Biology Professor Sees Energy Consumption at Ecological Crossroads

By Peter Grennen

Jeff Dukes’s profession allows him to explore the natural world to his heart’s content. But he never imagined how much it would force him to consider nature of another sort—human nature. Now, faced with mounting evidence of environmental damage caused by reckless consumption of fossil fuels over many years, he is appealing to humanity’s nobler instincts in an effort to return our planet to ecological health.

A terrestrial ecologist with a doctorate from Stanford University, Dukes recently joined the University’s Biology Department after doing postdoctoral work at Stanford and the University of Utah. Among his scholarly projects is an ongoing inquiry into the causes of ecosystem imbalances—and restoring equilibrium in these systems.

Increasingly these days, this work must take into account the human sphere of activity. The distinctly human longing to explore the globe—often relocating plants in the process—has at times devastated the environment. “Introduced species have had a major impact on our forests and have knocked out entire species,” Dukes explains.

Ecosystems become more vulnerable to such attacks when certain by-products of human ingenuity—like automobile exhaust—outstrip the earth’s ability to process them. “Carbon dioxide buildup is changing the planet faster than before, and we’re using resources faster than was thought,” says Dukes. If attitudes toward energy consumption are at the heart of the problem, the solution has to involve the art of persuasion—and another of Dukes’s projects may well do the trick here: Using published data in a series of calculations that measure loss of solar energy from photosynthetically fixed carbon atoms in oil, coal, and natural gas, he set out to determine how much ancient plant matter is needed to meet our energy requirements today.

When the number crunching stopped, Dukes had some startling results: He estimates that about 98 tons of prehistoric plant material went into every gallon of gasoline we put into our vehicles. And as if that figure were not eye-popping enough, he offers another way to interpret the data: “Every day, people use the fossil-fuel equivalent of a parking lot on the UMABoston campus now stands an impressive, 330,000-square-foot campus center, a building of high atriums, bright views, and attractive meeting spaces. It is a building designed to provide students with improved services, the spaces they need, and the facilities they desire—and soon it will be fully operational.

“...a wonderful time in our campus’s history,” says Chancellor Jo Ann Gora. “We are so excited about the services the Campus Center will offer our students to realize a fuller educational experience at the university.”

“We’ve received the occupancy permit and expect to be moving departments into the building and launching services in time for opening events beginning March 31,” said Anne Devaney, Campus Center director. She added that while not all departments and services may be moved in by then, there will be a week of grand opening events March 31 through April 3, including bands, an auction, electric bull riding, sumo wrestling, and even a chance to throw a pie at a cut-out of Vice Chancellor Keith Motley. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 2, and planning is under way for an opening gala fundraiser later that month, which will raise money for student scholarships.

Once all the offices are moved in, students will find services that include financial aid, admissions, registrar, bursar, student employment, the bookstore, career services, a food court with offerings of sushi, roll-ups, and Cappuccinos, a game room, ATMs, the student life offices, as well as the offices of the vice chancellors for student affairs and enrollment management. “This building has spaces where people can get together, hang out, study, explore, eat, talk, and meet with staff,” said Stephan Chair, associate vice chancellor for administration and finance in charge of the project.

“...extremely elegant,” added Chair.

U Mass Boston Prepares to Open Campus Center

By Anne-Marie Kent

Where once there was just a parking lot on the U Mass Boston campus now stands an impressive, 330,000-square-foot campus center, a building of high atriums, bright views, and attractive meeting spaces. It is a building designed to provide students with improved services, the spaces they need, and the facilities they desire—and soon it will be fully operational.

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“The building is large, but it is extremely elegant,” added Chair.

Mystic River Author Lehane to speak at Commencement ’04

Dennis Lehane, the author of the best-seller Mystic River and six other novels, will speak at U Mass Boston’s 36th commencement, held at the Bayside Exposition Center on Friday, June 4.

Mystic River won both the Anthony and Barry awards for best novel, as well as the Massachusetts Book Award in Fiction bestowed by the Massachusetts Center for the Book. Mystic River received even more attention when the story was made into a feature film directed by Clint Eastwood, a production that was nominated for six Academy Awards.

Lehane is a two-time winner of the Dilys Award, presented by the Independent Mystery Bookshop.

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Psychology Researchers Find Sleep Shortage Takes Toll on Middle Schoolers’ Self-Esteem and Mental Health

By Anne-Marie Kent

Feelings of depression and low self-esteem plague children as they advance through middle school because they get increasingly less sleep, according to a new study completed by UMass Boston psychology professor Jean Rhodes, Ph.D., with colleagues Katia Fredriksen, Ranjini Reddy, and Niobe Way.

"Sleep clearly played a significant role in predicting depressive symptoms and self-esteem during adolescence," says Rhodes.

Their research is published in the journal Child Development in their January-February issue. Attempts to improve the health, quality of life, and academic careers of adolescents should consider the importance of a good night's sleep, she says. A grant from the Spencer Foundation supported the study.

"Elevated levels of depression and drops in self-esteem are seen as inevitable hallmarks of adolescence," says Rhodes. "Yet these results suggest that such changes are partially linked to a variable—sleep—that is largely under individual, parental, and even school control." Rhodes stresses that any attempt to improve the quality of life for adolescents and reduce their risk to a range of negative health, academic, and emotional outcomes should consider the importance of a good night's sleep.

The students were asked about the number of hours they slept each night and what grades they received in school. They also answered questionnaires designed to measure depressive symptoms and assess self-worth.

Rhodes and her colleagues found that students who slept fewer hours in the sixth grade had lower self-esteem, higher levels of depressive symptoms, and worse grades than students who got more sleep. During the three years of middle school, they also found a steady decline in the average hours of sleep, which apparently led to declines in self-esteem and grades, and a rise in depressive symptoms.

Girls had a harder time than boys in getting enough sleep, she says. They got more sleep than boys as they started middle school, possibly because girls enter puberty earlier, which creates a greater need for sleep. While levels of sleep dropped for both boys and girls over time, the decline was steeper for girls, Rhodes says.

On average, boys and girls went to bed at the same time. But girls woke up earlier, which other researchers have attributed to longer morning grooming times or a greater burden of household chores compared to boys.

This study has important implications for research and policy, says Rhodes.

The research has received widespread coverage in mainstream media, including NPR's "All Things Considered," the New York Times, ABCNews.com, the Boston Herald, and Scripps Howard News Service.

New Trustee Vows to Bring Student Voice to the Table

By Leigh DuPuy

Jamal Brathwaite is UMass Boston's newest student trustee, ready to volunteer bold ideas on behalf of his peers. "UMass Boston students have gone without a voice at the Board of Trustees for too long," says Brathwaite, who was appointed to the post after a previous student trustee did not attend meetings. "I will be that voice."

So, what will he be bringing to the table at the next board meeting? "I really want to work with the board to improve UMass Boston's ability to provide students with high-quality higher education, as well as to create more of a student culture," says Brathwaite. "I'd like to see UMass Boston offer more of a social outlet, which would help create more of a student culture and work with administration to implement systems that more efficiently cater to the needs of our unique student body. The Campus Center is a great start to fostering this change."

His goals include working with the university to secure a bigger portion of public expenditures devoted to UMass Boston, increasing library hours, and lobbying for dorms. He talks of creating a student-nominated teaching award as a way to reward excellent faculty members and suggesting implementing a ten-year plan for UMass Boston to ascend to second-tier rankings, a must, Brathwaite says, "for the only public university in the intellectual capital of the world, Boston."

In addition to attending Board of Trustee meetings, Brathwaite will serve on four standing committees for academic and student affairs; administration, finance, and audit; athletics; and development.

Brathwaite's energy and activism are constants in a schedule that includes full-time commitments to school and work. Working 40 hours a week as a legal assistant to Putnam Investments, he is also a graduating senior pursuing a major in economics and political science.

This kind of juggling is nothing new to Brathwaite. He has served in teaching, research, and resident advising capacities for the W.E.B. Du Bois Institutes at Harvard and Princeton Universities, the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

He has also devoted time as the founder of Boston Community Initiatives, tutoring economics at UMass Boston, and helping to implement the Dorchester High School Dental Clinic Program in collaboration with the Codman Square Health Center, to name just a few of his activities.

Brathwaite's personal aspirations include becoming an economic policymaker in the public and private sectors, a career he is sure to pursue upon graduation in August 2004.

Chancellor Named One of the Family

Who do you think of when you visualize the movers and shakers of Boston? UMass Boston Chancellor Jo Ann Gora has made the ranks of the area's leaders and personalities in a new book, All One Family, which features the photography of Bill Brett and highlights people who have made significant contributions to Boston. She was recently photographed for the coffee-table book, due out in stores this summer, in familiar spots around the campus, including the catwalk and the new Campus Center.

Others profiled in the book include college presidents, the last three mayors, directors of museums, and others who help to make Boston what it is today.
Ecosystems (cont.)

of all the plant matter that grows on land and in the oceans over the course of a whole year," he says.

The study, which appeared in the November issue of Climatic Change, is a way of quantifying the unsustainability of society's energy-use patterns in the face of consumer indifference to the problem. "Fossil fuel has accumulated for millions of years, but we are clearly running through it quite fast," says Dake.

Sobering conclusions all— with dire implications for our long-term survival. But Dake has no desire to be alarmist; he is content if his work prompts humans to do what they do better than any other species. "I'm hoping that it will make people think," he says.

Dake's future world of right-thinking people will have an energy mosaic that includes wind and solar power, as well as fuels harvested from the earth's current plant matter. But however energy needs are met, it must be with an eye toward the welfare of the entire planet. "By minimizing energy demand and carefully selecting energy-capture and -generation technologies, we can limit human impact on other species," he predicts.

A desirable outcome, to be sure. For if the species Homo sapiens ever does learn to curb its fondness for wretched excess, it may find it live quite comfortably in its own atmosphere after all.

College of Management Launches New Financial Services Forum with Report on Mutual Fund Scandal

Panels at the February 12 "Crisis of Confidence: Integrity in the Financial Services Industry" symposium discuss imperatives in the mutual fund industry: Edward D'Alelio, CM executive-in-residence; Lawrence Gennari, attorney for Gaddesby Hannah; Len Darling, retired vice chairman and chief investment officer of Oppenheimer Funds; and Linda Bridgman, district trial counsel from the Boston Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

By Mary Ann Machanic

The College of Management (CM) announced the formation of the CM Financial Services Forum at its first symposium, "Crisis of Confidence: Integrity in the Financial Services Industry," which was held February 12 at Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The forum, which seeks to link college and industry, will conduct relevant and timely research in the financial services area and address issues of importance to the financial services sector in New England, as well as nationally.

"The forum serves as a means of promoting discussion and dialogue on suitable topics," says Arindam Bandopadhyaya, author of the "Crisis of Confidence" report and director of research for the forum. "In a format initiated at the February 12 event, research is disseminated in writing and in symposiums that include a panel of experts, who react to and comment on the report, and discuss other points related to the topic.

The inaugural symposium focused on Bandopadhyaya's report "The Mutual Fund Industry Investigation: Timing Isn't Everything" and widespread imperatives in the mutual fund industry practices of market timing and late trading.

Examining the issues of ethics, legality, and future reforms, Bandopadhyaya and panelists discussed the issues plaguing the industry today. Participants included: Edward D'Alelio '74, CM executive-in-residence; Lawrence Gennari LLC, attorney for Gaddesby Hannah; Len Darling, retired vice chairman and chief investment officer of Oppenheimer Funds; and Linda Bridgman, district trial counsel from the Boston Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In the future, the CM Financial Services Forum will be the source of a speakers' bureau of professionals and will produce a Financial Services Alert report on events in the recent past that are likely to affect and shape the future of the financial services industry.

The forum plans to publish a semiannual review that will be a collection of articles written by professionals and will produce a speakers' bureau of professionals and will produce a Financial Services Alert report on events in the recent past that are likely to affect and shape the future of the financial services industry.

The current report is available on www.management.umb.com.

Students, Alumni, and Colleagues Celebrate Rusty Simonds

By Jeffrey Mitchell

"For a long time I was very jealous of Rusty—he got all the good students," said economics Professor Arthur MacEwan. But it was no accident that Rusty Simonds—twice a winner of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award—was held in such affection by his students. "He had the good students because he thought he had the good students," said MacEwan. "By respecting them and expecting much of them, he made them good students."

MacEwan was one of many UMass Boston students, alumni and colleagues who filled the Boston Globe Lounge on February 12 to celebrate the life of Arthur P. "Rusty" Simonds, an indispensable member of the university's Political Science Department from 1969 until his sudden death last October.

Maureen Worth, a current student, said that she was so nervous before entering a 400-level class with Simonds—her first—that she thought she would "get shot out of the water." But instead of the formidable taskmaster she had imagined, she found a "calm and friendly guy," chatting with his students about the water. "He was never im­patient, never looked at his watch," said Worth. Nonetheless she ended up working harder in that class than she had in any class before.

Clearly Worth's experience was the norm. According to Lori Beirmard '90, who now teaches at George Washington University, Simonds would always do "whatever it took to engage" students. Once, for example, "he stood on a table and sang the national an­them of France!" Always he would "be fully present," she said, and always he would expect "nothing less than a person's best."

Political science Professor Mo Cunningham '80 reported that he still hears students say today what he heard when he himself attended UMass Boston 25 years ago: "Rusty is my friend—but God, is he tough on me!" Simonds "coached his students, and coaxed them, but never, ever coaxed them," said Professor Diane Paul: "He expressed his affection for stu­dents by encouraging them to be­lieve that they could do intellectual work at the highest level." The result was generations of students like Boston Globe book columnist and reviewer Katherine Powers '76, who spoke of Simonds as a teacher "to whom I owe nothing less than the use of my mind."

Many others added their own tributes. Professor Paul Watanabe served as master of ceremonies and gave opening and closing remarks. Among the speakers were former students Kent Worcester '82 and Laura Gersch '02, current student Kim Walter, and retired Professor Charlie Knight. Librarian Bill Beer played the banjo, with student Maureen Worth providing a gui­tar accompaniment. Guitarist Pete Janson of the music faculty also performed, as did Professor David Patterson (piano) and Marilyn Bull (soprano), who together of­fered a song of Patterson's own composition, "Last Words."

For Chancellor Jo Ann Gora, Simonds was "emblematic of the best" and "the embodiment of the culture of commitment" at UMass Boston. She and others recalled countless acts of service and gener­osity, and spoke of the distinct­ion of Simonds's scholarly work. But again and again, his genius for teaching returned as the theme. According to Mo Cunningham, political science Professor Elizabeth Bussiere had earlier called Simonds "the best teacher any of us will ever know," and had pointed out that "you had to come to UMass Boston" to be taught by him, adding that "it was that way because Rusty wanted it that way."

But Bussiere herself, Rusty Simonds "was the most exceptional human being I have ever known in my life."

The Rusty Simonds Memorial Scholarship has been estab­lished as a tribute to Simonds's extraordinary dedication to students and passion for teaching. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Steven Ward in the Institutional Advancement Office (x74346).

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New Center for Media and Society at UMass Boston

By Ed Hayward

A new Center on Media and Society has been added to the research and policy lineup at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies to link UMass Boston to the world of media and communications practice.

Approved in January, the center is directed by Ellen Hume, a former White House correspondent for the Wall Street Journal who is now a senior research fellow teaching media analysis at UMass Boston. Hume has already planned an April 7 conference on two floors, as well as wall finishes that give a real welcome contrast to the red brick and cinder-block construction found in other campus buildings.

"We needed a way to build a bridge between the academic community and the world of professional journalism and communication," said Hume, a former executive director of the Shorenstein Center on the Press at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. "For starters, the center will provide access and the tools our students need to understand the role of the news media."

Hume said the focus of the center will include programs and research for the audiences and producers of print and electronic media. Hume and American Studies Professor Mark Schlesinger are also reviewing the possibility of developing a Media and Communication Studies major with a focus on similar issues of theory and practice.

The center begins its work by focusing on two themes: news media and political power, and ethnic and community journalism.

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The Conference of Media and Society and the McCormack Graduate School will kick off their partnership with the April 7 conference "Dangersomee: Where Media and Politics Collide." The program, underwritten by FleetBoston Financial, begins with keynote speaker Stephanopoulos, a former White House media advisor. The day-long series of seminars also features a discussion on emerging trends in ethnic journalism in America, and the release of a poll on the Massachusetts voter's news consumption and political attitudes.

The conference fits with the unique contributions Hume hopes the center can make to the community at large, not only locally but nationally and internationally.

"We hope that the conversations that need to be held among politicians, citizens, academics, and journalists about standards, ethics, and impacts of the news can be held here on a neutral ground of the university," said Hume.

Hume has created a partnership with Harvard University's Nieman Program for journalists to produce a special daily student newspaper, The Boston Beez, during the Democratic Convention in Boston from July 26 to 29. The UMass Boston-Harvard newspaper project will focus on the media's role at the convention, along with other political news. Nieman official Seth Efron, assisted by Hume and syndicated newspaper columnist David Nyhan, will edit the newspaper, which will be distributed free to the participants at the convention.

"It will be a real boot camp for student journalists. We teach about theories and case studies in the classroom, but I also want interested students to get a taste of the challenges of daily journalism," said Hume. There are openings left for the project, Hume said. Students interested in applying should send a resume, writing sample, and letter of interest by April 26 to Ellen Hume, Room 6-086, Wheatley Hall.

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Anti-Violence Activist Wins Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership

By Leigh DePuy

As Boston officials fear a sharp rise in the number of recent homicides signals a new level of street violence, UMass Boston will honor a woman who is dedicated to teaching children about peace and counseling those who have lost family members.

For her community activism in Dorchester and Roxbury, Sauna Mendes, a mother, grandmother, and anti-violence leader, will receive the 2004 Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership.

"I want to reach out to survivors who have lost family or have had children who are victims of violence," says Mendes in describing her mission. She knows how this feels firsthand, having lost her son in 1995 to street violence.

Frustrated and angry by his senseless death, she turned to activism, working with other community leaders to hold the First Annual Parents' and Children's Walk for Peace in July 2000, attracting 300 marchers in its inaugural year. The annual march is now in its fifth year.

Shannon Flaherty, a colleague who nominated Mendes for the award, describes her as a "tireless leader in the fight against violence in the Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods."

A list of her achievements includes work organizing the Groton-Hampshire's Residents' Organization, which received one of the top Crime Watches award by the City of Boston, completion of the Police Academy's Resident Training Program, and working closely with the Louis D. Institute, an organization that visits families who have lost loved ones. With the help of the Casey Foundations' Family Strengthening Small Grants Fund, Mendes has also helped establish the Bobby Mendes Peace Legacy.

For her many projects, Mendes received the 2002 Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus "Profile of Courage" Award.

Mendes, who immigrated from Cape Verde when she was fifteen, has lived in Uphams Corner for 37 years. Though she struggles to define why the neighborhood changed, she identifies violence as fueling such changes. "The kids grow up and get into trouble," Mendes says. "We have so much murder in the community like we never did before."

The mother of four and a grandmother to six, Mendes knows children and believes in the importance of talking to them about violence and peace. Reckoning behavior, she takes the neighborhood children out when they get good grades on report cards. "If they earn A's and B's, I take them to the dinner or to the movies," says Mendes.

Education is clearly important to Mendes, who balances her activism with pursuit of her own education through a literacy program at The Little House in Dorchester.

This is the eighteenth year the university has given the award to an individual who has displayed exemplary community service. The spirit of the award is modeled after Robert H. Quinn and his commitment to higher education and the community. As a member of the House of Representatives, Quinn co-sponsored the legislation that created UMass Boston and has worked for over 38 years to make higher education available to the citizens of Boston. The breakfast will be held at the university on March 16.

Campus Center (cont.)

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In addition to its usual materials, the building will be the only one on campus with its own management team in addition to over seeing operations, Devaney will coordinate a unique building governance system. The Campus Center Advisory Board, made up of a majority of students and representatives from campus departments, will review policies, set priorities, and make recommendations, she said. The Campus Center Occupancy Council will be made up of representatives of organizations whose offices or services are in the building. Operating somewhat like a tenants' association, the council will address a range of issues about standards for use and occupancy of the building, said Devaney.

The first new building on campus since 1982, it will provide a dramatic gateway to the campus. Designed by Boston architects Kallmann, McKinnell and Wood and constructed by Suffolk Construction, the building offers a welcome contrast to the red brick and cinder-block construction found in other campus buildings.

In the new building, floors are carpeted in muted shades of sage and tan and walls are light, with many windows to let in light and expose views of the cityscape and ocean.

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The numbers speak for themselves, as the old saying goes. Approximately 200 to 300 UMass Boston employees took a break from their day to enjoy the 6th Annual Ice Cream Social, held on February 5 in the Clark Athletic Center. Served by their colleagues, employees finished off 30 gallons of ice cream, 30 cases of a British cream, and toppings that ran the gamut from cherries to nuts, Oreos, M&Ms, hot fudge and caramel. On hand to scoop the Hood ice cream were Chancellor Jo Ann Gora; Clare Forster, director of personnel services; Carol DeSouza, ADA compliance officer; Keith Mosley, vice chancellor for student affairs; and Mark Preble, interim director of human resources.

Local anti-violence advocate Sauna Mendes will be honored for her work in accepting the Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership. She is seen here with photographs of those who have been victims of violence. (Photo by Harry Brett)

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A Recognition of Scholarship: Professor Joins Intellectual Greats

By Melissa Fassel
What do Albert Einstein, John Dewey, Margaret Mead, Jean Piaget, and UMass Boston Distinquished Professor Donald Macedo have in common? They are all recipients of one of the most prestigious awards in education—selection for membership in the Laureate Chapter of the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education.

Kappa Delta Pi is a community of diverse scholars dedicated to recognizing scholarship and excellence in education, promoting the development and dissemination of educational ideas and practices, enhancing the continuous professional growth and leadership of its membership, fostering inquiry and reflection on significant educational issues, and maintaining a high degree of professional fellowship.

This international award recognizes the Applied Linguistics Graduate Program Director's long list of scholarly contributions and the influence of his work in the United States and around the world. Macedo's work has been published not only in English but Cape Verdean, Greek, Portuguese, and Spanish. He has co-written a number of books and articles with influential world-renowned thinkers like Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, and Paolo Freire. Macedo is known as the leading Freirean scholar.

"I am honored to be the recipient of such an important award, especially since it will serve as an additional opportunity of reaching out to educators about the importance of critical literacy and education for social justice," says Macedo.

According to Macedo, contrary to popular belief and dominant ideology, schools do not always serve the best interests of their students. Combined with media and other social institutions, he believes educational institutions often stifle critical thinking by creating a pretext of equality and perpetuating ignorance through what Macedo refers to as a process of "stupidification" or forced submission of the mind.

Joe Knicheloe, author of the soon-to-be-released Critical Pedagogy Primer, describes Macedo as a key founder in the study of critical literacy: "a central figure in critical pedagogy who has played a principal role in constructing a literacy of power for use in critical pedagogy."

Macedo recently co-edited a book with Howard Zinn, author of A People's History of the United States, to be published late this summer, which examines what the editors consider to be the present-day educator's dilemma of teaching the virtues of democracy within a society that they term a "hypocrisy that enables the manufacturing of consent for unjust and illegal actions in today's world."

Never an "easy A" professor, Macedo's students regard him with a mix of respect and vulnerability. Practicing what he preaches, Macedo empowers his students with an emancipatory literacy, teaching them to make sense of their position in society while learning to deal with other ways of seeing and being that are not their own. It is his hope that they will recognize the power of literacy, acknowledging it in their own educational and social practices.

Macedo holds a B.A. in Spanish from UMass Boston, an M.A. in Spanish Literature from New York University, an EdD. in Applied Psycholinguistics from Boston University, and a Ph.D. in Language Behavior from Boston University. In addition to his work at UMass Boston, he has taught at Cornell University, Boston University, Rhode Island College, Eastern Nazarene College, and Harvard University.

Changing Lives Through Literature Program Receives Excellence Award

Taylor Stoehr, professor of English, has worked with the Changing Lives Through Literature program at the Dorchester District Court for ten years. (Photo by Harry Brett)

By Anne-Marie Kent
For the past ten years, UMass Boston English professor Taylor Stoehr has worked with other college professors, probation officers, judges, and people from the local community in the Changing Lives Through Literature program at Dorchester District Court. Designed to engender a new sense of purpose in the lives of probationers, the program offers small, supportive groups of participants innovative explorations of ideas using carefully chosen texts.

As a volunteer, Professor Stoehr has seen firsthand the value of the program, which received new recognition last month when the New England Board of Higher Education awarded Changing Lives Through Literature its annual award for excellence. Last year, the program received an innovation in Education grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a website and training materials to expand its reach.

The program was founded in 1991 by UMass Dartmouth Professor Robert Wexler and Judge Robert Kane. By the summer of 1993, forty men had completed the course, with recidivism rates half of what would be expected. The Dorchester program was founded in 1994 by Presiding Justice Sydney Hanlon, along with Probation Officers Deirdre Kennedy, Teresa Owens, John Christopher, John Owens, and James "Bobby" Spencer, as well as Professors Brian Murphy and Taylor Stoehr. Stoehr's group cur- rently uses Frederick Douglass's Narrative of the Life of an American Slave along with other supplementary texts.

Stoehr says that the crucial discoveries come during the intense conversations the readings provoke each week, the back-and-forth that goes on in small group discussions. "Students profit most of all from the simple act of coming together to talk about their own plight as citizens judged lacking in the virtues that give society its coherence and stability. Struggling to understand what the world offers, demands, owes, or withholding from them, and sharing their opinions with growing respect for other voices and views, they can learn to take themselves seriously in a new way. If they do, their lives will have changed," says Stoehr.

The students themselves confirm the value of the program. Says one spring 2002 student, "It seems like before I came to this program I was going numb. I can't remember the last time I picked up a book to read it or even skim through it. I also have a better relationship with my girlfriend. I try to think about other people's feelings now. It just isn't about me anymore." His classmate adds, "The most important thing that I've learned is that I really can learn. All these years I've been thinking that I could not read or write."

Seen Around Campus...

Harbor Art Gallery Shows Off "Props"
Michelle Fournier, handmade clothing designer from abandonshipindustries, Bill Francisco, architect from the firm Steaklowsky Heat and Raymond, and Rhonda Hergert, professional photographer, celebrate the opening of their exhibit "Honey, you can't keep the props," which highlights their handwork and is now showing at the Harbor Art Gallery.

Musicians Eager to Play for WUMB
On February 5, Peter Tork (right), former member of the Monkees, visited WUMB Radio to play a live guitar session with James Lee Stanley and interview with radio announcer Marilyn Rea Ryers (center). Earlier, famed folk artist Richie Havens came to the studio to perform. "They know it's a great way to reach folk fans," said Brian Quinn, program director; of the many musicians who want to play at the station. "More than 80,000 listeners tune in to 91.9 FM via the radio and the Internet per week."

Photos by Harry Brett
PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

Elsa Auerbach, professor of English, coauthored with colleagues the chapter "The Logic of Non-Standard Teaching: A Course in Cape Verdean Language, Culture and History" in Critical Pedagogies and Language Learning, which was published by Cambridge University Press.

Lora Brugnaro, Joy Gould, and Lara Paiewonsky of the Institute for Community Inclusion gave a presentation on disability awareness to Massachusetts state workforce system staff in Lawrence.

Jeff Coburn, web specialist for the Press, Lora Brugnaro, Joy Gould, and Lara Paiewonsky of the Institute for Community Inclusion gave a presentation on disability awareness to Massachusetts state workforce system staff in Lawrence.


Mitchell Silver of the Philosophy Department spoke on "Prospects for Peace and the Geneva Accords" at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Wellesley in February.

On January 30, Nina Silverstein, associate professor of geonotology, and colleague Gerald Flaherty presented on issues related to wandering behavior for the Law Enforcement and Long Term Care Staff of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.


Professors M.H. (Delouz) Tamdgi and Jorge Capellano-Ponce of the Sociology Department presented "Classroom Publishing as a Transformative Pedagogical Process" at the Annual CIT Conference on Teaching for Transformation.

Shirley Thompson, assistant professor of American studies and Asian American studies, presented research on the Lynn Documentary Research project as part of the panel "Researching Multilingual Interactions: A Dialogue between the Boyle Heights (Los Angeles, California) Project and the Lynn (MA) Documentary Research Project" at the National Conference of the American Studies Association.

Brian Thompson, professor of modern languages, is leading a seminar titled "The Role of Language in Social Studies: How Does Language Shape Our Understanding of the World?" at the University of Cambridge.

Gretchin Upholt, lecturer in the Classics Department, presented the paper "Democritus and Theodorus of Cyzicus" at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, held in January.

Ellen Varney of the Institute for Community Inclusion discussed how to improve services for job seekers with disabilities at One-Stop Career Centers in Michigan and Maryland.

The Institute for Community Inclusion’s Jason Wheeler and Paula Sonnich represented the workshop at the National Service-Learning Conference on the experiences of youth with disabilities in service-learning.

On February 11, Robert Weiner, chair of the International Relations track in the Master of Science in the Public Affairs program, participated in the panel "Air Travel Security and International Relations."

On February 7, more than 80 people attended the Give Us Your Poor Project of the Center for Social Policy's forum "Out of the Box: A Community Action Forum to End Homelessness in Greater Boston," held at UMass Boston.

PUBLICATIONS

James Bierstaker of the Accounting and Finance Department published the coauthored article "Highlights of Current Audit Approaches" in The Auditor's Report.


A third edition of Italy: From Revolution to Republic (1700 to Present), a book written by Spencer DeCarla of the History Department, has been published by Westview Press.


Jacqueline Fawcett, professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, has been published in the journal Nursing Science Quarterly.

A chapter by Carroy Ferguson, professor at the College of Public and Community Service, "Follow the Leader: Fear and Perception as Root Causes of the War in Iraq," appears as one of ten original essays in Art Shostak's edited book Volume One: Culture Clash/Media Demons.

The article "Community College: A Pathway to Success for Youth with Learning, Cognitive, and Intellectural Disabilities in Secondary Settings," by Debra Hart of the Institute for Community Inclusion, will be published in Education and Training on Developmental Disabilities.

Stephanie W. Hartwell, professor of sociology, published the articles "Triple Stigma: Persons with Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Problems in the Criminal Justice System" in Criminal Justice Review and "Comparison of Offenders with Mental Illness Only and Gender Dual Diagnoses" in Psychiatric Services.


Sathasivam Mathiyalakan, assistant professor in the Management Science and Information Systems Department, published the article "A Longitudinal Examination of Web Technology Adoption and Implementation in Small and Micro-Sized Businesses" in the Journal of E-Business.

Aksold Melnychuk, director of the Creative Writing Program, has published an excerpt from his new novel in Irish Fages and has had another section accepted for publication in the Antioch Review's summer fiction issue.

The article "Urban Universities and Urban Leadership" by Sherry Penney, professor of leadership in the College of Education and the Lynn Endowed Chair for Multicultural Studies, has been published by Westview Press.

The Ford Foundation awarded UMass Boston a two-year, $350,000 grant to support the creation of a New England Center for Inclusive Teaching (NECIT), a faculty-based consortium of colleges and universities that will foster diversity-oriented curricular and pedagogical change, as well as the scholarship of teaching. The project's principal investigators are Jon R. B., director of the Graduate College of Education and Rajini Srikanth of the New England Department. NECIT founder Esther Kingston-Mann of American Studies/History serves as project consultant.

EXHIBITS, READINGS, PERFORMANCES, SHOWS

Jon C. Mitchell of the Music Department conducted a recording session of the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra in Poland, Czech Republic, in February.

Sixteen UMass Boston Theatre Arts students recently participated in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (Region II), held in Providence, RI. John Conlon, senior research fellow in liberal arts, appeared in a new play, Communication, as part of the Festival.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH

The Ford Foundation awarded UMass Boston a two-year, $350,000 grant to support the creation of a New England Center for Inclusive Teaching (NECIT), a faculty-based consortium of colleges and universities that will foster diversity-oriented curricular and pedagogical change, as well as the scholarship of teaching. The project's principal investigators are Jon R. B., director of the Graduate College of Education and Rajini Srikanth of the New England Department. NECIT founder Esther Kingston-Mann of American Studies/History serves as project consultant.

Weston Dripps, assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Geographics, is the lead principal investigator in the feasibility planning of a professional master's degree program in Geographic Information Technology, which is funded by a grant to the College of Education and the Lynn Endowed Chair for Multicultural Studies.

Mari Kormer of the Curriculum and Instructional Department received a $50,000 award for the proposal "Physics and Mathematics in Elementary Grades" in the Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Program grant competition for 2003-2004.

Center for Social Policy staff members Jennifer Raymond, Michelle Kahan, and Cassandra Greene completed an evaluation study, One Family Scholar Project Evaluation, in January.

In February, the Center for Social Policy was awarded a multiyear grant to evaluate a Boston Foundation and Tufts Health Plan initiative supporting eighteen homeless prevention programs throughout Massachusetts.

The National Service Inclusion Project at the Institute for Community Inclusion has been extended to a fourth year by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service.
CAMPUS NOTES

APPOMENTS AND HONORS

John Butterworth, research coordinator at the Institute for Community Inclusion, was elected to a three-year term on the TASH Executive Board, an international association of people with disabilities, advocates, and professionals.

Caroline Coscia of the Executive Board, an international Program to a three-year term on the National Alliance on Community Inclusion, was elected by the Boston Affiliate of the G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Liz LaPuh was appointed the new director of the Dance Program. LaPuh earned her B.A. from UMass Boston and an M.E.A. from the Boston Conservatory. She is also the artistic director of the Cambridge Chamber Ballet.

Joe Marrone of the Institute for Community Inclusion was appointed to a 15-member federal study group by the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration to examine ways to help people with mental illness find jobs.

Laura Schrader, professor of Theatre Arts, was elected vice president of the Theatre Company of Saugus.

MISCELLANEOUS

In March, Sherry Penney, professor of leadership in the College of Management, visited the National University of Ireland Maynooth campus as part of an evaluation/quality visit review. Previously, Penney has chaired sixteen regional accreditation teams in the U.S.

THESIS AND DISSERTATION RESEARCH

Edie Mas, a doctoral student in the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy, successfully defended her dissertation "Why Acts? The Roots and Potential of Precautionary Environmental Action in Three Vermont Watersheds."

Walter Martinez and Jeffrey Morgan, two political science majors and honor students, had their proposals accepted for presentation of their honors-thesis research at the Undergraduate Research Conference in April.

IN THE NEWS

Deborah Boisvert, director of BATEC (the Boston Area Advanced Technology Education Connections) discussed the program's mission to develop and promote a regional IT education and workforce development system in the January 12 issue of Mass High Tech.

Joan Becker, associate vice provost, and UMass Boston students discussed Pell grants and rising tuition on NPR's "All Things Considered" on February 4.

Caroline Coscia of the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy was featured in a recent Patrick Ledger article on her profile of bilingual education services in the town of Randolph.

Lou DiNatale, director of the Center for State and Local Politics, was quoted on Massachusetts voter opinion of gay marriage in the LA Times on February 6.

CPC's Roebbe Garsdale discussed the college's new Community Media and Technology degree, of which he is program coordinator, in a January 13 profile on the program in the Patriot Ledger.

Laurie Tuddenham: Her Life and Her Life Stories by Jean Hamer, director of the Women's Studies Program, was featured in the Baltimore Sun on January 25, the Boston Globe on February 5, and the New York Times Book Review on February 15.

John McGoh, senior research associate at the Center for Social Policy, spoke about the recent activities of the Give Us Your Poor: Homelessness and the United States project for a January 12 article in Banker & Tradesman. He also participated on the project's February 7 community action forum on WBZ Radio.

Sherry Penney, professor of leadership at the College of Management, participated in a new TV program, "Ready for College," produced by the Higher Education Information Center through the Boston Neighborhood Network.

Marc Prou, assistant professor of Africana Studies, was quoted in the New York Times on January 30 on Haiti's embattled political situation. He was also interviewed on WHDH-TV's "Urban Update" to discuss the significance of the Haitian Bicentennial Celebration on February 1.

Research by Jean Rhodes and Katrina Frederiksen of the Psychology Department linking self-esteem to the deep patterns of middle-school children was reported by NPR's "All Things Considered," the New York Times, ABCNEWS.com, the Boston Herald, and Scirrps Howard News Service.

On February 11, the Boston Globe published the editorial "Pine Street Power," which cited the Center for Social Policy's information about the size of the homeless population in Massachusetts.

University Opens Environmental Citizenship Academy

By Jack Wiggins

Residents from all over Boston are learning new approaches to improving the environmental quality of their neighborhoods by attending the Environmental Citizenship Academy (ECA) at UMass Boston. The ECA completed a successful pilot session this past fall and is currently registering participants for the spring session of seminars, workshops, and field studies designed to prepare citizens to better understand and address ecosystem and human health problems associated with the urban environment.

The goal of the ECA is to increase citizen participation in urban environmental issues. The academy's approach stresses the importance of each citizen's everyday experience and local knowledge as the basis for environmental action. The curriculum covers ecosystem science, urban development, environmental laws and governance, and the techniques for influencing policy and solving environmental problems through collaborative efforts at the community level. Through lectures, interactive problem-solving exercises, and site visits, students gain the knowledge and skills needed to protect natural resources and improve the environmental quality of their communities.

The academy draws upon the considerable environmental expertise found throughout the university. UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students are involved in designing, administering, and teaching the Academy's program. Collaborators include Bill Robinson of the Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Sciences Department, Rob Beattie from the Environmental Sciences Program, Jack Wiggins of the Urban Harbors Institute, and Nancy Wong, a strategist from outside the university. The ECA also draws upon several area nonprofit advocacy groups, government agencies, and private firms to ensure the students receive broad "real world" perspectives.

The ECA is supported by a grant from an area foundation which allows Boston-area residents to participate tuition-free. The Environmental Citizenship Academy was initiated by and is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Bette Woody, a longtime UMass Boston faculty member and community activist.

Commencement speaker (cont.)

Take My Hand, Sacred, Gone Baby Gone, Prayers for Rain, and Shutter Island.

Lehane was born and raised on Dorchester and lives in the Boston area.

Winter Wonderland

A student walks across campus during a February snowfall, a rare occurrence by this winter's standard of frigid, dry weather. (Photo by Harry Brett)
The calendar of events is published monthly in the Office of University Communications and Community Relations. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. From off campus, dial (617) 287 and the last four digits listed below each calendar event.

Submit April calendar listings by Monday, March 15. Submit calendar listings online at www.umb.edu/news/calendar/. See the News and Events page on www.umb.edu for calendar listings online.

MONDAY 1
Beacon Fitness Center: Pilates 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., McCormack Hall, Beacon Fitness Center, 1st fl. Held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Traditional Pilates taught by certified Pilates instructors. Open to members. Contact: 7-6788 or chris.fitzgerald@umb.edu.

FRIDAY 5
Beacon Fitness Center: Ab Blast 11:30 - 12:30 p.m., McCormack Hall, Beacon Fitness Center, 1st fl. Held on Fridays. Open to members. Contact: 7-6788 or chris.fitzgerald@umb.edu.

SUNDAY 6
WUMB Annual Music Sale 9:00 - 5:00 p.m., McCormack Hall, McCormack Cafeteria, 3rd fl. More than 20,000 CDs, LPs, cassettes,等. Featuring a variety of music. Also on Sunday, March 7. Contact: 7-6900 or wumb@umb.edu.

TUESDAY 7
Brazilian Institute for Sport, Exercise and Motion: Brazilian Immigrants in Massachusetts: An Invisible Minority that Everybody Sees 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., Healey Library, Library Staff Lounge, 11th fl. Featuring Eduardo Sigurta. Contact: 7-5791.

TUESDAY 23
Chemistry Seminar: Fascinating Adventures in the Progress of a Drug from Concept to Commercialization 4:30 p.m., Science Center, Chemis­try Conference Room, 1st fl. Featuring Prof. William Holmes of Pharmacia, Inc. Contact: 7-6130.

TUESDAY 24
Joiner Center Spring 2004 Film Series: The Battle of Algiers 2:30 p.m., Healey Library, Media Auditorium, 11th fl. Part of "Images of War - A Series of International Films from Algeria to Viet­ nam." Contact: 7-5850.

WEDNESDAY 10
Higher Education Administration Doctoral Program Dissertation Defense: An Examination of the Impact of Experimental Factors on Student Completion of Dissertation Requirements 9:00 - 12:00 p.m., Healey Lib­r­ary, 8th fl. Candidate: Elaine Base. Contact: 7-7601.

WEDNESDAY 24
Joiner Center Spring 2004 Film Series: No Man's Land 2:30 p.m., Healey Library, Media Auditorium, lower level. Part of "Images of War - A Series of Interna­tional Films from Algeria to Viet­ nam." Contact: 7-5830.

THURSDAY 25
UMass Boston Performing Arts Presents: No Exit Theatre Production 6:00 p.m., McCormack Ballroom, McCormack Hall, 2nd fl. Also on Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Contact: 7-5860 or laura.schneider@umb.edu.

FRIDAY 26
Bioengineering Seminar: Benthic Nitrogen Cycling in the Upper Estuary: The Importance of Salinity 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Science Center, 1- 006. Featuring Ann Giblin of the Ecosystems Research Center at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Contact: 7-3938 or elen.mcmahon@umb.edu.

SATURDAY 27
WE LEARN (Not) (Working) Conference 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., WUMB Plaza, 4th fl. Conference for all interested in women's issues and adult basic literacy. Contact: 431-3834-3747, or womenact@list women.org.

SUNDAY 31

MARCH
Student Affairs Campus Center Opening Events: Breakfast 8:45 - 9:45 a.m., Campus Center, Alumni Cafe. Join the UMC and start your school day right off! Contact: 7-7590.

Student Affairs Campbell Campus Opening Events: Raise Your Voice Campaign 10:30 a.m., McCormack Hall, University Dining Cafeteria. Exercise your civil rights and participate in the ITC website. Contact: 7-7590.

Student Affairs Campbell Campus Opening Events: Hypnotist in the Ballroom 12:30 - 6:00 p.m., Campus Center, Ballroom. Come be entertained! Contact: 7-7590.

Student Affairs Campbell Campus Opening Events: Faculty author readings in the Alumni Room 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., Alumni Center, Alumni Room. Hear your favorite faculty read excerpts from their work. Contact: 7-7590.

Student Affairs Campbell Campus Opening Events: Popular movies in Cafeteria 6:00 p.m., Campus Center, Cafeteria. Film appreciation with free popcorn. Contact: 7-7590.

MISCELLANEOUS
Beacon Fitness Center Visit the ITC website for up-to-date program announcements, equipment, raquetball, and squash court availability. For schedule, see www.umb.edu/students/campus_ministry/ index.htm.

Campus Ministry Offers include Interfaith Bible study, gospel choir club rehearsals, Catholic mass, Christian ecumenism, worship, justice coalitions workshops, etc. Contact: 7-5830 or www.umb.edu/students/campus_ministry/ index.htm.

Instructional Technology Center (ITC) Interested in expanding your technol­ogy horizon? Visit the ITC website at www.itc.umb.edu or call 7-3990 for updated workshop information.

Intramural Clinics Join a free clinic to learn the rules, how to play and to improve your game in: racquetball, squash, and Wally ball. Sign-up forms are at the Beacon Fitness Center. Contact: 7- 7830.


Visit The Wellness Center McCormack Hall, 1st floor, The Wellness Center offers a wide range of programs—from yoga to time management. Please check our web site at umbwellness.org for the most up-to-date program announcements. Contact: 7-7381 or andreia.wight@umb.edu.

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