By Leigh DuPuy

Current statistics reveal a grim reality about our ability to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight. About 63 percent of Americans are currently overweight or obese, and Massachusetts' residents are following the latest trend. Nearly six out of ten adults in the Commonwealth are above a healthy body weight. Nearly one in four Massachusetts' residents are following the latest trend. Nearly six out of ten adults in the Commonwealth are above a healthy body weight.

Of particular concern is the growing number of overweight children and adolescents, which has more than doubled in the past 30 years alone. A growing number of overweight children and adolescents, which has more than doubled in the past 30 years alone.

Studying the relationship between physical fitness and one's health, weight, and disease control is the crux of Kyle McInnis's groundbreaking work in exercise physiology. "In the United States alone, approximately 300,000 deaths each year are attributed to a combination of dietary factors and physical inactivity—two primary culprits of obesity—making these lifestyle habits second only to cigarette smoking as the leading cause of death," says McInnis, professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. In one of his latest projects, McInnis is researching how physical fitness and a healthy diet can impact cancer prevention. "While overweight and insufficient physical activity are clearly associated with cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and a host of other conditions, conclusive scientific evidence is also accumulating that these lifestyle factors greatly increase cancer risk, particularly in the colon, breast and endometrium," he says.

McInnis has received $150,000 from the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center for a two-year research study to investigate weight control, physical activity, and cancer-risk reduction among women living in urban areas. Professor Kyle McInnis, professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Physical Activity in Cancer—Risk Reduction.

By Thijs Messelaar

Minorities have become the majority in Massachusetts. According to the Census 2000, Boston's constituents are mainly people of color. This vast "minority" population, however, remains relegated to the margins of the city's political, economic, and social structures.

But three UMass Boston leaders have accepted the call to help consolidate Boston's minority leaders against this glaring disparity.

At the request of city councilors Chuck Turner, Felix Arroyo, Charles Yancey, and others, Andrés Torres of the Gaston Institute, Paul Watanabe of the Institute for Asian American Studies, and Castellano Turner, interim director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture, spearheaded October 15's New Majority Conference. (Photo by Harry Brett)

By Leigh DuPuy

UMass Boston received kudos from Massachusetts business leaders in a new survey ranking the reputations of the Commonwealth's leading private and public organizations. The Massachusetts Corporate Reputation Survey (MCRS) ranked UMass Boston 18th out of 144 companies, with a score indicating the university had a very good reputation in Massachusetts. UMass Boston earned its place in the top 20 with organizations such as Harvard University, Tufts Health Plan, Reebok International Ltd., and Children's Hospital.

"We know the many reasons why UMass Boston is top-notch," said UMass Boston Chancellor Jo Ann Gora, "but it is enormously gratifying to see the business world recognizing the quality of education we provide, our dedication to community service, and the contributions of our gifted graduates who go on to work in all sectors of Massachusetts organizations."

The MCRS was conducted by asking Boston-area business leaders to rate Massachusetts businesses, universities, and hospitals on a variety of criteria. Conducted in September, the survey asked 201 Massachusetts executives to rate a select list of 144 Massachusetts companies and organizations.

Gaston, Trotter, and Asian American Institutes Mobilize New Majority Conference

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Page 3 The university welcomes a new dean for the College of Science and Mathematics.

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Senator Kennedy in Talks with UMass Boston to Establish New Center for Study of the Senate

By Joe Peters

UMass Boston's role as a major policy shaper in the region and country will be getting another boost in the near future if an agreement is reached on a center and program named in honor of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

The three-party proposal involving the JFK Library and Museum, UMass Boston, and Senator Kennedy's office is still being negotiated, but it likely will involve Kennedy's papers residing at the JFK Library and an academic center, possibly named the "Center for Study of the Senate," housed at UMass Boston.

A formal agreement may be presented to the UMass Board of Trustees as early as its November 5 meeting. While the JFK Library is a federal operation, it resides on UMass Boston property. Any ex- tractions, such as that for the papers covering Senator Kennedy's four decades in Congress, would require UMass approval.

Many other institutions were rumored to be interested in Kennedy's papers. UMass Boston emerging as the prime candidate signals the campus's rise as a major policy institution.

"We think of this as a major coup," UMass Boston chancellor Jo Ann Gora recently told the Associated Press. "Kennedy's papers have had the most significant impact on the development of major policy issues of any senator in the twentieth century."

"There would be no American democracy without the United States Senate, and it is difficult to imagine the Senate without the powerful voice of Edward M. Kennedy," UMass interim president Jack Wilson added in an interview with The Boston Globe. "The University of Massachusetts is pleased to forge this exciting new relationship with the senator and the Senate."

Negotiations between Kennedy and UMass reportedly began about a year ago when the senator met with former UMass president William Bulger. Kennedy's mantra of serving the working class apparently made for a natural fit with urban-mission UMass Boston, where many students work full-time while attending school.

If the proposal goes forward, it will be the latest in a series of achievements connecting the campus with major political figures and events. In December 1998, Healey Library became the repository for Judge Arthur Garrity's papers in the landmark case that resulted in a new busing plan for Boston students. In October 2000, the campus hosted the first presidential debate of the election season. In August of this year, the university formally constituted the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, uniting the McCormack Institute with the gerontology, public policy, and public affairs graduate programs. October saw the center for Women in Politics and Public Policy host the New England Women's Political Summit.

The three-party proposal in- volving the JFK Library and Museum, the University of Massachusetts, and UMass reportedly forged this exciting new relationship with the senator and the Senate.

The full text of Ferguson's keynote address and the report "Down But Not Out: The Future of the Financial Services Industry" are available at www.cmgt.umb.edu/
Special Olympics Inc. Designates the Center for Social Development as Regional Collaboration Center

By Leigh DuPay

On September 26, Timothy P. Shriver, chairman and CEO of Special Olympics Incorporated, and Chancellor Jo Ann Gora signed an agreement designating the university's Center for Social Development and Education (CSDE) as a Regional Collaborating Center (RCC) for research and education to enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. This is the second such center, the first being Wenzhou Medical College in Shanghai, China.

Over the past several years, Special Olympics Inc. has turned to the University of Massachusetts Boston and the Center for Social Development and Education to lead its effort in research-based initiatives and to drive its worldwide call to action. This relationship began with the evaluation of the United Sports program within the United States.

The establishment of the Regional Collaborating Center (RCC) follows on the heels of the completion of a landmark study evaluating worldwide attitudes toward individuals with intellectual disabilities. This nine-country study shows that the general population lacks an appreciation of the range of capabilities of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and therefore has low expectations of how much they can achieve. The study also reveals that the world still believes individuals with intellectual disabilities should work and learn in segregated settings, apart from people without disabilities.

This exciting and groundbreaking research reveals that the center has carried out has broadened our understanding of the many barriers that people with intellectual disabilities face as citizens of the world, said Chancellor Gora. Over the coming years, I envision the Regional Collaborating Center will embark on critical endeavors that will brighten the horizon for people worldwide.

I think the work of Gary Siperstein and the Center for Social Development and Education is unique, said Shriver. The center is a force for the global reshaping of how people perceive those with intellectual disabilities by promoting acceptance, tolerance, and change. It is incredible to have this kind of academic muscle behind this scientific and social change force—we're very excited.

CSDE will take on the RCC's mission to provide assistance and consultation to researchers and program providers.

"The research opportunities and policy changes are unlimited with the creation of this Regional Collaborating Center," said Siperstein. Also, notes Siperstein, the work that Sebens, and others will further expand an international recognition of UMass Boston.

In the last month, the RCC has received requests to expand the multinational survey in South Africa and India to provide technical assistance to coaching programs within the US, and to begin planning for a survey of youth around the world, beginning with Japan this coming winter.

In addition, the RCC is working with the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities to design and implement a major national awareness campaign to improve the social acceptance of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

University Welcomes New Dean for College of Science and Mathematics

By Jim Mortensen

Kenneth P. Sebens has finally come home. With considerable experience at local universities Harvard and Northeastern, Sebens will move here from the University of Maryland (UM) in December to begin his appointment as the first dean of UMass Boston's new College of Science and Mathematics.

"I can't express how much I am looking forward to returning to New England, especially Boston, and helping lead the faculty, students, and staff of the new college to national prominence as a center of research and teaching excellence," Sebens said. Sebens' research and administrative experience, particularly in the marine environmental sciences, is consonant with UMass Boston's current and future interdisciplin ary research and teaching goals.

From 1991 to 1997, Sebens was director of UM's system-wide Marine Ecosystem Environmental Sciences Graduate Program, one of the largest such programs in the country. He also served as director of Northeastern's Marine Science Center as well as its East-West Marine Biology Program from 1985 to 1991.

"I have a great deal of experience in developing and assessing science curricula and programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels," Sebens said. "I'm looking forward to working with the college's faculty and staff to provide our students with better and more useful programs of study and research." Sebens brings an outstanding record of achievement in both research and scholarship.

Sebens begins his tenure at UMass Boston in December. (Photo by Kingstown Studio)
Inaugural Hall of Fame Banquet Inducts Five

By Thib Messelay

After championship victories slip into memory, the crowning achievement for any athlete is the day he or she is awarded one of the few spots in the Hall of Fame.

And now UMass Boston student-athletes can dream of this honor too, as the Department of Athletics officially hung its first plaques last month.

On the evening of October 8, the UMass Boston Athletic Department held its inaugural Hall of Fame banquet. Four individuals and one team were inducted.

"While we're still a young program," says Charlie Titus, athletic director, "after 23 years as an NCAA member, it was clearly time to enhance a growing athletic tradition here."

"It's been on our radar," echoed Luke Griffin, special assistant for development. "We've been in the talking stages of this for a long time. It's great to see it come together finally."

UMass Boston — as well as the former Boston State — athlets, coaches, administrators, and friends of the athletic program were all treated to a festive evening. WBZ-TV reporter and UMass Boston Men's Basketball, 1979-1982, played the first three years of his career with Boston State (1979-82) and in his senior year (1982-83) led the UMass Boston Beacons to their first NCAA basketball tournament appearance. He is the only men's player to have his jersey retired.

The 1985-86 Women's Indoor/Outdoor Track and Field teams both rolled to NCAA Division III titles, making UMass Boston the first school to win both championships in the same school year.

For more information about the Hall of Fame and nominations, visit www.athletics.umb.edu/

Institutes Drive the New Majority Conference

Participants crowded the room for the October 15 New Majority Conference. (Photo by Harry Brett)

(Cont. from page 1)

and Castellano Turner of the Trotter Institute hosted a daylong initiative, The New Majority Conference, October 18.

The conference represents a launching pad for a movement against the under representation of Boston's communities of color, as well as a way to begin uniting these communities.

"We accepted this role as the facilitators of this initiative, as it's consistent with our mission — the inclusion of all communities," Watanabe said. "We have been perceived within the city as the first place to go for this sort of thing."

According to Watanabe, UMass Boston is the only campus in the city that has ethnic research institutes specifically interested in Boston.

"The three of us were approached by community politicians to establish a forum where different constituencies could come together regarding Boston's changing demographics," said Torres.

"People sent us notes along with their conference registration money saying they've been waiting years for this," Watanabe added.

While the upcoming Democratic convention next summer was not the sole impetus for increased organization among Boston's communities of color, it has been a catalyst. The Boston officials' claim of the city's racial diversity was used as a major selling point to the Democratic Party when it came time to secure a convention site.

The three expressed disgust for what they see as the "same old" political pandering tactics.

"All the (racial diversity) hubbub surrounding the convention is so ironic, because for a major U.S. city we are still so incredibly segregated," said Titus.

So how will the New Majority Conference work to breakdown the so-called color wall?

Morning discussion groups covered issues from civil rights to community development and after lunch attendees broke into strategy sessions to consider their steps to action.

This conference serves as an attempt to stop the usual fractured relations between various ethnic groups, Turner said. In the year leading up to the conference, separately each community group spent months refining their priorities.

"It was gratifying — and hopeful — that when the lists were put down, they had articulated very similar ideas," said Turner. "All we are helping to do now is provide the context for them to come together."

"It respects them to bring them all together," said Watanabe. "What a resource they all can be, so I hope that we all listen to them, that they will listen to each other. This has the potential to be very powerful."

Torres, Watanabe, and Turner all admit to being uncertain about exactly how the work done at the conference will translate in the long term. But they know what it could mean for the near future.

"Some possible outcomes that people want to see include the recognition of city councils, redistricting, and some kind of change in the accepted democratic institutions," said Turner.

"The institutes will document this initiative, analyze, and interpret the work that comes out of the conference," said Torres. "This could trigger some process towards a transformation."

Support for this initiative has been provided in part by grants from United Way of Massachusetts Bay and the Foley Hoag Foundation.

Weight, Diet, and Cancer (cont.)

Mcmillan has teamed up with researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard School of Public Health to focus on how lifestyle changes can promote increased exercise participation, improved eating habits, and weight loss in overweight women in urban communities.

"Why this segment of the population? 'Unhealthy weight and sedentary lifestyle, and the chronic diseases associated with these habits, are particularly prevalent in those with low socioeconomic levels and in some racial ethnic minorities,' says McMllan. Like cardiovascular disease, such disparities in cancer risk are highly related to lifestyle, social, or cultural factors, making this disease highly preventable.

The study that is now under way is part of a growing collaboration between the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and UMass Boston.

McMillan is also unveiling a landmark study on the benefits of walking for weight control at the prestigious American Heart Association (AHA) Scientific Sessions in November.

Embargo until the meeting date, the study was one of two chosen from over 4,000 research presentations to be featured for a major national and international news release at the AHA meeting, which is attended by more than 30,000 cardiologists and cardiovascular specialists. It is expected that the video news release, which was taped on the UMass Boston campus in early October, will be aired on a large number of TV news programs across the United States and will be seen by an estimated 25 million people.

"Professor McMillan has hit a grand slam for UMass Boston," praised Chancellor Jo Ann Gora. "His work promotes all three of the university — research, recognition, and reputation."

His latest study examines the impact of self-paced walking on the health of people who are overweight. "Only about 15 percent of adults in the United States regularly engage in the modest amount of activity that can obtain health benefits," says McMillan.

More information on this study and clips of the national video news release will be available on the UMass Boston home page after November 8.
Historian’s New Book Examines Politics, Society, and Culture in 20th-Century Europe

By Peter Grennen

If you’ve visited history professor Spencer Di Scala’s office recently, chances are you’ve been honored for your inspection his copy of the Massachusetts Bay Colony charter. Think of that document, which was used for the better part of a century before being adapted for the U.S. Constitution, as an emblem of the historiographical methods Di Scala has favored in more than three decades as a scholar and teacher.

It’s not enough, Di Scala believes, to simply dismiss a view of history as erroneous; instead, the thesis in question must be reenvisioned and restated. In his recently published textbook Twentieth-Century Europe: Politics, Society, Culture (New York: McGraw-Hill, 816 pp.), Di Scala—director of the graduate program in history and a noted expert on modern Italy—does that and more.

The book, Di Scala’s sixth, is a comprehensive analysis of twentieth-century Europe that takes a novel approach to both its subject and to pedagogy in general. Di Scala faults some observers for giving too much attention to the century’s most conspicuous events, like world war and the ideological struggle between East and West. “Many historians are carried away by generalizations, trying to make everything fit into a scheme,” he says. “I view the period from a post-Cold War perspective—one that focuses on long-term trends that revolve around cultural developments.”

Early-century advances in science have a special prominence in Di Scala’s reassessment. “Revolutionary ideas in the world of physics—like quantum mechanics and relativity theory—brought a breakdown in the ‘certain view of the world’ offered by Newton,” says Di Scala. This fundamentally changed many thinkers’ worldview, presenting for the first time a seemingly irrational natural order.

It makes sense, therefore, to explore unconventional sources when writing twentieth-century history—what Di Scala calls the “hidden, unseen, and mystical aspects of life.” To be sure, Di Scala has his own strategies: “I attempt to bring the real lives of people into the picture—the life of the person as a whole—and I look at the contributions of small countries.”

Di Scala takes a keen interest in the European Union’s recent efforts to draft a constitution. In October, he organized and moderated a conference called “Constitution-Making in the Eighteenth and the Twenty-first Centuries,” which explored parallels between the concerns of the European Union and those of the American founding fathers. Held at the Massachusetts Archives/Commonwealth Museum, the event featured an address by Giuliano Amato, vice president of the EU’s constitutional convention.

The EU and its constitution— both of which Di Scala has favored in the European community their proper historical emphasis. “Smaller states like Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg provided a model for the European economic cooperation that knit the continent together,” he explains.

Of course, that cooperation has been a long time coming, hampered by the spread of communism and attempts to achieve European unification through force. But as long as Europe’s people and leaders felt it was worth seeking, says Di Scala, it was bound to come about as soon as circumstances permitted. “Tend-encies that seem minor and that are overwhelmed by more spectacular events can later come to the fore,” he points out.

Perhaps that’s the most important lesson Di Scala’s approach to history teaches: As with the principles of governance set down in the colony charter he displays in his office, sometimes it takes a long while before world affairs allow a concept to find its full expression.

Professor Is Honored for Contributions to Multicultural Education

By Melissa Fassell

Beloved UMass Boston professor Vivian Zamel was recognized for her career-long contributions to multicultural education at the Freedom to Learn Dinner, held at the International Institute in Boston on October 30. Presented by MATSOL (the Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages), the award was given to just four recipients.

Not surprisingly, Zamel was thrilled to receive the award: “It is always a delight to be recognized by fellow teachers and students, especially in a local context—and to feel that the graduate students that I’ve taught are sharing in that honor,” said Zamel.

A self-described “teacher as researcher,” Zamel began her work in the late 70s when she started to explore what happened to the ESL students she taught—focusing on the question “Why do they write the way they do?” This became the basis for her work in other ESL contexts, and graduate students who would eventually become ESL teachers, allowing Zamel’s literacy research to come full circle. Zamel then expanded her focus to include teachers across the curriculum whose linguistically diverse student populations required them to modify their teaching methods. “If you imagine your work as a teacher as a process of learning itself,” says Zamel, “it shifts your role completely.”

One of the four other award recipients was Professor Zamel’s cohort, Bentley College professor Ruth Spack. A result of their mutual affinity for investigating writing, composing processes, and acquisition of literacy, professors Zamel and Spack have been working together since the early 80s. They’ve coauthored three books, including Negotiating Academic Literacies: Teaching and Learning Across Languages and Cultures, Envisioning ESL Pedagogies, and one to be released this coming spring, Crossing the Curriculum. This latest book examines the experiences of both ESL students and the faculty that teach them, most of whom are from UMass Boston. The research focuses on what happens to linguistically diverse students in non-ESOL courses.

Got News?
Submit Campus News to news@umb.edu and calendar listings online at www.umb.edu/news/calendar/. Editorial materials for the December University Reporter and web, student, and TV monitor calendars are due November 14.

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Lives "1935"

Historians of Mexico, held in
President Pray At the Fourth International
research director of the Center for
Social Policy,
Servants,
featuring workforce de
development and information systems at the
College of Management, presented
the plenary session at the XI Meeting of Mexican,
Public Welfare and Domestic
the Revolutionary Household:

Chen delivered the speech
at the XIII International
Internacional de Literatura
Femenina Hispanica.

Friedman, director of the Center for
Socia l Policy,
Ramon Borges Mendez of the
Institute presented
"A Symposium for Community
Change" in the Department of Nursing,

Professor Jennifer Radden of the Philosophy Department presented
"Treatment Refusals" at the McKearn Library Department of Postgraduate and Continuing Education Grand Rounds on September 25.

Marc Pro, assistant professor of African Studies, organized and presided over the 15th Annual Conference of the Haitian Studies Association, held in October at Florida International University. Over 150 scholars and practitioners attended the three-day conference, and Pro also presented the paper "The Bernard Reform: Repairing the Tapestry of Haitian Education."

Professor Eben Weitzman of Graduate Program in Disease Resolution and the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy presented the paper "Advancing the Scientific Basis of Qualitative Research" at the Workshop on the Scientific Foundations of Qualitative Research at the National Science Foundation, held in Arlington, VA.

In November, Professor Garrison Wilkes of the Biology Department was an invited speaker for the Conference on Biotechnology Crops in Centres of Origin, which was held in Mexico City.

Theatre and Dance Department presented the musical "Las Paradojas del Cuerpo y la Maquina en la 9.0," as keynote speaker for the Theatre's 11th Annual Celebration.

Lives "1935"

On September 24, Mitchell Silver of the Department of Philosophy gave the lecture "The Uses of Ethical Theory in the Context of Dental Practice" to first-year students at Tufts School of Dentistry.

Nina Silverstein, professor of gerontology, presented "Improving Hospital Care for Patients with Dementia" at Boston Alzheimer's Symposium, held at Babson College on October 24.

In September, Professor Esther Torrego of the Hispanic Studies Department gave the keynote address "Terese, Gerunds, and the Noose, Verb, Adjective Distinction" at the Western Conference on Linguistics, held at the University of Arizona.


Professor Janet Kenney of the Theatre and Dance Department presented "Tales and Pipe and Provo also introduced her study of alternative job brokering at a panel session featuring workforce development experts, held at the UMass President's office on October 28.

At the Fourth International Symposium on Chinese Elderly, held in Beijing, Professor Yung-Ping Chen delivered the speech "Retirement Security: The Current Situation of the Chinese Elderly". Chen also was one of the keynote speakers at the plenary session "Different Approaches to Reforming Social Security."

In October, Professor Reyes Coll-Tellechea of the Hispanic Studies Department presented the paper "Todas Las Mujeres de Lázaro de Torres" at the XIII International Conference of the Asociación Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana.

On October 7, Donna Haig Friedman, director of the Center for Social Policy, presented on the prevention of family homelessness at "A Symposium for Community Change" organized by the United Way of Mass Bay.

Ramos Borges Mendez of the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy and Miren Uriarte of the Gaston Institute presented "Tales of Latinos in Three Small Cities: Latino Settlement and Incorporation in Lawrence and Holyoke, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island" at the Color Lines Conference: Segregation and Inclusion in a National Present, and Future", held at Harvard University.

Kathleen Golden McAndrew, executive director of University Health Services and associate adjunct professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, served as faculty during the Massachusetts State Police's Two Week Drug Evaluation Classification Program Training.

As told by Professor Seth Mintoff of the Hispanic Studies Department, "Women's Literacy Power and Women-Centered Materials" at the 2003 Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Basic Education conference, held on October 22.

Marta Sierra, assistant professor of Hispanic Studies, delivered the paper "De Canchales, Piratas y Poliografías: Escritura, Obscenidad y Matización en Alejandra Pizarnik" at the XIII Conference of the International Association of Female Hispanic Literature. She also read the paper "Mundo Paradojas: Las Paradojas del Cuerpo y la Maquina en la 9.0," as keynote speaker for the Theatre's 11th Annual Celebration.

An article by Professor Alexander DeForges of the Modern Languages Department, "Building Shanghai, One Page at a Time: The Aesthetics of Installation Fictitious at the Turn of the Century," was published in the Journal of Asian Studies.

Presidential Neil Casey of the Theatre and Dance Department is now appearing in "When Pigs Fly at the Lyric Stage."

On October 2, Lloyd Schwartz, Frederick S. Troy Professor of English, gave a reading of his poems as keynote speaker for the 38th annual Conference on English in the Two-Year College. Schwartz also gave a poetry reading for PEN New England at the Hotel Marlowe on October 22.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Connie S. Chan has been appointed interim dean of the College of Public and Community Service. Chan has served as co-director of the UMass Boston Institute for Asian American Studies since 1993.

J. Shoshanna Eichler of the College of Public and Community Service and Carol Hardy-Fanta of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy received the "Best Paper Award" for their paper "Grounded in the Reality of Their Lives" from the Women and Politics Section at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

Professor Phyllis Freeman of the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy was appointed co-editor of the Journal of Public Health Policy.

Professor Anna Madison of the Human Service Department has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boston Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Keith Motley, vice chancellor for student affairs, received the American Red Cross Clara Barton Honor Award for Meritorious Volunteer Service on October 21 for his significant contribution to the American Red Cross.

Professor Diane Paul of the Political Science Department and Ph.D. Program in Public Policy was appointed to serve as a member of the Ethical, Legal, and Scientific Implications of Human Genes 1 Study Section for the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health for a three-year term ending June 2006.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH

Paul Arwood of American Studies and the Joiner Center will lead a program of lectures/discussions in spring 2004 on "America in the 1960s" from a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.
Third Celebration of Collaborative Leadership

By Robert Gaary

This October, the New England Pension Assistance Project (NEPAP) of the Gerontology Institute celebrated its tenth year of providing free pension counseling to seniors in our region.

In 1993, the Administration on Aging (AoA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funded seven demonstration projects around the country to provide assistance to those who have questions or problems with their pensions. The Gerontology Institute received one of the demonstration grants and in January 1994 began providing service to individuals in Massachusetts. Directed by Ellen Bruce and managed by Jack Pizer, with the help of four volunteers, the project quickly proved its usefulness.

"This project has shown two things: how incredibly effective dedicated, intelligent volunteers can be and how much people need assistance in understanding and exercising their pension rights. We should have projects like this throughout the country," explains Bruce.

In 1998, based on the success of the project's work, the AoA awarded the NEPAP additional grant funding to expand its services to the six-state New England region. With the expansion came the need for more legal assistance, and Jeanne Medeiros joined the project as its legal coordinator.

By the end of 2001, NEPAP had served over 2,900 people through individual assistance. Benefits valued at over $13 million have been recovered for clients. Testimonials from clients underscore the difference the project has made in their lives: "It is because of you and your agency that I am able to become more independent, not have to depend on Welfare, or leave the house I have worked so hard to keep," says one.

For many clients, the NEPAP has ended long-standing frustrations: "There is no doubt in my mind that for all my trying to collect a small pension from a multi-billion dollar-corporation, I would never have realized results... But the New England Pension Assistance Project interceded on my behalf, and as a result, I have finally received a check," says one.

The world of pensions and retirement income is a complex maze of government and corporate pension policies, Social Security, federal regulation, and financial investment. Low and middle income elders often do not understand their eligibility for pensions, their benefits, or their rights under state or federal law. It is not uncommon for pensions to be miscalculated, or in some circumstances unfairly reduced or denied completely. Maximizing a senior's pension income can significantly reduce his or her risk of poverty.

NEPAP provides workers, retirees, and their families with personalized pension information and assistance. The project deals with all types of retirement plans, whether sponsored by a private employer, a union, or a governmental entity. The project uses attorneys, law students, professional staff, and trained volunteer counselors to interview and investigate claims of beneficiaries. Staffers help clients obtain documents explaining their pensions, fill out forms to apply for their pensions, locate bankrupt or defunct plans, and find proof of work histories and any other documents needed to claim a pension.

NEPAP also conducts active and continuous outreach to make more people aware of their pension rights and to make them aware of the fact that the project is the only organization in New England offering free pension assistance.

NEPAP has received support from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and grants from the U.S. Administration on Aging, the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, the Boston Bar Foundation, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the American Express Foundation, the Therasa and H. John Heinz III Charitable Fund, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and the Boston Commission on the Affairs of the Elderly.
WEDNESDAY 5

Harbor Art Gallery Exhibit: Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., weekdays, and 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, McCormack Hall, Harbor Art Gallery. 1st Fl. Art project by alumna Kathleen Briden is aimed to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Contact: 7-7988.

Beacon Fitness Center Aerobic Classes
Beacon Fitness Center, McCormack Hall, 1st Fl. Every Wednesday: Muscle Conditioning, 12:30 p.m., Yoga, Step 4:00 p.m., and Step Tone: 6:30 p.m. All members can take part in classes with no extra cost. Contact: 7-6784 or www athletics.umb.edu/beacon/index.htm for schedule.

ECOS Fall 2003 Seminar Series:
2:30 - 3:45 p.m., Science Center, 1-006. Featuring Jeffrey Hughes, Chemistry, Biology Department, Wellesley College. Contact: 7-7440 or timothy.odonnell@umb.edu.

THURSDAY 6

Anthropology Lecture: Hawaii's Russian Adventure: A New Look at Old History
2:30 p.m., location TBA. Featuring Peter Mills of the University of Hawaii at Hilo discussing his ar- chaeological and historical research into 19th-century interactions between Native Hawaiians and Russians in the Pacific. Sponsored by the Anthropology Club and Department. Contact: 7-6854 or stephen.silliman@umb.edu.

Graduate Student Assembly Meeting
4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Wheeley Hall, Student Lounge, 4th Fl. Also on November 5. Visit www.grasa.umb.edu for details. Contact: 7-7977 or gsaassembly@umb.edu.

FRIDAY 7

Beacon Fitness Center Aerobic Class: Power Box
12:30 p.m., Beacon Fitness Center, McCormack Hall, 1st Fl. Every Friday. All members can take part in classes at no extra cost. Contact: 7-6786 or www athletics.umb.edu/beacon/index.htm for schedule.

Biological Seminar: Hightoughness RNAs in Drosophila Cells
2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Science Center, 1-006. Featuring Norbert Perrimon from Harvard Medical School/Howard Medical Institute. Contact: 7-6600 or diana.rudy@umb.edu.

SATURDAY 8

UMass Boston Sailing Program
12:00 - 7:00 p.m. Free to UMass Boston students. Also on November 15, 22, and 29. For more information, contact: 7-7833.