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THE UNIVERSITY Reporter

Volume 11, Number 7

March 2007



Charting the Future of the Massachusetts Workforce

By Ed Hayward

Concerned that the United States will continue to lose the education race to other nations in the global economy if education performance remains the same, state and national leaders met at UMass Boston for an in-depth discussion about the future of the Massachusetts workforce.

“Our teaching, research and public service play critical roles in meeting the needs of the Boston workforce,” said Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD. “Eighty percent of our alumni stay in Massachusetts after they graduate, so examining the skills and knowledge demanded of our future workforce is an important discussion for our campus and the Commonwealth.”

The February 28 conference, convened by the University of Massachusetts Boston and the Rennie Center for Education



Chancellor Michael F. Collins, M.D., at the February 28 conference. Panelists are (left to right) Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy; the Honorable William Brock, former secretary of labor, U.S. senator and member of Congress; Thomas Payzant, senior lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education; David Driscoll, commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Education; Harry Spence, commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Social Services; and Betsy Brown Ruzzi, associate director of the Commission. (Photo by Harry Brett)

Research and Policy, is the launch of the Massachusetts conversation of “Tough Choices or Tough Times,” a report by the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, which calls

for the most dramatic reforms of the U.S. education system in a century. The report was released nationwide in December to widespread interest and praise.

Massachusetts is one of the first

states to show interest in using the report as a framework for reform. Colorado is also exploring how the report can shape its workforce development efforts.

Three prominent state leaders

—David Driscoll, Massachusetts commissioner of education, Thomas Payzant, former superintendent of Boston Public Schools, and Harry Spence, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services—are members of the Commission and joined Marc Tucker, co-chair of the Commission and president of the National Center on Education and the Economy, and Bill Brock, former labor secretary and member of Congress, in spearheading the discussion.

“It is time for America to step up the level of education so it’s equal to the best in the world,” said Tucker. “These conversations mark the beginning of the second phase of our initiative as we work with state officials to incorporate the report’s ideas in ways that make sense for their school systems and local and state governments.”

(Continued on page 2)

UMass Boston Faculty Among Most Productive in the United States

By Jim Mortenson

UMass Boston’s faculty scholarly productivity earned an impressive fifth place in national rankings of smaller research universities as assessed and compiled for 2005 by Academic Analytics, Inc (AAI). *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported the standings in an overview of the rankings in its January 12, 2007, edition.

News of AAI’s ranking of UMass Boston was also published by the *Boston Business Journal* (January 8, 2007). According to the *Journal*, only Harvard, MIT,

and UMass Boston achieved national ranking among the Boston area’s institutions of higher education.

UMass Boston tied for fifth place with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and placed ahead of such prestigious re-institutions as the University of Colorado Denver, Central Michigan, Rutgers Newark, Northern Illinois, and Miami of Ohio. The four institutions ranked ahead of UMass Boston are DePaul, San Diego State, Bryn Mawr, and Wright State.

“Our faculty bring enormous

credit to themselves and the entire campus through their high-quality scholarly activities,” said Paul Fonteyn, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. “There is no question that research at UMass Boston is on an upward trajectory.”

Richard Antonak, vice provost for research, said he reviewed AAI’s methodology and “found it to be sound.” He also found “the data-collection procedures to be reasonable, and the taxonomy of performance indicators to be sensible and defensible.”

Antonak points out that, unlike

U.S. News rankings, the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index® prepared by AAI bases institutional reputation on concrete, detailed data sets.

Antonak points out that, unlike *U.S. News* rankings, the index prepared by AAI bases institutional reputation on concrete, detailed data sets. He views the ranking system as impressive, and looks forward to comparing and contrasting it with similar indices as they become available in the near future.

AAI uses a proprietary set of statistical algorithms to evaluate

faculty achievement in doctorate-granting institutions separated into three categories: large research universities, specialized research institutions, and smaller research institutions. In all, 61 institutions comprise the smaller research institution category.

Within these categories, faculty are measured on the basis of publications, citations of journal publications, federal research grants, and significant awards and honors.

The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index® is then compared against national standards. Ac-

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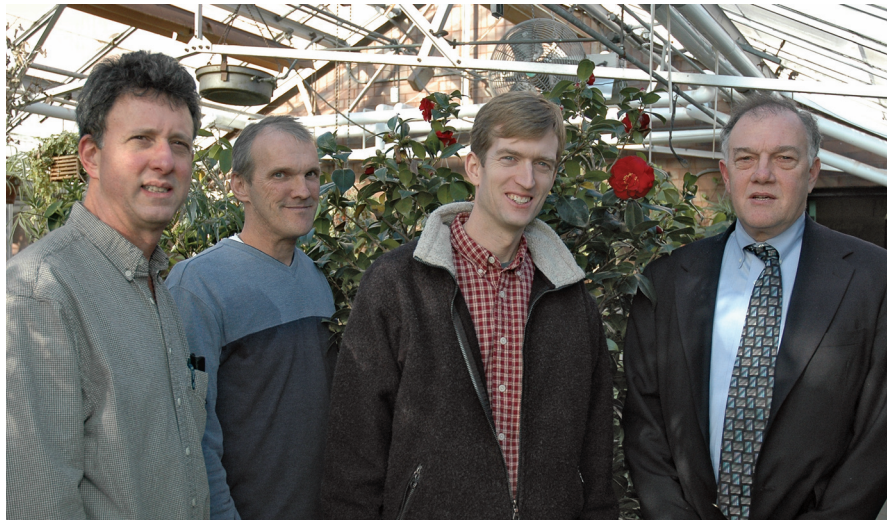
UMass Boston Exhibit at This Month's New England Flower Show Highlights Climate-Change Research

By Ed Hayward

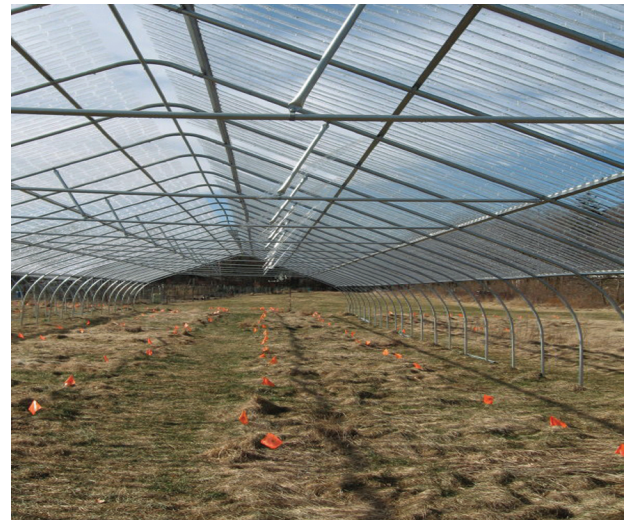
A new exhibit produced by the College of Science and Mathematics at this month's 2007 New England Spring Flower Show, the region's indoor homage to greenery and green thumbs, highlights a new UMass Boston research project on climate change and gives serious treatment to a global issue that has captured the world's attention.

During a winter of discontent where schoolchildren have pined for just one snow day and international discussions about global warming have dominated the news, the exhibit was created by a campus team and highlights the work of biology professor Jeff Dukes. The display will highlight the Boston-Area Climate Experiment, a research site in Waltham that Dukes has developed, which will be the most publicly accessible climate-change experiment in the world.

The exhibit, on display at the flower show in the Bayside Expo Center March 17 through 22, is the result of the work by Dukes, the students in his graduate class on climate change, biology department horticulturist Jim Allen, and senior research machinist Tom Goodkind. Add the assistance of College of Science and Mathematics interim dean William Hagar, a team of Dukes's technicians, and the influence of the campus is complete.



Left photo: (from left to right) Tom Goodkind, senior research machinist; Jim Allen, UMass Boston horticulturist; Jeff Dukes, assistant professor of biology; and William Hagar, interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, in the UMass Boston greenhouse. (Photo by Harry Brett). Right photo: The Boston-Area Climate Experiment in Waltham. (Photo courtesy of Dean Hagar)



"The New England Spring Flower Show is a great venue for us – we can increase awareness on this critical environmental issue, and show what UMass Boston is doing to address climate change on a number of fronts: research, education, and public outreach," said Dukes. "This is an opportunity to reach influential people who work with the land and add to their understanding about climate change and the potential consequences for New England."

The exhibit – designed with the flower show's 2007 theme of "Yes, You Can!" in mind – marks the return of UMass Boston to the exposition for the first time in three years, said Allen, who has designed numerous exhibits in the past.

"We have always tried to fo-

cus on research strengths of the biology department," said Allen, who manages the campus greenhouses and numerous landscape features across campus. "The flower show is really a venue for landscape companies and nurseries to showcase their products and skills. We provide one of the few educational displays, and I think that adds to the experience for the public."

Visitors will see educational displays and interactive exhibits, designed by UMass Boston students and employees, which will ultimately be placed at the BACE. A battery of "non-hardy" azaleas or *Rhododendron indicum* varieties – which thrive in warmer regions of the country – will add color and horticultural relevance to the space.

The plant choice was deliber-

ate, said Allen. "This is a species we can't grow in New England. But if we see further warming of the temperatures in New England, we could see this and other species of plants find a home here. The issue is understanding the ramifications of changes in climate."

The exhibit highlights the Boston-Area Climate Experiment (BACE), a Waltham project run by Dukes's research lab and funded by more than \$1 million in grants from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Institute for Climatic Change Research.

Starting this spring, the project will study ecosystem responses to climate changes imposed by researchers. Dukes's team will alter temperature and precipitation over small sample plots of New England "old-field habitat."

Dukes will measure how the plots react when they experience a range of climatic conditions predicted for later this century.

In addition to serving research scientists, the BACE will provide a valuable educational resource. Next door to the research area is an interactive exhibit on climate change. The BACE is expected to open to the public on a limited basis this spring.

"This is the only climate-change experiment in the world that is easily accessible on this scale," said Dukes. "Most of these studies are off at a remote site or behind a big fence and nobody can see they are there. We will provide a unique opportunity for the public to see how ecologists study ecosystems and their responses to environmental change."

Showing Some Love



This snowy Valentine's Day, members of UMass Boston's soccer and softball teams, along with other UMass Boston students, braved the elements to distribute nearly 200 gift-bag valentines to senior citizens who reside in the Harbor Point Apartments. The Doubletree Hotel of Dorchester provided refreshments at the event, which was held at Harbor Point. The event was coordinated by UMass Boston's Office of Service-Learning and Community Outreach. (Photo courtesy of Jain Ruvidich-Higgins)

Tough Choices (cont.)

The conference, organized by the College of Management and the Institute for Community Inclusion, gathered education, workforce, economic development, and political leaders from across the state.

Chancellor Collins welcomed attendees to the day's events, which included a breakfast policy discussion followed by a series of presentations and panel sessions.

"The report was intended to provoke a series of conversations that would lead to education reform individualized by states," said Driscoll. "As Colorado moves ahead with its initiatives, we are

excited to begin a similar dialogue here in Massachusetts."

"In order for us to remain competitive in the 21st-century global marketplace, it is critical that we begin to address these topics

now," said Chancellor Collins.

The bipartisan New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce calls for a total shakeup in how America educates its people with an innovative system that boosts students to unprecedented levels of learning throughout their lives while creating a structure that gives them

the best teachers and schools the country can offer.

The Commission was organized by the National Center on Education and the Economy, a not-for-profit organization created to develop proposals for building the world-class education and training system that the United States must have if it is to continue to be a world-class economy.

"High-quality workers need to retain high-quality education so we can retain a high-quality lifestyle that's just not for the elites," said College of Management lecturer Tim Barnicle, a co-founder of the NCEE. "This campus has a real interest in issues of workforce development."

Kraig Ludensky contributed to this report.

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Community Breakfast to Honor Local Advocates

By Lena Serpa

Philip Carver, president of Dorchester's Pope's Hill Neighborhood Association, will receive the Robert H. Quinn Award for Community Service at this year's Community Breakfast.

Also honored at the event, to be held on March 13th in the Campus Center Ballroom, will be Edward J. Merritt, president and chief executive officer of Mt. Washington Bank in South Boston. Merritt will receive the Award for Longstanding Community Commitment and Service.

Dedicated to strengthening the community infrastructure, the Pope's Hill Neighborhood Association has seen significant

neighborhood development under Carver's leadership. Thanks to his initiative, the neighborhood now enjoys a new campus for the Neighborhood House Charter School, as well as the addition of a new Sovereign Bank and a new Super Stop & Shop. Plans are underway for a future Morrissey Marketplace.

"I see myself as a facilitator," said Carver, who attends UMass Boston. "Sometimes people lack the means or the know-how to get what they need, and I try to help them get things done. My goal is to maintain the quality of life that I've had in the city of Boston and to help others achieve it. The only way to do that is get involved."

Carver's natural inclination for involvement and action has benefited not only the community at home, but also the troops deployed in Iraq.

As he was putting together a care package for his brother, who was stationed in Iraq, Carver saw a greater need.

"I thought if my brother needs supplies, so must other soldiers," he said.

With this in mind, Carver started the Dorchester Support our Soldiers Program to collect and send supplies and care packages to American soldiers.

The program has, to date, sent supplies to more than 7,000 soldiers.

As manager of administration and chief of staff for the Executive Office of Transportation Planning, Carver was chosen as a 2006 fellow of the College of Management's Emerging Leaders Program, which is designed to develop an inclusive network of professionals that spans both the non-profit and for-profit sectors.

In addition to his leadership of Mt. Washington Bank, Merritt is also a member of the Boards of Directors of the Caritas Carney Hospital Foundation, South Boston Neighborhood House, and the Massachusetts Bankers Association Community Banking Committee.

He has overseen the expansion of the bank's infrastructure from a two branch operation to four branches with a fifth planned, all serving South Boston and Dorchester.

A member of the College of Management's Advisory Committee, Merritt founded the Mt. Washington Charitable Foundation in 2003, which funds the Mt. Washington Scholarship given to a UMass Boston student each year.

Through the Foundation, ten percent of the bank's annual profits are dedicated to non-profit organizations that support educational, youth and cultural programs within the community.

Strategic Planning Process Moves Forward

By Lauren DeMinico

During Chancellor Michael F. Collins' convocation address on September 14, 2006, the formation of the Chancellor's Strategic Planning Task Force was announced for the 2006-2007 academic year.

At that time the task force was charged with developing a comprehensive report recommending strategic directions for the university. Six subcommittees were developed to examine different areas of the university: Academics, Enrollment and Financial Aid, External Relations, Master Plan, Research and Graduate Studies, and Student Life.

Each subcommittee is led by two cochairmen and meets on a regular basis, with notes recorded of each meeting. Two resource groups were formed as well, one for financial modeling and one for data research. These groups help to support and validate the work of the committees. The work and progress of the subcommittees are accessible, and input is welcome from all.

January 2006 marked the midpoint of the planning process and each subcommittee was asked to deliver an interim report to the task force focusing on three main areas of their progress: a description of the vision statement that underlines the subcommittees work; the identification of priorities, goals, and recommendations, including any critical success factors, and the subcommittees approach to each of them; and the subcommittee's plan for completion of the tasks assigned and the plan for interaction with the university community during the second half of the planning process, as well as identifica-

tion of resources necessary for completion.

Reports were limited to three pages in order for the subcommittees to bring forth only the most essential and relevant information on their progress.

Task Force cochairmen Kristy Alster and Peter Langer believe that the recommendations that are being developed by the different subcommittees present a dynamic agenda for the development of the university.

"The subcommittees are working to move the campus forward within the framework of our mission and current strengths. We look forward to lively discussions about their proposals," says Langer.

On February 8, 2007, a retreat comprised of administrators, faculty, staff, and student representatives was convened to discuss the interim reports.

Four major areas extracted from the reports were discussed at length: the increase in enrollment to 15,000 by 2010; constructing a new academic building; considering on-campus student housing options; and an increase in tenure stream faculty and moving to a 2-2 teaching load (2-2 teaching load refers to faculty members teaching two classes during the fall semester and two classes during the spring semester).

A positive consensus was reached by participants on each of the topics at hand.

The final recommendations will be presented to the Chancellor in June 2007.

All interim reports and related information can be found on the website at http://www.umb.edu/strategic_plan.

Winter Warm Up! A Sizzling Start to the Semester with Events for Everyone



The Office of Student Affairs presented Winter Warm Up!, a series of events designed to take the chill off the cold return to classes after winter break. In addition to hallway kiosks offering free hot chocolate, balloons, and right answers to students' questions (top photos), Winter Warm Up offered fun activities, such as Texas Hold 'Em poker (bottom left), a poolside viewing of Jaws (bottom, upper right), and a limbo contest (bottom, lower right). Activities not pictured included a night on the town, ice skating, and a comedy show. (Photos by Harry Brett)

Report Finds Need for Diversity

By Ed Hayward

Despite the increasing diversity of the state's population, people of color are underrepresented in both elected and appointed offices in many of Greater Boston's 10 most diverse cities and towns, according to a report released last month by the McCormack Graduate School's Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy.

With people of color making up 41.3 percent of the total population of these cities and towns, researchers found just 9.1 percent – or 17 of the 186 municipal elective posts – are filled by people of

color; and only 15.5 percent of appointed posts are held by people of color, according to Carol Hardy-Fanta, director of the center and the study's author.

"This should serve as a wake-up call to communities of color to pursue paths that will gain them representation on appointed boards and commissions as well as position them to run for elective office, where their voices are sorely missed," said Hardy-Fanta. "This should also serve as a challenge to all these cities and towns to closely examine how their appointed positions reflect the

diversity of their communities."

This report serves as another diversity benchmark for the Commonwealth, where people of color now make up approximately 20 percent of the population and where voters in November elected the state's first African-American governor.

The research was commissioned by the Pipeline to Public Service initiative and made possible by funding provided by The Boston Foundation, The New Community Fund, and The Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation.

Trotter Institute, WUMB Radio Celebrate Black History Month

By Christine DePalma

UMass Boston's Black History events this month focused on the 1960s and the civil rights movement.

The William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture presented *At the Nexus*, a series of staged readings of three classic plays: *Dutchman* by LeRoi Jones, aka Amiri Baraka; *Day of Absence* by Douglas Turner Ward; and *In White America* by Martin Duberman. All of these plays were described by Trotter director Barbara Lewis as plays that are "at the nexus of art and politics."

After the performance of *Day of Absence*, a play about the consequences of the disappearance of the black population in a small



Left photo: (from left to right) Costumed actors presented the play *Day of Absence*. They are: Nathan Cooper, facilities staff member, Akiba Abaka, UMass Boston student and founder of *Up You Mighty Race Performing Arts Company*, Saylis Matos, actor, James Malo, UMass Boston graduate student, and Emmanuel Riggins, actor. Top right: Actors James Malo and Lyrallen Kaye read *In White America*. Bottom right: High schoolers and others listen to a play reading. (Photos by Harry Brett)

town, director Abaka challenged the actors, all of whom performed in whiteface, to comment about what society would be like without African-Americans. At the

conclusion of each of the readings, audience members had the opportunity to "talk back" to the actors and director, which made for lively and informative discussions related



power of language.

Lewis notes that the staged readings help to educate. "The legacy of the 1960s is what the youth today have inherited. Many don't know much about this era, but are fascinated by it." Students from local Boston public high schools were invited to attend the series.

During February, WUMB 91.9 FM presented weekly specials examining the civil rights movement. Pat Monteith, director of WUMB, noted that the programs served to "demonstrate how ordinary people from the 1960s civil rights movement helped to lay the foundation for the present and future battle for human rights."

New Report on Low-Income Asian Americans in Massachusetts

By Kraig Ludensky

Although much attention has been given in the media to the perception of economic attainment within Massachusetts' Asian American communities, the Institute for Asian American Studies has released an in-depth report about Asian Americans living in or near poverty in the Bay State.

Michael Liu, a senior research associate at the center and coauthor of "Far from the Commonwealth: A Report on Low-Income Asian Americans in Massachusetts," said that before the study there was not a comprehensive understanding about poverty in the Asian American community.

"We wanted to know who the poor are," said Liu, coauthor of the study with researcher Thao Tran and institute director and professor Paul Watanabe. "And after the results were shared, we hoped policy makers would look into this sector of the population to address their issues."

"The study reveals some key issues Massachusetts officials need to address while developing policies and programs for groups within the Asian American community," said Liu.

While past research by the institute provided local officials and community programs information about Asian American accomplishments and struggles, its latest study focused on the state's 292,000 Asian residents.

The report shows that more than 72,000 low-income Asian Americans reside in Massachusetts, with half living at or below the poverty line.

While examining the workforce of low-income Asian Americans, researchers discovered that many individuals holding some kind of professional status comprise a significant proportion of the low-income group.

"It was surprising to see the number of professionals with low income here in America,"

Liu says. "Also, there was great variation among the groups in who is low income." In some of the Asian subgroups, those who are naturalized appear to be doing better financially than their non-naturalized counterparts, Liu found, while others who have been here for many decades still continue to struggle.

According to the study, "one in every five Asian American residents can be classified as low income." In Boston, the poverty rates for Asian Americans is second to Latinos.

The study has received attention from several media outlets and the researchers are planning to take their results to the communities the report focuses on.

"There is an interest in the community with what we are doing," Liu says. "We want to help guide policy."

For more information about the report, go to www.iaas.umb.edu.

A New Voice on WUMB

By Lisa Gentes

WUMB-FM listeners are tuning in to a new voice this season. Melissa Howard Graham has been the guest host of the station's distinguished public affairs program *Commonwealth Journal*.

The longtime Dorchester resident and New York native made her radio debut in October and will be filling in for the first half of the year. Listeners can hear her on WUMB at 91.9-FM on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

"I love it, I absolutely love it," said Graham, founder and president of Boston Guys, a marketing and event planning company. "It's a great dream come true."

The married mother of one said she enjoys interviewing people and learning about a variety of subjects. The new host said she was nervous the first time she took to the airwaves. "It's something you take for granted when you listen to other interviews. Then you realize, it truly is...something that takes a lot of time and effort."

Graham said she's already covered several show topics, ranging from the housing-affordability research of UMass Boston professor Michael Stone, to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Aging Project, to discussions on the game of Monopoly and capitalism, to interviewing the Mashpee Wampanoag tribal leaders.

"The great thing about doing a public affairs show is being able to talk about all sorts of different things," she said.

This is the first time *Commonwealth Journal* has had a guest host in its eight-year history, said station general manager Patricia



Melissa Howard Graham (Photo by Harry Brett)

Monteith.

Barbara Neely, *Commonwealth Journal*'s regular host, is on leave to work on her latest book, according to Monteith. The challenge in finding a temporary host is the broad audience *Commonwealth Journal* reaches, not just over the signal of WUMB and its affiliate stations, but through syndication that puts the show on 30 stations around Massachusetts and reaches all 351 cities and towns in the state.

Listeners range from 18- to 80-year-olds, according to Monteith. Alternative-rock radio listeners can find *Commonwealth Journal* on in the Worcester area at WAAF-107.3 FM on Sundays at 5:30 a.m. Sports fans can hear the program broadcast on WEEI-850 AM on Sundays at 6 a.m.

Graham, who started last month hosting full-time, "pulled it all together by her inquisitiveness," Monteith said.

"We are very excited to have her," said Monteith. "She's asking just the right question at just the right time. She has the ability to think like a listener, and that's what makes for a great host."

COMECC Participation on the Rise at UMass Boston

By Anne-Marie Kent

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employee Charitable Campaign (COMECC) enables state employees to give to their choice of approximately 1,000 local, national, and international charities through payroll deduction, check, or credit card donations.

This year, 62 UMass Boston employees participated, donating a total of \$22,907. This is the highest level of pledges and participants since 2002 and an

increase of over \$5,000 in pledges since last year.

"I am grateful to UMass Boston employees who responded to the call to participate in this important charitable-giving program," said Deputy Chancellor Drew O'Brien, chair of the campus COMECC committee. "As a university community, we are committed to civic engagement and service. Our level of participation in COMECC reflects that."

COMECC allows state em-

ployees to take advantage of the convenience of payroll deduction and offers the flexibility of automatically channeling your donation to one particular listed charity, for several different agencies, or for general distribution. You may give as little as two dollars per week or opt to make a lump-sum contribution.

Last year, members of the UMass Boston campus community responded generously, supporting efforts to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina.

EEOS Professor Refines High-Tech Tools to Study Coastal Pollutants

By Peter Grennen

Almost daily, there are reports of new concerns about the impact of human activity on our natural environment. UMass Boston professor Gordon Wallace was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) to improve how researchers evaluate the effect of metal pollutants that wash into estuaries and other coastal bodies of water, particularly those in urban and industrial locations.

A partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of New Hampshire, the institute promotes the health of coastal regions nationwide by developing high-tech tools that can test the contaminant levels of water systems. Wallace's research, which began in the fall, has seen him work in close cooperation with investigators from the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) facilities located in Waquoit Bay, Massachusetts,

and Wells, Maine. UMass Boston doctoral student Franco Pala has also conducted key research in the technology's development.

The project addresses a major concern of environmentalists: the impact of human activity in littoral areas – in particular, the continual washing of metal pollutants into estuaries and other coastal bodies of water. "Habitat quality and ecosystem functioning are subject to change by a wide variety of natural and anthropogenic perturbations, the latter of which are particularly prevalent in coastal regimes adjacent to major population centers," said Wallace, a professor in the Environment, Earth and Ocean Sciences Department.

The mere presence of metals in these waters is not necessarily cause for concern, Wallace pointed out. Rather, the toxicity of the metals depends on their "bioavailability": Dissolved metals that bind to organic matter are much less bioavailable—and therefore less toxic—than those that exist as free ions. "Free ions

are the key to understanding many of the reactions of metals in the environment—where the metal goes, what form it's in, and how much is available to interact with the activity of organisms," Wallace explains.

Determining the physical state of metal contaminants is therefore a prerequisite to designing a strategy for remedying the problem—but current methods for making such determinations are far from ideal. "Because of the importance of metal free-ion activities to chemical and biological processes that affect biological activity, the ability to quickly make sensitive and precise measurements in these environments is needed," says Wallace. "However, measurement of free-ion activities is currently limited to time-consuming, technically difficult procedures, many of which suffer from uncertainties in their interpretation."

Still, Wallace and his research team believe there is no need to develop from scratch a technology that avoids these pitfalls. They are hoping to further refine an exist-



Professor Gordon Wallace in his lab. (Photo by Harry Brett)

ing CICEET project probe called VIPER (Vibrating Ion Probe Equilibrium Recorder), which measures free-ion concentrations of copper and lead in marine environments. Their focus will be on improving the instrument's sensitivity and accuracy, reducing analysis time, and developing a trace metal-free prototype for use in a variety of aquatic environments.

Thus far the researchers' results have been nothing short of spectacular. "This is the quickest and simplest way at this time to make

low-level measurements of copper and lead," said Wallace. The new probe is so sensitive it can detect about one-tenth of a trillionth of a gram in one liter of water.

Wallace said that over time such precision will gain his sensor a central, permanent role—and greatly expanded usefulness—in the scientific monitoring of water systems. "Eventually, such a probe may be capable of integration into in situ instrumentation in coastal observatories with results provided remotely to shore-based stations," he said.

Editors of *The Nation* Discuss Media and Politics

By Lena Serpa

On an icy February afternoon, a crowd of politically minded students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Campus Center for an exchange of ideas with three of the editors from *The Nation*. Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor and publisher; Jonathan Schell, the magazine's peace and disarmament correspondent; and Peter Rothberg, associate publisher of special projects, traveled from New York City for a discussion sponsored by the Center on Media and Society, affording the university the rare opportunity to engage in a discourse with three of the sharpest political and social thinkers in the media.

Established by abolitionists in 1865, *The Nation* is known for its dedication to independent press and journalistic responsibility and remains a progressive and incisive voice amid an increasingly tepid political media. "The values of *The Nation* remain consistent," said vanden Heuvel, "to hold corporate power accountable and develop and maintain a sense of



Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor and publisher of *The Nation*, speaking at an event presented by UMass Boston's Center on Media and Society. (Photo by Harry Brett)

connection with civil society."

The visit is part of the weekly's outreach to college campuses to gain student readership and address the disconnect between the political arena and a demo-

graphic traditionally considered to be one of the most active and politically energetic in the country. "We're here to meet with students and learn about what's on the younger generation's mind," said

Rothberg. Ellen Hume, director of the Center on Media and Society, jumped at the opportunity to host the journalists. "We try to create a bridge between the campus and the professional world of journalism," said Hume.

Asked by the panelists to speak on their concerns, the students ultimately focused on the media itself and the discussion became an analysis of mainstream news media and its failure to effectively engage not only students, but society as a whole. "Each generation seems less and less interested," said undergraduate Devon Portney.

Part of the problem, as the panelists see it, is the increasingly firm grip corporations maintain on the media.

"Once there was a system of feudalism," said Jonathan Schell, referring to the once-established control of the media by prominent families, such as the Pulitzers. Though 'feudalism' is far from a truly independent press, there was a certain sense of responsibility and integrity by

those in control; a sharp contrast to today's media, which is owned by a handful of media conglomerates beholden to advertisers and focused on turning a profit.

"The concentration of power has increased dramatically," said Schell, who was a staff writer for *The New Yorker* until 1987 when he left because of the corporate takeover of the magazine by media giant Condé Nast.

In a society preoccupied by celebrity and hungry for eye candy, entertainment is what turns a profit. "The line between entertainment and news has been obliterated," remarked vanden Heuvel. This is why a publication like *The Nation* emerges as an important voice in the press today.

"*The Nation* is not beholden to corporations or the government," said vanden Heuvel, "we have a commitment to speak truth to power. The quality of a democracy is linked closely to the goals of the media. *The Nation's* goal is to seize the freedom to see, to write, and to report."

Research (cont.)

cording to AAI, "The FSI database is the only one of its kind that provides data on faculty scholarly work at the discipline level, on an annual basis, and in a comparative context."

The faculty in UMass Boston's

doctoral program in clinical psychology were ranked as the tenth most productive. Accredited by the American Psychological Association, the clinical psychology program provides a strong theoretical background in psy-

chology and related social science disciplines, as well as training in essential clinical skills and in conducting research.

With the 2006 index, each year's data will be included in time-series analyses.

"Time series data will provide a sense of the program's trajectory and allow academic administrators to view the impact of their resource allocations and decisions in the context of known results over time," AAI says on its web-

site www.academicanalytics.com.

AAI reports, "Individual program scores can then be combined to demonstrate the quality of the scholarly activity within broad fields as well as the entire university."

CAMPUS NOTES

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND LECTURES

Luis Alonso-Ovalle, assistant professor at the Department of Hispanic Studies, presented a paper on the formal semantics of counterfactual conditions with disjunctive antecedents for the 33rd annual meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, held at the University of California, Berkley.

In February, assistant professor of English **Patrick Barron** presented at the Italian Cultural Institute in Toronto, “The Selected Poetry and Prose of Andrea Zanzotto,” and a paper at the National Association for Humanities Education conference.

Pratyush Bharati, associate professor of management science and information systems, presented “Do Choiceboards Enhance Choice? A Study of User Satisfaction,” at the 9th International Conference on Decision Support Systems, in Kolkata, India.

In February, **Chris Bobel**, assistant professor of women’s studies, presented “The Quandary of Queering Boundaries, Embodied Agency and the Case of Menstruation” at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Philadelphia; “Troubling Categories and Queering Boundaries: Woman, Feminist, Activist” at Sociologists for Women in Society Midyear Meetings in New Orleans; and “When the Private Becomes Public: Feminist Activists Encounter the Body and Taboo” at Beloit College on February 21.

Several Institute for Community Inclusion staff presented at the National Association of Workforce Boards conference in February. **Sheila Fesko** ran a session on the aging workforce. **Elena Varney** and **Cori DiBiase** held a session on designing services that are accessible to all.

In March, Professor **Pamela Jones** of the Art Department will deliver the paper “Reni’s ‘Holy Trinity,’ Art Criticism, & The Language of Prayer” at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Miami.

In February, **Peter Kiang**, Asian American Studies Program director and professor of education, delivered “Education, Culture & Community: Chinese Immigrants in Suburban Boston” for the Newton Historical Society and “Teaching Students from Diverse Backgrounds—Refugee Realities” at the College Board’s New England Regional Forum.

Joe Marrone of the Institute for Community Inclusion was a keynote speaker on mental health and employment at the “Moving Forward Together” forum in Victoria, British Columbia. He also presented at a February 28 conference in Syracuse, New York on “Work—A Right Versus a Privilege.”

Susan Opotow, professor in the Graduate Program in Dispute Resolution, discussed “The Possibility of Inclusionary Justice” at the Justice Pre-conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology meeting in Memphis on January 25.

Jennifer Raymond of the Center for Social Policy will present the paper “Courts, Social Change and Same-Sex Marriage,” accepted at the 2007 American Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting in Chicago.

On January 12, 2007, **John Saltmarsh**, professor in the Department of Leadership in Education, presented a workshop for the Massachusetts Campus Compact titled “Designing and Implementing Civic Learning Outcomes Across the Curriculum and the Campus: Teaching Civic Skills to Improve Democratic and Civic Education.”

John Saltmarsh also copresented the workshop “Taking Stock: Assessing the Institutionalization of Civic Engagement,” at the annual meeting of the Association for American Colleges and Universities on January 17-20 in New Orleans, where he also co-presented a workshop, “Engaging Departments Across the Nation: Moving Faculty Culture toward Collective Focus for the Common Good,” drawing upon the recent book *Engaging Departments* (Anker 2006) for which he coauthored two chapters.

C. Heike Schotten, assistant professor of political science, will present her paper “Re-thinking Revolution: Left Nietzscheanism and the Paradox of Political Change” at the 2007 annual meeting of the International Friedrich Nietzsche Society in Leiden, the Netherlands.

On February 15, sociology professor **Russell Schutt** presented “Can Group Homes Help to Reduce Chronic Homelessness among Persons with Serious Mental Illness?” at the Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies at Columbia University’s School of Public Health.

Nina M. Silverstein, professor of gerontology, CPCS, and Gerontology Institute fellow presented an “Overview of Dementia and Driving” to health care and law enforcement professionals at a seminar sponsored by the University of California, Irvine, Center for Trauma and Injury Prevention Research, February 16.

Malcolm Smuts of the History Department and George Gorse of the Art History Department of Pomona College co-organized an international conference at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California, on January 26 and 27. The topic was “The Politics of Court Space in Europe and the Mediterranean, ca. 1400-1750.” The conference was co-sponsored by the Society for Court Studies, for which Smuts is the North American chair.

Nancy Stieber, associate professor of art, attended the annual board meeting of the European Architec-

tural Historians Network, which took place at the Delft Technical University in the Netherlands on January 12-14. She is chair of the publications committee.

The Institute for Community Inclusion provided training, technical assistance, and evaluation for a state Department of Education initiative launched January 4.

PUBLICATIONS

The Selected Poetry and Prose of Andrea Zanzotto, edited and co-translated by Assistant Professor of English **Patrick Barron**, has been published by the University of Chicago Press. Also, Barron’s article on the Majella Massif in central Abruzzo, Italy, appears in the current issue of *Mountain Research and Development*. His article on the poet Charles Olson’s *The Maximum Poems* appears in the current issue of *The Worcester Review*.

Pratyush Bharati, associate professor of management science and information systems, recently published “Current Status of Technology Adoption: Micro, Small and Medium Manufacturing Firms in Boston,” in Communications of the ACM, Vol. 49, as well as “Understanding the Future of Global Software Production: Investigating the Network in India,” in IFIP International Federation for Information Processing, Volume 214, The Past and Future of Information Systems: 1976-2000 and Beyond.

The McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy released a study on the dearth of minorities in many state and local government leadership posts. **Carol Hardy-Fanta**, Center director, authored the report “A Benchmark Report on Diversity in State and Local Government.” The study was funded by The Boston Foundation, The New Community Fund, and the Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation.

Benyamin Lichtenstein, professor of management, was a contributing writer for the article “Collaborating for Systemic Change” published in *Sloan Management Review*, as well as “Complexity Dynamics of Nascent Entrepreneurship,” published in the *Journal of Business Venturing*.

The article “Shakespeare’s Last Act: The Starry Messenger and the Galilean Book in *Cymbeline*” by Assistant Professor of English **Scott Maisano** was published in *Configurations*, a journal published by The Johns Hopkins University Press and the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts.

UMass Lowell’s Center for Women and Work has published “Pre-Apprenticeship Model for Women Entering and Succeeding in the Construction Trades,” coauthored by Labor Resource Center director **Susan Moir** and Elizabeth Skidmore of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters.

Brian Thompson, modern languages professor, published his paper “André Malraux et l’espoir d’une communion avec l’absolu,” originally given at an international conference on André Malraux in Casablanca, in *André Malraux: Quête d’un idéal humain et de valeurs transcendantes* (Casablanca: Editions la Croisée des chemins, 2006).

EEOS research associate **Xuchen Wang** published “Assessment of Metal Contamination in Surface Sediments of Jiaozhou Bay, Qingdao China” in CLEAN: Air, Soil, Water (Vol. 35, 62-70, 2007).

EXHIBITS, READINGS, PERFORMANCES, AND RECORDINGS

Panagiotis Liaropoulos, adjunct professor in the Music Department, composer and pianist, performed an original piece entitled *Ode: Moments in the Life of Orpheus* on February 15, 16, and 17 at the Albany Symphony Orchestra. The piece is inspired by the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and was commissioned by the Albany Symphony Orchestra.

The **Institute for Learning and Teaching’s** Massachusetts Studies Project has taken on an initiative, “Mass. Memories Road Show.” The project organizes events where residents bring in photographs that document their connection to their local community. Scanned, indexed, and stored in an online database, the photographs become a way for educators, students, and the general public to explore Massachusetts history.

GRANTS, RESEARCH, PROJECTS, AWARDS

Leila Farsakh, assistant professor of political science, has received a \$5,000 grant from the CLA Dean’s Research Fund. The grant will help fund the translation of her book *Palestinian Labor Migration to Israel* (Routledge) into French.

A proposal for the 2007 Raise Your Voice Presidential Activity Fund submitted by **Jain Ruvidich-Higgins**, coordinator of the Office of Service-Learning and Community Outreach, has been awarded funding by the Massachusetts Campus Compact (MACC).

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Ellen A. Bruce, associate director of the Gerontology Institute and director of the PhD Program in Gerontology, has been elected president of the board for OWL, the voice of midlife and older women.

Professor **Spencer DiScala** of the History Department has won the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2007 from the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA).

Arthur Eisenkraft, distinguished professor of science education, was appointed as one of ten members of the NAEP Science Standing Commit-

tee which is charged with creating test specifications and items for the 2009-2019 NAEP examinations.

At Home in the City: Urban Domesticity in American Literature and Culture, 1850-1930, a book by Associate Professor of English **Betsy Klimasmith**, was named an Outstanding Academic Title of 2006 by *Choice* magazine.

Pat Monteith, general manager of WUMB 91.9 FM, served as one of ten panel judges for the 2007 American Women in Radio and Television “Gracie Allen Awards” competition. The “Gracies” strive to encourage the realistic and faceted portrayal of women in broadcasting.

WUMB 91.9 FM morning announcer **Dick Pleasants** was honored with the presentation of the second annual Heritage Award from the Boston Bluegrass Union.

WUMB 91.9FM program director **Brian Quinn** served on the “Radio Promotions” panel at the 2007 International Folk Alliance Conference in Memphis.

College of Management Professor **David L. Levy** of the Department of Management and Marketing received the 2006 CM Commonwealth Award for his scholarship related to environmental protection issues in the Greater Boston region.

Assistant Professor **Atreya (Chuck) Chakraborty** of the Department of Accounting and Finance was given the CM Distinguished Research Award for his work in the financial services area.

College of Management undergraduate student **Yelena Zaytsev** received the 2007 New England Region Collegian of the Year Award from Delta Sigma Pi, the professional fraternity.

EVENTS

On February 7, the Labor Resource Center and the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy presented “Displacement and Migration—Who Pays the Price of Globalization?” Noted photographer and journalist and former labor organizer David Bacon spoke and displayed slides of his photos of immigrant workers.

On February 21, the Public Policy Forum Seminar presented “Decent Work in America: The Development of a Work Environment Index,” led by James Heintz of UMass Amherst’s Political Economy Research Institute.

On February 28 the Institute for Community Inclusion and the College of Management, in cooperation with Paul Reville and the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy presented a conference on “Tough Choices for Tough Times,” a report of the ability of the nation’s educational system to support the workforce needs of the 21st century.

CAMPUS NOTES

IN THE NEWS

Center for Survey Research senior research fellow **Lois Biener** was quoted in a front-page article on the influence of the drug industry on antismoking policy in the *Wall Street Journal* on February 8.

Ellen Bruce, director of the New England Pension Assistance Project, commented for a February 18 article in the *Washington Post* about the success of the project in tracking down pension benefits for retired workers whose companies have either merged or closed. The Missing Participants Program will be expanded to help find participants in defined-contribution retirement plans such as 401(k)s and in multi-employer pension plans.

On February 18, **Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD**, appeared as a guest on the “This Week in Business” program on New England

Cable News. He discussed the role of the campus in the development of the Boston-area workforce, as well as the current strategic and master planing efforts under way at UMass Boston.

Carol Hardy-Fanta, Director of the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy, was quoted in a number of February news reports related to the February 6, 2007 release of her study of diversity in state and local government, including in the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Metro*, the *Patriot Ledger*, and the State House News Service, and on WBUR’s Morning Edition radio program.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management **Lisa Johnson** was quoted in a February 26 *Boston Business Journal* cover story that examined applications for the fall 2007 semester.

Ellen Hume, Director of the Center on Media and Society at the McCormack Graduate School, was a commentator on PBS’s *NewsHour* on January 29 about the journalism ethics and media literacy challenges created by a false report that Senator Barack Obama had attended an Islamic religious school as a child.

Enrico Marcelli, assistant professor of economics and public policy, was featured on WBUR, Boston’s National Public Radio affiliate, on February 3. He discussed his research on the correlation between the rise in minimum wage and happiness on NPR’s Weekend America program.

Center for Social Policy researcher **John McGah** was quoted in the *Wayland Town Crier* for an article about his homelessness prevention campaign, “Give Us Your Poor.” The national prevention and awareness project is working with the Wayland

Public Schools to incorporate the project’s homelessness education curriculum into the town’s schools.

Creative writing lecturer **Joyce Peseroff**, most recently author of “Eastern Mountain Time,” offered her recommendation for winter reading in the February 18 *Boston Globe*.

Women’s basketball coach **Shawn Polk** was quoted in a February 12 broadcast segment on WBZ-TV/Ch. 4 about UMass Boston junior Myrna Tangar’s winning appearance on the *The Price Is Right* during a team trip in January. The show aired February 12 and was watched by student-athletes in the game room of the Campus Center.

The contribution of **Mark Pawlak**, director of academic support programs, to a January panel on Polish American Poetry and Culture at the Polish American Histori-

cal Association’s annual conference, is described in the current issue of the New York-based Polish newspaper *Nowy Dziennik*.

Donna Stewartson of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy was recently quoted in an article titled “Groups Call for Greater Female Political Presence” in *The Daily Free Press*.

Professors **Taylor Stoehr** of the English Department and **Askold Melnyczuk**, director of the Creative Writing Program, were quoted in a February 13 *Patriot Ledger* article on Fulbright Scholar Abdurrahman Wahab, who ended his two-year stay at UMass Boston and returned to his native Kurdistan in Iraq this month.

Brian Thompson, professor of modern languages, was interviewed for a show on national radio France-Inter, “Sous les étoiles exactement.”

National Job Shadow Day Brings Dorchester Teens to Campus

By Ed Hayward

UMass Boston’s second 2006-07 Community Partnership Day took place on February 2 as the university participated in National Groundhog Job Shadow Day in collaboration with the Boston Private Industry Council and the Boston Public Schools.

The university hosted approximately 20 students from the high schools in the Dorchester Education Complex—The Academy of Public Service, Noonan Business Academy, and Tech Boston Academy. The teens, among the approximately 900 who participated across the city, spent the day with university employees, receiving a glimpse of potential jobs and careers.

“Job Shadow Day is an exciting opportunity for UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students to give high school students from our community a chance to explore careers and make the connection between the classroom and the ‘real world,’” said Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD.

Dorchester Education Com-



Left photo: Student Javier Baez and Associate Vice Chancellor for University Advancement John Hayes. Top right: Dr. Barbara Lewis, director of the Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture, is interviewed by student Samaria Austin. Bottom right: Student Asaad Fulton learns from WUMB radio personality Dave Palmater. (Photos by Harry Brett)

plex students “shadowed” an employee for the morning, observing and assisting them with their work. They wrapped up the outing at a luncheon with their host employees.

“I never knew that something such as this even existed,” said Samaria Austin of Tech Boston Academy, who shadowed cam-

pus publications senior writer Anne-Marie Kent. “It’s a great opportunity for students like myself who are not sure of what they are capable of and [not sure] what they should expect from the workforce.”

This structured worksite experience will provide the students with a preview of the world of

work and the range of career opportunities available to them. Job shadowing is integral to making the connection between school and work. By allowing a student to observe a worker on the job, employers provide a firsthand look at the skills and knowledge required to succeed in a job and to build a career.



“UMass Boston is both the premier educational opportunity in the community and Dorchester’s largest employer. Job Shadow Day offers students from the Dorchester high schools a chance to see the university as both educator and employer,” said Neil Sullivan, executive director of the Boston Private Industry Council.

Job Shadow Day at UMass Boston has been coordinated by the Office of Community Relations and the Office of Pre-Collegiate and Educational Support Programs.

“Groundhog Job Shadow Day was a great success this year, due mainly to the fact that the hosts went far above and beyond the call of duty,” said Joan Becker, associate vice provost for Academic Support Services.

“Several students expressed how much they learned in their time with our employees and how much they enjoyed the hands-on activities they participated in,” said Becker.

Dramatic Season for Women’s Basketball: LEC Tournament and Showcase Showdown



Left: LaKeisha Tucker brings up the ball. Center: UMass Boston scores against Rhode Island College as the men’s team looks on. Right: Myrna Tangar on The Price Is Right. (Photos by Harry Brett)

This season has been a momentous one for the UMass Boston women’s basketball team. During winter break, the team visited The Price Is Right game show, where junior Myrna Tangar was fortunate enough not only to make it on stage with Bob Barker, but also to win nearly \$40,000 worth of prizes, including a new Ford Mustang. The show was broadcast on February 12 in the Campus Center game room, to a cheering crowd. The Beacons

were hoping to carry that excitement into their final regular season game vs. Rhode Island College on February 17 as part of Senior Day. The women’s team had already locked up the number three seed in the Little East Conference Tournament with their best-ever showing in league play. The Beacons eventually lost in the Little East Conference Tournament to Western Connecticut State University on February 20.

—UMass Boston Athletics

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

The Calendar of Events is published monthly by the Office of Marketing and Communications. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. From off campus, dial (617) 28 and the last five digits listed below each event.

Please submit calendar listings by Friday, March 16, 2007 to umb.edu/news/calendar/.

Thursday 1

Water Watch General Meetings
Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Wheatley Hall, 4th Floor, Room 15. The group meets to discuss upcoming events and projects such as: cleanups on the Charles and the Neponset rivers. For more information, call Teresa D’Anna at 7-3866.

Friday 2

First Annual Invention to Venture workshop
8:00-4:30 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Ballroom. Hosted by Venture Development Center, the workshops will serve as an introduction to the process and practice of clean energy technology entrepreneurship. Speakers include Mark Farber, chief executive officer of Evergreen Solar, and Kedar Gupta, founder of GT Solar. The documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* will be presented. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$35 for faculty, and \$75 for general admission.

Biology Spring 2007 Seminar Series
2:30-3:30 p.m., Science Center, 1st Floor, Small Science Lecture Hall, Room 6. Dr. Ashwini Chhatre of the Sustainability Science Program at Harvard University’s Center for International Development will present “Democracy and Forest Cover Change: Exploring Environmental Citizenship in the Western Himalayas.” All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Contact 7-6600 for updates, or visit <http://www.bio.umb.edu/events>.

A Conversation with Martha Coakley, Candidate for Attorney General
5:30-7:30 p.m., Suffolk University Law School, 120 Tremont St., Boston. This is an event cosponsored by the Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy and the Commonwealth Legislative Seminar. For more information, call Alkia Powell at 7-5541 or email alkia.powell@umb.edu.

Saturday 3

What Teachers Know: A Professional Writing Retreat
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Campus Center, 2nd Floor, Faculty Cafeteria (rear). Presented by the Boston Writing Project, this retreat aims to help teachers begin to write articles on aspects of their teaching and to complete articles already begun.

Monday 5

Introduction to American Sign Language
Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Room 3001. For more information, call Kerri-Ann Bailey & Yu Yau Chong at 7-7965 or email Disabilitystudentctr@umb.edu.

Wednesday 7

College of Management Forum
5:00 - 6:00 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Ballroom C. Speaker: Chris Felipe consultant, private investor, College of Management Advisory Board member. For more information, call Mary Ann Machanic at 7-7734 or email maryann.machanic@umb.edu.

Thursday 8

Small Business Development Center Course: QuickBooks Pro: Fast & Friendly Finances
Thursdays, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Healey Library, Lower Level, Presentation Room 1. This four-week software course offers hands-on training for a fee of \$200. To register, please visit www.sbdc.umb.edu/training. For more information, call Katiria Adorno at 7-7750.

Women of Substance: A Celebration of Women Leaders in Massachusetts
1:00 - 2:30 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Ballrooom B. Keynote speakers: Joan Wallace-Benjamin, chief of staff for Governor Deval Patrick, the Honorable Diana Maldonado, Chelsea District Court judge, and Maura Hennigan, clerk of Suffolk Superior Court. Presented by The William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences, The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, and the McCormack Graduate School’s Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy.

Department of Hispanic Studies Spring Speakers Series
4:00 p.m., Healey Library, 4th Floor, Room 15. Event features Professor Néstor E. Rodríguez of the University of Toronto, presenting “El que sea prieto, que hable claro”: Haiti and the Dominican Cultural Imaginary.” For more information about this and other spring speaker events sponsored, please visit www.hispanic-studies-umb-newsletter.net/ All conferences will be conducted in English.

Friday 9

Biology Spring 2007 Seminar Series
2:30-3:30 p.m., Science Center, 1st Floor, Small Science Lecture Hall, Room 6. A seminar titled “Kk1 and Kk2: Two Kenesins Involved in Plant Morphogenesis” will be presented by Kristophe Diaz, UMass Boston Biology Ph.D. candidate. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Contact 7.6600 for updates, or visit <http://www.bio.umb.edu/events>.

Monday 12

Dissertation Defense
10:00 a.m., Wheatley Hall, 4th Floor, Room 22. Yaw Amoako-Addo, PhD Candidate in Gerontology, holds dissertation defense for “Old-Age Pension Benefits in Norway: A Study of Differences in Pension Benefits between Disabled and Non-Disabled Old-Age Pensioners.” The University community is invited to attend.

North Atlantic Right Whales: A Critically Endangered Species in Our Backyard
Mondays, 7:00 p.m. Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary are proud to present leading experts who will discuss ongoing studies of right whale biology and behavior, and conservation efforts to save this species from extinction. For location information, call 781-545-8026 or email stellwagen@noaa.gov.

Earth Day Planning Committee
Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Senate Conference Room. The Sustainability Club, together with SAEC and the Students for Socially Responsible Impacts, will be hosting the Earth Day Planning Committee to plan this year’s April 14 Earth Day celebrations. For more information, call John Pearson at 978-979-3043 or email umbsustainability@gmail.com.

Tuesday 13

Small Business Development Center Course: Getting Started in Business
6:00-9:00 p.m., Copley Square Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston. This free, 3-hour class provides a complete overview of business start-up and planning considerations. For more information, call Katiria Adorno at 7-7750 or email katiria.adorno@umb.edu.

Friday 16

Biology Spring 2007 Seminar Series
“Genetic Analysis of Innate Immunity in *C. elegans*,” 2:30-3:30 p.m., Small Science Lecture Hall, 1st Floor, Room 6, Science Building. Presented by Dr. Dennis Kim of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Contact 7-6600 for updates, or visit <http://www.bio.umb.edu/events>.

Monday 19

Spring Vacation Begins
No classes March 19-23.

Wednesday 21

UMass Boston Athletics: Baseball vs. Fisher College
3:00-5:00 p.m. at UMass Boston. For more information, call David Marsters at 7-7801 or email david.marsters@umb.edu.

Thursday 22

UMass Boston Athletics: Baseball vs. Eastern Nazarene College
3:00-5:00 p.m., at Eastern Nazarene College. For more information, call David Marsters at 7-7801 or email david.marsters@umb.edu.

Monday 26

Classes Resume

UMass Boston Athletics: Softball vs. Brandeis University
3:00-5:00 p.m., at Brandeis University. For more information, call David Marsters at 7-7801 or email david.marsters@umb.edu.

UMass Boston Athletics: Lacrosse vs. Curry College
3:00-5:00 p.m. For more information, call David Marsters at 7-7801 or email david.marsters@umb.edu.

UMass Boston Athletics: Baseball vs. Bridgewater State College
3:30 p.m., at Bridgewater State College. For more information, call David Marsters at 7-7801 or email david.marsters@umb.edu.

Tuesday 27

Fourth Annual Social Theory Forum
March 27 and 28: 8 a.m.-6 p.m., McCormack Hall, 3rd Floor, Ryan Lounge Topic: “The Violences of Colonialism and Racism, Inner and Global: Conversations with Frantz Fanon on the Meaning of Human Emancipation.” For more information, call Mohammad H. Tamdgidi at 7-3954 or email mohammad.tamdgidi@umb.edu.

Wednesday 28

Fourth Annual Social Theory Forum
March 27 and 28: 8 a.m.-6 p.m., McCormack Hall, 3rd Floor, Ryan Lounge Topic: “The Violences of Colonialism and Racism, Inner and Global: Conversations with Frantz Fanon on the Meaning of Human Emancipation.” For more information, call Mohammad H. Tamdgidi at 7-3954 or email mohammad.tamdgidi@umb.edu.

Thursday 29

The Promise and the Challenge of Urban Rivers
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Federal Reserve Bank, Boston. This conference provides information on technical and financial resources available, sharing success stories and raising awareness of environmental justice issues. For more information, call Chantal Lefebvre at 7-5570 or email chantal.lefebvre@umb.edu.

Give Us Your Poor Seminar
7:30-10:30 a.m., UMass Club, 220 Franklin Street, Boston. Give Us Your Poor, a homelessness prevention program based at UMass Boston, presents the seminar “Responsibility in Leadership Today,” featuring renowned business executive coach and author Dr. Marshall Goldsmith. Admission is \$350. Proceeds benefit Give Us Your Poor. For more information, call 7-5532.

Friday 30

Biology Spring 2007 Seminar Series
2:30-3:30 p.m., Science Center, 1st Floor, Small Science Lecture Hall, Room 6. A seminar by Dr. Tim Shank, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Contact 7-6600 for updates, or visit <http://www.bio.umb.edu/events>.

Saturday 31

UMass Boston Athletics: Baseball vs. UMass Dartmouth
Doubleheader at UMass Dartmouth. For more information, call David Marsters at 7-7801 or email david.marsters@umb.edu.

UMass Boston Athletics: Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut
1:00-3:00 p.m., at Eastern Connecticut State University. For more information, call David Marsters at 7-7801 or email david.marsters@umb.edu.

UMass Boston Athletics: Men’s Tennis vs. Western Connecticut State University
1:00-3:00 p.m. For more information, call David Marsters at 7-7801 or email david.marsters@umb.edu.

Miscellaneous

Beacon Fitness Center
McCormack Hall, 1st floor. Open to students, alumni, staff and faculty. Programs include personal training, aerobics classes, massage therapy, orientations, and fitness assessments. For membership, hours of operation, and schedule, please see www.athletics.umb.edu/fitness_fitness or call 7-6786.

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