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University of Massachusetts Boston

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Jo Ann Gora Is Inaugurated as Sixth Chancellor on September 27

By Melissa Fassel

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and business leaders celebrated the beginning of a new era for UMass Boston with the installation of Jo Ann M. Gora as UMass Boston's sixth chancellor on September 27.

Provost Paul Fonteyn opened the ceremony, naming the campus representatives in attendance and introducing University of Massachusetts President William Bulger. Bulger welcomed the sizeable crowd of more than 500 guests, pointing out Gora's interest in making the inauguration "a celebration of the entire university, not simply her invention."

Representatives from throughout the university community spoke briefly at the installation. Student Trustee Heather Dawood pointed out Gora's enthusiasm for inviting students to share their experiences with her. On behalf of the undergraduate and graduate student bodies, Dawood pledged to "work with Gora to help bring the campus to new heights."

Classified staff representative Carolyn Dunn charged Gora with maintaining a campus that is accessible and affordable, affirming that "access and excellence go hand in hand, and are not mutually exclusive."

College of Management Assistant Dean, MBA program director, and alumnus Daniel Robb, said he and the professional staff that he represented looked forward to the change and exciting challenges Gora will bring to the campus, reminding the university to "think of things not as they were or as they are, but how they could be." Faculty Council President and Professor Celia Moore agreed, saying, "We are very fortunate to have you here to lead us in this time of change."

Colin Ward '00, representing UMass Boston alumni, spoke of how proud he is to have graduated from Boston's public university: "We are brought together by an alma mater that helped us spread our wings and a faculty that helped us soar to new heights."

The City of Boston's Mayor and alumnus Thomas Menino '88 emphasized the importance of the day for the entire community: "In turbulent times, universities are often the voice of reason and the voice of fresh perspective. UMass Boston is a civic leader—a place where ideas are born and put into action."

He said that, as an alumnus, he experienced first-hand the commitment that the university has to the high heights.

(Cont. on page 2)

Biology Professor Hopes to Use Plants in the Fight Against Pollution

By Sarah Okbay

"What does phytoremediation have to do with pollution?" a layperson might ask. But biology professor Adan Colón-Carmona explains. Phytoremediation is the rehabilitation of contaminated water, air, or soil using plants to extract harmful substances. With the help of talented undergraduate and graduate students, Assistant Professor Colón-Carmona is working on identifying indigenous plants to clean up soils that are contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are major pollutants and could act as biomonitoring devices, to signal if pollutants are present.

For example, scientists have recognized that wetlands and marshes act as effective filters for pollution from urban and agricultural sources. Plants can react in different ways to a pollutant introduced in the air, soil, or water. They can sequester the toxin without modifying or degrading it or sequester and biodegrade the toxin, changing it to another type of molecule. They can also exclude or actively remove the toxin after intake and put it back into the watershed or air. Plants respond to external stimuli (Cont. on page 7)
Chancellor Gora Outlines Her Commitments to the University

(cont. from page 1)

...est standard of education and public service, and pledged to the new chancellor, "I will work with you to make sure this city works with UMass Boston.'"

Senator Jack Hart brought congratulatory greetings from the Massachusetts legislature, and praised Gora on already making UMass Boston a better institution through her energy and commitment. In her inaugural speech, the Chancellor focused on the importance of serving both students and the Commonwealth at large. She emphasized the need to develop a greater sense of community internally while enhancing the external viability of UMass Boston's research and its impact on the Commonwealth's public policy.

She affirmed her dedication to the construction of residence halls, acknowledging that, while UMass Boston is a university geared toward the needs of commuter students, it needs to be responsive to the countless applicants who request housing, and the hundreds of students who report that they would not transfer out if such facilities were available. Creating this blend of commuters and residents would foster increased social, athletic, and extracurricular activities, Gora posted.

Chancellor Gora thanked "the men and women who labor every day to ensure the best possible educational experiences for our students," and received extended applause from the faculty and staff in the audience when she digressed in her speech to note her and President Bulger's support of salary increases, which were vetoed by Acting Governor Jane Swift.

Gora also proposed a computer certification for all graduating students in order to increase their value in the job market, increased student use of the Nantucket Field Station across academic disciplines, and more paid internships and scholarship opportunities.

The university's sixth chancellor was aptly described by Margaret Miller, former president of the American Association of Higher Education, current editor of Change Magazine, and professor at the University of Virginia, who said, "Above all things, Jo Ann Gora is a woman who knows what she believes and is committed to the mission of this campus, you can believe it."

Students Sample the "Hidden Jewels of UMass Boston" and Plaza Barbecue

More than 1,000 students came out to enjoy a barbecue on the plaza and to visit the "Hidden Jewels of UMass Boston" display which offered information on university services, the chance to win free tuition for the semester, and an opportunity to register to vote. Faculty and staff served students the barbecue fare of hot dogs, veggie burgers, potato chips, and cookies. (Photo by Harry Brett)

College of Management Welcomes Back Ben & Jerry's CFO

By Mary Ann Machanic

The College of Management (CM) welcomed Mickey Wiles '83, chief financial officer of the Vermont ice cream manufacturer Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc., back to campus for a day of special activities. At CM's fall convocation Wiles addressed the timely topic of "Corporate Citizenship," spoke privately with faculty from the Accounting and Finance Department; met with students in an undergraduate class on managerial ethics; and spoke to MBA students on "The CFO in 2002" in the first of this academic year's Senior Executive Forums.

"This wonderful opportunity for us to have a well-regarded CFO offer his expertise and experience at a time of turmoil in the financial markets and to share the unique culture of Ben & Jerry's with our faculty, staff and students," said CM Dean Philip Quaglieri in his introduction of Wiles, who was visiting the campus after a 19-year absence. Wiles returned the compliment, noting his "wonderful experience" at UMass Boston and the "fantastic education and many benefits" he had received at CM. Key aspects of Ben & Jerry's organization, particularly its well-documented commitment to social responsibility, are studied at many business schools, including the College of Management.

Wiles finds the recent rash of accounting scandals "personally painful" and clearly wishes that other organizations subscribed to the core beliefs found in Ben & Jerry's mission statement, which focuses on product quality, achievement of financial goals, and social responsibility. Many of Ben & Jerry's environmental and social initiatives are now widely followed by others.

Wiles, a certified public accountant, received his degree in management with a concentration in accounting in 1983. He joined Ben & Jerry's as corporate controller prior to the company being purchased by Unilever N. V. of Great Britain in 2000. He was named chief financial officer after the deal was completed, an unusual move for Unilever, which typically replaces CFOs when making acquisitions.

Caption: UMass Boston alumnus Mark Atkins '71 and Charlie Titus, director of athletics. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Chancellor Gora with friend Joyce Plotkin, president of Massachusetts Software and Internet Council, Inc. (Photo by Harry Brett)
Above: Curtis Olsen, professor and chair of the Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences Department; Kathie Olsen, associate director for science with the Office of Science and Technology of the Executive Office of the President; Robert Durand, secretary of environmental affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and Rich Delaney, director of the Urban Harbors Institute. (Photo by Harry Brett)

By Leigh Dray

To enhance inaugural festivities, UMass Boston highlighted its commitment to public policy dialogue by inviting leading experts, top scholars, and prominent policymakers to lead three university forums held on September 26. Offering a wide range of topics, the forums drew large crowds and inspired provocative discussions in the community at large.

Over 200 people attended the first forum of the series “The Role of Media in Public Policy Formulation,” which featured industry experts offering their perspectives on the complicated relationship between media coverage and policymaking. Panelists Martin Baron, editor of the Boston Globe; Ray Howell, president of Howell Communications and former press secretary to Governor Weld; and Ellen Hume, media analyst and former executive director of the PBS Democracy Project, analyzed the differences “between what the role of media should be...and what it is.”

At its best, the media should maintain an independence, a critical accountability to the common person. And it should be representative, bringing other voices to the table,” said Hume during the panel.

Later in the afternoon, top policymakers Robert Durand and Kathie Olsen led the forum “Science and Environment” before a packed auditorium in the Science Center. Durand, secretary of environmental affairs for the Commonwealth and Massachusetts, and Olsen, associate director for science with the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the Executive Office of the President, offered local and national perspectives on current issues as environmental sustainability and the importance of environmental education.

Durand praised the resources UMass Boston’s science faculty and centers offer the community. “Our ability to tap the centers of UMass Boston is critically important,” Durand said. “We need to educate, engage, and empower future generations.”

Olsen mirrored Durand’s emphasis on the importance of environmental education. “Events like [the forum] highlight the incredible value education and research gives to our lives and our future. If we invest in research and development, we better our lives, we better our environment, we better our jobs, and we better our homes,” she said.

The final forum featured Chinua Achebe, the internationally acclaimed writer of Things Fall Apart and other works which have shaped modern African literature. He discussed “diversity and literature” in the Science Center’s Lipke Auditorium. Introduced as a “formidable champion of diversity” by Africana Studies professor Chukwuma Awaanye, Achebe received a standing ovation from an auditorium filled with over 500 people. Achebe read from one of his short stories and offered insights on the critical need for diversity in education. He spoke of his own teaching at Bard College, where he is the Charles P. Stevenson Jr. Professor of Languages and Literature. His courses include many works of African literature unknown to his American students. “Why do I do it? Rather I hope that it will kindle in them the desire to grow out of themselves, to encounter a world without fear.”

Free Student and Community Concert Rocks the Point

By Lisa Greggo

“Rock ‘n Raggie on the Point,” a free student and community concert held on the soccer field Tuesday evening, was opened by local favorite Entrain. The crowd may have started out small, but no sooner did Entrain begin playing than the people started coming out. It only took a song or two to loosen up the audience—people just couldn’t stand still while listening to the intense percussive sounds of this popular band. After about an hour, Yellowman and the Sagittarius Band came on. The internationally known Jamaican invited the crowd to get close to the stage, where an enthusiastic group never stopped dancing to his unique style of reggae music.

One of them, John E. Simmons, a Dorchester resident and member of the Iron Workers Local 7, said he came to see Yellowman and to “show support for the university.” Some brought picnic dinners, and several families had babies and strollers in tow. After playing for almost two hours Yellowman shouted, “I love Boston!” Over spirited applause he thanked UMass Boston and the organizers of this event. But he really got the crowd going when he said, “I love America—because you stand up for human rights.”

When asked why she decided to host this free concert, Chancellor Jo Ann Gora replied, “Well, why not? This is a college campus and there should be music here.” She added that she welcomes suggestions for future events.

Below: Ellen Hume, media analyst and former executive director for the PBS Democracy Project; Martin Baron, Editor of the Boston Globe; and Ray Howell, president of Howell Communications and former press secretary to William Weld. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Tour Offers Sneak Peak Inside Campus Center

About fifteen students, staff, and faculty members got a preview of atriums, dining rooms, and the “university street” during a “hard hat” tour of the Campus Center construction site. Led by Stephen Chait, assistant vice chancellor for administration and finance, the tour group walked through the building’s six stories and were treated to views from future windows varying from the downtown skyline to the Boston Harbor Islands. “The building is designed to be ‘transparent,’” said Chait of the vistas, skylights, and two atriums. “You will never be more than 40 feet from natural light.”

He confirmed that the current layout closely mirrors the architectural renderings visible in the virtual tour at <http://www.umb.edu/about_umb/campus_center>. The project remains on budget and on schedule for a projected December 2003 opening. (Photo by Harry Brett)
WUMB Celebrates Twenty Years on Air and Sold-Out Crowds at Fifth Annual Boston Folk Festival

By Elizabeth Musti

In conjunction with the inaugural festivities, art professor Paul Tucker hosted two tours of the Arts on the Point sculpture park during the week of September 23. Established three years ago, the park consists of ten sculptures from around the globe, on loan from various collections. "We didn’t want to be trapped with a specific look and wanted to keep a contemporary feel," said Tucker. The pieces will rotate as new ones arrive on campus, replacing five others that rotate as new ones arrive on campus.

One of the most easily overlooked sculptures is located in one of the most heavily traveled locations on campus. Sitting on the lawn between Whately and McCormack Halls is the piece "Heron at Evening" by artist Bill Tucker. At first glance, this sculpture looks like a white rock, but to the careful observer it represents a woman’s head.

"The students and alumni on the tour were wonderfully responsive," Tucker remarked. "Even without an art background, they were able to recognize the poetry, in Sol Lewitt’s ‘Double Cubes’ and the mysteries of Dennis Oppenheim’s ‘Searchburt.’ It was a real pleasure.

Arts on the Point is open to the public. Guided tours will soon become a regular feature, but until then, interested onlookers can be guided by labels for each sculpture that provide information about the artist and the work.

University Community Tours Arts on the Point

University Community Discusses Proposed Halls in “Town Meetings”

By Anne-Marie Kent

At one of two recent "town meetings" held to discuss proposed residence halls, Assistant Vice Chancellor Stephon Chat presented an architect’s model of the UMass Boston campus and, moving miniature buildings like puzzle pieces, illustrated three different versions of a campus transformed by residence halls. One configuration, with buildings reaching out towards the harbor, maximized waterfront views, while two others created enclosed courtyards. Chat and other members of the Internal Housing Committee explained the university’s rationale for proposing a limited number of student units and provided information regarding the funding, planning, and community-relations aspects of the process.

Back in February 2002, the University of Massachusetts Building Authority retained Sasaki Associates to assess the feasibility of introducing student residences. In late July, the campus received Sasaki’s draft report, and in August, the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees approved five- and ten-year capital plans that included the building of student housing. The two on-campus town meetings, held September 9 and 10, were part of a larger process taking into account campus and community concerns.

At the September 10 meeting, Chancellor Gora said, "We are the only public university in Massachusetts that offers no housing. Among our peer-group, known as the Urban 13, we are the only institution that offers no residential housing." She said that providing 2,000 beds would not dramatically change the character of the campus, with its total enrollment of over 31,000. She added that many students leave UMass Boston or never consider coming to UMass Boston because of a lack of housing.

Sharing the results of a survey conducted by her office, Kathy Treehan, vice chancellor for enrollment management, said that 30 percent of admitted students who matriculated listed ‘lack of housing’ as a major concern. "Of those who chose not to matriculate," said Treehan, "50 percent indicated availability of housing was one of the important factors influencing their decision." She added that the Student Housing Referral Office supports 600 to 800 inquiries per week, indicating a "significant pre-existing demand for housing."

Last year the Office of Student Affairs, led by Dean Stephanie Jaimy Hayes, surveyed students and found that 72 percent of respondents felt participation in student activities would improve if the campus had student housing. Jaimy said, "We know as educators that students who are academically and socially engaged in college are more likely to be retained." Faculty representative Gela Moore said that dorms would allow for more peer learning situations and Athletics Director Charlie Timus said they would attract better student athletes.

The town meeting format allowed each panelist to make a presentation and invite audience questions. David MacKenzie, vice chancellor for administration and finance, responded to one of the anticipated questions: "How, with all the budget cuts, can the university discuss plans to build residences?" MacKenzie explained, "The university’s operating budget, which has been cut, does not pay for these buildings. The project will be financed by revenue bonds and by those living in the buildings."

Additional concerns were voiced by members of faculty and staff. Anthropology Professor Tim Seiber raised the question, "Who are these dorms really for, and exactly why do we need them?" He also expressed a desire for more faculty involvement and more clarification regarding how the dorms will help students and aid retention. Staffer Maureen Boyle wondered where displaced parking and soccer fields would go. Gail Treehan raised the possibility that more displaced residents could be relocated to other areas not chosen for housing. Others asked about parking restrictions and meal plans, the details of which need to be clarified.

According to Vice Chancellor of University Communications and Community Relations Anmarie Lewis Kerwin, the results of the Sasaki report were shared on September 19 with members of the Community Liaison Group (which consists of 18 representatives from the external community). Next, the university will present these results to the Columbia/Savin Hill Civic Association. An independent study will be completed to assess the potential impact of student housing on the local community.
Entrepreneurs Become Success Stories With Help from Small Business Development Center and Minority Business Center

By Joseph Peters

Business is booming at the Small Business Development Center and Minority Business Center (SBDC). In the past year, the center has provided more than 400 local businesses with counseling and training, and has packaged $1.25 million in loans, providing crucial assistance to businesses pursuing loans from banks and other lenders. Often this assistance is free or at a very nominal charge.

"Really, our core is management counseling," explains Margaret Somer, the center's director. "We analyze a business, where it is going to go, and how is it going to get there."

Housed within the College of Management, Somer and the other staff members of the four-person center can turn to the college's expertise when assisting businesses. At the same time, professors and their classes can draw upon the SBDC's cases to provide real insight into what it takes to run a business and the dynamics of a local economy.

There are five other centers like the SBDC in the state. As a collaboration between the federal Small Business Administration and Massachusetts, this network of centers provides consultation and training for small businesses. Here, the SBDC maintains a specialty in minority businesses, reflecting the center's origins as the Minority Business Assistance Center at the university.

As the saying goes, though, the reward for hard work is more hard work. The coming year could be a hallmark for the center. This fall the SBDC will kick off the Harbor Enterprise Center, creating a new framework for assisting business in the Greater Boston area. Fleet Bank has placed its support behind this initiative, providing $100,000 over the next two years. Also this coming year, the SBDC plans to partner with Senator John Kerry's office in an initiative designed to strengthen and support day care centers in the state.

"There are about 14,000 women in the state who run family day care centers out of their homes," explains Somer. "Our role will be to provide them with counseling and training to better manage or market their centers."

While these initiatives will play a major role in the center's immediate future, its core remains business counseling and training. The economic downturn underscores the need for good business advice, something reflected in the center's day-to-day services.

From helping businesses find new markets as exporters to helping laid-off workers start their own consulting businesses to teaching successful entrepreneurs how to manage their growth, the SBDC plays a key role in stabilizing the local economy.

Somer, who holds a master's degree from Tufts University in urban and environmental policy, has a long history with small businesses, including having managed a fund to help minority businesses, running her own pottery business and serving on the SBDC's advisory board.

Somer says people like her and the others who work or consult for the SBDC do it because they enjoy the spirit of entrepreneurship. While big business dominates the headlines, many small businesses and the people behind them may play a role greater than what can be portrayed on a balance sheet. Local stores and services help establish solid neighborhoods and provide jobs and stability. But business owners also are success stories and community leaders. "These entrepreneurs become role models," says Somer.

English Professor Changes Probationers' Lives Through Literature

By Jeanne Wallace-Buckley

If Taylor Stoehr had selected the student least likely to benefit from his community program's spring class it would have been Thomas. The scruffy, formerly homeless man often monopolized the class, speaking in cliches and in poor English.

"But by the end he was everyone's hero," explained Stoehr, professor of English. "He became eloquent. First he found his feet, then his voice."

When he showed up in a velvet suit with his mother for the graduation ceremony, she declared, "You people have surely changed Thomas."

And that's what the program "Changing Lives Through Literature" bodily proclaims to do. Probationers of Dorchester District Court have been sentenced to this alternative program since Judge Sydney Hanlon initiated it in the mid-90s. Between 15-20 criminal offenders participate in a ten-week literature seminar at UMass Boston that uses the Narrative of the Life of an American Slave as the basis for analysis, discussion, and writing on social, economic, and race issues relevant to the participants.

Classes are facilitated by two probation officers, two professors and a judge, and have served men ages 17 to 70, primarily men of color, both first-time and repeat offenders. Though "Changing Lives" is a self-contained program, it is only one of dozens of programs nationwide based on a model developed by Robert Waxler of UMass Dartmouth in 1991. The facilitators attempt to use probationers' positive interactions with their peers to help them articulate and validate their experiences.

The only requirements of the class are showing up and coming to class straight. Although Stoehr, the program director, acknowledges that not everyone completes homework assignments, the class is structured so that everyone can participate.

"Our job is to present a question that leads them to the serious question," Stoehr explains. "We then talk about their ideas and issues on a human level."

He believes that the program changes the way they see themselves and their situations. "By the eighth week, everyone loves this program."

Upon completion of the program, the probationers attend a graduation ceremony at the courthouse where three judges, police, probation officers, and families are witness to the program's success, and each receives a book and certificate of completion. Though no formal tracking system exists, informal measure indicates that the recidivism rate drops from 45 to 19 percent in program graduates.

Stoehr, who came to the university in 1971, is a pacifist and believes that the program not only changes individual live, but it is representative of initiatives necessary to the future of prison reform.

"Alternative sentencing has to grow," declares Stoehr. "The U.S. has more people in prison than anywhere else in the world."

Stoehr is currently working on a book about his experience with the program entitled Changing Lives. Joined by students from the nearby Boston University and Northeastern University, the probationers present their projects at the ceremony and then receive their commemorative certificates.

Johnston, who had been doing 15 years for arson, was able to come to the graduation ceremony and received a certificate. His project was a newsletter for prisoners about their rights and duties.

"It was a good way to help people grow," says Johnston. "And there was a lot of support for that."
In September, Harley Halvorson of Environmental, Coastal, and Environmental Sciences Department co-presented proposed management practices to the Maine Aquaculture Association and to shell fisherman at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The research was part of a project for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration project conducted by The Policy Center for Marine Bioresources and Technology.

Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, served as a panelist for "Transnational Citizenship: Latino Politics Across Fortified Borders" at the 98th annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

William Holmes, a faculty member in the College of Public and Community Service, presented a workshop on survival analysis at the national meeting of the Justice Research and Statistics Association in October.

Marie Kennedy, associate dean of the College of Public and Community Service, gave a presentation on "Learning from the Community: Service Learning and Service" at the workshop on "Preparing Students for Civic Involvement" at the Faculty Development Day held at Lesley University on September 3.

Marlene Kim, assistant professor of economics, presented two papers, "Exploring the Intersections of Race, Gender, and Class: Patterns from the Lives of Asian Americans," and "Has the Race Penalty for Black Women Disappeared in the United States?" at the Annual Meetings of the International Association for Feminist Economics, held in Los Angeles.

The College of Management's Tammy MacLean co-presented "Teaching Through Traumatic Events: Uncovering the Choices of Management Educators as They Responded to September 11" and "Out of Sight But Not Out of Mind: How People Manage Hidden Stigmatized Identities in the Workplace" at the 2002 conference for the Academy of Management.

An article by Dan Brabander, director of the Undergraduate Environmental Studies Program and assistant professor in the Environment, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences Department, "Use of Physical, Chemical, and Biological Indices to Assess Impacts of Contaminants and Physical Habitat Alteration in Urban Streams," appears in the journal Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

Susan Opotow, associate professor in the Graduate Program in Dispute Resolution, attended the "Nurturing Morality" National Invitational Conferences, held in Wisconsin in September, where her chapter "Conflict and Morals" was discussed.

Jean Rhodes, assistant professor of psychology, has coauthored "Handbook of Qualitative Research in Psychology: Expanding Perspectives in Methodology and Design," which is published by the American Psychological Association.

In September, Professor Mary Huff Stevenson of the Economics Department and the McCormack Department chaired a panel on "From the Outside In: Immigrant Communities' Politics and Power."

Robert Weiner of the Political Science Department presented the paper "Postcommunism Moldovan and Romanian Foreign Policy at the United Nations: Realignment and Realignment - A Neorealist Perspective" at the 98th annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

Barnadette Leavesser, supervisor of the Wheatley Hall Copy Center, displayed her paintings and prints in a one-woman show held at the Mansfield Music and Arts Society's Corner Gallery in Mansfield, MA, in August.

"Saving Daylight Time," a piece by TenBroek Davison '82 and Professor David Patterson of the Music Department, was performed by tenor Brendan O'Brien in a recital held at the Park Presidio United Methodist Church in San Francisco on September 29.

Jon Mitchell, professor of music, guest conducted the Longy Summer Orchestra in a concert of works by Schumann and Mendelssohn held in Cambridge on August 9.

Lloyd Schwartz, Troy Professor of English and Creative Writing, read his poems at WordsWorth Books in Harvard Square on October 1 and read poetry in the musical program "The Song That Is Irresistible," which was held at Skidmore College on October 31.
PeopleSoft Financial System Goes Live

By Leanne Marden

After two years of intensive design, development, and test-
ing, a new financial system was officially deployed at each of the University of Massachusetts' five campuses and the president's of-fice in July. The new system re-placed the Financial Records System (FRS) that supported financial operations for many years and dated back to the late 1970's. 

To reach this mile-stone, central finance staff from across the university worked through the first week of July to ensure that the financial records for fiscal year 2002 could be closed by the week's end. In the days follow-ing, data was converted and then reconciled from the old sys-tems—four separate finance sys-tems across the university—into a single, university-wide finan-cial system.

By mid-July, business was un-derway within the new finance sys-tem. Central finance and depart-mental staff began entering pur-chase orders "on-line"; accounts payable staff processed payments; payroll and other interfaces were success-fully transmitted. Soon af-ter, other financial business was pro-cessed, including the recording of budgets and the calculation of overhead charges, to name but a few.

Getting the campus ready for this major change was no small task. In the weeks and months leading up to the finance "go-live" date, much effort was fo-cused on preparing over 180 in-dividuals to use the new system. This effort involved ensuring technical connectivity from each user's local workstation, estab-

lishing user i.d.'s and passwords with the ap-pro priate access, and then training, training, and more training.

The official transi-tion from the old, fa-miliar accounting sys-tem to a new system is now behind us. Yet much work lies ahead. With the continued development and work of all campus members of the PeopleSoft finance team and fi-nance departments, and the good humor and patience of all system users, the campus will surely reap the benefits of a new technology.

Lin Zhan, professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was recently honored as a guest and honorary professor by Sichuan University and Macau Kiang Wu College of Nursing.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH

Lisa M. Abdallah, coordinator of the Nursing Research Center and doctoral candidate in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Doctoral Program in Nursing, was awarded a dissertation support grant from Graduate Studies and Research for her project "EverCare Nurse Practitioner Practice Activities Similarieties and Differences Across Five States."

Dan Brabander, director of the undergraduate Environmental Studies Program and assistant professor in the Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences Department received a $28,200 grant for his project "Environmental Biomonitoring of Cr and As in Shallow Groundwater: Do they sedate?" conducted with the president of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, as well as a professor and graduate students.

Jamie McCarty, master's student in the Environmental Sciences program, received a NASA graduate student fellowship award for $34,200. He is working with Professor Juanita Urban-Rich on these projects.

The University Reporter
TUESDAY 8

ITC Professional Development Course: Managing your Outlook Mailbox 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Healey Li- brary, Instructional Technology Center, Lower Level. To register, contact: 7-3990 or itc@umb.edu.

Mondafy 14

Columbus Day University closed. Healey Library open 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 9

ITC Professional Development Course: No Static: Creating a Dynamic E-Learning Space in Prometheus Part I (ICW-05A) 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Healey Li- brary, Instructional Technology Center, Lower Level. To register, contact: 7-3990 or itc@umb.edu.

University Health Services Open House and Health Fair 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, 1st floor. Learn more about programs and services. Infor- mation, refreshments, health screen- ings, and demonstrations. Contact: 7-5640.

University Health Services Health and Wellness Center Grand Opening 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, 1st floor. Refreshments and tours will be available. Contact: 7-3080 or www.UMBwellness.org.

Public Policy Brown Bag Seminar: Working with Community-Based Organics to Investigate the Socioeconomic Effects of Undocu- mented Latino Migration in the United States 12:00 p.m., Healey Library, 10-25. Featuring Manuel Enrico Marcelli. Bring your own lunch - beverages and dessert will be provided. Con- tact: 7-6937.

TUESDAY 10

ITC Professional Development Course: Advanced Document Formatting in Word (MSW-03) 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Healey Li- brary, Instructional Technology Cen- ter, Lower Level. To register, contact: 7-3990 or itc@umb.edu.

MONDAY 14

Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences Dissertation Defense 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Healey Library, Provost’s Conference Room, 8th fl. Rusey-Jing T. Tung will defend “Ef- fects of Antifouling Paints on Bacte- rial Biofilm Development.” Contact: 7-4740.

TUESDAY 15

Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences Seminar: Environmental Studies Using North Carolina Coral Reefs 1:30 - 4:30 p.m., Science Center, Small Science Auditorium, 1:06. Featuring Setha Ramun of the State Climate Office of North Carolina. Contact: 7-7440.

THURSDAY 24

ITC Professional Development Course: Universal Design Concepts (FS-12) 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Healey Library, Instructional Technology Center, Lower Level. To register, contact: 7-3990 or itc@umb.edu.

Speak A Word or Sing a Word, or Dance a Way of Feeling Harmony: A 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, Interfaith Chapel, 2nd fl. Coffee house forTammany Hall families to experience poetry and music from the broad canvas of poetic and artistic expression. Features presentations by students, faculty, and community members.

College of Management Senior Honors Forum: Entrepreneurship 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Quincy Administration Building, Chancellor’s Confer- ence Room, 3rd fl. Featuring John Hamill, Chairman & CEO, Sover- eign Risk, Royal New England Division. Contact: 7-7374.


SATURDAY 26

University Open House 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Science Cen- ter, Lizkhe Auditorium. Learn about UMass Boston’s undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs. Exhibit information, tours, and opportunities to ask ques- tions. Contact: 7-6000.

MONDAY 28

ITC Professional Development Course: Universal Design Concepts (FS-12) 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., Healey Library, Instructional Technology Center, Lower Level. To register, contact: 7-3990 or itc@umb.edu.

WEDNESDAY 30


THURSDAY 29

ITC Professional Development Course: No Static: Creating a Dynamic E-Learning Space in Prometheus Part II (ICW-06C) 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Healey Li- brary, Instructional Technology Cen- ter, Lower Level. To register, contact: 7-3990 or itc@umb.edu.

Human Services Career Fair 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., location TBA. Featuring top organizations in hu- man services and the future leaders in the industry in UMass Boston. Sponsored by Career Services. Contact: 7-5319 or careers@umb.edu.


WednesdaY 30

Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences Seminar: Multicellular Aromatic Hydrocarbon Stress Response in Arabidopsis thaliana, a Model Organism 2:30 - 4:35 p.m., Science Center, Small Science Auditorium, 1:06. Featuring keynote address by Robert Mnookin of Harvard Law School, career expo, skill-building work- shops, and sessions chaired by prominent scholars in the field. Sponsored by University Career Services. Contact: 7-4740 or itc@umb.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

Beacon Fitness Center Open to students, faculty, staff, and UMass Boston alumni. Fitness pro- fessionals, strength equipment, rac­quetball and squash courts available. Contact: 7-6786.

Catholic Campus Ministry Mass 12:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. McCormack Hall, Chapel, 3rd fl. Other Campus Ministry programs include “Inquiry for Adult Baptism and Confirmation” on Tuesdays, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m., and “A Time to Pray” on Thursdays, 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. Contact: 7-5839 or maggie.calabria@umb.edu.

College of Career Networking Program Promotes the career development of women college students with disabili- ties and their successful transition to careers upon graduation. Based at the Institute for Community Indu- stry, Demonstration site at UMass Boston. Contact: Melanie Jordan: 7-4327, (TTY): 617-287-4350, or melanie.jordan@umb.edu.

Intramural/athletics Activities 3:30 - 6:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, Clark Court Pool. Bring your co-workers. Open time also for table tennis, racquetball, and bad- minton. Contact: Rick, Intramural/ Recreational Office, 7-7830.

New Beginnings: Interfaith Bible Study of Genesis 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, McCormack Hall, Chapel, 3rd fl. Bible study reads throughout the book of Genesis. Contact: 7-6786. Contact: 7-6786.

UMass Boston Athletics: Beacon Home Games 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., UMass Boston Beacons compete in tennis, soccer, volleyball, and ice hockey. See www.umbbears.com/athletes/events for full sched- ule or contact: 7-7801.

UMass Boston Chamber Orchestra 6:00-4:00 p.m., Wednesdays, Wheatley Hall, Snowdon Auditorium. Open to the public and the UMass Boston community. Contact: Jon C. Mitchell, conductor, 7-6981.

WUMB 91.9 Commonwealth Journal Sundays, 7:00 p.m. Interviews with scholars, writers, artists, and public officials examining current issues of interest to the people of Massachusetts. Contact: 7-6900.