir Tismaneanu’s Stalism for All Seasons: A Political History of Romanian Communism.

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Patience of Nantucket, written by Robert Johnson, Jr., professor and chair of the Africana Studies Department, premiered to sold-out audiences on September 7 at the Boston Center for the Arts’ Plaza Black Box Theatre, located in Boston’s South End.

Ellen Hume, director of the Center on Media and Society at the McCormack Graduate School, received a $30,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to launch an ethnic media student internship program and an online Ethnic News Wire. Hume also teaches in the Communication Studies Program.

Donna Haig Friedman, director of the Center for Social Policy, has been invited to participate in the Mayor of Boston’s Strategic Planning Initiative: “Closing the Achievement Gap, Birth to Five.”

Sean Lunde and James Miller of the William Joiner Center had their portraits painted by Dorchester artist John Laffe as part of a program conducted by DoArt. “Face to Face: Veterans’ Portraits,” a painting project among veterans, resulted in a series of paintings exhibited on downtown can- vasses, and in the All Saints Church. The Joiner Center has acquired a number of the works.

From August 19 through 27, Profes- sors Emily McDermott, Jacqueline Carlon, and Corinne Etienne led the Conventiculum Boston, an intensive Latin-only week, on Nantucket designed for high school teachers who wish to become more fluent in speaking Latin.

A presentation was made to the EMC Reporters and Editors Association about environmental data compiled on document services. A paper was also presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association on the idea of queer space and time, which defines the non-normative path of Western lifestyles and hegemonies.


References from UMass Boston.” He attended a meeting of the Russell Foundation Working Group on the Deficit in August, and described the Edward Everett elementary school in Dorchester that focused on using local Vietnamese/Chinese and Capverdian/Caribbean community resources in the introduction to the book and the presentation of the work in Latin America: “From Here to Autonomy: Mexico’s Zapotist Administration and Zapotist Issues,” “Zapotist’s New Fight” in Against the Current.

Joe Marrone, senior program manager for public policy at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), delivered the keynote address “Recovery: It is a Journey, not a Destination” at the Michigan Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association’s “EmpowerMints... Curiously Strong” conference.

Siamak Movahedi, professor and chair of the Sociology Department, presented the paper “Who is The Author of the Dream That Is Presented For Interpretation in Psychotherapy?” and copresented “The Discourse of Transference-Love or The Discourse of Cultural Socialization in a Difficult Project?” at the VIII International Congress of Fundamental Psychopathology, held in Brazil in September.

Mohammad H. Tamdgidi, assistant professor of sociology, presented the refereed paper “Utopiastics Beyond Marxism: Transgressing the Bordersland of Utopia, Mysticism, and Science” at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, held in August.

Russell Schutt, director of the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology, presented a poster at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting with alumnus Elizabeth Cruz and Nursing PhD student Gail Gall as coauthors, and presented “Pro-Commencement.” He also presented “Efforts to diversify the profession from UMass Boston.” He gave a talk at the Neuropsychology Laboratory of the Commonwealth Psychiatric Research Center on Mental Health, and Harvard Medical School, about the 10th Anniversary Symposium of the National Institute of Mental Health’s Office of Behavioral and Social Research Sciences.


Mary Kennedy, CPCs professor emeritus, published three articles, coauthored with UMass Lowell professor Chris Titcomb, based on their work in Latin America: “From Here to Autonomy: Mexico’s Zapotist Administration and Zapotist Issues,” “Zapotist’s New Fight” in Against the Current.

Joe Marrone, senior program manager for public policy at the Institute for Community Inclusion, published three articles: “Recycling by a Needy or a Treadmill?” in the UMass Medical School Center for Health Research and Disability Issues newsletter. 

Sathasivam Mathiyalakan, professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), published the article “Research Reporting Results: Implications for Nursing Practice Warrant More Than One Sentence” in Nurse Author & Editor and a letter to the editor in Advances in Nursing Science.


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Jennifer Radden, professor of philosophy, will visit Merton College, Oxford, during the fall semester as an HLA Haiti Visiting Research Fellow.

Julie Tripp, constituent coordinator for the Center for Social Policy, participated in a two-week inaugural event in Massachusetts as a Certified Peer Specialist in Georgia. The event was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Brian Wright, lecturer in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was selected to participate in The Social Context of Education Research (SCER) Project, sponsored by Division G of American Educational Research Association. SCER seeks to examine the evolution of ideas and issues in the field of education with a critical lens into issues of race, class, gender, and differences. The project begins in the fall of 2006 and continues through 2010.

UMass Boston staff and a student volunteered to read for the “Read for the Record” campaign at the Early Learning Children’s Center on August 24 as part of the Jumpstart Program.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Mary Ann Byrne, associate professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was elected president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (CCE). The two-year term includes preparation for Boston’s hosting of the 2008 International CEC Convention, expected to draw 6,000 professionals in special education.

By Anne-Marie Kent

College of Public and Community Service professor Carroy U. “Caf” Ferguson was recently named president of the Association for Humanistic Psychology. He is the first African-American and person of color to lead that association, which has members in 38 countries and 45 states and the District of Columbia.

The Association of Humanistic Psychology bills itself as an organization of “hundreds of spirits on the edge”—its web site is any indicator, this edge is occupied by an affirmation of truly diverse psychosexual and spiritual practitioners who find their kinship in what is called “humanistic psychology.”

“Humanistic psychology puts the human being into the equation,” says Ferguson, who points to Abraham Maslow, Carl Rogers, Charlotte Buhler, Rollo May, and Virginia Satr as some of the founders of the personal growth movement which aims to “foster the ability of each person to find and express their maximum potential as human beings.”

In his inaugural president’s message, Ferguson describes “the path of the Bridge” as a path “where relational harmony and personal and collective growth through being ‘authentic’ in relating to and with one another as human beings.”

The Association for Humanistic Psychology embraces what it calls “a bold new affirmative approach in human psychology and life” that explores “the edges of what is known, looking for and workingable methods to facilitate our evolution as individuals and as a society.”

“I feel very honored to become part of an ongoing, transformational, creative, and inspiring history,” says Ferguson.

CPCS Professor Named President of Association for Humanistic Psychology. (Photo by Harry Brett)

By Lauren DeMinico

On the five-year anniversary of the September 11 attacks, a crowd filled the Alumni Lounge to honor and remember the lives of those lost on that tragic day. Reverend Adrienne Berry-Burt offered remarks of hope and comfort. “A retired firefighter who survived the tower collapse reminds us that while merely 3,000 died in New York alone, 20,000 more were saved,” she said. Chancellor Michael Collins said, “Today we remember. We remember where we were five years ago when we heard. We remember that moment, like few others, that is forever emblazoned in our memory. We remember that day, like no others, that in an instant became engraved in our history.”

Faculty and staff voiced the names of those lost and paused for a moment of silence. Performing arts staff member and pianist Angela Papisani performed a peaceful musical selection to conclude the memorial service.

University Staff and Students Remember September 11

A somber group listens to Chancellor Collins. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Jennifer Bender Berz

By Anne-Marie Kent

College of Public and Community Service professor Carroy U. “Caf” Ferguson was recently named president of the Association for Humanistic Psychology. (Photo by Harry Brett)
The Calendar of Events is published monthly by the Office of University Communications and Community Relations. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. From off-campus, dial [617] 287 and the last five digits listed below each event.

Submit November calendar listings by Friday, October 13 to umb@news/calendar.

Monday 2
Beacon Fitness Center Class: Aqua Aerobics 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Mondays, Clark Athletic Center, pool. Open to all Beacon Fitness Center members.
For full schedule, contact www.athletics.umb.edu/fitness_center/index.html.

Tuesday 3
ITC Teaching with Technology Workshop: WebCT Introduc- tion—Part 2 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Healey Library, Instructional Technology Center, lower level, rm p2. Workshop on organizing and displaying course content using WebCT. Also on October 4 at 1:30 p.m. Prerequisite: WebCT Introduction Part 1.
Contact: www.ict.umb.edu.

Beacon Fitness Center Class: Cardio Aerobics 11:45 – 12:45 p.m., Tuesdays, McCormack Hall, Beacon Fitness Center, 1st fl. Open to all Beacon Fitness Center members.
For full schedule, contact www.athletics.umb.edu/fitness_center/index.html.

Wednesday 4
The Other Lifelong Learning Institute Brown Bag Lunch: A View from the Front Lines: Martha Wright and Women’s Rights 11:30 a.m., McCormack Hall, 3-204. Speakers Sherry Penney and Jim Livingston discuss their recent book. Contact: martha.marzec@umb.edu.