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THE UNIVERSITY

Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 1
Number 6
February 1997

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President Clinton Unveils Crime Bill at UMass Boston

President Bill Clinton visited the University of Massachusetts Boston Feb. 19 to present his new juvenile crime bill. The president participated in a roundtable discussion in the McCormack Building's Ryan Lounge and addressed more than 4,000 parents, educators, law enforcement officials, students and the community in the Clark Athletic Center. Two days after Presidents Day, on his first trip to Massachusetts this year, Clinton hailed Boston as a crime fighting model for other cities.

Prior to discussing juvenile crime, the president thanked UMass Boston students, acknowledging that the majority of students work full-time, and expressed his wishes that they benefit from the education programs in his budget. "I hope it will help you all," he said. Clinton also asked the audience to "forgive me a purely personal remark" and went on to thank Massachusetts voters for giving him the biggest margin of victory of any state in the country.

In his speech, the president cited local statistics — 70 percent of young people on probation are sticking to it, youth murders dropped 80 percent drop in five years and no child under 16 was murdered in Boston in the past year and a half. "We cannot permit this to be only an achievement in Boston," the president said.

Clinton told the crowd that if he, as a teenager, would have said no child in his town was killed in the past year and a half, the reaction would have been different. "Do you know what people would have said? So what? What's that fool talking about?" he said, provoking laughter. "We have to keep working until the answer is 'so what?' That ought to be the answer, shouldn't it?" Clinton asked, gathering applause.

Clinton outlined the four-part bill that will give other communities the resources to fight crime the way it is fought in Boston. First, the legislation will "break the backs of the gangs" and help communities

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Study Finds Domestic Violence Prevalent Among Aid Recipients

The University Reporter

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A report of national significance, released this week by the McCormack Institute's Center for Social Policy Research and the Center for Survey Research, reveals domestic violence is prevalent among Massachusetts women receiving Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) benefits.

The study is the first to interview a scientific sample of women on domestic violence, and that sample is representative of the state's entire welfare case load, researchers say. The report's co-authors are Mary Ellen Colten, director of the Center for Survey Research; Mary Ann Allard, director of the Center for Social Policy Research; Randy Albelda, of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy; and Research Associate Carol Cosenza of the Center for Survey Research.

The study found that 64.9 percent of respondents have been victims of domestic violence by a current or former husband or boyfriend. Many of the abused women are in conflict with former husbands or boyfriends over child support and custody issues. In addition, women who reported abuse were more likely to have been married and to have held a job than those who did not report abuse.

A working group formed by the Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence asked UMass Boston researchers in 1995 to study the prevalence of domestic violence among the TAFDC population. The study was

partially funded with federal dollars. A survey was administered to 734 mothers who were recertified for eligibility under the TAFDC program at 40 Department of Transitional Assistance offices between January and June 1996.

During the survey, women responded on paper to taped questions they heard through headphones. "That, we felt, would make women more comfortable," Allard said. Respondents were not pressured to define abuse. Instead, they answered questions focusing primarily on nine behaviors, six of which corresponded to the major areas of the 1978 Abuse Prevention Act.

Although the report concludes that many abused women will have difficulty complying with new welfare regulations, such as strict paternity reporting rules and work placements within two months for women with school-age children, it is not a critique of welfare reform, researchers say. "It happened to come at a time when the whole system was turned upside down," Allard said. "One of the major goals of this first report is to get the data out there ... to alert people who are involved with providing services and making policy," Colten said. "One of the things we can say with confidence is that policies will not work if domestic violence is not taken into account."

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

The Dean's Corner: Christine Armett-Kibel

To get a snapshot of what the sciences might look like in the year 2000, one might consider a discussion with the architect who conceives, designs and implements the plan for that area of academia—Christine Armett-Kibel, dean, faculty of sciences.

Dean Armett-Kibel joined the UMass Boston faculty in 1968 and has led the mathematics and science departments since 1990. She served as Associate Provost for the Sciences in 1990 and as Acting Dean for the Science Faculty from 1991-1995. In September 1995, Armett-Kibel was appointed Dean, Faculty of Sciences. At UMass Boston, her research interest has been insect visual systems.

In discussing her vision for the sciences and math in the year 2000, Armett-Kibel defined four goals: strengthening research and public service activities; developing curriculum to help students learn more effectively; supporting K-12 science and math education; and taking on increased responsibility for improving the University's infrastructure for the sciences and mathematics.

Armett-Kibel points to significant advances toward achieving these goals, such as devising strategies for strengthening the commitment to research. She firmly believes University scientists and mathematicians have the responsibility to contribute to basic science research, and that active research programs are essential for graduate programs that train the next generation of scientists.

According to Armett-Kibel, it is impossible to separate teaching

and research at a university. "Our faculty have achieved an excellent balance between these two major responsibilities," she says. "All science faculty must be committed to a sufficient level of research to attract external funding and to engage our students in scientific investigations. It is only by being active in research that one can become a truly effective teacher."

The science faculty has been active in helping students learn more effectively through the General Education Reform effort. Currently, science is not a requirement for all undergraduates, and this concerns Armett-Kibel. "We should not be graduating students without some science education," she says. She hopes the recommendation of the Science Working Group and General Education Steering Committee for a science requirement will be accepted.

On the graduate level, Armett-Kibel believes a different kind of attention must be devoted to students, where the objective is to educate the scientists of the future. It is important that these students experience the excitement of science as it is practiced, explains Armett-Kibel. "I am particularly proud of our science faculty because they provide excellent role models for our students."

By furthering the faculty's role in developing effective K-12 science and math curriculum, several departments, including physics, biology and chemistry have secured National Science Foundation funds to bring high school teachers to our campus during

the summer for networking, updating skills, and curriculum development.

Armett-Kibel also points out that laboratory facilities and instrumentation need improvement. "There have been no funds for capital improvements in the University budget for almost 25 years," she says. This challenge is being addressed partially by increased grant applications, despite shrinking federal funds and tougher competition for fewer dollars. Armett-Kibel points with pride to the increase in grants and contracts brought in by science and math faculty. Sponsored grants and contracts have increased overall from \$1,207,502 in 1989 to \$2,262,875 in 1996, an increase of 87 percent over seven years.

The dean is confident the challenges for science and math programs will be overcome, given the progress that has already been made, in areas such as enrollment, the numbers of students working on research projects, and increases in grant activities. "I think it is extremely important for all of our students to understand the process of science, how it fits into the ordinary person's experience of life, to understand its limitations, and to know that science explains how we understand the world at the time," says Armett Kibel.

Armett-Kibel holds a Ph.D. in neurobiology from the University of London, and conducted post-doctoral research at Albert Einstein Medical College and the Yale University School of Medicine in neurophysiology and neuropharmacology.

UMass Boston Physicists Apply for Patents

Talk among scientists is that photonics is the technology of the next century, says Professor Gopal Rao of the Physics Department. If so, UMass Boston may have a major influence on light-based computing in the year 2000. Four campus physicists, along with outside researchers, have submitted the first known UMass Boston patent applications on two inventions that may turn out to be the basic building blocks of all-optical computers.

Photonics is the study of the unit of electromagnetic energy, regarded as a distinct particle of light, having zero mass, no electric charge and an indefinite lifetime. One pending patent is for optical devices for computers, invented by Rao, Francisco J. Aranda and Desai N. Rao, along with three physicists from the US Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center. "There are really fast computers now, but the optical computers will be even faster for the next generation," Gopal Rao said.

The electronics and computer industry currently relies on lithographic techniques to manufacture electronic circuits from bulk semiconductor materials. Further developments in miniaturization will encounter physical and economic barriers, Rao said. Therefore, scientists are looking at molecular materials for a new generation of high speed signal processors and communications networks. Since the basic building blocks in molecular electronics are molecules, the size of a switch or logic gate would be a thousand times smaller. The devices, instead of being prepared from the bulk down, would be

engineered from the molecule up, he said.

The optical devices of Rao's group feature bacteriorhodopsin (bR), a light-absorbing bacterial protein that switches between two structures when exposed to certain wavelengths of light. The devices include optical switches, optical modulators and logic gates. "Constructing computers by mimicking the brain requires high density interconnections which are more feasible with optics than with electronics," Rao said. Using light permits the implementation of inherently parallel processing architectures in which whole pages of data or whole images are processed or stored without digitizing each pixel, Rao said. Three dimensional memories are feasible. Furthermore, light signals afford much greater bandwidth than electronic signals and no crosstalk between adjacent signals, he said.

All-optical computers will cost less and run faster and quieter. Optical switching using bR has advantages over electrical switching. The process allows for high bandwidth data processing, freedom from electronic distortion and cross-talk, and allows optical signals to travel long distances with high fidelity. Optical switching offers high speed, low energy manipulation of massive data, with low cost and power requirements, Rao said. In addition, bR is stable at high temperatures and resists photodegradation.

Rao, Aranda and Joby Joseph have collaborated on another invention, a method of optical fourier processing, which in-

volves selective manipulation of an image. Also featuring bR, the process can be accomplished with ordinary light and does not require sophisticated vibration isolation. Optical fourier processing may be used in future all-optical computers and optical processors. An immediate application of the invention is imaging processing. For example, when a picture obtained by an X-ray or CAT scan shows a blurry image of a tumor, this technique can be used to sharpen the image through edge enhancement, Rao explained. If there is an actual tumor, it will show up clearly.

The proposed optical fourier system does not require conventional spatial filtering techniques, such as lens alignment, input beam alignment, vibration isolation and special masks. The bR system is inexpensive, ultrafast, has low power requirements, and is environmentally friendly, using only biological materials.

The inventors have published in "Optics Communications," "Optics Letters," and "Applied Physics Letters." Rao works with two post-doctoral fellows and several graduate students and has arranged for students to receive the Ph.D. from UMass Amherst or Lowell, where he is an adjunct professor. In the past five years Rao has received \$700,000 from these external sources to support his research: US Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center; Jet Process Corporation, New Haven, Conn.; Cambridge Scientific, Belmont, Mass.; and Battelle Columbus Division, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

UMass Boston is Curator of Big Dig Artifacts

The Central Artery/Tunnel Project, known locally as the "Big Dig," is a massive public works project, with the admirable aim of accommodating the amount of traffic that the Boston metropolitan area actually generates in the course of a day. At an estimated cost of \$7.8 billion, the Big Dig's 10-lane underground artery and Ted Williams Tunnel will vie with the Hoover Dam as one of the costliest and most extensive public projects in our country's history when it is completed in the year 2004.

Aside from relieving traffic congestion and restoring open space to Boston when the Central Artery is moved underground, there is another advantage to the Big Dig—one that won't appear on the memos of engineers and planners, but will mean a lot to UMass Boston—a collection of 200,000 historic artifacts from 17th and 18th Century Boston, and pre-historic Native American artifacts from a campsite on Spectacle Island, uncovered during the project's excavations.

In February, the University was named curator of the collection, the largest to be uncovered from Boston. Professor Stephen Mrozowski of the anthropology department, who was instrumental in bringing the collection to UMass Boston, is now busy making plans for the cataloguing, conservation, and display of the

collection, which will be housed at the neighboring Massachusetts State Archives building.

The first order of business, according to Mrozowski, will be to look at the items to see which pieces need conserving. "Students will take part in hands-on conserving of the artifacts at a laboratory here at UMass Boston established for that purpose," he says. Items made of leather or iron, for example, may need to be treated to prevent deterioration.

Mrozowski is enthusiastic about the opportunities for discovery that conserving such a collection will provide for students, saying that what we learn from the artifacts will help us understand more about the urban environment of Boston during that time. "It's the kind of information you can't get from reading a diary," he says.

The artifacts come from two North End sites, known as Paddy's Alley and the Mill Pond site, which include three backyards with parts of the original houses, and another building which may have been a privy. Mrozowski says that the houses were most likely occupied by artisans. "These people were the middle class of their time, the group that really galvanized the opposition to the Crown," he says, referring to Boston's colonial past. "It is a segment of the population we really don't know that much about. We'll be

discovering as we go."

Mrozowski served as a consultant to the state archaeologist working on the Big Dig project, and was able to convince him of the importance of gathering insect remains, seeds, and even human parasites at the site. Analysis of this material may lead to more discoveries about life in 17th and 18th century Boston, and to original research projects for faculty and students.

A part-time conservator may be hired to work with the collection, and Mrozowski thinks that if all goes well, this could turn into a permanent staff position. The reason for this is that Mrozowski hopes that UMass Boston may eventually become conservator for the Commonwealth, not just for the artifacts from the Big Dig. In Massachusetts, he says, archaeology is going on all the time, and eventually he hopes that we may become conservator for all the collections in the state's care.

The transfer of the artifacts to UMass Boston and the Massachusetts State Archives should commence at the end of March. The collection will remain the property of the Commonwealth, and UMass Boston will work with the state to ensure that the collection is available to the public for educational purposes.

Lots Blooming at the Greenhouse

Tucked away at the end of a corridor on the fourth floor of the Science building is a spirit-lifting surprise for the winter-weary: the university's greenhouse. Step inside, and the colors, the temperature and humidity, the sound of water dripping, will—temporarily—take your mind off the grey stretch of days we call February.

Many of the plants in our collection may seem exotic to New Englanders. The three greenhouses hold tropical plants, like bananas and coffee, as well as others that grow in more temperate climates such as citrus trees, orchids, cacti and succulents. In contrast to the uncommon plants which abound in the greenhouse, in one small growth chamber, sunflowers and green beans are growing.

These ordinary plants are receiving more attention than usual from new greenhouse director Jim Allen and his staff of five work-study students, because they will be showcased in UMass Boston's annual exhibit at the 126th New England Spring Flower Show, held March 8-16, at the Bayside Exposition Center.

"Timing is critical right now, in order to get the plants to bloom during the flower show," says Allen, who adds that getting the

plants to be at their peak during the week of the Flower Show is always a priority. The sunflowers and beans are growing under a canopy of fluorescent and incandescent lights which are on as long as 14 hours a day in order to ensure that their growth is timed as perfectly as possible.

Allen is enthusiastic about our display, which will present the wonders — and secrets — of soil to an expected 160,000 visitors. "The theme of the Flower Show this year is 'Secrets of the Garden,' and in keeping with that theme, we're calling our exhibit 'Soil is the Secret,' and it will highlight the hidden environment where plant roots grow," says Allen.

The exhibit will feature compost bins, an earthworm display, a growth chamber with different plants growing without soil, plates of callus and regenerated shoots, and beans and sunflowers in bloom. A "secret" that visitors will be let in on when they visit the UMass Boston exhibit is a display of plant growth in real soil versus "cultured" soil, or compost.

The greenhouse staff had an unusually short time to create their display this year. Allen was appointed director of the greenhouse in November, cutting short

by months the usual preparation time for the exhibit. Since 1983, UMass Boston's exhibits have been consistently award-winning, as testified to by the drawer full of ribbons Allen inherited when he took over as director.

Although Allen and his staff are fairly consumed right now with the Flower Show, he has other plans on the horizon for the greenhouse. One of his priorities is to see the greenhouse used more as a resource to the campus and the community. "At present, an occasional art class uses it, or a high school class may visit on a field trip, but I would like to see it used more for demonstrations and lab exercises," he says

Allen came to UMass Boston from the University of Massachusetts Extension Program's Waltham Field Station, where he worked on landscape pest management and nutrient management projects. Prior to that, he was senior horticulturist at the National Fire Protection Association. He has also worked at the Arnold Arboretum, and spent over a year at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens in Wisley, England. Allen received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in plant and soil sciences.

For news on campus closings due to inclement weather, tune in to local radio and TV news, or call 287-5000

Program Encourages Minorities to Teach

In many Massachusetts cities and towns, minority teachers are far outnumbered by the number of minority students in the schools. "We work at increasing our numbers of teachers and administrators of color, but jobs are getting harder and harder to fill," said Mary Grasso O'Neil, superintendent of the Milton schools.

Indeed, progress has been slow. Statewide, 1994 statistics show that the minority students comprise 20.8 percent of the school-age population, while the percentage of minority teachers in the public schools lags well behind at 7.5 percent. (National Center for Educational Statistics, 1996). "I think that well-qualified minority candidates have many options today, and it hurts that teaching doesn't pay the way it should," adds O'Neil.

Regardless of the drawbacks, minority students are being attracted to the teaching profession, and they are getting support along the way. UMass Boston junior Sajida Khalifa switched her major from nursing to teaching in September '96, and secured herself a place in the Program to Encourage Minority Students to Enter the Teaching Profession (PEMS-ETP). PEMS-ETP seeks to encourage minorities to enter teaching by offering academic and professional support, and financial incentives.

"I became interested in teaching through working with high

school students in the Upward Bound program, where I have tutored and mentored high school students for four years. I think it is important for more minorities, such as myself, to be in the schools, teaching kids," says Sajida.

Sajida was also encouraged to change academic directions because of other benefits, like the tuition waiver that came with her acceptance into the program. "This helped take the financial burden off of my parents, who have been supporting my education," she says. Other advantages, such as specially designed courses, academic and career counseling, seminars, and a mentor from the public schools also attracted her attention.

PEMS-ETP supplements students' teaching certification requirements with two courses and offers them additional training, workshops, and visits from well-known minority educators such as Marva Collins and James Comer.

It also prepares teachers to be sensitive to the cultural, linguistic and social backgrounds of minority students, and educates them on issues facing urban schools. "There are unique things about teaching minority students, especially in an urban setting. We can train teachers to do a better job of teaching our students, who have the same potential as European or Japanese students," says

Harold Horton, director of PEMS/ETP. Horton is referring to the highly publicized results of tests which suggest that American students are behind many of their international counterparts in math, science, geography, and other subjects.

Both Superintendent O'Neil and Ted Wilson, Executive Director of Schools for Kids in Arlington, MA., think that PEMS-ETP will be a success. Wilson has already hired two graduates of the program to teach at Dearborn Academy, a Chapter 766 special needs school operated by Schools for Children. "Schools need an internal environment that appreciates many different kinds of people, and that is our goal here. At Dearborn Academy, 40-50% of our population are students of color, who are here to get help with their academic work and their social skills. It is very important that we provide our students with role models," Wilson said.

He adds, "What works well is the fact that Harold Horton is dedicated to matching potential teachers with committed schools, and that is critical," Wilson adds. "We're always pleased to see a program like PEMS-ETP, because we know that there are excellent people behind it, and that they will produce excellent teachers," adds O'Neil.

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Professor **Anne McCauley** of the art department presented a lecture, "Confounding Art and Industry: One Hundred Years of Writing and Rewriting the History of Nineteenth Century Photography" at a Stanford University symposium on nineteenth century photography held on January 25.

On January 30, **Lois Biener** of the Center for Survey Research testified before the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) in support of proposed state regulations requiring the disclosure of tobacco ingredients by the tobacco industry. She reported on data showing that older smokers often switch to "light" brands believing that low-tar cigarettes reduce their health risks. Biener is principal investigator of a study for DPH to assess public reaction to the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program.

American Studies and History Professor **Esther Kingston-Mann** was one of five U.S. education leaders invited to participate in the Tri-National Seminar on Diversity Issues in Higher Education in New Delhi, India, January 21-24. She was joined by colleagues from South Africa and India.

GRANTS

Helena Ragone of the Anthropology department has received a \$6,000 grant from Wenner-Gren: The Foundation for Anthropological Research for continued work on her ethnographic study of gestational (in-vitro fertilization) surrogacy and egg donation. She previously received \$12,000 from

Wenner-Gren to support her research and writing on this topic.

The **Center for Democracy and Development** has received its second United States Information Agency grant within the past 12 months. The USIA awarded \$135,000 for *Decentralization and Local Democracy: A Proposal for Citizen Empowerment in Cameroon, Mali and Senegal*. Community leaders from these countries will come to the U.S. for site visits and workshops focused on citizen empowerment and government responsiveness, and U.S. community leaders will visit Africa in return.

PUBLICATIONS

NERCHE Director **Zelda Gamson** is guest co-editor of a special January/February 1997 issue of *Change* magazine on the topic of Higher Education and Renewing Civic Life. This issue of *Change* features a number of articles addressing what must change for higher education to become a serious participant in rebuilding civic life in America.

Vice Provost for Sponsored Projects **Paul Benson** has edited a special double issue of the *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*. The issue's focus is on mental health policy and programs in various countries around the world. Benson co-authored a paper included in the volume on Italian mental health policy.

Dean **Eleanor Kutz's** new book, *Language and Literacy*, published by Boynton/Cook, provides a model for how teachers and students can engage in an active approach to language study, based on

how it is used in their communities and classrooms.

Writing Between the Lines, An Anthology of War and Its Social Consequences, co-edited by Joiner Center Director **Kevin Bowen** and Bruce Weigl, has been published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Associate Professor **Jonathan Chu** presented a paper, "Money is as Money Does," at the Boston Area Seminar in Early American History on February 4. The paper is a draft of a chapter for Chu's book manuscript, *Where's Mine? Debt Litigation, Shays's Rebellion, and the Constitution*.

CALENDAR

On March 4, the **Gaston Institute** will sponsor a lecture, "The Study of Acculturation of New York City Puerto Ricans," by Dharma E. Cortes, Harvard Medical School, Department of Social Medicine, as part of their Spring '97 Speakers Series. Lunch is available upon pre-registration. Contact the Gaston Institute at 7-5790.

On March 5, University of Massachusetts Vice President for Academic Affairs **Selma Botman** will lecture on "Women in Politics, Religion, and Society: The Case of Contemporary Egypt." Her lecture is part of the Women's Research Forum co-sponsored by the Chancellor's Office, the McCormack Institute's Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, and the Women's Studies Program. The lecture will be held in the Chancellor's Conference Room from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Carol Cardozo at 7-5530.

The **Gerontology Institute and Center** will sponsor three colloquia in March:

On March 6, "Finding the Person Within: Music Therapy for Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and their Families" presented by Susan Hanser, Ed.D., of Berklee College of Music; On March 13, "The Economic Impact of Widowhood in the 1990s" presented by Karen Holden, Associate Director of the LaFollette Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin; and on March 27, "Impact of the Minimum Data Set on Nursing Home Quality of Care," presented by Vincent Mor, Director, Center of Gerontology & Health Care Research at Brown University.

On March 10, renowned African American composer **Hale Smith** will appear on campus through the Share-A-Composer Consortium. Smith has composed orchestral, chamber music, choral, third stream, jazz and solo works. He will offer a mini-performance and answer questions from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in McCormack Hall, second floor, room 404. Hale's appearance is open to the campus community.

On March 13, **The Network of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy** will present a forum, "Wanted: More Women in Political Office," with a group of distinguished panelists, including State Representatives Barbara Gardener, Shirley Owens-Hicks and Jo Ann Sprague; Beverly Droz, director of the Massachusetts Women's Caucus, Chelsea City Councillor Marta Rose, and Susan Rohrbach, political consultant. The forum will be held in University Club, 11th floor, Healey Library, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Scratch the Paperwork, Swipe for Supplies

Purchase orders. Vendor ID numbers. Invoices. If these terms are synonyms for nerve-racking, time-consuming and frustrating to you, you're not alone. Soon you and colleagues who share similar sentiments will have a more efficient way to purchase small departmental supplies — The University of Massachusetts Procurement Credit Card, or ProCard.

In a pilot program launched December 1996, nine departments began using 43 ProCards. The implementation of the card was a result of recent Administration Redesign initiatives. A study with several focus groups revealed frustration with current procedures.

Issued by the First National Bank of Chicago, the card can be used wherever Mastercard is accepted. It is paid through the departmental account and approved for purchases of up to \$500 each and \$5,000 monthly, depending on the departmental budget.

ProCard is expected to save significant dollars. Purchase orders cost the University approximately \$100 per order, the Purchasing Department estimates. About 12,000 purchase orders are processed each year. While 80 percent of these orders are for less than \$500 in total, orders for less than \$500 account for only 20 percent for all the money spent. "In essence, the largest volume of paperwork is

for a small volume of the money we spend," said Karen Cusack, ProCard administrator at UMass Boston. In addition, approximately 20,000 checks for under \$500 are mailed annually. "We're trying to go 'paperless,'" said Procurement Director Richard Simmons.

ProCard also saves time. The manual purchasing process takes up to a day for small orders and a week or more for larger ones. With ProCard, The First National Bank of Chicago electronically transfers updated purchase information nightly to the UMass accounting system. These charges are made to individual accounts. The bank pays vendors within 48 hours, and the University makes a monthly electronic transfer to the bank for ProCard purchases.

As UMass Boston's ProCard administrator, Cusack conducts mandatory training sessions for ProCard users which outlines acceptable purchases and vendors. Employees must sign an agreement form after completing the training session. She points out that although the card is accepted universally, the use of Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium, University or State Contract vendors will still be a requirement. "We are still the source of information where people will come to find a vendor," Cusack said. Post-audits will be conducted to ensure proper use.

With increased ProCard use, the Accounts Payable and Procurement departments will be able to devote more time to other value-added activities such as the creation of improved contracts and the timely processing of payments, Simmons said. Faculty and staff will also be freed up to focus on other aspects of their jobs.

The pilot program is scheduled to last several months. If successful, the entire University will be encouraged to use ProCards. "We want this test to succeed so that we can proceed with it," Simmons said. He and Cusack welcome the opinions of current users and are open to making changes to facilitate the purchasing process. "It's a learning process for us, also," Simmons added.

All universities in the UMass system, except UMass Worcester, are using the card, Simmons said. Prior to adopting ProCard, UMass observed purchasing procedures at The University of Pennsylvania, where the card has been used successfully for several years.

For news on campus closings due to inclement weather, tune in to local radio and TV news, or call 287-5000

The CPCS "Food for Thought" Spring 1997 series will sponsor two programs in March: On March 12, "International Comparison of Employment Discrimination Laws" will be discussed with Profs. **Terry McLarney, Cuf Ferguson, and Andrew Leong**; and on March 26, "International Connections: Issues in Education and Research Activities" will be discussed with Profs. **Chris Nteta, Marilyn Frankenstein, Marie Kennedy, and Segi Stefanos**. Both programs will be held in the CPCS conference room from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Segi Stefanos at 7-7363.

On April 1, **The Lucretia Crocker Academy of Teaching Fellows of the Mass Field Center** will host a conference, "Reaching All Students," at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. The conference will offer 12 workshops offering an array of approaches to classroom instruction. Keynote speaker will be Virginia Freyermuth, 1994 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, and 1995 National Outstanding Art Teacher. For more information, contact Janet Michaud at 7-7663.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. **Charles Desmond** has been appointed by Chancellor Penney as Associate Chancellor for School/Community Collaboration. He will broaden university/school collaborations, assess and evaluate the programs in

place with our partner schools in Boston, and initiate new collaborative ventures with our school-business partners, such as NYNEX. Associate Vice Chancellor **Janet Robinson** has been appointed interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs during the term of Dr. Desmond's appointment.

Dr. **Peter Langer** has been appointed as co-chair of the General Education Steering Committee and Director of General Education Development. He will continue to oversee the University Advising Center, but Interim Director **Hannah Gilman** will direct the day to day management.

Emily Ostrower, director of the Institute for Learning and Teaching, has been invited to become a member of the Commonwealth's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Community Education. This task force, which reports to the legislature, the Massachusetts Board of Education, and the community, will study the relationship among school, family, community, and the work place. Their final report will make recommendations on how these relationships can be improved to support public education reform.

Richard Delaney, director of the Urban Harbors Institute, has been appointed to the editorial board of *Estuaries*, the Journal of Estuarine Federation as an associate editor for a three-year term.

AWARDS

Dean **Brenda Cherry** of the College of Nursing was presented the "Excellence in Nursing Award" by the New England Regional Black Nurses Association at their annual meeting on February 7.

The **Urban Scholars Program** was recently honored by Boston's Woodrow Wilson Middle School as one of its partners in the education of youth at a breakfast held at the school on January 30.

The **New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE)** has awarded its first Ernest A. Lynton Award for Faculty Professional Service and Outreach to Associate Professor Maria de Lourdes B. Serpa of Lesley College. The award was presented at the meeting of the American Association of Higher Education held in San Diego during January. The Ernest A. Lynton Award recognizes excellence in community outreach and professional service. Dr. Serpa works on literacy and language issues for underserved immigrant populations.

THE LEARNING CENTER OFFERINGS FOR MARCH

Internet on the Vax
Effective Writing Skills for Managers
March 3

Adobe Illustrator
Writing to Learn
March 5

Introduction to EMC2 Mail
March 10

Using Reading Journals in the Classroom
March 12

Digital Image Scanning
Tax Planning
March 13

Introduction to the Learning Center
March 14

Diversity Workshop for Managers
Smoking Cessation
March 19

Employee Benefits Review
Preparing for Faculty Reviews
March 25

Introduction to Pagemaker
Introduction to Powerpoint
March 27

Registration

Register early. Enrollment is limited, and workshops are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Register by e-mailing The Learning Center at : learningctr@umb.edu or calling 287-3990. Contact Phil Quaglieri or Anthony Martin for more information.

Nursing Community Service Project Helps Young Victims of Domestic Violence

When the school nurses and health aides working in the City of Cambridge open the plain, green folders given to them at a professional development meeting, the words on one brochure in particular produce a pause:

**A YOUTH SAFETY PLAN:
ARE YOU AFRAID AT
HOME?
AT SCHOOL?
ON THE STREET?
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO
BE SAFE!**

This brochure is just one of 18 articles, pamphlets and listings included in the resource packet. Its purpose: to inform them of resources available from private and public agencies, for children who are the victims of domestic violence. The packets were organized as a community service project by student nurses assigned to the City of Cambridge as part of the Community Health Nursing curriculum (NU 410) for the fall semester.

Student Richard Scepura was assigned to work with the school nurse at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. He was struck by the number of students a nurse sees in the course of the day. He also began to develop a sense about what brings students to the nurse's office.

"I couldn't put my finger on it at first, but then I began to realize that headaches and stomachaches can be signs that something is

going on at home," he says. Scepura's fellow students agreed, and out of this general sense, a community service project emerged.

The UMass Boston students began their project with a single, logical premise: that school nurses and health aides are on the front lines when it comes to identifying children suffering the effects of domestic violence.

"The students found out as much as they could about the problem," says Professor Victoria Palmer-Erbs, who coordinates student placements for NU 410 with the City of Cambridge. "They established a time to meet with school nurses and health aides, and provided them with a presentation and materials to help them identify and aid children who are experiencing domestic violence in their homes."

Working with Scepura were students Patricia Codigan, Joseph Chillari, Tamara Daly, Sheila Gibwa, Pamela McPhail, Diane Magrane, Donna Muldoon, and Patricia Murphy McDonough, all of whom graduated from UMass Boston in December, and are currently studying to take their state nursing board exams this spring. They generated their information from sources such as the Harvard Community Health Plan, The City of Cambridge, the American Nurses Association, The Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups,

and the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office.

Students in NU410 have been going to community placements in Cambridge since 1989, and Barbara Haywood, the School Health Nurse Manager for the City of Cambridge has been pleased with the university-community collaboration. "It's good to see veteran nurses teaching students. We're definitely going beyond Band-Aids and hot water bottles," she says. Haywood adds that nowadays, one of the main functions of a school nurse is to disseminate health information, so the project of the student nurses was particularly suited to public health objectives.

Palmer-Erbs, who sees her role as the facilitator to the students on the project, wants the student nurses to feel confident about what they have to offer, even at this early stage of their nursing careers. "I like the fact that we are helping them create opportunities for themselves. I see this as mentoring, both for the students, and for the City of Cambridge," she says.

Presidential Visit

continued from page 1

prosecute violators. Also, the bill will keep drugs and guns from children, partly by closing the loop hole in the Brady Bill that currently allows violent youth offenders to purchase guns at 18 years old and by requiring childproof locks on guns.

Thirdly, Clinton wants to reform the juvenile system, allowing for more special court proceedings and increased prevention efforts. "Finally, we have to help our young people stay on the right track," the president said. The bill proposes 1,000 new after-school initiatives across the country. More than 50 percent of juvenile crime occurs between the time school is dismissed and parents return home from work, he said.

On stage, the president was flanked by Attorney General Janet Reno, Mayor Tom Menino, UMass President William Bulger, UMass Boston Chancellor Sherry Penny, Probation Officer Tanya Brooks, Governor Bill Weld, Senator John Kerry, Rep. Joseph Moakley, Rep. Joe Kennedy, Police Commissioner Paul Evans, and State Attorney General Scott Harshbarger.

Prior to the president's speech,

Voices in Blue, a vocal group of five Boston police officers, sang "The Star Spangled Banner." President Bulger thanked the president for what his administration has done for public education in Massachusetts. Mayor Menino, a UMass Boston alumnus, said he was proud to host the president at his alma mater and thanked Clinton for putting crime at the top of his agenda. Also, Police Commissioner Evans praised the president's proposal. "We are proud that Boston has been chosen for this presentation," Evans said.

Earlier, the president participated in a roundtable discussion on juvenile crime with a high school student, youth advisors, probation officers and politicians. "We are here today for a simple reason," the president said. "And today the juvenile program I'm going to announce is basically an attempt to take what you have proved works here and give these tools to every community in the nation to follow," Clinton told the crowd of more than 100 people. "Let's get this done, and let's remember that what we're really trying to do is make what you've done here possible for children in communities all across America."

Board of Trustees Meet at UMass Boston

A vote to decrease tuition by an average of five percent at all undergraduate campuses was the main order of business at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on the UMass Boston campus on February 5. The trustees' day began early, with a breakfast and hands-on presentation at the Learning Center before the meeting was opened by Chairman Robert Karam at 9:15 a.m.

Highlights of the meeting included an account by President Bulger of his travels to Massachusetts high schools on behalf of the University Scholars Program, and a presentation by Chancellor Sherry Penney on UMass Boston and its Strategic Plan for the 21st Century.

The trustees also voted to name the College of Business and Industry at UMass Dartmouth the Earle P. Charlton College of Business and Industry, in recognition of the \$3 million gift of the Charlton family, the largest gift in the University's history.

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