Center for Social Policy Reports Alternative Staffing Services Help Workers Overcome Barriers

By Brian Sokol

Finding a job is difficult for everyone, but millions of job seekers face extra barriers such as physical disabilities, homelessness, or recent incarceration. A national study released by UMass Boston's Center for Social Policy (CSP) sheds new light on alternative staffing services, an innovative model that helps workers overcome barriers and find quality jobs with minimal public support.

A team led by CSP research director Françoise Carre found that alternative staffing services successfully use the temporary staffing business formula to place thousands of job seekers who face barriers and to keep them employed, according to the National Study of Alternative Staffing Services. The report was released October 28 at a forum attended by leading human services and workforce development officials at the downtown offices of the president of the University of Massachusetts system.

Serving dual bottom lines—fulfilling both financial and social responsibilities—can translate into fiscal stability for these non-profit enterprises, which operate in major cities throughout the U.S. The study located and interviewed 27 staffing agencies across the country.

(Cont. on page 3)

University Community Mourns the Passing of A. P. "Rusty" Simonds

The university community was saddened to learn that political science professor A. P. "Rusty" Simonds died suddenly on October 20.

"The incredible richness and complex diversity of students in the classroom is fabulous," said Simonds of his teaching experiences at UMass Boston during a May 2002 interview for UMass Boston, the university's alumni magazine.

Simonds's infectious enthusiasm for his teaching earned him the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award twice in his 34-year career at the university. He was the only faculty member to be honored with the award more than once.

"He is rigorous, yet caring and respectful of students, to whom he is endlessly generous with his time," one of his peers wrote of Simonds. "His passion for learning and his high standards inspire his students to achieve at levels they once would have thought impossible for themselves.

Simonds was especially passionate about this process: "I like being a spectator in my own classroom and seeing my students discover astounding things"—not the least of which is their own potential. "Students here are much better than they know they are," he explained. "They have a maturity, complexity, and interest unparalleled."

Simonds had taught political science at UMass Boston since 1969. Throughout his tenure, his classes, which focused on the sociology of knowledge and the production of culture, had always generated fresh and inventive thinking. Not only did he find this invigorating, but he noted that he had seen new levels of intellectual engagement and seriousness in each new freshman class, and in the same students as juniors or seniors. "I see them two years later and I am amazed at how intellectually adept they've become," he said proudly.

He was a generous and inspiring presence—"the best of the best," a colleague called him, and his students agreed. "I cannot think of another class I took as

(Cont. on page 5)
New Training Grant Partners UMass Boston with Dancing Deer Baking Company

By Thys Messelar

While the cookies are rich and rewarding, the cakes lush and luxurious, the daily operation at Dancing Deer Baking Company intends to be nothing but lean. Though definitely not mean.

In fact, worker satisfaction is built right into their mission statement: “We believe that if [employees] love what they’re doing, it shows in the food. We developed this philosophy from the earliest days when we observed that baking ‘angry’ would ruin a cake.”

“We would like to be more efficient as we grow,” said Lisa McBurney, Dancing Deer Baking Company production manager, “but we also realize that we are a first job experience [in the U.S.] for immigrants and we want it to be a good one for them.”

Nowadays, attaining those goals has become much more realistic thanks to a recent $50K Work Force Training Grant awarded to the Division of Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE) and Greater Boston Manufacturing Partnership (GBMP) in order to partner with Dancing Deer. The training will combine ESL classes for nearly all production staff along with a series of on-site classes focused on lean manufacturing.

“Dancing Deer is a well-run, successful company, and this manufacturing training and English-language proficiency building will only strengthen them,” said Chris Cassidy, director of corporate outreach in CCDE.

According to Chris Martin, associate director of GBMP, the concept of lean manufacturing—or simply, continuous improvement—was developed by Toyota in the 1950s, yet U.S. companies have just begun to latch on to the concept in the past two years.

“A ‘lean’ shop avoids wasteful, non-value-adding practices such as overproduction, redundancy, and prolonged lead times. Martin and his colleagues trained over 7,000 individuals this year, and through partnerships have helped secure $6 million in work-training grants from the state.

“When the sessions with Dancing Deer begin next year, we’ll train from top to bottom—from the president to the bakers,” said Martin.

With their value doubling to $5 million this year, Dancing Deer has been growing at a breakneck speed in the last two years. Considering the organizational and space issues associated with this quick expansion—coupled with a commitment to stay in Boston—they turned to GBMP and CCDE for help.

“Chris Cassidy was able to understand exactly what we needed, and he came up with a very good program for us,” said McBurney.

“Chris Martin and GBMP have done this sort of work before, so we’re confident they can provide us with the formal training we need in order to successfully graduate to the next level of business.”

“This partnership is such a perfect example of UMass Boston responding to the needs of a neighborhood company,” said Cassidy.

“Whenever possible, we partner with CCDE because they have good resources, and with the College of Management for their great staff,” said Martin.

“While we’re improving local businesses, we try to involve the university as much as possible—we get faculty and staff out there working with real companies.”

University Celebrates Dedicated Faculty and Staff Years of Service

By Anne-Marie Kent

There were: hundreds of university faculty and staff, all gathered under subdued lighting, against a backdrop of mod light fixtures and hip wall colors, lingering at the generous hot and cold buffet spreads or enjoying the cosmopolitan new seating, the buzz of lively conversation in the air.

As university employees crowded the newly refurbished lounge, the buzz of lively conversation in the air. According to Chris Martin, associate director of GBMP, the concept of lean manufacturing—or simply, continuous improvement—was developed by Toyota in the 1950s, yet U.S. companies have just begun to latch on to the concept in the past two years.

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“While we’re improving local businesses, we try to involve the university as much as possible—we get faculty and staff out there working with real companies.”

One of them, oceanography professor Jack Looney, marking 35 years of service to the university, said, “I have a strong commitment to higher public education as well as public education in general. As long as it is still fun and I am making a contribution, I will endeavor to do what I am doing.”

The University Reporter

The University Reporter is published monthly except in July and August by the Office of University Communications. It is free to all UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students.

Send your news items to:
The University Reporter at the mailing or e-mail address to the left.

The University Reporter

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University Appoints Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance

On November 19, UMass Boston announced the appointment of Ellen M. O'Connor as the new vice chancellor of administration and finance. O'Connor will begin her tenure on January 1, succeeding David MacKenzie, who will retire at the end of 2003.

O'Connor has served as vice president of finance for Brown University since 2001. Her responsibilities there included the supervision of the controller's office, purchasing, student financial services and banking, risk management, insurance, and environmental health and safety. During her time at Brown, O'Connor was involved with improving student and faculty customer services. She implemented a comprehensive budget and investment program that increased earnings and established a large-scale internal loan program.

Of special significance to the university, O'Connor served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for more than twenty years as budget director and comptroller in the Executive Office of Administration and Finance and as a budget analyst at Senate Ways and Means.

Division of Student Affairs Kicks Off S.T.A.R.S Mini-Grants Program

By Leigh DePuy

Have a good idea on how to improve services to students? You could be the next S.T.A.R.S., an acronym that stands for Student Affairs Resources for Success, and might be eligible to apply for the Division of Student Affairs’ new mini-grants program. A first of its kind for the division, the program seeks to award up to $2,000 for initiatives that enhance the university’s strategic goals of retention, research, and reputation, and improve student life. The mini-grant program will provide resources for collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and student affairs staff members.

“We’re looking for people who use their talents to help move forward the agenda for students,” says Keith Motley, vice chancellor for student affairs, explaining the new mini-grant program at the kick off event. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Physics Professor Leads Innovations in Laser Technology

By Peter Grennen

These days, a description of the laser technology landscape can sound like something out of a war diary: The more commonplace lasers become, the greater the risk that a stray beam will hit an unintended target—a human eye, for instance. And yet the usefulness of lasers and their reputation for precision have effectively disarmed calls for better safety measures.

Owing to the work of Professor Gopal Rao, all that may soon be a thing of the past. Rao and a team of photonics researchers in the Physics Department’s “laser lab” have unveiled a product that will surely make viewing lasers a much safer proposition.

Today, some forty years after the world’s first laser beam was produced, lasers are found everywhere—from industrial tasks like welding, to medical uses like surgery, to children’s games containing laser pointers. “Whether it’s a research lab or a hospital or an industrial manufacturing facility, lasers are used in a variety of applications,” says Rao.

Unfortunately, enthusiasm over the utility of lasers seems to have eclipsed concerns about their dangers—and those concerns are considerable. According to the American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers, even a small-wattage laser can do significant damage when viewed. “A laser pointer operating in the one-to-five-milliwatt range can cause injury when its beam—either directly or reflected from a bright surface—hits the eye,” Rao explains.

To make matters worse, scenarios like that are becoming all too common as lasers gain wider applicability. “The odds of a laser beam hitting the human eye accidentally are increasing daily,” Rao warns.

Rao and his team—currently composed of seven students ranging from undergraduates to postdoctoral researchers—have made it their business to slash those odds. They have developed a system that contains an thin film of azobenzene—an organic material that transmits ordinary and eye-safe laser light but clamps to preset levels any beam that exceeds a certain intensity. The system, which was described in the August 2003 issue of Applied Optics, has been hailed as a photonics breakthrough.

Rao and UMass Boston foresee a number of uses for the device, and a patent application has already been filed. Rao is developing a portable lab model for the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center, a Massachusetts facility dedicated to improving soldiers’ warfighting capabilities. The university’s office for Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property is discussing with several companies the prospect of developing and marketing goggles equipped with the film. “Current goggles completely block the laser beam,” says Rao. “The new system allows the beam to be safely viewed”—an obvious advantage for users, like surgeons, who must closely track a beam to its target. This work with lasers is only one of several projects that have occupied Rao’s team of late. The lab has also developed an optical holographic storage device, and a system for computing and information processing that uses nanomaterials.

Rao’s group is especially excited about its work using Fourier techniques and thin films of the biomaterial bacteriorhodopsin in medical image processing. This research, which has won financial backing from the National Institutes of Health, has been recognized as a significant contribution to fields like breast cancer diagnostics. Says Dr David D’Orsi, professor of radiology and director of the Breast Imaging Center at Atlanta’s Emory University, “Outside of pathology, I have never seen anything quite like this in imaging.”

That’s been a typical reaction to Rao’s work, but it may soon sound like understatement. If the advances that have come out of the laser lab recently are any indication of what’s in store, the field of photonics hasn’t seen anything yet.

Alternative Job Brokering (cont.)

try in 2002. Seven of them had gross revenues of over $1 million in 2001; two had revenues of over $5 million.

According to one worker Carré and researchers interviewed for the study, “Here you fill out an application, go to the job, then they support you and deal with your issues to keep you on the job.”

Alternative staffing services is still an emerging sector, but there is a significant potential for growth, Carré said. Millions of people face barriers to work and can benefit from alternative staffing services.

The staffing centers fulfill the goals of a number of social service providers, as well as federal officials. The Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) was designed “to consolidate, coordinate, and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States, and for other purposes.”

WIA puts great emphasis on job placement and on developing inter­mediary organizations to help workers enter or reenter the job market and also to retain jobs.

“So far, alternative staffing services are among the very few organizations that have met the challenge,” said Carré. “They have developed a track record of finding job assignments, pre­paring and monitoring workers, and regularly satisfying employers with their service.”
English Professor's Scholarship Unveils the Surprises of Shakespeare

By Leigh DuPuy

Students of Shakespeare can often be seen lugging The Riverside Shakespeare, a comprehensive volume containing the full canon of plays and poetry that is a requisite in any classroom studying the great Bard. However, the familiar tome will now become altered, full of surprises, due to the scholarship of English professor John Tobin.

Tobin is the general editor of a new series of Shakespearean texts from The Riverside Shakespeare, which is published by Houghton Mifflin. "These texts are a much friendlier size," says Tobin of the individual paperbacks, each of which focuses on one play. The paperbacks will boast new introductions that contain more recent scholarship concerning the life of Shakespeare, the sources for his plays, the texts themselves, and the physical theater in which they were performed.

Tobin relates these new volumes to our familiarity with the play Hamlet. When viewers go to see a performance of the famed play, "it's like seeing an old friend, but we also want to be surprised by a new twist, tone, or focus. There is a balance between seeing Shakespeare himself never super­vised the printing of his plays and errors crept in during their produc­tion. So how do scholars decide which of the multiple texts best reflects authorial intention?" Tobin examines the sources Shakespeare frequently used to try and determine which was the author's original intent. "Shakespeare always started with someone else's storyline and spliced versions from other books," Tobin says. "If we can match one of his words with that of a word in one of his sources, such as the plays by Thomas Nash, then we prefer this particular version."

These comparisons help the reader better understand character traits and themes, and resolve textual ambiguities, says Tobin. They are also useful in establishing a play's chronology. These sources and discoveries are included with each new edition.

Tobin has also been researching aspects of the physical theater where Shakespearean plays were performed. While the plays were performed in a lot of different places in Shakespeare's day, including the great halls, dining rooms, inns, courts, law school, and guild towns, the most well-known venue is the Globe amphitheatre, a three-level public theater with no roof.

"The amphitheatre was a gathering place of all society and offered a full spectrum of social class and genders," explains Tobin. New information about the amphitheatre has revealed that the stage may have been raked, or inclined, which would have provided a much better angle to view the action for those with the "cheap" seats, right by the stage's edge. It would have also enhanced stage action in the plays themselves.

Another recent discovery also includes the true diameter of the amphitheatre. The 100-foot diameter of the original amphitheatre, negatively impacts the venue's acoustics. "A recent investigation using radar of the Globe's original foundation, as well as others, found that the original and its other neighbor theatres were 72 feet across," says Tobin, which means that the acoustics for the original audiences did not have these flaws.

Tobin can't suppress his excitement over these new discoveries. He says, "Shakespeare scholarship is the perfect blend of the known and the loved familiar with the surprising new. We, in 2003, are still bringing new elements which affect our understanding of what's on the page and on the stage."

The volumes will also include research by editors that examines Shakespeare's relationship to Catholicism and the use of styleremetrics to determine authorship of plays suspected to be Shakespeare's.

In the summer of 2004, the first six volumes will be published: Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It, Richard III, The Tempest, and Macbeth. Tobin and his colleagues will then work on the next six plays for the new series.

"Shakespeare will always be Shakespeare," says Tobin. "It's just now we're seeing how special he is."

Family Therapy Program Grows with New Accreditation

By Leigh DuPuy and MaryAnna Ham

Six months after receiving accreditation, the Family Therapy Program is flourishing and attracting students from as far away as California and Tur­key. Following a review by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) in March 2003, it became the only nationally accredited family therapy program in the Commonwealth and the first such program offered by a Massachu­setts academic institution to be accredited.

"Accreditation really helps our students," says MaryAnna Domokos-Cheng Ham, director of the program. "This special focus degree can be used in any state." Graduates from an accredited COAMFTE program are able to undergo an abbrevi­ated process for marriage and family therapy licensure in Massa­chusetts and all 47 states that license marriage and family therapists.

"To bring the program to accreditation has taken over 17 years," says Ham. Hired in 1983 to develop a marriage and family concentration for the existing Counselor Training Program, Ham has worked to develop family therapy courses and a curriculum leading to a M.Ed. of 60 credits.

In working with her students, she found a distinct need for family therapy courses, even among students concentrating primarily on school counseling, mental health counseling, and rehabilita­tion counseling. "Counselors practicing in mental health and school settings were particularly interested in the development of a family therapy program," says Ham. "Guidance counselors also felt they needed to have more family therapy skills to be more in­volved and effective with student's parents."

Program student Katy Boucher, who works in the Norwell Public Schools, agrees: "As a school counselor, I think the program is helping me to think in a broader way. Rather than just focusing on the specific child or problem in front of me, I'm learning to look at how the entire system—family, teachers, friends, and community—affects the everyday functioning of my students."

To meet the standards of COAMFTE accreditation, Ham hired additional faculty: Gonzalo Basculapue and Jan Nealer. She also initiated and endorsed an urban mission for the program to specifically service diverse popula­tions and promote social justice.

Graduates from the program continue to make significant cont­ributions to Massachusetts and the field. Some of the alumni have gone on to organizations such as Bay State Community Services, New England Home for Little Wanderers, and Burlington Com­munity Life Center.

About a quarter of students have continued their education and received doctorates. Several of these students now have faculty positions in prestigious universities. Many have found family therapy skill useful in other mental health fields, such as rehabilitation and school counseling.

Pulitzer Prize Author Leads Brann Lecture

Pulitzer Prize winner Douglas Hofstadter, the College of Arts and Sciences Professor of Cognitive Sciences at Indiana University, paid a visit to UMass Boston on October 29 to present his lecture "Translation as a Search for Beauty: The Artistic Blending of Two Cultures" at the Ryan Lounge. The lecture was part of the Alton J. Boucher Distinguished Professorship Science Lecture Series. (Photo by Harry Brett)
ESPE Professor Expands Kids' Community Exercise Program

By Leigh DuPuy

As childhood obesity reaches epic proportions, and physical education classes and recess are scaled back or eliminated entirely in our schools, a UMass Boston professor is rising to the challenge of making exercise an integral part of a child's life.

Avery Faigenbaum, associate professor of exercise science, is leading the way by creating and fostering exercise programs for children at Dorchester's Murphy Community Center. "Community-based physical activity programs for youth groups have the potential to help children establish lifelong, healthy behaviors," he says.

Every week, Faigenbaum and four volunteer students from UMass Boston's degree programs in physical education and exercise science hold free, community exercise groups for kids. Project JUMP, a program with 7 years of success, works with children from ages 5 to 12, promoting physical activity and having fun with non-competitive games.

His latest project, Sports P.R.E.P. (Preseason Recreation and Exercise Program), is designed for older students, ages 8 to 12, who are physically inactive and not ready to handle the rigors of sports. "Sports P.R.E.P. is an opportunity for kids to get involved in physical activity that is not sports-oriented," says Faigenbaum. "This program is for all shapes and sizes."

For an hour twice a week, over three months, kids participate in a series of games designed to get them moving in a noncompetitive atmosphere. "I want boys and girls to have fun. We don't focus on winning or losing - just on play," Faigenbaum says. The program includes warm-up and cool-down stretches, non-gender-specific games, and developmentally appropriate fitness activities, which are designed to improve aerobic fitness and musculoskeletal strength.

"The program is designed to reduce the incidence of physical inactivity among urban school-age children and better prepare them for participation in sports and recreational activities," explains Faigenbaum. "The program has become very popular, with 30 kids enrolled and many others on the waiting list."

What are Faigenbaum's toughest opponents? He answers candidly, "Television, Nintendo, and the availability of fast food and soda in most schools." These influences are becoming more and more apparent in the rise of disease in children. Physicians are seeing, for the first time, adult-onset diabetes prevalent in teenagers and unprecedented levels of cholesterol and hypertension in children.

Studies have shown that the good habits we develop in our childhood track into adulthood. Faigenbaum notes, "It's not possible to change bad habits, but why not teach kids from the start that exercise can be fun?"

Faigenbaum also runs strength-training programs for children at the Quincy YMCA and shares his research and programs on www.strongkid.com.

McCormack School Provides Resources for Fulbright JFK Scholar

By Thuy Masselar

From deep in the Ural Mountains of Russia comes a very bright young Fulbright scholar who currently spends day after day poring through documents at the Kennedy Library and conducting research at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies. And though her hometown sits on the border of Asia and Europe, Yufimiya Vavulenko's research has her focused on the connection between the U.S. and Latin America - specifically, during the Kennedy presidency.

In August, Vavulenko arrived in Boston from Ekaterinburg looking to continue her research on former President John F. Kennedy's Alliance for Progress. She began her investigations more than two years ago at the Moscow Library and the Institute of Latin America in Moscow.

Vavulenko is currently a Candidate of Historical Science - equivalent to a PhD - student in the Department of International Relations at Ural State University. Next year she will have to defend her dissertation when she returns to Russia.

"I applied for the Fulbright Scholarship one and a half years ago so I could study at the JFK Library," she said. "I was interviewed by American and Russian scholars, had to take the TOEFL and GRE - then just waited to hear back."

"They didn't tell me until July that I'd won, so I had just a few weeks to prepare to come to the U.S. for a year," Vavulenko said.

Vavulenko, who sometimes goes by the nickname Effie, spends about half of every day digging among the rich resources of the Kennedy Library. The rest of the day she can be found in a cubicle, organizing her work and researching online, at the McCormack School.

Simonds (cont.)

State Senator Brian A. Joyce shares his progress on economic conditions in Massachusetts as a special guest for the November 12 Senior Executive Forum sponsored by the College of Management. Joyce, serving his fourth term in the Senate, represents the Norfolk, Bristol, and Plymouth county district. (Photo by Harry Brett)

By Mary Ann Machanic

State Senator Brian A. Joyce addressed a standing-room-only audience of students at the November 12 Senior Executive Forum sponsored by the College of Management. The senator noted that Massachusetts' fiscal situation was "grim" and compared recent conditions in the Commonwealth to that of a "perfect storm."

According to Joyce, the trouble began in the summer of 2001. Three major conditions coalesced that caused serious negative economic consequences for the state: a drop in tax revenues caused by the decline of the stock market and the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks; a rapid increase in mandated state expenses; and old tax cuts that were finally completely phased in. Instead of a four percent growth in revenue, Massachusetts experienced a 13 percent decline and the state was forced to cut expenditures and raise revenues to balance the budget.

Joyce cited education and health care costs as the biggest economic problems for Massachusetts.

The University Reporter
At the Annual Meeting of the Association for the History of Education, Doctoral students Jessie Coty and Tiffany Wisniewski, presented a paper on the "conceptual frameworks of nursing: international inclusions and the community capacity building team gave several presentations on diversity, disability, accommodations, and interdisciplinary training at the association of University Centers on Disabilities annual conference."

In October, Lawrence Kaplan, professor emeritus of biology, presented the lecture "Legumes in the History of Human Nutrition" at a symposium on Chinese dietary culture, held in China.


Esther Kingston-Mann of the American Studies Program, Rajani Srikanth and Caroline Brown of the English Department, and Jay Dee of the Graduate College of Education organized the October 18 conference "Toward a New England Center for Inclusive Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Scholarship."

On November 6, Professor Mari Koerner of the Graduate College of Education presented research on how to make schools can best serve them at the conference for the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Mary Oleksiwicz, assistant professor of music, presented the paper "More Discoveries from the Archive of the Sing-Akademie zu Berlin" at the International Symposium on the Composers and Conductors of the Sing-Akademie. She also presented "Quanta's Quatrots and Other Works Newly Discovered" at the National Meeting of the American Musicological Society.

Alexia Pollack, assistant professor of biology, presented the paper "Role of NMDA and AMPA Glutamate Receptors in the Induction and Expression of Dopamine-Mediated Sensitization in 5-Hydroxytryptamine-" in "Ecological Science Annual Meeting. Undergraduates Jessi Martin and Alex MacPherson were co-authors."

Brian Thompson, chair of the Modern Languages Department, gave a workshop on French song for "The American Association of Teachers of French of the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association Convention. He has also given a lecture on André Malraux for the centennial celebrations of River College and a paper on François Mauriac at an international conference at the Sorbonne.


Mary Oleskiewicz, assistant professor of music, published in the "Journal of Musicological Research and Regulatory Affairs."


Stephen Silliman, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, recently had a chapter, titled "Using a Rock in a Hard Place: Native American Lithic Practices in Colonial California," published in the University of Alabama-edited book "Stone Tool Traditions in the Contact Era."

Barbara Jean LaRosa has been appointed benefits manager for the Department of Human Resources. LaRosa joins UMass Boston from the Department of Public Health.

Kathleen Golden McAndrew, executive director of University Health Services and associate adjunct professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was appointed to the Governor's Emergency Drug Trend Task Force.

The Institute for Community Inclusion's Employment Services Group recently was awarded the highest level of certification in the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation's comprehensive quality-enhancement survey. ICIC is one of only a few organizations in the state that have received the "Two Year Certification with Distinction" for consecutive times.

Jacqueline Fawcett, professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was appointed a manuscript reviewer for the "Journal of Clinical Nursing," an international journal published in the United Kingdom.

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University Snow Policy

Last winter left a legacy of snow fall that hit record highs. As we pull out our scarves, gloves, and shovels, UMass Boston is ready for any weather that comes our way in the next six months. Here is our snow policy for cancellation and early closings.

When will I find out if the university is closed?

For all closings, announcements will be available on the main switchboards, TV monitors, and UMass Boston’s website, as well as on television and radio stations whenever possible.

For closings announced prior to the workday, the decision may be to close for the entire or part of the day.

If the announcement is made during the workday, the Office of Human Resources will notify deans and directors, who will then be responsible for contacting faculty and staff in their area.

If it is possible, the decision to close early will be made and announced by 2:00 p.m. or earlier and will close the campus by 4:00 p.m. or earlier. Staff on the second shift should not report to work unless they are snow day personnel.

Where are the announcements carried?

UMass Boston’s main switchboard: 617-287-5000 will carry a voice mail announcement which notifies callers if the campus will be open for operations. Please do not call the Public Safety Office. Their lines must remain open in case of emergency.

The university website and TV monitors: Consult the home page at www.umb.edu for weather-related announcements and details or see the TV monitors throughout the campus for updates.

Radio and television broadcasts:

Tune in to WRBZ TV-4, WCVB TV-5, WBDH-7, WUMB 91.9 FM, or WRBZ 1030 AM after 5:30 a.m.

How does a closing affect campus operations?

University closed/classes canceled: All classes are canceled, all offices and the library are closed, and only designated and assigned snow day personnel will report at the regular time.

Delayed opening/late opening/morning classes canceled: All morning classes are canceled and campus will open for classes at 11:30 a.m. Classes will resume per their regular schedule from 11:30 on. Snow day personnel will report at regular times. All other university staff will report to work at 10:00 a.m.

Evening classes canceled: All classes beginning from 4:00 p.m. will be canceled. Snow day personnel will work their regular hours and all others will be allowed to leave by 4:00 p.m.

Other Snow-Related Issues

Off-campus classes: Class cancellations at off-campus sites will be announced on local radio stations in communities where sites are located.

Transportation: The UMass Boston shuttle from the campus to the UMass train station will continue to operate in the event of a closing or late opening.

Weather conditions may cause delays.

Food services: Every effort will be made to have some level of service available in the Quinn Administration Building when the campus is open for operations.

Athletic and special events/other campus activities: Call 617-287-5000 for information regarding changes in athletic or special event schedules, Continuing Education, and the library.

In November, a study by Kyle McGinnis, professor of exercise science, on the benefits of moderate walking for those who are overweight was carried by Scripps Howard News Service, the Boston Herald, American Health Line, the Daily Record, the Halifax Daily News, and the Biloxi Sun.

Articles on A.P. “Rusty” Simonds appeared in the Boston Sunday Globe on October 26 and Dorchester Community News on November 7. Simonds passed away on October 20.

On November 12, research on poverty and hunger in Massachusetts conducted by the Center for Survey Research was cited in Boston Herald and Patriot Ledger articles.

The Wayland Town Crier featured the Institute for Community Inclusion in a story about local improvements in transportation for people with disabilities on October 9. ICTT analyzed data that helped the town win a $28,000 grant from the state Mobility Assistance Program of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction.

CORRECTION

In the November University Reporter, an editorial error was made in the opening line of the article “Gaston, Trotter, and Asian American Institutes Mobilize New Majority Conference.” The paragraph should have read “Minorities have become the majority in Boston.”

The Center for Social Policy’s report “Characteristics of Homeless Individuals Accessing Massachusetts Emergency Shelters, 1999-2002” was featured in the Boston Herald on November 10. The article focused on the report’s finding that a rising proportion of educated people are using emergency shelters.

The New England Women’s Political Summit, held on October 26 and 27 and presented by the Center for Women in Politics and Political Science, received coverage in the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Telegram and Gazette, and Commonwealth Magazine, and on WCVB-TV, WLVI-TV, and WBZ Radio.

The New Majority Conference, sponsored by the Trotter, Asian American, and Gaston Institutes, received coverage in the Boston Globe and the Bay State Banner.

Community Supports Blood Drive in Droves

Lilith Khosrav, a UMass Boston student from Melrose, MA, was one of the many students, faculty, and staff who participated in the blood drive on November 17. (Photo by Harry Brett)

In conjunction with the New England Division of the American Red Cross (ARC), University Health Services sponsored a campus-wide blood drive on November 17 that drew 72 donors from the UMass Boston community. The event encouraged 25 first-timers to donate blood and, in total, collected 50 units of blood for the American Red Cross Community Blood Program. The contributions of faculty, staff, and students helped meet the medical needs of over 170 hospitals throughout New England. Loretta Lewis, an ARC recruitment representative for the New England region, wrote in a letter to Linda Jorgensen, director of the University Health Services Department, “Your efforts are deeply appreciated by the countless numbers of people whose lives are saved everyday thanks to blood transfusions.”

The University Reporter
MONDAY 1

Beacon Fitness Center: Muscle Conditioning Class 11:30 - 12:30 p.m., McCormack Hall, Ryan Lounge, 3rd fl. Every Monday and Wednesday. Contact: 7-6786 or www.athletics.umb.edu/beacon/index.htm for schedule.

Beacon Fitness Center: Cardio Kickboxing Class 12:30 p.m., McCormack Hall, Ryan Lounge, 3rd fl. Every Monday and Wednesday. Contact: 7-6786 or www.athletics.umb.edu/beacon/index.htm for schedule.

World AIDS Day Service 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., McCormack Hall, Interfaith Chapel, 3rd fl. For more information, contact chaplains for a discussion of spiritual observance of the AIDS crisis worldwide. Contact: 7-5839 or maggie.cahill@umb.edu.

TUESDAY 2

Performing Arts: New Works Festival 4:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, McCormack Theatre, 2nd fl. Under direction of playwright in residence Timothy O'Donnell. Contact: 7-5840.

CPCS Faculty Outing in the World: Social Action with Youth: A View from Across the Pond 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Wheatley Hall, CPCS Plaza, 4th fl. Featuring Joanne Arich and her sabotage research in Great Britain. Light refreshments will be served. Contact: 7-7926 or marie.kennedy@umb.edu.

WEDNESDAY 3

Gerontology Program: Alzheimer’s Disease: Special Issues for Individuals and Families in Meeting the Challenges of Everyday Life 12:00 - 1:15 p.m., Wheatley Hall, 3-125. Also on December 4. RSVP to Mary St. Joan, 7-7530.

ECOS Department Fall Seminar: Ancient Maps and Mapping of the Massachusetts Coast 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., Science Center, 1-006. Featuring Richard Gelpka of the Earth and Geographic Sciences Department. Contact: 7-7440 or timothy.odonnell@umb.edu.

Book Party: Harriet Tubman: The Life and the Life Stories 3:00 - 7:00 p.m., Quinn Administration Building, Chancellor’s Conference Rooms, 3rd fl. Celebrate publication with author Jean M. Humez, professor and director of women’s studies. The author will read an excerpt at 6:00 p.m. Contact: 7-6700 or american.studies@umb.edu.

THURSDAY 4

Graduate Student Assembly Meeting 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Wheatley Hall, Student Lounge, 4th fl. Also December 18. Contact: 7-7975 or gsa.assembly@umb.edu.

FRIDAY 5

ITC Workshop: Accessing Library Resources Through Promethea 10:00 a.m., Healey Library, lower level. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu or 7-3900.

Beacon Fitness Center: Power Box Fitness Class 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., McCormack Hall, Ryan Lounge, 3rd fl. Every Friday. Contact: 7-6786 or www.athletics.umb.edu/beacon/index.htm for schedule.

University Chorus and Chamber Singers Concert 7:00 p.m., Quincy Community United Methodist Church, 40 Beale Street, Quincy, MA. Featuring Jeffrey Rink as conductor and works by Pachelbel, Schubert, Brahms, Schutz, and others. Donation requested. Contact: 7-5640.

“Crossing the Line”: A Musical Theatre Cabaret 8:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, McCormack Theatre, 2nd fl. Featuring a cabaret by the Music Theatre Workshop Class. Also on December 6. General Admission: $5.00. Contact: 7-5640.

SATURDAY 6

Bazar of Stars: Music Sale and Signing Event 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Wheatley Hall, Cafeteria, 3rd fl. Special opportunity to meet your favorite folk performers, buy their music and have it personalized. See www.wumb.org for full list of performers. Contact: 7-0490.

Labouré Center Christmas House Tour Reception 4:30 p.m., McCormack Hall, Ryan Lounge, 3rd fl. Reception to follow South Boston Christmas House tour. Contact www.ccaab.org/laboure/ for details or to buy tickets for tour.

UMass Jazz Band 7:30 p.m., Wheatley Hall, Snowden Auditorium, 1st fl. Contact: 7-3460.

MONDAY 8

Monthly Monday Movie: Adaptation 2:30 - 5:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, Interfaith Chapel, 3rd fl. Join Interfaith chaplains for a discussion of spiritual messages in clips from selected films. Contact: 7-5839 or maggie.cahill@umb.edu.

Blue Balloon Brown Bag Lunch Group 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., McCormack Hall, Cafeteria, 3rd fl. Regular informal forum to share experiences and explore issues with Prometheus, Bring your lunch and look for the blue balloon. Contact: 7-3598 or elenemcmahon@umb.edu.

THESEUS 9

Instructional Technology Center Workshop: Scanning 101 (Part 2 - text) 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., Healey Library, lower level. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu or 7-3900.

Instructional Technology Center Workshop: Technology-Enhanced Classroom Teaching 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Healey Library, lower level. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu or 7-3900.

Instructional Technology Center Workshop: Constructing a Newsletter in Pagemaker 2:00 - 6:00 p.m., Healey Library, lower level. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu or 7-3900.

TUESDAY 10

Instructional Technology Center Workshop: Creating a Template in Pagemaker 2:00 p.m., Healey Library, lower level. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu or 7-3900.

Instructional Technology Center Workshop: Scholarship Writing 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Healey Library, lower level. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu or 7-3900.

Instructional Technology Center Workshop: Creating a Newsletter in Pagemaker 2:00 - 6:00 p.m., Healey Library, lower level. Contact: www.itc.umb.edu or 7-3900.

THURSDAY 11

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SATURDAY 12

UMass Boston Dance Kaleidoscope 8:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, McCormack Theatre, 2nd fl. Featuring choreography by dance faculty Adrienne Hawkins, Liz LaFue, Margaret Musmon, Anne Tolbert, and student choreographers. Also on December 13. Tickets: $10 for adults, $5 for students, children, and seniors. Contact: 7-7942 or margaret.musmon@umb.edu.

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SUNDAY 13

Seniors Honor Project: Nathan Olite 7:30 p.m., Wheatley Hall, Snowden Auditorium, 1st fl. Contact: 7-6740.

TUESDAY 14

Gastón Institute Speakers Event: Building Latino Student Leadership 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., Healey Library, Librarian Staff Lounge, 11th fl. Featuring student speakers from the Latino Leadership Opportunity Program. Contact: 7-5791 or paula.brizem@gmail.com.

Chancellor’s Holiday Party 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, Cafeteria, 3rd fl. Celebrate the season with co-workers and friends, enjoy holiday music and food, donate clothing for holiday giving. Contact: 7-5300.

CPCS Faculty Outing in the World: From Cape Verde to the Irish Working Class 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Wheatley Hall, CPCS Plaza, 4th fl. Featuring Terry McLarney and Joao Beale LaPuh, Margaret Musmon, and student choreographers. Also on December 13. Tickets: $10 for adults, $5 for students, children, and seniors. Contact: 7-7942 or margaret.musmon@umb.edu.

WUMB 91.9 FM Commonwealth Journal Sundays, 7:00 p.m. Interviews with scholars, writers, and public officials examining current issues of interest to the people of Massachusetts. Contact: 7-6940.

UWM 91.9 FM Commonwealth Journal Sundays, 7:00 p.m. Interviews with scholars, writers, and public officials examining current issues of interest to the people of Massachusetts. Contact: 7-6940.