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Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 1
Number 3
November 1996

Green Chemistry Researcher Wins EPA Challenge Grant

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There was a time when "green chemistry" (pollution prevention in the industrial manufacturing and processing of manmade chemicals) seemed like a contradiction in terms. But today, scientists are turning more towards exploring new ways to eliminate pollution before it enters the environment by developing new methods of industrial and commercial production.

Familiar with this scientific approach is Chemistry Professor John Warner, who in October won a three-year, \$350,000 Technology for a Sustainable Environment grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of a \$5 million joint special awards competition it sponsored with the National Science Foundation (NSF) for 1996. The competition promotes a "green chemistry" approach, which means that the EPA and NSF were looking to fund projects which would potentially prevent pollution at its source. This may be done by designing new chemical processes which do not use or produce toxic reagents or solvents as by-products, or by re-designing useful chemicals and materials to make them less toxic to health and the environment. At Warner's previous job, he did just that.

As a Senior Research Scientist and Research Group Leader at the Polaroid Corporation from 1988 to 1996, he led an interdisciplinary group of scientists in work which resulted in new imaging mechanisms that Polaroid used in its instant photography products. While improving the quality of instant photographs, the scientists reduced the amount of hazardous solvents used in their processing by substituting an aqueous, or water-based solution instead.

What ties all of Warner's work together, whether it be in materials science at Polaroid, or in research he did to earn the EPA grant, or in his interest in medical chemistry, is the theory of "molecular recognition and self-assembly."

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Academics & Leadership are "Key" to Honor Society

Boosting academic achievement and leadership are the goals of the Golden Key Honor Society, and no chapter has worked harder to attain them than the UMass Boston chapter. In August, it was recognized as the "Most Improved Chapter" at the Golden Key Honor Society International Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Society has 244 chapters in the United States and Australia.

"We were very proud to receive the award- I was here the chartering year (1994) and I've seen the changes we've gone through," says Susan Coughlin, president of the UMass Boston chapter of Golden Key. "There has been real improvement in our community service activities and with inter-chapter activities with other colleges in the area." According to Coughlin, the Society recognizes academic achievement by offering membership to juniors and seniors in the top 15% of their class and providing them with leadership opportunities by serving as officers and attending conferences.

Last year, the Golden Key Society took the unique step of introducing the Golden Key Club to the roster of student organizations on campus. The Club, open to any student on campus who

aspires to Golden Key Society membership, offers many of the benefits of membership to students who are either freshman or sophmores, or whose grade point averages may not yet be up to the required 3.55. The only requirement is interest, but the benefits include developing and fine-tuning leadership skills, helping others, and networking. This can be done through a variety of Golden Key activities, which have included voter registration drives, serving as readers to the visually impaired through the Ross Center for Disability Services, serving as mentors through the Women's Mentoring Program on campus and through the Youth on the Rise Program at the Mary Ellen McCormack Housing Development in South Boston.

This fall, the Golden Key Club in coordination with other Golden Key chapters in the Boston area, took part in the Lupus Walk, which raised \$50,000 for the Lupus Foundation. "The idea of the club was something that we came up with on our own," says Coughlin. "At the international meeting, we were held up as an example of innovative programming because of it."

"We're looking to get things done, and that's why I'm involved with the Golden Key Club," says John McEachern, Director of Member Relations for the Club. "We want everyone to know that they are welcome. They can be

honor society members and get that acknowledgement, or they can join the club because they want to get involved with our activities."

Golden Key membership on campus stands at about 300 members. The Society is required by its charter to hold two open houses a year, and it sends members to regional conferences, where they meet other members and can participate in workshops and presentations. The Society makes scholarships available to its members, including six \$10,000 scholarships to members who pursue graduate studies. In the spirit of encouraging academic achievement, the Provost's office has made a \$500 scholarship available to a Golden Key member as an incentive.

"We're developing in many directions, and I hope the awards we've received will inspire more faculty, staff and administrators to get involved with Golden Key. We provide mentoring, but we could also use mentors to help our members focus on future goals after graduation," says Coughlin. "We like working as a team, and I see that as a way of working for the benefit of the University."

Check out what's happening at UMass Boston on our world wide web site at <http://www.umb.edu>

The Dean's Corner: Ismael Ramirez-Soto

"I don't sell visions, but I help construct them," says Dean Ismael Ramirez-Soto, reflecting on his part in the renewal process that has been underway in the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) since he became Dean in August of 1995. "When I arrived, we began discussing the College immediately. Now, we are only three steps away from what I believe will be a quantum leap forward for CPCS and the University."

These three steps are: First, reviving the faculty, staff and student voices on issues of curriculum development and community-building; second, shifting from environments for teaching to environments for learning, aggressively promoting interactive learning strategies, and enhancing the electronic media infrastructure; third, constructively engaging with the rest of the University and the community at large on how best to meet the urban mission and how best to merge advocacy, scholarship and teaching.

"CPCS was meant to be an experimental college committed to exploring alternatives to the traditional paradigms of higher education within an urban context. In many ways, the faculty, staff and students have been pioneers," says Ramirez-Soto. "We are out to rekindle that spirit and once again explore uncharted

territories in education and community development. We will seek stability in constant change and assume leadership in any area we have something to contribute or learn."

The College has not wasted any time getting started. CPCS has already embarked on an ambitious administrative restructuring project to improve services and aesthetics. It has actively contributed to the University's general education reform initiatives; revamped relationships with 35 community-based organizations in Metropolitan Boston, and has spurred several collaborative learning initiatives that involve faculty, students and community leaders in action-research projects around issues like grandparenting, immigration, welfare reform, community development and housing.

CPCS plans to engage other faculty and students from other colleges and has sought assistance from the various research and policy institutes of the University. The College also has started, with the Sociology Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, a "crossing boundaries" experiment to explore ways in which students from both Colleges can benefit by increasing access and choice to courses, faculty and activities in the field of Criminal Justice. "The debate over how to teach and evaluate students from CPCS and CAS by the same faculty member in the same course or learning project needs to be addressed asser-

tively," says Ramirez-Soto. Everybody stands to benefit from us rising to the occasion and hopefully breaking down this obstacle." CPCS is the only College in the University of Massachusetts Boston that has organized its curriculum around competency statements, prior learning, and narrative evaluations (rather than grades).

Ramirez-Soto's past experiences and education make him well suited for CPCS. He received his doctoral degree in education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, his juris doctorate degree from the University of Puerto Rico, and his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Hartford in Connecticut. His professional experience includes working as a managing attorney in Greater Boston Legal Services, a teacher in Headstart, and nine years as the Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Higher Education Council.

"My accomplishments will depend on whether everyone in the College and the University works together in the spirit of good will and trust. That can do wonders," says Ramirez-Soto. To whom will the credit go? "To those who will act on ideas rather than those who will only talk about them" concluded Ramirez-Soto.

ADA Officer to Lead Worldwide Organization

Carol DeSouza, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Officer, takes as many as fifteen telephone calls a day from colleagues seeking advice on how to assess and deal with a myriad of disability issues on college campuses. In October, her long-time commitment to disability issues was honored by her colleagues worldwide when she was elected President of the International Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) for a three year term.

In addition to her presidency, DeSouza will also serve as conference chair at AHEAD's 20th annual conference which will be held in Boston in July, 1997. One of her goals is to make sure that UMass Boston gets the credit it deserves for its commitment to disability services. She

anticipates that many of her UMass Boston colleagues will participate at the conference, contributing to its overall success.

To DeSouza, the biggest issue in the realm of disabilities services is balancing reasonable accommodations for individuals while not compromising academic programs. "Determinations of reasonableness need to be made on an individual basis. It would be simpler to have menus and check-off sheets, and then we wouldn't have lawsuits and compliance officers," says DeSouza. "But the law is purposely vague, because it can't be written to dictate accommodation, facilities and needs across the boards. Accommodation must be suited to individuals, who in many cases have multiple disabilities."

UMass Boston established its own Reasonable Accommodation in Employment policy last year. It provides guidelines for employees, including students, who request accommodations, including reasonable timelines and appeal procedures. "As a community, we've made the quality of life better for employees as well as students without court orders or lawsuits, because we have been pro-active rather than reactive. To get to the point we're at now wasn't easy, but it's a very important positive thing for UMass Boston."

DeSouza came to UMass Boston from Boston State University in 1982. Prior to that, she served as a school principal in the South Bronx. DeSouza's educational background is in elementary education.

Dumas Receives ABCD Community Service Award

"When I started working with the elderly at Columbia Point, it took a long time to gain their trust. This was the first and best lesson I learned about getting involved in community service," says Professor Linda Dumas, the recipient of a 1996 Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) Award. Dumas was honored for over twelve years of providing "supportive, dedicated and skilled nursing to the senior citizens living at Harbor Point." She was one of 17 grassroots community activists honored at the ABCD's 22nd Annual Community Awards Dinner on November 1.

Dumas' long time association with the elderly at Harbor Point began in the early 1980's when she conducted research into the state of their health as the publicly owned Columbia Point Housing Projects was transformed into the privately owned mixed-income Harbor Point Housing Development. "People are sometimes mistrustful of academics," says Dumas. "They come in, collect their data, do their thing and leave, and nothing changes. Often, they never even see the results of the studies."

According to Dumas, staying power is the key to success. She has stayed committed to many of the elders she met there more

that fifteen years ago. "The kind of community service I'm involved in is nothing fancy. It can be as simple as helping an elder get their pet to the veterinarian." Reflecting on this, she adds: "Some of the best times of my life have been at Harbor Point."

At the College of Nursing, Dumas teaches community health nursing to seniors. As part of this course, each student takes a clinical placement in a school, shelter, or other community health organizations. Dumas says that this is one way that the University lives up to its commitment to the community and its public service mission.

New "T" Services to Benefit UMass Boston Commuters

Intense lobbying by members of the Columbia Point Associates (CPA) has convinced the MBTA to build a platform at the JFK/UMass Red Line station to service trains on the soon-to-open Old Colony Railroad from the South Shore. MBTA General Manager Patrick J. Moynihan announced the intention to go ahead with construction of a \$3.5 million stop, already included in a \$3.1 billion Transportation Bond Bill signed last August by Governor William Weld. Moynihan's announcement scuttled reports that the T would bypass a Dorchester stop to speed service from South Shore areas to the South Station in downtown Boston.

UMass Boston is a member of the CPA along with the Boston Globe, Bayside Exposition Center, Harbor Point, Bank of Boston, the Massachusetts Archives and Boston College High School, whose president, Rev. Joseph Fahey, S.J., served as spokesman for the group. UMB's Forrest Speck, Director of Auxiliary Services, represents the University.

Two-thirds of the new Old Colony Railroad will open in September 1997, a date pushed back from December 1996, so a new in-cab signal and communications system can be installed.

Trackwork on the Middleboro and Plymouth lines is nearly complete. New track, station platforms and grade crossings have dominated the work. A third (Greenbush) link is scheduled to open in late 1998, which will go through the towns of Weymouth, Hingham, Nantasket, Cohasset and North Scituate. The Middleboro line will travel through Braintree, Randolph, Brockton, and Bridgewater, while the Plymouth line covers South Weymouth, Abington, Whitman, Hanson and Halifax.

"We are very, very pleased with the latest news," said BC High's Father Fahey. "This is good for the people and good for the institutions involved." Originally, T officials opposed a JFK/UMass stop because it added some three to four minutes to the downtown destination. However, now it appears likely that only at certain times would trains use the stop.

"The JFK-UMass stop is good. I'm highly in favor of it," said Ed Forry, editor of the local community newspaper, the *Dorchester Reporter*. "So far, Dorchester residents have borne the burden of construction of a new rail corridor, complete with truck traffic, construction noise and street closings. When all the lines open, we'll have as many as 65 diesel trains chugging through our backyards."

Originally, the T wanted to preserve the new rail lines for suburban travelers. The idea was to whisk people in and out of the city from the South Shore with a

last stop in Quincy. The notion was remarkably similar to the thinking a quarter century ago when the Braintree Red Line extension was constructed without a Dorchester stop. That additional Red Line stop was added only recently, at a cost much higher than if a station had been built with the rest of the expansion. Forry noted that the original T expansion had its last stop at North Quincy, and no others until you arrived at Broadway Station in South Boston. "No one argues that every Old Colony train must stop in Dorchester," said Forry. "Surely there will be trains running express right into town. But adding a JFK/UMass station now, while the line is still under construction, makes good sense."

Forrest Speck notes that 55 percent of UMass Boston travelers commute by public transportation. UMass Boston estimates that some 2,000 students, faculty and staff could be affected. Certain events at the Bayside Exposition Center lure as many as 100,000 visitors, especially during the highly-popular Flower Show. The JFK/UMass area is a growing one, bringing each day about 20,000 commuters to the mix of commercial and educational interests in the area.

Visits Strengthen Southern Africa's Goal for Democracy

Ties between two new governments in Southern Africa and UMass Boston were forged recently with the appearance on campus of two South African officials, a visit that followed a two-week trip to Namibia and South Africa by a nine-member UMass Boston task force. In his address at UMass Boston, the Honorable Mr. Ahmed Kathrada, Parliamentary Counsellor to President Nelson Mandela, spoke about the work of the ex-political prisoners' fund and the transition from prison to Parliament. A close political colleague and friend of President Mandela's for almost 50 years, they spent over 26 years on Robben Island and in other prisons together. In his talk he stressed the idea that they tried not be debased by their guards. "Once free, we had to learn how to govern," said Kathrada.

Accompanying Kathrada was the Honorable Ms. Barbara Hogan, a

member of the South African Parliament, who was the first white woman to be tried and convicted of high treason. She spent nine years in prison and talked of that experience and the ex-political prisoners' fund.

Just days before Kathrada's and Hogan's appearance, the UMass Boston task force returned from Namibia and South Africa, a trip funded by the University's first grant from the United States Information Agency. Leading the group was Vivien A. Schmidt, Director of the Center for Democracy and Development at the McCormack Institute. Accompanying her was: Professor Herman Hemingway of the Trotter Institute and the Criminal Justice Center, CPCS; Professor Bette Woody, General Center, CPCS; Professor Arthur Goldsmith, College of Management; Joseph Barresi, Senior Fellow of the McCormack Institute; Richard Delaney, Director, Urban

Harbors Institute; and Margery O'Donnell, Center for Democracy and Development, McCormack Institute. Padraig O'Malley, Senior Fellow at the McCormack Institute, was already in South Africa and helped smooth the path for his colleagues when they arrived.

Democracy in government was the major theme of the Southern African visit, and was stressed throughout the presentations of the task force members. "It was a memorable trip," said Barresi, "I conducted three workshops in Windhoek, the capitol of Namibia. Much of my activity centered around Namibia, a former German protectorate that has been free only five years." Barresi lectured on fraud, waste and abuse in financial dealings. Officials of the Bank of Namibia were on hand along with the United States Ambassador to Namibia.

Second Fulbright Takes Researcher to Ecuador

For a second time, American Studies Professor Charles Shively won a prestigious Fulbright grant to pursue research interests and lecture in a Latin American country. This past summer, he researched the popularity of Walt Whitman's poetry in Ecuador. His previous Fulbright grant took him to Mexico in 1991.

"I knew that Whitman was popular with a group of Equadorean poets from the turn of the century known as *Los Decapitados*, or degenerates, because of their interest in French poetry. They took up Whitman, whose works were

translated into French, not out of interest in Whitman's themes or style of writing, but out of interest in Whitman's homosexuality." A second generation of poets however did take up Whitman's themes in the 1930s and 1940s, and Shively discovered widespread interest in Whitman among contemporary Equadorian poets.

Shively also examined the idea of "frontier," an important theme in Whitman's work, and how it differs in the Equadorian and United States' world views. "In the United States, we had the idea of frontier as a continuous

moving line of settlement, which had a huge influence on Whitman." According to Shively, in Ecuador there is no word that means frontier as we understand it. "In Ecuador, *la frontera* means border. Ecuador has been the object of other expanding empires, and that has affected the intellectual nature of the society," says Shively.

During his three month stay, Shively lectured at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador in Quito, and at the University of Azuay in Cuenca.

Planning Council Reviews Strategic Plan

The final draft of a long-range plan to guide campus decision-making was reviewed by the Chancellor's Planning Council on October 30. The plan, *Imagining a New Century: The Year 2000 Strategic Plan*, presents five major goals for UMass Boston:

1. To be a dynamic leader and recognized model of innovation and effectiveness among public urban universities;
2. To have demonstrably stronger, more effective undergraduate and graduate programs and learning experiences for our students;
3. To expand the scope and demonstrated effectiveness of our research and professional service activities;
4. To have demonstrably more effective infrastructure services to sustain our academic programs and support services; and
5. To effectively diversify our funding base through enhanced fundraising success.

The Planning Council, which drafted the report, is a group of over 30 faculty and administrative staff co-chaired by Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Louis Esposito and Deputy Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Jean MacCormack.

The Plan elaborates its goals in sub-goals, activities and assessment measures. Implementation of several major sub-goals began shortly after the campus's accreditation review was completed in December, 1995: the ethernet wiring of the campus for new information technology; final planning for the construction of the Campus Center; initiation of campus-wide general education reform; the Academic Program Review; and the planning and kickoff of UMass Boston First, the campus's \$50 million capital campaign.

Budget figures have been attached to goals and sub-goals, which will enable the Planning Council to meet early and late during each year covered by the plan to assess the campus's progress in the goals' implementation.

Grant Funds UMass Boston/Community College Collaboration

The Commonwealth's State Board of Higher Education has funded a Performance Improvement Program Grant to UMass Boston in the amount of \$124,000. This grant provides funds for the University and Massasoit Community College to work together in an Urban Collaborative Enhancement Project, which will promote delivery of remedial instruction, and work to improve first-year student retention. The grant supports the admission policies of the State Board of Higher Education by sponsoring the development of carefully designed student referral programs.

Check out what's happening at UMass Boston on our world wide web site at <http://www.umb.edu>

Calendar

On Tuesday, December 3, the Africana Forum, sponsored by the Black Studies Department, will present *The New South Africa*, with personal assessments of developments in South Africa since its transition to democracy. The speakers are Professors **Chukwuma Azuonye** of Black Studies, and **Herman Hemingway** of the Criminal Justice Center and **Bette Woody** of the General Center, CPCS. The Forum will be held in the Provost's Conference Room, 8th floor, Healey Library from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, December 4, **The McCormack Institute** will sponsor a symposium, *Confronting Intimate Violence: New Policy Directives for the 21st Century*, in the University Club from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Panelists will include Angela Browne of the Better Homes Foundation; Claire Renzetti of St. Joseph's University; the Honorable Sydney Hanlon, Presiding Justice of the Dorchester District Court; and **Albert Cardarelli**, McCormack Institute. For more information, call 7-5557.

A lecture/discussion entitled *The Public Health Effects of War* will be held on December 4 from 2:30 to 4:30 in the Provost's Conference Room, 8th floor, Healey Library. Dr. Barry Levy, President-Elect, and Dr. Victor Sidel, Past President of the American Public Health Association will speak on their book, *War and Public Health*, which was recently published by the Oxford University Press. This event is sponsored by the **Joiner Center**.

The Music Department presents *Jazz Band Swings! An Evening of Jazz Greats*, a concert by the UMass Boston Jazz Band and vocalists conducted by **Jeanne Munroe**, on Thursday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m., in the Snowden Auditorium, Wheatley Hall.

On Thursday, December 5, Deborah Thomson, Policy Director of the Alzheimers Association of Eastern Massachusetts will speak on *Redefining Medicare and Medicaid: Public Health Programs and the Politics of Personal Responsibility* in the Quinn Administration Building, Conference Room 308, from noon to 1:00 p.m. Sponsored by the **Gerontology Institute**.

At 7:30 p.m., on Friday December 6, the Music Department presents *Questions and Answers*, a concert of music by Schubert, Ives, C.P.E. Bach, Locke and others at St. William's Church, 1048 Dorchester Avenue in Dorchester. The concert will feature **Linnea Bardarson** and **Trudi VanSlyck** on keyboards, the University of Massachusetts Chamber Orchestra under the direction of **Jon C. Mitchell**, and the Chorus and Chamber Singers under the direction of **Jeffrey Rink**.

A Musical Moment, performances by music majors and students in the **Studio Program of the Music Department** will take place Monday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m., in Snowden Auditorium, Wheatley Hall.

On Thursday, December 12, **The Gerontology Institute** presents Professor James Callahan, Jr., Director of the Policy Center on Aging and Research at Brandeis University, who will speak on *The Future of Home and Community Based Services* in Conference Room 308, Quinn Administration Building, from noon to 1:00 p.m.

On December 12, **The 1996 Woman of the Year and Rising Stars Awards** dinner will be hosted by the **Network of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy** of the McCormack Institute. This year, State Representative Shirley Owens-Hicks will be honored as Woman of the Year; and Victoria Budson, Executive Director of the John F. Kennedy School of Government's Women's Leadership Initiative, and State Representative Rachel Kaprelian of Watertown will be honored as Rising Stars. For ticket information, contact Sheila Gagnon at 7-5541.

Awards

Anthropology major **Marcus Aurin** won the W.H.R. Rivers prize from the Society for Medical Anthropology for his paper, *Chasing the Dragon: The Cultural Metamorphosis of Opium, 1865-1935*. This prize is awarded for the best undergraduate paper submitted to the Society in a national competition. It carries a \$250 award, and the paper will be submitted for publication in the Medical Anthropology Quarterly, the premier journal in the field. Aurin's paper was the result of an independent study undertaken with Professor **Alan Harwood**.

Jodel Giraud, a junior biochemistry major, is the 1996 recipient of the John W. Ryan Faculty Convocation Award. This award honors the junior who has attained the highest cumulative grade point average during their freshman and sophomore years. Giraud has maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

Dean **Brenda Cherry** of the College of Nursing has received an outstanding veterans award from the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust for her contributions to the armed forces and the community at large. Cherry is a veteran of the Army Nurse Corps. The award was presented to her at a ceremony on October 15, hosted by Vice Chancellor **Charles Desmond** and the **Joiner Center**.

Richard Delaney, Director of the **Urban Harbors Institute**, has been reappointed to the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Council by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt for a two year term. The commission consults with the Secretary on matters relating to the development of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

The CAS Honors Program Advisory Board has chosen two students to share equally in the Robert H. Spaethling Award. English major **Lori Ann Gauthier** and theater arts major **Andrea Higgins** are this year's recipients. Gauthier is a Chancellor's Scholar and a member of the Student Leadership Program. Higgins, also a Chancellor's Scholar, volunteers with the Reachback Program for the Boston Public Schools.

Career Comic Lends Experience to Theater Arts Classes

Television and movie actor... screen writer...standup comic... playwright... director... thespian... Steve Sweeney brings quite a repertoire to his popular classes in theater arts at UMass Boston. A UMass Boston alumnus, class of '74, Sweeney can identify with students who commute daily to campus via the MBTA. He rode the Red Line to Dorchester every day from Cambridge while studying at UMass Boston.

Sweeney's love of comedy took him to Hollywood movie studios and Las Vegas lounges, a long way from UMass Boston. But it was the journey's experience that adds to the value of his classes. During that journey, he picked up a master's degree in Fine Arts in Southern California.

Sweeney's most recent movie role was as a Boston taxi driver in "Next Stop, Wonderland" which was filmed largely in Boston. His other films include "Back in School" with Rodney Dangerfield and "Celtic Pride" with Dan Akroyd. When he's not acting or teaching, Sweeney is writing

comedy material for Eddie Andleman's sports show on Channel 68. Sweeney's comic talent can be seen at Nick's Comedy Stop on Warrenton Street in Downtown Boston and at other popular comedy clubs.

But teaching is his primary outlet, especially at UMass Boston, where he sees students undergoing the same situations he faced in his career. "The students are from where I'm from," says Sweeney. "I thoroughly enjoy it. These students are very teachable. Some kids come to UMass with low self esteem. The theatre experience helps them to overcome that. They get up before an audience—a threatening experience to some—and they walk their way through the fear."

When Sweeney returned to Greater Boston from Southern California, he ran across Lou Roberts, a former UMass Boston teacher and mentor, and then head of the Theatre Arts Department. Roberts persuaded Sweeney to lend his vast experience to the classroom.

Sweeney offers challenging theatrical experiences for his students. Currently, he is teaching acting in a play, "Hatful of Rain," a story of a morphine

addict in the 1950s. "It was pretty heady stuff back in the '50's, but it's relevant to today's society," says Sweeney. "The students seem to get a lot out of it."

With his vast experience, Sweeney adds a very practical edge to the Theatre Arts Department, which may explain the popularity of his courses. "I don't know if anyone will go on to a great career in the movies or on stage, but at least they will profit from the experience," says Sweeney.

Peace, Love...and Tartuffe, the UMass Boston Theater Arts Fall Mainstage Production, will open with a 10:00 a.m. show on Thursday, December 5, and an opening night performance will take place on Friday, December 6, at 8:00 p.m. Performances will be held in McCormack Auditorium, McCormack Hall.

The English Department's first Distinguished Alumni Reading took place on November 20 in the Harbor Gallery. **Paul Cody**, BA, Honors in Creative Writing '82 and author of two recently published novels, *The Stolen Child* and *Eyes Like Mine* read from his works. His stories and excerpts have also appeared in the Boston Globe Magazine and Harpers.

Associate Professor **David Lisak** of the psychology department has been named 1996 Researcher of the Year by the Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity of the American Psychological Association. The award honors researchers who make outstanding contributions in this area.

Grants and Publications

Professor **Frank Nisetich**, Chair of the Classics Department, recently has his poem, *Triptych* published in the journal *Literature and Belief*. His translation of Euripides' play, *Orestes*, published last year by Oxford University Press, was recently performed by the Classical Greek Theater Festival of Utah.

The first *Commonwealth Undergraduate Review*, a journal of the University of Massachusetts Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, Creative, and Public Service Activities has been published by the University of Massachusetts Press. Professor **Monica McAlpine**, UMass Boston's CAS Honors Program Director, served on the Board of Editors. The journal is an outcome of the Second Annual Conference on Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Public Service Activities which took place at

UMass Amherst in April, 1996. Thirty UMass Boston students presented projects at the conference, and seven had their works published in the Journal.

A recent study by Assistant Professor **Kyle McInnis** of the Human Performance and Fitness Program and two colleagues from Boston University Medical Center reported that many health and fitness clubs do not pre-screen new members for potentially life-threatening heart and blood vessel diseases. The results of their study, *Inadequate Pre-participation in Health Screening in Fitness Centers: A Call for Action* were presented by McInnis at the American Heart Association's 69th Scientific Sessions held in New Orleans on November 12. McInnis was interviewed by Cable News Network (CNN) on the results of their study.

Partnerships

The **Division of Continuing Education** has developed a partnership with the Yankee Press Education Network (Yankee PEN), a non-profit organization serving approximately 1,000 high school journalism teachers and school newspaper advisors. Yankee PEN will lend its assistance to the Partnership in Print program and to the University's High School Journalism Program for Minorities. The Division of Continuing Education will assist Yankee PEN in promoting scholastic journalism through regional and national conferences.

The **Graduate Program in Dispute Resolution** is working with the City of Boston's Rental Housing Resource Center to provide mediation services to landlords and the remaining tenants in 2,000 rental units whose protections expire December 31, 1996 due to the abolition of rent control. Adjunct Professor **Katina Leodas** is recruiting volunteers for training in mediation services for this program. Speakers of Chinese, Creole, Spanish and Italian are especially needed. If you are interested in taking part in this program, call **Gillian Krajewski** at 7-7421

Achievements

WUMB Radio's fall 1996 on-air fundraiser received \$98,984 in pledges, making it their most successful fundraiser to date. There were 1,345 pledges made to the station, including 606 new donor pledges which contributed \$38,125 of the total amount this year.

Events

The New England Resource Center for Higher Education (**NERCHE**) hosted a delegation of senior administrators from the University of Amsterdam in October. Professor **Zelda Gamson**, Director of NERCHE led a seminar on the academic profession in the U.S., and Professor **Esther Kingston-Mann** led a seminar on curricular issues. Several members of the group held internships here under the auspices of the Division of Global Studies directed by Professor **Sheila Post**.

UMass Boston alumnus and musical composer **Mark Governor '78**, hosted a screening on campus of *Notes from the Underground*, his most recent film, on November 18. Governor has composed music for 15 feature films, and over 25 television specials and documentaries. He also gave a brief presentation of his original musical scores. His visit was co-sponsored by the Music Department and the UMass Boston First Campaign.

A multicultural conference entitled *Living in Two Worlds: Bi-culturalism and Its Implications for Clinical Practice* was held at UMass Boston on October 5. **Susan Ko** and **Jacob Ham**, graduate students in the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program, were members of the steering committee which organized the conference. The all-day conference, which drew some sixty participants, was co-sponsored by UMass Boston and a variety of other public and private institutions and universities.

Over 300 participants attended the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism's 1996 Conference, *Romantic Crossings*, held in Boston Nov. 14 -16. Associate Professor **Elizabeth Fay** of the English Department was one of the Conference's principal organizers. **Charles Boland** and **Wayne Hatmaker** of Computer Services provided support and equipment for a new website, *Romantic Circles*, which was unveiled at the Conference.

Know Your Heritage, Poet Tells Audience

"In their twenties, many young Americans go to Europe, and it really is a spiritual journey, a white person's 'vision quest.' Young people go to where the stories of creation include them...I come from 1,000 years of unbroken 'Spokane-ness,' something which Europeans who came to this country have lost."
—Sherman Alexie

Winding up a 35-city promotional tour for his new book, *Indian Killer*, poet and author Sherman Alexie both entertained and riled an over-capacity crowd of approximately 125 faculty, staff and students on November 5. Alexie's tour, sponsored by Grove Atlantic Press, publishers of *Indian Killer*, coincides with the publication of his newest volume of poetry, *Summer of Black Widows*, by Hanging Loose Press. His reading was sponsored by the Joiner Center and by the Creative Writing Program of the English Department.

The thirty year-old Alexie has received national acclaim since his first book of poetry and prose, *The Business of Fancydancing*, was published in 1992. In the same year, *Fancydancing* was named by the New York Times Book Review as a *Notable Book of*

the Year. Since then, Alexie has garnered numerous awards and honors, including one of Granta Magazine's Best Young Author awards in 1996.

Alexie has developed a reputation for unconventional readings, in part because he often retells his stories, adding and taking away from each in a way that creates something new in each telling. At this reading, Alexie often challenged the audience, speaking directly to them in the first person. At one point, he asked, "Do you know that 80% of you support capital punishment?" He described himself as a political liberal who communicates like a conservative talk show host.

"As always, Sherman really engaged people. Sometimes they get angry, and sometimes they agree with him, but it's always an engagement at the level of ideas," says Dick Lourie, UMass Boston publications editor and Alexie's editor at Hanging Loose Press, which has published three of Alexie's books. "He raises the larger issues of political and social ideas which go beyond a discussion of his books or his poetry."

Alexie scoffed at the wave of "New Age" books which promote Native American mythology and ritual as a way for non-Indians to connect with nature and spirituality, stating bluntly that non-

Indians should not, and really cannot participate in sacred Native American beliefs and rituals. They should, Alexie believes, look to their own heritage.

"Indians have no claim on spirituality...you can love and respect ours, but leave it alone, don't claim it as your own. You have the same things in your background, because you too are indigenous somewhere... you give up your European tribal past when you buy into being an 'American.' Many young Americans go to Europe, and it really is a spiritual journey, a white guy's 'vision quest.' Young people go to where the stories of creation include them. I come from a line of 1,000 years of unbroken 'Spokane-ness,' something which Europeans who came to this country have lost," says Alexie. He resists the notion of 'one planet, one people' as racist, because it tries to erase rather than recognize our differences.

"I appreciate Sherman's irreverence," comments Kevin Bowen, Director of the Joiner Center which co-sponsored Alexie's visit. "He's a great writer on a subject of real importance--the situation of Native Americans in this country. His poetry is powerful, and he writes about real people in an accessible way."

Check out what's happening at UMass Boston on our world wide web site at <http://www.umb.edu>

Green Chemistry story

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"My work involves taking a process that is well established in medical chemistry—molecular recognition and self assembly—and applying that concept to other areas, such as environmental and materials science issues," Warner says. A medical example of molecular recognition and self-assembly is the response of the human body to an organ transplant. When a person receives a new organ, the body often recognizes it as foreign, and triggers a response to reject the organ. This response, which is currently treated with immune system-suppressing drugs and radiation treatments, is activated through chemical cues from the body's endocrine system, which coordinates and releases hormones into the bloodstream. These chemical cues play a complex and vital role in human development and the maintenance of health.

Another aspect of molecular recognition and self-assembly, one that relates to the environment, is how so-called "environmental hormones" interfere with human health. Environmental

hormones are man-made chemicals that act like hormones; ubiquitous industrial compounds in the environment that are linked to birth defects. When these man-made chemicals find their way into the bodies of animals through food supplies, the body recognizes them as hormones. This has led to well documented cases of reproductive failure and birth defects in animal populations. Warner hopes to learn more about the chemical processes by which molecules recognize each other and by which they form self-assembled systems.

"Much of the work John does comes from lessons learned from nature," says Paul Anastas, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, a division of the EPA which sponsored the competition. "The area of green chemistry is a brand new focus area, and this research shows a lot of vision on John Warner and UMass Boston's part, because it is the future of synthetic chemistry and environmental protection."

Private Support for the Sciences

Over the course of the last year, the Sciences at UMass Boston have benefitted from various gifts from private industry. Noteworthy are the following:

- Genzyme Corporation made a \$150,000 gift to the Biology Department for equipment and instruction;
- The Polaroid Corporation donated \$5,000 worth of equipment for the Chemistry Department;
- Procter & Gamble's \$30,000 grant to a Biology faculty member for continued work on the "Fate of sulfate-based surfactants in marine environments;"
- Cohesive Biology's \$60,000 gift to the Chemistry Department for their work on "Immobilization and stationary phase chemistry for bioseparations."

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