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THE UNIVERSITY Reporter

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May 2008



Reverend, Activist to Deliver 40th Commencement Address

By Kaushik Prakash

Gloria White-Hammond, one of Boston's—and the world's—most distinguished humanitarians, will deliver the principal address at the University of Massachusetts Boston's 40th commencement ceremonies, to be held on Friday, May 30. She will also receive an honorary degree, as will three other eminent guests: Ronald Logue, Sarah Moten, and Dan Rea.

“Championing the cause of providing the best urban education to the most diverse student body in New England, UMass Boston is extremely proud of the fact that more than half of its undergraduates are first-generation college students,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “Reverend White-Hammond's efforts at finding the humanness in everyone have earned her a reputation of being one of the country's most respected civil rights leaders. We are happy to have her address our faculty and student body,



Left to right: Commencement speaker Gloria White-Hammond, and honorary degree recipients Dan Rea, Sarah Moten, and Ronald Logue.

who share her commitment to public service and the country's future.”

In addition to Reverend White-Hammond, the Class of 2008 will be joined by honorary degree recipients who have dedicated their lives to building the financial future of New England, pioneering the cause of international development in the field of education, and spearheading and revolutionizing media outreach in Boston.

The Reverend Gloria E. White-Hammond, M.D., is co-pastor of

Bethel AME Church in Boston and a pediatrician at the South End Community Health Center. She will be honored for decades of humanitarian efforts, both local and international, that range from founding the Boston-based “Do the Write Thing” program for high-risk black adolescent females to extensive medical, missionary, and humanitarian work in regions of Africa including Darfur.

Ronald E. Logue, the chairman and CEO of State Street Corporation, will be honored for

his extraordinary contributions to Boston's business and civic life. He has held increasingly responsible positions at State Street since 1990, serving as well on boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, the United Way, the Institute of Contemporary Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts.

Sarah E. Moten, Ed.D., will receive her honorary degree in recognition of long and distinguished international service, on

behalf of her country, to people in need. She is currently education division chief for the Africa Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development and has previously served as deputy assistant secretary of state for international refugee assistance and as Peace Corps country director in Swaziland, Kenya, and Sierra Leone.

Dan Rea '70, now the host of “Nightside with Dan Rea” on WBZ Radio, will receive his honorary degree in recognition of his distinguished career in Boston journalism. From 1976 to 2007, he graced the reporting staff of WBZ-TV, focusing on breaking news stories and local and national politics. Among his honors are two Emmy awards and a lifetime achievement award from the New England Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

For Commencement Day information and schedules, go to www.umb.edu/commencement.

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Center on Media and Society Launches Ethnic Health Reporting Service

By Frank Herron

In an effort to improve health reporting in immigrant and non-English-speaking communities, The New England Ethnic Newswire (www.ethnicnewz.org) is creating a health reporting service. The new service, which is available free to ethnic media outlets throughout New England, was launched April 18 at a luncheon and media briefing hosted by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, which along with the Boston Foundation, Partners HealthCare and MetroWest Community Health Care Foundation is helping to fund the initiative.

The ethnic health reporting initiative is based at the Center on Media and Society, which operates the New England Ethnic Newswire at the University of Massachusetts Boston's John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies. The Center will train and deploy a professional

journalist to report about health issues that relate to immigrant and ethnic populations. These original stories will appear in the ethnic media, on the sponsors' Web sites, and on the New England Ethnic Newswire. Plans are in the works to translate stories into English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Haitian Creole.

The program is designed to help ethnic media pass on timely health-related information through free news stories and other features, including an “Ask the Doctor” column. The goal is to get a flow of valuable health and medical information from and to these often underserved populations, according to Ellen Hume, founder and publisher of the Newswire.

“Health reporting is important to everyone, but especially to those who live in and serve ethnic and immigrant communities,” said Hume, the research director at MIT's Center for Future Civic

Media. “We may be the first in the nation to create this special cross-ethnic health beat. We will report and publish original, high-quality stories that you can't get elsewhere.”

Race and ethnicity correlate with persistent health disparities which have been well documented in both national and local studies. While many important health-related stories are covered effectively by the mainstream media, many immigrants rely on non-English-language media for their health information. The Center's health reporting initiative seeks to bridge the health information gap and help immigrant communities have better health outcomes.

Participating ethnic media partners include the *Boston Haitian Reporter*, *El Planeta*, *El Mundo*, the *Brazilian Journal*, Portuguese-language WSRO-AM (650) radio, the *Mattapan Reporter* (African-American), and others. To provide original content, the

NEWz has selected Eduardo de Oliveira of Nashua, N.H., as the Center's first health reporting fellow. A former columnist for the *Nashua Telegraph* and a former editor of the *Brazilian Journal*, de Oliveira has already begun to write and develop sources for the new beat.

Jarrett Barrios, the former state senator who now is president of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, has been a leader in organizing the project.

“The media play a critical role in keeping people informed about what's going on in health reform. The Ethnic Newswire reaches a population that the mainstream media often miss,” Barrios said. “That's why the Foundation is helping to fund this vital initiative.”

Partners HealthCare official Matt Fishman agrees.

“Partners' founding hospitals,

(continued on page 3)

MAS Program Wins National Award

By Brian Middleton

UMass Boston's Management of Aging Services (MAS) program has been named Outstanding Credit Program for 2008 by the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). Lillian Glickman and Ellen Birchander, the program's co-directors, were presented with the award on March 28 at the UCEA national conference in New Orleans.

The MAS program, a track of the Master of Science in Gerontology, was selected for its innovation and creativity. In presenting the award, UCEA noted that the aging of the American population is creating a need for expanded services and for workers trained in managing those services. The MAS Program responds to this need by offering mid-career professionals in the aging field as well as those new to the field



MAS program co-directors Lillian Glickman and Ellen Birchander.

with an advanced degree that combines both information on aging issues and managerial skills. The concept of the MAS program is to train individuals to assume management positions in agencies that deliver services to elders.

The MAS program began in

2003 as a collaboration between the Gerontology Department and the Division of Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education. The Program offers both online and on-campus courses and has over 31 graduates and 176 annual enrollments.

UMass Hosts Chinese Speech Contest

By William Wright

Local high school students William Dunn and Michael Spence of Belmont Hill School placed first and second, respectively, in the national "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Chinese speech contest, held on Saturday, April 19, at UMass Boston.

The contest was the finals of the third annual competition, bringing together top American high school students from across the country who have been studying Mandarin Chinese. It is sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute, located at UMass Boston, and CLASS, the Chinese Language Association for Secondary Schools.

"In today's globally integrated and interdependent world, our students need to understand other cultures and develop foreign-language skills to succeed academically and in the careers of tomorrow. On behalf of the university, I congratulate William and Michael and all of the high school students who competed in the Chinese Bridge contest. We are proud that this program is one of the many valuable academic, cultural, and community programs offered by the Confucius Institute at the University of Massachusetts," said UMass President Jack M. Wilson.

University-wide global engagement is a priority at UMass.



Chancellor Keith Motley with second-place finisher Michael Spence of Randolph; Ai Fanglin, Education Counselor for the Chinese Consulate General in New York City; and winner William Dunn of Weston. (Photo by Kahrim Wade)

The university's Confucius Institute offers a wide array of programs and services, including teaching the Chinese language, the training of Chinese teachers, Chinese curriculum development, and Chinese language and cultural events. It also provides learning opportunities for the community, a clearinghouse of Chinese language and cultural materials, and a platform for research into Chinese language and culture. It is one of about 30 institutes of its kind in the United States established by the Hanban, China's international education office, and it was the first Confucius Institute in New England.

Twenty-four students competed on Saturday; Dunn and

Spence were among six Massachusetts high school students who qualified for the finals. Dunn and Spence won the opportunity for summer study in Beijing, sponsored by the Hanban. Students in that program will compete with students from around the world in a contest to win a year of study in China.

Ai Fanglin, Education Counselor of the Chinese Consulate General in New York City; University of Massachusetts Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley; and Marcellette G. Williams University of Massachusetts Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations, joined students and contest judges for the competition and awards.

Gerontological Honor Society Hosts Top Federal Official's Talk on Aging

By Rosemarie B. Barker and Robert Geary

On April 15, the Gerontology Department of the McCormack Graduate School sponsored an annual Induction Ceremony of the Sigma Phi Omega National Gerontological Honor Society. The ceremony was keynoted by Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration.

According to Goss, the issues of an aging population, falling birth rates, and the inevitability of rising health costs require solutions that can be generated only through the political process. Goss believes there are solutions that would address the challenges; however, the process must be collaborative and acceptable to the public. He concluded that our only "real" investment in the future is the next generation, who will produce the goods and services to be shared by all. In ad-

dition, each new generation will be called upon to participate in the political process and help develop the solutions for maintaining the Social Security and Medicare programs for America's aging society and future generations.

Goss was inducted into the Honor Society, along with Dr. Elizabeth Clemens, five doctoral students (Rosemarie B. Barker, Kristen Brueck, Deborah Ann Gray, Samantha Levien, Robin Sherman, Andrea Tull), six Management in Aging Services students (Annette Hodess, Kristen Maichle, Camille Sparkes, Amanda Speakman, Julie Spencer, and Teresa Stephen), and three undergraduates (Terri Fitzgerald, Susan Lubin, and Donna Pohotsky). The Chapter officers are Bob Melaugh, Eileen Keane and Kim Sauder. The Chapter advisors are Professors Nina Silverstein and Yung-Ping Chen.

No Rain, Plenty of Smiles on Good Neighbor Day

The weather was better this year as UMass Boston staff, students, and faculty helped out neighbors at projects both on and off campus. Clockwise from top left: Just a few of the 50 holes needed for new rosebushes at St. Christopher's; Father George Carrigg of St. Christopher's with UMass Boston's Rodney Hughes; Head Women's Basketball Coach Shawn Renee Polk spruces up the Walter Denny Youth Center's new teen room; and a team does the same for the Center's playground equipment. (Photos by Harry Brett)



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Dukes Wins Stanford Fellowship for Work on Climate Change

By Lissa Harris

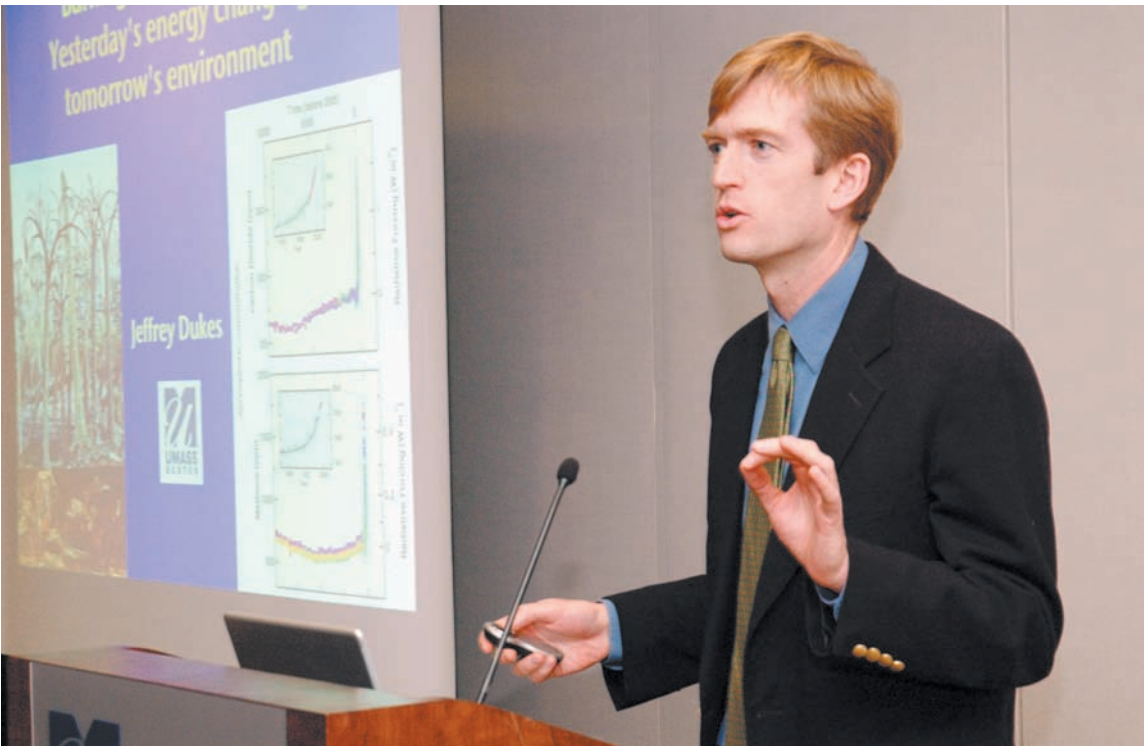
You might think of the Boston Area Climate Experiment as a sort of million-dollar Petri dish.

Studying the effects of global warming is one of the toughest problems science has to offer. You can't just turn up the heat outside by a few degrees and see what happens. So assistant biology professor Jeffrey Dukes decided to try something ambitious: In 2006, with ceramic heaters to raise the temperature, and sprinklers overhead to control "rainfall," Dukes began setting up 36 different simulated climates on small plots of land on an old farm in Waltham. His research group is now watching them to see what happens to the plants and other organisms living and growing there.

Dukes' life would probably be simpler if he'd decided to study something a little less complicated. The subjects of his research—complex ecosystems and how they respond to disturbances like global warming and invasive species—contain some of the most difficult riddles in science to unravel. But Dukes is undeterred by tough problems.

"I get excited about doing science in areas where there are environmental challenges," he said.

This spring, Dukes was one of nineteen environmental scientists across the nation to receive the prestigious Aldo Leopold Fellowship. The fellowship, a program



Dukes says he'll continue his work in Boston despite moving his lab to Purdue next fall. (Photo by Harry Brett)

of the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University, is given annually to a group of the best and brightest in ecology, environmental engineering, and other environmentally focused fields.

For Dukes, the fellowship will be a chance to focus on another kind of research problem: how to increase scientists' public leadership on environmental issues. Since receiving his PhD from Stanford in 2001, Dukes has often been in the public eye. The BACE has received attention from local and national media, and Dukes' research on how much plant matter it takes to make a gallon of fossil fuel made international

headlines in 2003.

"I think some branches of science have a particular responsibility to communicate with the public, and I think environmental science is one of those branches," he said.

Although the public is increasingly savvy about the environmental problems we face as a society, he said, there is still much work to be done to bring scientists and the general public together on these issues.

"It's been gratifying to see increased awareness in problems associated with invasive species, and particularly the problems that are going to be associated with

climate change," he said. "But there's still a heck of a lot to be done. Just because we understand it's a problem doesn't mean we understand the nature of the problem very well."

As part of the fellowship, Dukes and his colleagues will be trained in how to talk to politicians and the media about environmental problems, and will then spend a week in Washington, D.C., where they will meet with elected officials and participate in a mock Congressional testimony. The idea is to help scientists communicate with the public and with elected officials about our most important environmental challenges, said

Woods Institute managing director Pam Sturner.

"I think that there are so many pressing environmental problems that are extremely complex afoot today. There's such a need to bring science to bear on that decision making," she said. "As issues like global warming become more and more pressing, having that information in front of decision makers is incredibly important for the long-term health and sustainability of the planet."

Alas for UMass Boston, Dukes will be leaving this summer: He's accepted an assistant professorship at Purdue University, where he will work with fellow climate-change scientists at the Purdue Climate Change Research Center. But Dukes says he'll keep one foot on the UMass campus, keeping the BACE running, advising graduate students, and continuing to collaborate with his UMass colleagues on the research he's begun here.

"I don't want to sever ties with this place at all," he said. "I will shift the main core of operations to Purdue. But I'll still keep the BACE going here, I'll still have students here," he said.

Biology chairman Michael Shiaris will be sorry to see him go. Dukes is a "rising star" in his field, he said, and he's glad the Woods Institute thinks so too.

"It's really a very prestigious thing. We're really proud of him," he said.

Ethnic Health Reporting Service (cont.)

(continued from page 1)

Brigham and Women's and Massachusetts General Hospital, our physicians, and community health centers are committed to ending racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care, and are engaged in a number of efforts to address these disparities through clinical care and improved communication with our patients. We are pleased to fund this important initiative," said Fishman, vice president for community health at Partners HealthCare.

MetroWest Health Foundation decided to fund the project for similar reasons.

"There is so much happening in health care right now—between health reform, work on racial and ethnic disparities, and disease prevention, it is important that information be widely disseminated, especially in minority communities where English may not be the primary language," said Marty Cohen, president and CEO of the Framingham-based foundation.

The Boston Foundation, which provided a seed grant in 2004 that led to the creation of the Center's innovative New England Ethnic Newswire, is now helping to fund this new health reporting fellowship.

"This is the right time to launch this important service," said Paul S. Grogan, president and CEO of the Boston Foundation. "As we have documented in our recent report with the New England Healthcare Institute, 'Boston Paradox: Lots of Health Care, Not Enough Health,' minority communities in the region are increasingly put at risk by a rising tide of chronic preventable disease, and good and timely information is the best antidote."

The Center on Media and Society's operations, which are part of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, are supported by grants from the University of Massachusetts and the McCormick Tribune Foundation, and by private donations.



(Photo by Harry Brett)

About Frank Herron

A career journalist with degrees from Cornell and Syracuse University, Frank Herron is the Chief Editor of the New England Ethnic Newswire and the Director of the Center on Media

and Society. Herron spent nearly two decades as a reporter and editor for the Syracuse, New York *Post-Standard*, and was also an adjunct instructor at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse

University before joining UMass Boston in the fall of 2007. In addition to his Center on Media and Society duties, Herron also teaches Reading the Newspaper (POLSCI 245G) and Communication Studies 480 and 490.

CSDE Shows Research Work on National Stage

By Kari Russ

The Center for Social Development and Education showcased its notable contributions to the field of research on children with disabilities at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual National Conference, held in Boston April 3 through 5.

More than 6,000 teachers, school administrators, and researchers convened at the conference, where CSDE researchers presented on issues of inclusion in and out of the classroom, the benefits of recreational programming for children with disabilities, the challenges of serving children with emotional and behavioral disorders, the relationships between siblings in families with a child with autism, and the effectiveness of violence-prevention programs for youth.

“The CEC conference gave CSDE the opportunity to provide educators with practical methods to improve educational outcomes for children with disabilities in the classroom and the broader community,” said CSDE director Gary N. Siperstein, PhD, who was also recently named one of the 2008 winners of the Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Scholarship. “The conference also gave

our researchers the opportunity to discuss with educators the real-life implications of research upon classroom settings and beyond.”

As a part of a showcase for the Division of International Special Education and Services, Siperstein and Co-Director of the Special Olympics Global Collaborating Center Jennifer Norins Bardon presented findings from their major Multinational Youth Attitude Study, which to date involves more than 14,000 youth in the United States, Japan, and China. The presentation demonstrated that youth attitudes toward students with intellectual disabilities are a major barrier to inclusion worldwide, but can be changed if educators focus on highlighting the competence of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion and acceptance were also themes in “Summer Camp Can Promote the Social Inclusion for Children with Intellectual Disabilities,” a presentation about the successes of UMass Boston’s Camp Shriver. Siperstein and staff members Gary Glick and Danna DiGesse Bille introduced the concept of Camp Shriver as a fully inclusive recreational experience that promotes social inclusion

among children. Chief among the presentation’s findings was the fact that campers with and without intellectual disabilities were found to be equals when it came to making friends with other campers.

In a different session, Paddy Favazza and Gary Siperstein introduced their audience to another recreational program, the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program, one of the only physical activity programs for young children with developmental disabilities/delays. CSDE’s evaluation of the Young Athletes Program showed that the program improved these children’s development in language, motor skills, and social skills.

In “School Context and the Characteristics of Students Identified as Emotionally Disturbed,” Andrew Wiley presented findings from one of CSDE’s current U.S. Department of Education grants, Project Arches, which describes a large sample of children served for ED by schools that differ in income and performance. Results have shown large differences in academic achievement between students with ED from high- and low-income schools as measured

using national norms, but no differences in relative achievement (as measured compared to same-school peers). Students with ED from low-income schools exhibited more outwardly directed problem behavior, while students with ED from high-income schools exhibited more anxiety and withdrawal. Researchers and practitioners alike recognized the implications of the findings for improving services and supports for this vulnerable population.

Paul Benson, senior research associate and associate professor of sociology, brought attention to another critical issue in the field: relationships in families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Benson discussed a unique aspect of his ongoing study of families of children with ASD in a presentation called “Behavioral Adjustment of Siblings of Children with Autism,” which compared the mental health problems of siblings of children with autism with and without a diagnosis of developmental, learning, or emotional disabilities.

In his study, Benson found that 25% of siblings were diagnosed with ASD, ADHD, or other disability. While siblings with a

disability were found to be more disordered than children drawn from the general population, siblings without a disorder were no more maladjusted than their typical peers.

The findings of CSDE’s evaluation of the Teen Empowerment youth violence-prevention program in Boston were also presented in a poster session, led by Melissa Pearrow, assistant professor in the Graduate College of Education. The session focused on the effectiveness of programs that utilize inner-city youth as mentors and advocates in violence-prevention programs for teens.

“As in years past, the work of the Center for Social Development and Education was prominent in the annual meeting of the CEC,” said Rick Brigham, PhD President-Elect of CEC’s Division of Research. “The Center has been very important in supporting the mission of the organization in promoting high-quality research in the field of special education. The increasing prominence of the Division for Research is due in large measure to the involvement of Gary Siperstein and his colleagues at CSDE in the organization.”

National Institutes of Health Awards \$1.4 Million for Minority Undergraduate Scientists

By Jim Mortenson

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded UMass Boston a \$1.4 million, four-year grant to enhance the academic and research experiences of underrepresented students at the undergraduate level, in order to increase the number pursuing doctoral study in biomedical fields and attaining doctoral degrees.

“We are becoming a major force for ensuring the diversification of our future life sciences workforce in Massachusetts,” said Dean Andrew Grosovsky of the College of Science and Mathematics. The project’s official title is the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity, or IMSD, at UMass Boston.

Associate Professors Rachel Skvirsky and Adán Colón-Carmona of the Biology Department are the project’s lead investigators, though many other science faculty will play key roles in the program. A key component of this project is the university’s U56 partnership with the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC), the main goal of which is to address health disparities in minority populations and

to improve research, training, and outreach opportunities for minority students.

The IMSD program is just one facet of a larger, unified plan for student development in the sciences at UMass Boston. “We are building a portfolio of programs designed to increase the number of students, especially those from underrepresented, low-income, first-generation backgrounds, who successfully pursue science careers,” said Grosovsky. “UMass Boston is at a tipping point in terms of implementing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, programs that reach out to minorities. We are confident that the IMSD project will be another important initiative that will tip the scales in favor of this goal and, ultimately, lead to permanent institutional change.”

According to Skvirsky and Colón-Carmona, IMSD students will have access to mentored research opportunities both here and at DF/HCC. Scheduled to begin in summer 2008, IMSD will provide year-round structured enrichment activities, including research experience, faculty

and peer mentoring, academic enrichment, and preparation for application to PhD programs. The program will emphasize high achievement in courses and the development of independence in research.

Using a proactive recruitment process, underrepresented minority students at the sophomore level who are currently taking science courses will be recruited to apply to become IMSD affiliates. Affiliates who successfully complete at least the first level of IMSD gateway courses with a grade point average of 3.0 or better and who are within two years (60 credits) of graduation will be encouraged to apply to become IMSD fellows. The program will develop a community of science learners with a drive to excel academically. Each IMSD affiliate will be coached by an upper-class IMSD fellow and will also be mentored by individual faculty, either at UMass Boston or DF/HCC, who are researchers in the fellow’s area of concentration as well as by the program’s co-directors.

“We believe students are going to fully embrace the mentoring

component of this program,” said Skvirsky. “Our faculty and DF/HCC faculty will mentor our IMSD fellows.” But, according to Skvirsky, it won’t stop there. “Our fellows will serve as mentors to other students, or affiliates. And affiliates can aspire to become fellows.”

The programs that IMSD will complement include two—Bridges to the Baccalaureate and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participants (LSAMP)—that focus on involving community college students and UMass Boston undergraduates in scientific study. IMSD will provide the next level of training, specifically to prepare and channel highly qualified students into PhD programs.

Other existing programs that will be reinforcing the goals of IMSD include the Boston Science Partnership, which aims to increase student achievement in science for students from grade 6 through college in the Boston Public Schools, and at UMass Boston and Northeastern University’s College of Engineering; the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which provides undergraduate research

training in all science fields to students from underrepresented groups; and the U56 UMass Boston-DF/HCC Comprehensive Cancer Partnership Program.

“The IMSD and similar programs are great models for ensuring student success. One of my top priorities for the College of Science and Mathematics—students, faculty, administrators, and staff—is to institutionalize a culture of student success within the college,” said Grosovsky. “Since my arrival at UMass Boston eight months ago, I have been overwhelmed by the level of commitment of our faculty and staff, as individuals, to our students. What I have also observed, in contrast to this incredible human commitment, is that we are, as a university, just beginning to lay the foundation for institutionalizing this commitment. So this is an incredibly exciting time for all of us.”

For additional information about the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity at UMass Boston, please contact Associate Professor Rachel Skvirsky or Associate Professor Adán Colón-Carmona.

Slomoff Lecture Examines Health Care “Elephant”

By Geoffrey Kula

On April 15, UMass Boston’s Graduate Program in Dispute Resolution hosted the ninth annual Slomoff Lectureship, titled “Health Care Rationing: The Elephant in the Room” at the university’s Campus Center.

This public forum, which focused on how America decides who gets what level of medical service via its public healthcare system, featured speakers Paul Levy, President and CEO of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) and author of the blog “Running a Hospital”; Marc Roberts, Harvard School of Public Health Professor of Political Economy; and James Sabin, Harvard Medical School Clinical Professor and Director of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Ethics Program. Also in attendance was Ben Slomoff, the benefactor of the lecture series and a mediator and arbitrator in California, who graduated from UMass Boston’s Dispute Resolution Program in 1997 and flew in specifically for the event.

The forum was moderated by Steve Crosby, Dean of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, who noted in his opening remarks that Americans have “vastly more demand for health care than a capacity to pay for it.” This, Crosby continued, leads to three options: lower the costs of healthcare, spend more on healthcare, or reduce the services provided.

Levy, hired in 2002 to save the then-ailing merged BIDMC,

opted to focus on high-end surgical procedures, where the margins are higher than primary care and cognitive specialties. Although the shift in focus made financial sense, Levy said that it amounted to “irrational rationing” because primary care and cognitive specialties “are precisely the areas one would support to help people in the U.S. live longer.”

The low pay rate in primary care, he explained, forces primary care physicians (PCPs) to see more patients; on average, PCPs spend only 18 minutes with each patient, far less time than specialists. This is a problem, he said, because it takes more time than that to talk with a patient about family history, which can suggest possible diagnoses and therapies.

“As a society we have set prices for PCP services that are too low for them to provide this type of care,” he continued. “They chat with you, check your blood pressure, poke around, then send you to a specialist. If they had time to spend with you, [the trip to the specialist] could have been avoided, [but] we’ve trained ourselves to think we need a specialist follow-up to a PCP visit.”

This, among other factors—including lifestyle issues and the risk of lawsuits for failure to diagnose—results in fewer medical students studying to be PCPs. Levy offered that society should respond by instituting what he called a “concierge practice” in which a PCP takes only 500 patients (as opposed to the average 4,000), charges an annual

retainer, and then bills for additional services. Under this model, doctors would have more time to spend with patients, and because of improved care and treatments, they would cost society less. The remaining 3,500 patients, he said, could be serviced at “minute clinics” to address issues that don’t require the attention of a PCP or an emergency room and can be treated at neighborhood pharmacies instead. As for the low numbers of medical students who decide to be PCPs, Levy suggested loan forgiveness, mortgage support, and legislation requiring insurance companies to pay better rates to PCPs.

Harvard School of Public Health’s Roberts, who next took the floor, was blunt in his assessment of U.S. healthcare: “As a system, our system sucks. The good news is it’s fixable.”

Roberts explained that although the U.S. spends two to three times what every other industrialized nation does on healthcare, our average life expectancy is one year less. The higher costs are attributed to three main factors: Doctors are paid fees for services, which encourages them to do more so they can bill more; our fragmented payment system means that 30-40 cents of every dollar spent on healthcare is spent on administrative costs; and doctors utilize very aggressive methods of practice – in fact, evidence suggests they do too much (in Japan, surgery is performed one-third as often as in the U.S., yet people live longer).

Roberts sees three strategies to remedy the situation: Create incentives for people to find good medical care at a lower cost; simplify administrative costs by unifying the payment system; and keep people healthy so big costs would only arise when they have acute episodes.

He emphasized there is “a need to radically reorganize the American healthcare system” to introduce efficiencies, but admitted it was “not feasible” this would happen. Roberts noted that when hospitals saved money by providing better care at a lower cost, their reimbursements declined more than cost savings, creating a paradox. He closed with this analogy: “Every hospital administrator is a truffle-sniffing pig [who] must find the high-margin activity to keep the institution alive.”

In step with Roberts, Savin began with a comparison of his own: “There is a similarity between our society as a whole and a two-year-old who must choose between the lesser of two evils,” he said. “We’re deficient in social readiness to take the necessary steps to solve these complex problems.”

However, Savin did outline some decision-making guidelines. Rational policies, he said, must be explicit about what they are and why the decisions were made; the rationale has to include the recognition of the needs of individuals versus the cost to society; and there must be an escape clause. As an example, he cited Aetna Health, whose CEO denied Aetna’s medical directors the right

to refuse healthcare to patients in largely public scenarios. He saw the need to form an independent panel because he recognized that few people would trust an insurance company employee saying a treatment wasn’t worth administering.

“Families need information about treatments that work and treatments that won’t work and should have the right to hire their own specialists to review this information and data and make their own judgments [about treatments],” Savin said, noting that Kaiser Permanente has adopted an independent review panel for “last chance” situations: If you don’t agree with the company’s decision, you can get a second opinion they will follow.

“We need to embrace a different style of practice to guide us through the possibilities of treatment,” he said. “This will require institutional change which would allow for social learning.”

In the question-and-answer session that followed, Levy postulated on a system in which people were kept healthy as opposed to waiting for a specialist to be a sick person’s white knight.

“If your PCP began spending more time with you today, you’d see benefits 10-15 years [down the road], but the body politic does not look that far ahead. As FDR is alleged to have said: ‘You’ve persuaded me, now put pressure on me,’” said Levy. “Politicians don’t pick up causes on their own, a constituency must call for action.”

UMass Boston Team Wins Silver at Flower Show

By Aimee Blacquiere and Kaushik Prakash

For the second year in a row, UMass Boston has won a silver medal at the New England Spring Flower Show. James Allen, Greenhouse Manager for the Biology Department, and Music Professor David Patterson collaborated to create “Biology and Music; Rhapsody in our Greenhouses!” This year’s silver medal duplicates the showing of last year’s exhibit, “Can You Reduce Global Warming? Yes You Can!”

The New England Flower Show, which is sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, is now in its 137th year and has grown to be the third-largest flower show in the world. This year’s show featured 38 gardens, 222 retail vendors, and 192 floral arrangements, as well as live music performances, lectures, demonstrations, and competi-

tions, all taken in by just under 100,000 people.

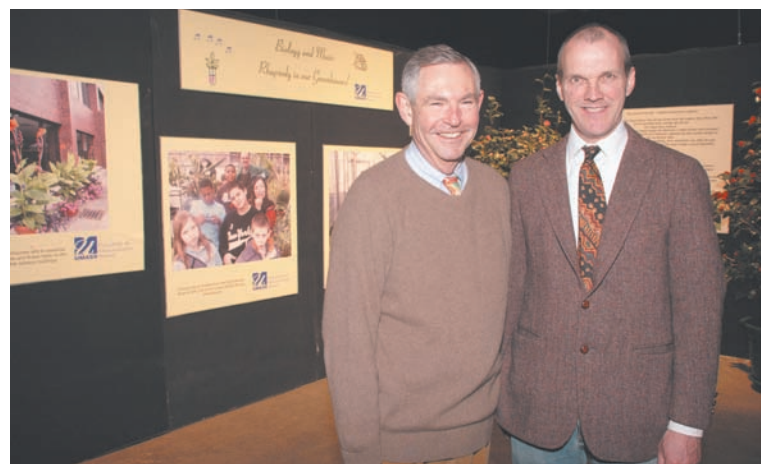
The *Camellia japonica hybrid*, flowering shrubs and close relatives of *Camellia sinensis* (the plant most of us would know as green and black tea), which has traditionally adorned the UMass Boston campus since 1980, was the highlight of this year’s show. The UMass Boston exhibit consisted of the arrangement of the *hybrids* with colorful posters on the hermit thrush, a bird which inspired David Patterson’s compositions. Patterson’s music included the pieces, “The Hermit Thrush Orchestra Plays Bill Evans,” in which the birds’ harmonies resemble those of the jazz pianist, and “The Hermit Thrush Orchestra Plays Vivaldi,” which rhapsodizes upon bird calls and the sounds of the Baroque master.

“I believe lightning has struck

us twice here with this exhibit. For a second year in a row, we have won a silver medal!” said James Allen. “You never really know, as an exhibitor, what is going to appeal to the judges of a flower show exhibit. The lightning metaphor is that luck, good or bad, has something to do with the judging process.”

One of the judges at the show noted that “Music explains beautifully the natural world,” and that the exhibit’s signage was “helpful in understanding the relationship between the originally composed music and horticulture.”

Right, top photo: Music Professor David Patterson and James Allen, Greenhouse Manager for the Biology Department, at their display. Bottom: The silver medal and a closeup of of a Camellia japonica hybrid. (Photos by Harry Brett)



Professor to Spend Summer Bringing Better Mental Health Care to the Central African Republic

By Julia Reischel

This summer, Assistant Professor of Family Therapy Laurie Lopez Charlés will leave the comfort of her office in Wheatley Hall to volunteer with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, or Doctors Without Borders) in Central African Republic, a country that most other aid operations avoid for safety reasons.

“It’s understood that you’re going to a place where there is conflict,” she says, explaining that she and her husband are preparing for her departure by updating their wills. “I’m definitely prepared to go. After last summer, I’m much more aware of my priorities.”

Last summer, Charlés received a diagnosis of a hidden health problem that could have killed her at any time. It was a bolt from the blue, and it transformed her life.

“In between classes, I remember working on my will,” she says. “I had to plan how to program my cell phone so that someone could reach [my husband] if I died on the T.”

A complicated procedure cured the problem, but the reminder of her own mortality in the midst of her otherwise safe and comfortable life in Boston brought her life goals into sharp, fresh focus.

“That experience really clarified what I want to do,” she says.

As a mental health officer stationed with a MSF staff in CAR for the next few months, Charlés will work with a team of volunteers distributing free health care to the traumatized population of the city and the surrounding countryside, which has been scarred by years of coups and rebel uprisings. The country’s proximity to higher-profile crisis

zones like the Darfur region of Sudan adds to the insecurity, and most aid organizations consider the country too unstable to send their workers there.

This is where MSF comes in—the international humanitarian group’s mission is to provide emergency medical aid in dangerous places, and it currently has over one hundred staff members in CAR. The danger they face is serious: In March, a woman was shot and killed while she was taking care of a patient in an MSF vehicle.

Charlés’s role in MSF will be to help build a mental health component of MSF’s CAR mission. She will both conduct therapy sessions with traumatized CAR citizens and teach other volunteers and locals how to do so.

It’s the same work that she does at UMass Boston, where she provides therapy to families displaced by war and violence and trains graduate family therapy students to do the same. The skills she has honed at UMass Boston, as well as her French-language skills (CAR is a Francophone country), are the reasons why she was chosen for the MSF post.

Over the course of her career, Charlés has been no stranger to violence. She spent 18 months in the Peace Corps in Togo, a West African country where, she says, there were “guns everywhere.” For her doctoral dissertation at Nova Southeastern University in Florida, Charlés conducted an exhaustive study of the dynamics of hostage negotiation during a school shooting. She interviewed FBI and police crisis negotiators, listened to numerous audio recordings of live hostage negotiations, and traveled to the FBI Academy in Virginia to conduct



This summer won’t be the first time Laurie Lopez Charlés has worked in dangerous surroundings. (Photo by Harry Brett)

research. The resulting case study is an intricate account of how to communicate with people in dangerous situations.

What ties all of her work together, she says, is her interest in “how people elicit information in difficult circumstances,” and her desire to put that information to therapeutic use.

Her field strives to do exactly that. Its goal is to “look at people in their context.” The field focuses on those who are the least likely to be able to navigate the state aid system on their own—“the people

who don’t show up,” as Charlés calls them, referring to refugees, victims of domestic violence, and illegal immigrants.

Charlés came to UMass Boston’s Family Therapy department two years ago because she admired the school’s emphasis on serving exactly these groups. “It was mainly the urban mission,” she says. “It was impressive to me that the university talked about this. I needed to be someplace where I *want* to have tenure.”

At UMass, Charlés and her students study the problems

inherent in providing therapy to marginalized groups in Boston. This fall, she and her students will use funds from a Joseph P. Healey Endowment Grant to conduct ethnographic interviews with recipients of aid in Boston on the subject of “resilience.” What they learn they will use to improve the therapy they give to their clients.

“How do we incorporate them into our research—especially in health? What practices do we use to try to understand their experience?” Charlés asks. Answering her own question, she says that the key is humility. “It’s a position of curiosity you have to take. You have to let it all go. If you can make yourself an outsider, that’s a conducive way to learn.”

This lesson, which she will teach to her students next fall, she will learn again firsthand in CAR this summer as she struggles to understand and help the mental health problems of refugees and victims of violence living half a world away.

“I really think this is the kind of thing that you can do at UMass,” she says. “My students work with refugee clients; we also have students who *are* refugees. I am hoping that my experience in CAR will be an important contribution to the department.”

As for the fact that she will be plunging herself into danger overseas, Charles says that though she is apprehensive, she knows that going to CAR will make her a better family therapist.

“[Travel] is how I get humbled about what I think I know. And the humility is what makes my work good,” she says. “And why not me? The people who live there have to live there every day.”

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PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

In April, Rachel Rubin, Professor of American Studies, gave three invited talks at the O.C. Tanner Symposium, Celebración: Latino Contributions to U.S. Culture, which brought together filmmakers, poets, artists, musicians, folklorists, and scholars. Her presentations were on the “afterlife” of the zoot suit, the graphic novels of Los Bros Hernandez, and the politics and aesthetics of the performer El Vez.

Hispanic studies lecturer Cactano Serpa gave a presentation at the A

Mulher e o Trabalho (Women and Work) conference, held at the University of the Azores on May 5.

Joyce Peseroff, Director of Creative Writing, gave a talk titled “Emily Dickinson—Poet and Mystic” at Mitre Corp. in Bedford, Massachusetts, on April 10.

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Senior Fellow at the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Democracy and Development Ajume Wingo gave a talk titled “Human Rights Across Cultures: Trustees of Themselves: An Aesthetic Framework for Understanding Human

Rights in Africa” at the Carr Center for Human Rights of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University on April 17.

Peter Kiang, Professor of Education and Director of the Asian American Studies Program, delivered a keynote address in honor of Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month at Federated Dorchester Neighborhood House in May. He also conducted a professional development workshop at the Central Massachusetts Chinese Language School in Worcester.

Associate Professor of Economics Janis Kapler presented a paper,

titled “Outsourcing, Fragmentation and Integration: The Pharmaceutical Industry,” at the Conference on Offshoring and Outsourcing: The Organizational and Geographical Relocation of High-Value Company Functions, sponsored by the SDA Bocconi School of Management, in Milan, Italy, on April 23-24.

The Institute for Community Inclusion’s Heike Boeltzig and Matthew Kusminsky presented with colleagues from the Federation for Children with Special Needs the findings of an evaluation of the Advancing Parent-Professional Leadership in Education (APPLE) Project at the New England

TASH conference entitled “Inclusion in Schools, Work, and Communities: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” on April 11 in Worcester.

Diane Loud and Jen Sulewski of the Institute for Community Inclusion presented on a panel at the 2008 MIG/DMIE Employment Summit: Reducing Barriers by Melding Data and Policy on April 23 in New Orleans.

On April 17, Anne Scrivener Agee, Vice Provost for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, participated in a panel discussion on Women in Technology for the

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Boston chapter of the Society for Information Management (SIM).

On April 30, **Kristin Uiterwyk** and **Dan Hellin** of the Urban Harbors Institute gave a presentation entitled “Using GIS for Coastal and Harbor Management” at the spring conference of the New England Chapter of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA).

Senior philosophy Llcturer **Mitchell Silver** gave a presentation on secularism to the assembled faculty and student body at Gann Academy in Waltham on April 2, gave a talk at the Jewish Organizing Initiative, titled “History of the Jewish Left,” on April 9, and presented a paper at MIT to the Addir Fellows titled “The Pluralism of World Views.”

College of Public and Community Service Professor Emerita **Marie Kennedy** gave the following lectures: “Lifting the Voices of Low-Income Women,” at the Crossing Boundaries Conference, held by the University of Michigan Ann Arbor’s Center for the Education of Women on March 28 in Detroit, Michigan; “Transformative Planning for Community Development,” at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, on April 1, and again at UMass Amherst on April 3; “Horizontalidad—choices and challenges of social movements in Argentina” at Amnesty International’s chapter at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Gerontology professor **Nina Silverstein** of the College of Public and Community Service served on an expert panel, “Strategic Planning for Older Driver Safety,” organized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Office of Behavioral Safety Research and held on April 28 in Bethesda, Maryland.

Professor **Meng Zhou** of the Department of Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences (EEOS) gave an invited seminar, titled “What we can learn from size spectra of plankton in oceans,” at the Horn Point Marine Laboratory at the University of Maryland.

Associate Professor of Modern Languages **Alex Des Forges** was a discussant on the panel “Words Changing Hands: Translation and Cultural Circulation in Late Qing and Republican China” at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies on April 5.

Hispanic studies lecturer **Patricia Anderson** presented her paper “The Female Law” at the annual ACMRS (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies) conference in February.

Philosophy professor **Lawrence Blum** presented “Races and Racialized Groups” at the “What’s the Use of Race?” conference at MIT; and “Some Reservations about White Privilege Analysis” at the Philosophy of Education Society’s yearly conference.

In April, **Patrick Clarkin**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, presented “Socioeconomic and maternal correlates of height and adiposity in Cambodian-American children in Rhode Island” at the annual meeting of the Human Biology Association in Columbus, Ohio. He also presented “Correlations between war-related experiences and health of Hmong in the U.S. and French Guiana” at the Second International Conference on Hmong Studies in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Susan DeSanto-Madeya, Assistant Professor of Nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, presented a paper at the Eastern Nursing Society’s 20th Annual Scientific Session, titled “Methodological Issues and Approaches to Research with Ethnically/Racially Diverse Adolescent Children of Mothers with Breast Cancer.”

Patricia Gallagher, a senior research fellow at the Center for Survey Research, is presenting a paper, titled “The Validation of Self Identifiers for Persons with Mobility Impairment,” at the 63rd Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research in May in New Orleans.

Anthropology Department lecturer **Lauren Sullivan** presented a paper she co-authored, “Refining the Cunil Ceramic Complex,” at the Society for American Archaeology’s (SAA) 73rd annual Meetings in Vancouver, Canada, in March.

Assistant Professor of Classics **Jacqueline Carlon** spoke at Boston University on April 11 at the 2008 Boston Area Roman Studies Conference, “Hic and Haec, Declining Masculinity and Femininity in Ancient Rome.” Her talk was titled “Terentia becomes Plotina: Redefining Feminine Virtue.”

Professor of History **James Green** discussed UMass Boston’s new MA program in public history at a workshop on civic engagement at Tufts University on April 18 and at a New England Historical Society conference on April 26.

Jay R. Dee, associate professor in the Department of Leadership in Education, presented the paper “Faculty development as a self-organizing system” at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), held March 24 through 28 in New York City. At the same meeting, Dee also co-presented with Johanna Duponte, a 2007 graduate of the Higher Education Doctoral Program, the paper “Pedagogical change and institutional transformation: The effects of simultaneous reform in community colleges,” and co-presented a third paper, “Social and psychological dimensions of role transition: Faculty to administrator,” with Marguerite McLellan, a 2007 graduate of the Higher Education Doctoral Program.

College of Public and Community Service Associate Professor **Andrew**

Leong participated at the Georgetown Journal of Global Critical Race Perspectives Symposium: Bridging the Gap Between Scholarship and Activism at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., on April 4. He spoke as a panelist on “How does our scholarship contribute to roles as activists?” and was also a discussant during the roundtable discussion on “How can a journal most effectively embody an activist role?” Professor Leong was also a panelist at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers on April 18 on the panel “Right to the City: Social Justice Activism in Boston.”

Mary Oleskiewicz, Associate Professor of Music, presented the invited paper “Händel, Quantz, und die Instrumentalmusik in Dresden und Berlin” at the 19th Annual Magdeburg Telemann Festival and International Scholarly Conference on March 14.

Associate Professor of Africana Studies **Marc Prou** was invited by Primary Source to lecture on Haiti’s cultural and social history to High school teachers and staff at the Milton Public Schools on April 9.

Associate Professor of Mathematics **Maura Mast** was the keynote speaker at the Mathematics Across the Curriculum Conference, held at the Borough of Manhattan Community College on March 28. Her address was titled “Quantitative Literacy and Democracy.”

Assistant Professor of Sociology **Mohammad Tamdgidi** presented an invited panel paper titled “Beyond Islamophobia and Islamophilia as Western Epistemic Racisms: Insights from Sufism” at the conference Deconstructing Islamophobia: Immigration, Globalization, and Constructing the Other, organized and held in April by the Center for Race and Gender at the University of California, Berkeley.

Associate Director of Environmental Studies and Lecturer in Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences **Ninian Stein** organized and was a co-chair for a symposium on March 27, titled “Shapeshifting: Materiality in North America’s First European Settlements. Society for American Archaeology,” at the Society for American Archaeology’s annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. As part of the panel, Stein presented a paper titled “‘The English, of the full ripe corn ground, make very good bread’: The Adoption of Maize and Related Cultivation Technology by Early European Settlers in Southern New England.”

In April, **Shirley Tang**, Assistant Professor in Asian American Studies and American Studies, was an invited speaker for a plenary roundtable at the national conference Southeast Asians in the Disapora, held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

PUBLICATIONS

The Institute for Community Inclusion’s **John Butterworth** and **Jean Winsor** published an article, titled “Participation in integrated employment and community-based non work services for individuals supported by state disability agencies,” in *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

Heike Boeltzig and **John Butterworth** of the Institute for Community Inclusion wrote an article for *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* titled “Supporting employment and personal choices: A response to Weikle.”

Brooke Dennee-Sommers, **Frank A. Smith** and **Jean Winsor**, all of the Institute for Community Inclusion, published a DataNote 16, titled “State Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Agencies Expenditures for Integrated Employment Services,” on www.statedata.info.

The Institute for Community Inclusion’s **Matthew Kusminsky**, **Heike Boeltzig**, **Jaime Timmons**, and **John Butterworth** wrote the National Survey of Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRPs) report. It discussed gender differences in individual employment outcomes of people with developmental disabilities.

Christian Weller, an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, coauthored a column on the *Wall Street Journal’s* www.RetirementDebate.com site about the need for sensible Social Security reform.

Pepi Leistyna, Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics, had his chapter “Cultural Activism” published in *The Sage Handbook of Cultural Analysis*.

Professor **Meng Zhou** of the Department of Environmental, Earth ,and Ocean Sciences (EEOS) and his student Ryan D. Dorland published a paper, titled “Circulation and heat fluxes during the austral fall in George VI Sound, Antarctic Peninsula,” in the journal *Deep–Sea Research*.

Virginia Smith Harvey of the Counseling and School Psychology Department in the Graduate College of Education recently published *Professional Development and Supervision of School Psychologists: From Intern to Expert*.

Professor **Rona Flippo** of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Graduate College of Education published “The development of social skills, reading, and literacy motivation of pre-school and kindergarten children: A good fit?” in the *Journal of Reading Education*, where it was the “Featured Literacy Scholar” article.

Pepi Leistyna, Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics, coauthored an article, titled “Teaching Social

Class through Alternative Media and by Dialoging across Disciplines and Boundaries,” in the journal *Radical Teacher*.

Rebecca Fine Romanow, a lecturer in the English Department, has been invited to republish her paper “But... Can the Subaltern Speak” with the Subaltern Studies Group. She was also invited to join the editorial board of *Subaltern Cinema*, a peer-reviewed journal that will begin publication in September of this year.

College of Public and Community Service Professor Emerita **Marie Kennedy** published “What About an Anti-Imperialist, Anti-Corporate Planning?” in the Winter 2008 issue of *Progressive Planning* magazine.

Gerontology Professor **Nina Silverstein** of the College of Public and Community Service coauthored an article, titled “On the road to dementia-friendly transportation,” for the newsletter of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association.

Mary Oleskiewicz, Associate Professor of Music, recently published three essays and articles: “‘For the Church as Well as for the *Orchestra*’: J.S. Bach, the *Missa*, and the Dresden Court, 1700–1750” in *Bach: Journal of the Riemenschneider Bach Institute*; the chapter “Like Father, Like Son? Emanuel Bach and the Writing of Biography,” in the book *Music and Its Questions: Essays in Honor of Peter Williams*; and “More on Fasch and the Canonic Trio Sonata,” in *Johann Friedrich Fasch als Instrumentalkomponist: Bericht über die Internationale Wissenschaftliche Konferenz am 8. und 9.*

Shirley Tang, Assistant Professor in Asian American Studies and American Studies, published the chapter “Responding to the Basic Call to Public Engagement: Community-Centered Research as Capacity/Knowledge Building in Immigrant/Refugee Communities,” in *Engaging Contradictions: Theory, Politics, and Methods of Activist Scholarship*, published by University of California Press.

Kathleen Teehan, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, has published an article, titled “University of Massachusetts Boston and Tsinghua University Partnership,” in the spring edition of the Institute for International Education magazine, *IIE Networker*.

EXHIBITS, READINGS, PERFORMANCES, AND RECORDINGS

Pepi Leistyna, Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics, had a public screening in Montreal, Canada, of his film “Class Dismissed: How TV Frames the Working Class,” organized by Cinema Politica, in collaboration with London Indymedia.

Frederick S. Troy Professor of English **Lloyd Schwartz** has given readings of *Bishop: Poems, Prose, and Letters*, a

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Thursday 15

The Second Annual Technology Education Conference
5 p.m. – 9 p.m., Healey Library, eleventh floor, University Club, section A. The conference will allow you to discover the wide range of ways in which your colleagues have been enhancing their teaching and research with technology. Faculty presentations will be paired with hands-on clinics to give you a chance to get started in using some of the tools and activities that are proving most useful and effective. For more information, call Apurva Mehta at 7-5952.

Friday 16

College of Public and Community Service Honors Convocation and Reception
7 p.m. – 9 p.m., McCormack Hall, third floor, Ryan Lounge.

Saturday 17

Chancellor's Block Party
Noon – 3 p.m., Fox Point Pavilion and Harbor Walk Lawn. The Chancellor is hosting a block party for everyone who works at UMass Boston. The fun includes Boston's Best Magician, caricaturists, face-painting, kite-making, and more.

Tuesday 20

Getting Started in Business Workshop
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network, Boston Regional Office & Minority Business Center, Copley Square Library, 700 Boylston Street. Register online at www.sbdc.umb.edu/training.

Monday 26

Memorial Day
University closed.

Tuesday 27

College of Management Honors Convocation and Reception
5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Campus Center Point Lounge and Campus Center Ballroom.

College of Science and Mathematics Honors Convocation and Reception
5 p.m. – 7 p.m., McCormack Hall, third floor, Ryan Lounge.

Wednesday 28

College of Liberal Arts Honors Convocation and Reception
7 p.m. – 10 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom and University Terrace.

Thursday 29

Graduate Studies (including Education and McCormack) Honors Convocation and Reception
4 p.m. – 8 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom and Student Dining Room.

Friday 30

Commencement Day
9:30 a.m. – Noon, Campus Center Lawn. The University celebrates its 40th commencement. Individual college ceremonies will begin at 1 p.m. at other locations on campus.

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book he edited about poet Elizabeth Bishop, at MIT, BU, UMass Boston, Yale, Waltham Public Library, the Arsenal in Central Park, the Philadelphia Free Library, and Hartwick College. He was also the guest speaker at the Friends Speaker Series at the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Libraries of Boston University, and will serve as chair and moderator for the panel “The USA School of Writing: Elizabeth Bishop in America” at the American Literature Association Convention in San Francisco on May 23. A concert of musical settings of his poems by the Tanglewood Composition Fellows will take place at Tanglewood on July 29.

Theatre Department lecturer **Michael Fennimore** is appearing on national television in a commercial for Accu-Chek diabetes testing supplies.

Psychology Professor Ed Tronick was consulted by the makers of the documentary “Depression: Out of the Shadows,” which will air on PBS on May 21.

GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND PROJECTS

The Institute for Community Inclusion conducted an initial stage of project evaluation for the state of Washington's Jobs by 21 Partnership Project, a project designed to expand interagency collaboration to support the transition of young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from school to work.

Gerontology Professor **Nina Silverstein** of the College of Public and Community Service and Engineering Department lecturer **Tomas Materdey**, along with Geri Adler of the University of Houston, received a grant from the UMass/UTC initiative for their project “Does Monitoring Naturalistic Driving through Vehicle Instrumentation Make a Difference in Decision-Making for Fitness to Drive in Early Stage Dementia? An Intervention Study.”

Luis Alonso-Ovalle, Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies, has received a Joseph P Healey Grant to fund his ongoing research program on the interpretation of Spanish indefinite noun phrases.

Mary Oleskiewicz, Associate Professor of Music, discovered a previously unknown musical composition by the composer Johann Friedrich Fasch, resulting in the invitation to present the report “Eine Wiederentdeckte Triosonate von Johann Friedrich Fasch” as well as the first modern performance of the work at the 10th International Scientific Fasch Conference and Music Festival, held in Zerbst, Germany, on April 12. An interview with Oleskiewicz concerning the discovery was published in the newspaper *Zerbster Volkstimme* on April 14.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Management and Marketing lecturer **Edward Romar** has been named a Fulbright Scholar. Romar will spend the spring 2009 semester teaching at the University of Pannonia in Veszprem, Hungary.

Assistant Professor of Biology **Jefrey Dukes** has been selected as a 2008 Leopold Leadership Fellow by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University. The Fellows take part in intensive leadership and communications training to hone their skills in delivering scientific information to decision makers, the media, and the public.

Professor **Meng Zhou** of the Department of Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences (EEOS) received the 2008 European Union Marie Curie People Fellowship for reinforcing the scientific excellence of Europe through knowledge sharing as an incoming top-class researcher. Zhou was also selected to serve on the U.S. Antarctic Research Vessel Oversight Committee (ARVOC) for advising the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Raytheon Polar Service

Company (RPSC) on marine operations, sciences, and designing new polar research vessels.

Joan Garity, an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, received the Pearl Rosendahl Award for Excellence in Nursing Education at the Annual Induction of Theta Alpha (UMB) Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing on April 27.

Professor **Rona Flippo** of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Graduate College of Education has accepted an invitation to be on the National Reading Conference's Political and Legislative Issues Committee from 2008 to 2010.

Susan DeSanto-Madeya has been asked by the Family Research Interest Group to serve as a discussant for a paper session, “Focusing on Family: Local and Global Practice.”

Gerontology Professor **Nina Silverstein** of the College of Public and Community Service received the 2008 Louis Lowy Award at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Gerontology Association on April 15.

Mary Oleskiewicz, Associate Professor of Music, has been awarded a 12-month Research Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany, with residency during 2008 at the University of Arts in Berlin.

Professor **Felicia Wilczenski** of the Graduate College of Education was recently elected Vice President for Counselor Educators for the Massachusetts School Counselor Association.

Jacqui Carlon, assistant professor of Classics, received the Barlow-Beach Award at the annual meeting of the Classical Association of New England (CANE), which was held at Connecticut College on March 14-15.

Water Logic, a novel by English Department lecturer **Laurie Marks**, has been included on the honors list for the James Tiptree, Jr. Literary Award, which recognizes science fiction or fantasy that explores and expands gender roles. The book is the third in a four-novel series, the first two of which have each won the Gaylactic Spectrum award for best novel.

The Gerontology Department's Management of Aging Services Master's Program has won the 2008 Outstanding Credit Program by the National University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). The award was presented at the annual conference of the Association on March 28. Congratulations to **Ellen Bruce**, Gerontology Graduate Program director, and **Lillian Glickman** and **Ellen Birchander**, co-directors of the Management of Aging Services Master's Program.

A case presented by College of Management Assistant Professors **Marty Calkins** and **Nick Dedeker**, “Mattel Inc.: Lead-Tainted Toys,” has been selected as one of 4 finalists (runners-up) in the 2008 Dark Side Case Competition, sponsored by the Critical Management Studies Interest Group and the Management Education Division of the Academy of Management.

EVENTS

The Institute for Community Inclusion's State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) conducted a web conference on April 10, titled “State Employment Practices: Funding for Employment Services, Focus on Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities.”

The Institute for Community Inclusion, in partnership with the national organizations TASH and APSE, organized and presented a four-part web conference series titled “A Working Life: Towards a Lifestyle of Employment for All,” between February and March. The web series presented practical information on expanding job

opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities, and had 60 participating sites and an estimated several hundred participants.

IN THE NEWS

Joyce Peseroff, Director of Creative Writing, was quoted in the *Boston Globe* by columnist Ellen Steinbaum in “What's in Poets' Monthly Planner” on April 13.

Christian Weller, an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, was quoted in *U.S. News & World Report*, *Boston Now*, *AARP Bulletin*, *the Palm Beach Post*, *Builder Magazine*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *the Chicago Tribune*, and the *Lansing State Journal*, interviewed on the Boston radio stations WBZ, WBIX, on German public radio, on the Los Angeles station KCRW's program *To The Point*, on the podcast *Stock Shotz*, and appeared on television on RL TV, CNBC, Bloomberg's German channel, CNN, and *Dan Rather Reports*.

Frederick S. Troy Professor of English **Lloyd Schwartz** was interviewed on NPR's *Fresh Air* arts and culture program about *Bishop: Poems, Prose, and Letters*, a book he edited about poet Elizabeth Bishop.

Political Science Professor **Thomas Ferguson** was quoted in a Reuters wire service article, “Experts see Depression parallels in U.S. crisis,” on April 18.

The Chinese Bridge Speech Contest, held at UMass Boston in April, was mentioned in the April 24 *Bay State Banner*.

WUMB's Mockingbird Fest was mentioned in the NEA's Big Read Blog.

The launch of the New England Ethnic Newswire's health reporting service was mentioned in the April 21 edition of the *Boston Globe*.