$533K CSR Grant Explores Results of Childhood Adversity

It can be a long distance between academia's ivory tower and real life on the streets. Take the stories of young people and drug overdoses, suicides and despair coming from neighboring South Boston, which have been in the news recently. Parents, social workers and politicians are scrambling to find answers to these problems, yet simple answers are elusive.

At the Center for Survey Research (CSR), Dr. Robert Aseltine will be looking for answers to how teenagers, just like many of those in South Boston, cope with the transition to adulthood, establishing successful careers and marriages for themselves—or not. His study, "Pathways from Childhood Adversity to Adult Mental Health," is a five-year, $533,000 project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

Aseltine’s project extends an 11-year study undertaken by CSR, “Stress and Mental Health: Adolescence to Early Adulthood,” directed by Professor Susan Gore, and funded by NIMH. That study was focused on mental health and social development during the transition to adulthood.

A total of 1200 teenagers from Revere, Watertown, and Westford were interviewed as ninth, tenth and eleventh graders in 1988, and subsequently re-interviewed four more times, most recently in 1996. Aseltine’s grant allows a sixth wave of data to be collected from these same subjects.

This data will give them a unique opportunity, says Aseltine. “Recent studies suggest that a host of childhood experiences—like parental divorce, family conflict, and abuse—affect mental health in adulthood. Why these experiences continue to affect people over a 20 or 30 year period is not well understood.” With this data, he hopes to trace the linkages from early adversity through the adolescent experience, and

continued on page 12
Former West African President Shares Experiences

A typical day on campus normally does not include chatting with the former president of a west African nation. But on April 29, His Excellency, Nicephore D. Soglo warmly greeted guests who came to hear him discuss being the first democratically elected president of Benin.

"Benin's transition to democracy is a case worthy of scholarly analysis," said Leonard H. Robinson Jr., visiting fellow at McCormack Institute and campus host to Soglo. Soglo spoke candidly of his presidency and Benin's transition from a military dictatorship to a democracy, telling why he took office in 1991 and offering reasons for his defeat in the second election.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have good news. Democracy is working in Africa," Soglo said. "Africa is now, as a whole, involved in very comprehensive changes to bring to most of its institutions democracy."

In 1989, Benin (formerly known as Dahomey) was in such economic distress it could no longer pay salaries of public workers. In 1990, leaders held a month-long National Conference to transition to democracy.

Soglo spoke candidly of his presidency and Benin's transition from a military dictatorship to a democracy, telling why he took office in 1991 and offering reasons for his defeat in the second election.

"I think I made many mistakes because I was only involved in economics," Soglo said, confessing he lacked the political skills needed for reelection. Concentrating on his area of expertise helped make strides for Benin. In five years, the gross investment rose almost 20 percent, and cotton output increased.

Before becoming president, Soglo was Benin's chief inspector of finances. From 1983 to 1986 he was executive director representing 24 African states at the Board of Directors of the World Bank.

Soglo shared other reasons for losing the second election: 10 presidential candidates were on the ballot; political parties increased from one to 82; and poverty remained.

"It's a challenge, because you can't have democracy when people are starving," he said, adding he still questions whether a country can achieve democratic and economic reform simultaneously.

"My understanding of Africa is enhanced when we have guest visitors such as President Soglo," said Richard Hogarty, senior fellow at McCormack Institute. McCormack, along with the Division of Global Studies and Trotter Institute, sponsored Soglo's visit.
The Dean’s Corner: Martin Quitt

With graduation only days away, Dr. Martin Quitt has been pondering what he'll say at the graduate convocation. One can bet that somewhere in his address, the words “accessibility,” “faculty,” and “diversity” will be mentioned. To the dean of Graduate Studies, these issues are central to the quality of UMass Boston's graduate programs.

One conversation with Quitt will reveal that the university's mission has become a personal philosophy and underscores his work in graduate education.

For example, Quitt talks about a conference of graduate deans of urban colleges. One dean shared the “accomplishment” of a high ranking in a national magazine. Noting that a main criterion for ratings selectivity, Quitt and several counterparts expressed concern that urban universities' missions might become compromised in seeking such recognition.

“It seems to me that a public university, even at a graduate level, should provide access,” Quitt says. “We have to be a place of opportunity.”

For Quitt, providing access to graduate programs does not diminish quality. In fact, the caliber of the applicant pool at UMass Boston often leads to the rejection of good students, he said. “When I review individual cases of people who have been denied to get into one of our programs, I have no concern at all about the quality of the people we have admitted,” he said. “What worries me are the people we've denied.”

Quitt expects the development of more certificate programs in the future, intended to increase accessibility to graduate study. “I think it would be negligent to ignore that whole area,” Quitt said.

Quitt began teaching at UMass Boston in 1982 and Boston State College in 1968. His longtime commitment to the university is characterized by intermingled duties as both a faculty member and administrator. “The nice thing about being an administrator is seeing the quality of the people we work with,” he said.

Dean since 1995, Quitt still sees himself primarily as a faculty member (History and American Studies) and values the advice of faculty. “I am a great believer in the role of faculty governance,” he said. “Everything I've done has been in consultation with the faculty.”

One faculty group with which he works, the doctoral program directors, spent the year working to define the role of its external members and has begun efforts to recruit faculty members in non-Ph.D.-granting departments to teach in doctoral programs. “I think it is important for us to strengthen our doctoral programs,” Quitt said.

He also believes doctoral research should be highlighted and publicized. One method of recognition is the new Chancellor's Distinguished Dissertation Award, funded by the Graduate Student Assembly. Quitt said campus winners at colleges with similar awards are well positioned for national honors. The first award may be conferred next fall, he said.

The Graduate Studies Committee's work this year has led to another new development—the requirement of capstone experiences in master's programs, effective September 1998. Each program will determine its capstone experiences, such as theses, final projects, seminars and field work. “What is unique about this is that to qualify as a capstone, at least two people need to assess it,” Quitt said. This provides an additional check system. “I think everyone gains,” he said.

Benefits will also come from increasing minority enrollment in graduate programs, an issue Quitt labels a challenge. To increase enrollment, Graduate Studies recently hired a coordinator of graduate recruitment. Quitt said his department also plans to become more creative in offering financial support. “As a public university, diversity is crucial to us across the board,” Quitt said.

“To me, part of our mission is to demonstrate that you cannot have excellence without diversity,” he said. “I view us as a microcosm of America in the next century.”

Quitt earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at Washington University in St. Louis, and his B.A. at Brandeis University. He is the author of two books and has published numerous articles and reviews. In 1991, he received a Mellon Research Fellowship from the Virginia Historical Society and a University of Massachusetts Summer Research Fellowship.
Educators Encourage Teachers-To-Be

“There is absolutely nothing better than being a teacher,” the vice chair of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education told prospective minority educators at UMass Boston.

Attorney Jane C. Edmonds was guest speaker at the Spring '97 reception of the Program to Encourage Minority Students to Enter the Teaching Profession (PEMS/ETP). Edmonds talked about the impact made by her one teacher of color prior to college.

“I was fortunate that I had a foundation through this first grade teacher,” Edmonds said. Other teachers “took me off course because I succumbed to their power.” One of those negative influences, a female dean at a high school in Cambridge, caused Edmonds to defer her dreams of becoming a lawyer. The dean advised her to pursue music, saying black people fared better in that field. Edmonds overcame this discouragement and has since become one of the state’s higher education policy makers, appointed by Governor William Weld.

Edmonds earned an A.B. from Harvard University and a J.D. from Boston College Law School. She has chaired the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and is currently serving her second term on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. In addition, she is president of Jane C. Edmonds Associates, where she facilitates training sessions, tasks forces and seminars on work force diversity for clients including AT&T and GE Capital.

PEMS/ETP students were also encouraged by other local educators at the reception. Fred Birkett, assistant headmaster at the Renaissance School in Boston, said caring is necessary for all teachers, regardless of race.

“When you walk into that classroom, the first thing those children are going to pick up is whether you care about them,” Birkett said. “If the students pick up that you don’t care about them, they won’t care what you look like.”

PEMS/ETP is a collaboration of UMass Boston, Roxbury Community College and Bunker Hill Community College. It offers tuition, stipends, intensive training and teacher certification for qualified minority students.

UMass Boston Gives to AIDS Walk Goal

Rain or shine, the 12th annual 10 kilometer AIDS Walk Boston takes place on Sunday, June 1st. And as in years past, UMass Boston expects to be well represented in both the number of walkers and the amount of money raised.

UMass Boston has been in the top five in money raised by colleges and universities, according to the AIDS Action Committee (AAC), sponsors of the walk. Last year, UMass Boston contributed 64% of the total money raised by all UMass participants. At $168.00 per person, UMass Boston participants collected more money for the cause than any other local college or university walkers, with the exception of Harvard University. Colleges and universities are an important segment of the 30,000 AIDS walkers, who last year raised $2.75 million for AIDS services.

This year, the goal of the AAC is to increase the money raised to $3 million. Funds are earmarked to the AAC and 31 other organizations that provide education and services to people with AIDS and HIV. The money is used to provide meals, medical assistance, and special outreach programs targeting youth and non-English speakers.

If you are interested in joining the AIDS Walk this year, you can pick up a pledge sheet at Health Services (Quinn 2/40) the Health Promotion Office (McCormack 1/613), and at the McCormack and Wheatley information booths. If you wish to sponsor a walker, donations are being collected at the Health Promotion program office. Checks should be made payable to the “AIDS Action Committee.”
For the Parziales of Wellesley, UMass Boston Is All In the Family

For the Parziales of Wellesley, UMass Boston is a family affair. It was back in 1973 that Lynne Parziale first attended UMass Boston—as a three year old in the day care center. She remembers playing with her best friend, Joey, while her mother, Maureen, worked on her bachelor's degree in art. Now, 25 years later, Lynne will graduate on May 31 with a bachelors degree in psychology. There to watch her receive her degree will be her Mother and her Father, James, an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate College of Education.

The day care center was a happy place for Lynne, and a welcome, warm environment where Maureen Parziale felt good about leaving her only child. "The day care center was wonderful," remembers Maureen. "Lynne loved it, and I loved it. I got to know the other parents, and we became a tight-knit group. We still have friends whose kids were in day care with Lynne," she adds.

It may have been her parents enthusiasm that set her on a course towards UMass Boston, but it is also learning with a diverse population that has appealed to Lynne. Prior to her enrollment at UMass Boston, Lynne, who is fluent in Italian and French, worked as an interpreter for American Airlines while taking courses at local community colleges. When the time came to go on to get her bachelors degree, she applied to UMass Boston and Boston College. She decided against Boston College because to her, the mix of students there didn't represent "the real world."

Initially, Lynne intended to follow in her parents' footsteps and go into education. Her father, who received his Masters degree in instructional design from UMass Boston in 1989 followed by a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Harvard, teaches 7th and 8th grade science in the Brookline schools. Her mother taught art at Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree for many years. But after her first year of college, Lynne changed her major to psychology, and shifted her studies towards the goal of becoming a pediatrician.

Preparing for that objective, Lynne spent over 200 hours last year as a volunteer at Faulkner Hospital, assisting Dr. Raymond Murphy, a pulmonary specialist, on a study he was conducting on diagnostic variation in lung disease. The resulting study, "Observer Variability in Chest Auscultation," was presented by Parziale before fifty physicians at the International Lung Sounds Association meeting in London, England.

"It was very nerve wracking," remembers Lynne. "It was my first time speaking in public, and I was presenting a speech before doctors who then asked me questions about my research. I really had to speak up to their level, but at the same time, my knowledge was in no way a match for theirs."

Apparently, she acquitted herself well: in October of 1997, she will present the findings again, this time at the Organization's annual meeting in Japan, where hundreds of doctors and other specialists from around the world are expected to gather.

Lynne also found time this year to lead the campus chapter of Psi Chi, the National Psychology Honor Society. Her tenure is described as extraordinary by the Psi Chi advisor Professor Don Kalick, who says that the organization inducted four groups of new members this year, which may very well be a record in its 30-year history at UMass Boston.

In addition, Psi Chi raised over $1,000 for Casa Myrna Vasquez, a shelter for battered women and children which Psi Chi adopted this year.

Next year, Lynne hopes to finish taking her pre-med courses, and spend some time on a new endeavor—speaking with high school students about UMass Boston and how they, too, can get on the path to a college degree. "I think it is important for more young people, especially women and minorities, to get out there and tell high school students that they can do it, and encourage them to go to college," says Lynne.
Guide IDs Rights for Asian Americans

A new handbook, developed in part by the Institute for Asian American Studies, is intended to serve as the “civil rights yellow pages” for Asian Americans in Massachusetts.

The Asian American Civil Rights Resource Guide is a 56-page, wire-bound publication addressing discrimination in the areas of hate crimes, employment, housing, education, public accommodations and domestic violence.

The easy-to-read Guide provides legal information, a directory of agencies, and suggestions for those who have experienced discrimination. Also, a directory of government, legal and community-based Asian American organizations is located in the back of the Guide.

The publication was a collaboration of four entities: the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston, the Massachusetts Asian American Commission, the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, and the Asian American Resource Workshop. Collaborators say it is the first resource of its kind produced by a community organization, academic institution and government agencies.

“What makes this guide unique is that it includes not just civil rights organizations, but also agencies that are in the Asian American community,” said Shirley Mark, primary author of the Guide and special projects coordinator at the Institute for Asian American Studies. “Some people may feel more comfortable speaking to someone in their own community before going to the authorities,” she said.

According to Dr. Susan Roosevelt Weld, co-chair of the Massachusetts Asian American Commission and Harvard Research Fellow, the state has attracted a growing number of new citizens from Asia. “Like the rest of us, these new residents of the Commonwealth deserve to be protected from hate crimes, discrimination and domestic violence,” she said in a release.

The collaborators hope to publish native language and culture-specific editions of the Guide.

Engineer Named Entrepreneur of the Year

The UMass Boston College of Management recently selected Ali Lotfi to receive the Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

A resident of Natick, Lotfi is principal of Lacerta Group, a firm he co-founded with his brother Mory in 1993. Located in Boston at 120 Southampton St., the company’s major business is the recycling, de-manufacturing and destruction of magnetic media products such as VHS cassettes, compact discs, computer tapes and audio cassettes.

While a product and design engineer for BASF Corporation, Lotfi saw a need for waste recycling and a service to facilitate the process. He began planning Lacerta when BASF ended tape manufacturing in Bedford in 1992.

“Mr. Lotfi is our awardee because, in addition to demonstrating the work ethic, determination, and creativity of all successful entrepreneurs, he and his firm have made a major contribution to the economic welfare and development of Boston,” said College of Management Dean Eric Hayden.

Lacerta subcontracts with Inner City, a Polaroid subsidiary, to hire Boston workers. In addition to training Inner City employees to operate manufacturing equipment, Lacerta develops their math, language, computer and interviewing skills. “In this way, the firm and its founder contribute to the long-term upgrading of the quality of the city’s workforce,” Hayden said.

A native of Iran, Lotfi is a mechanical engineering graduate of Northeastern University. He was recognized at the UMass Boston College of Management Convocation on May 27.
Beacons Lacrosse: On A Streak

Even though it was hard for the Beacons lacrosse team to come down off an outstanding winning streak late this season, in the big picture, you could say that the team has been thriving.

Over their past two seasons, the Beacons enjoyed the longest recent winning streak in Division III, winning 22 consecutive games. Although their powerful impetus was derailed in the 12th game of the 1997 season, Coach Myles Berry is proud of his team and proud of their outstanding performances. "11-3 is still a fabulous season," says Berry of the Beacons final season results. "I'm happy with my team, they worked hard," he adds.

For Berry, the successes of the program has been especially rewarding. The first lacrosse game Berry ever saw was the first one he coached at UMass Boston, and his teams went a combined 1-33 in his first three seasons. Since 1992, though, Berry’s team claimed five consecutive winning seasons.

Clearly, 1996 was the Beacons’ finest season. "We lost our second game, but we were undefeated the rest of the season," says Berry. Still, the Beacons did not qualify for the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship. So the returning players trained and prepared with one goal in mind: “running the table”—lacrosse language for winning all their games—in 1997.

With their level of enthusiasm high, the team worked hard to raise the $11,000 they needed to go to Florida for training before the beginning of the season.

Since New England weather is so unpredictable prior to the start of lacrosse season at the end of March, Berry says this helped them get off to a good start with plenty of outdoor training, and scrimmages with other lacrosse teams.

They made great strides towards their goal, winning the first eleven of their 14 games this season, until their momentum was stopped short in game 12 against Babson, when team defenseman Stephen Walker broke his wrist, putting him on the sidelines. Berry says that the loss of Walker, along with two other players who have been out the entire season due to injuries, stretched the team’s resources thin. "We weren’t a deep team this season, and we worked all of our players hard,” says Berry. “But they’ll come back.”

Although Berry will lose five of his team members to graduation this year, the good news is that the two players sidelined with injuries at the beginning of the season, Bryan Ronayne and Frank Soltesz, will be back next year. Berry thinks that this will help give the team the depth they will need to give another try to the Division III championship.

Nonetheless, in 1997 the Beacons can say that they were the last undefeated team in Division III, and that they won the Pilgrim League’s Southeast Division championship. In addition, midfielder Peter Faragher was chosen to participate in the annual New England East-West all-star game, which features the top players in New England from Divisions I,II, and III.

Having nurtured the team as it has developed over ten years, Coach Berry remains upbeat and philosophical about this season and the next. “Coaching lacrosse is fun for me, and the kids are great. Right now, they’re in shock at the way the season ended. Ending their winning streak had to have an effect on them. But they will come back from this,” he says.

When he is not coaching lacrosse, Berry can be found at the Clark Center equipment cage, where he is the equipment manager. In the fall, he coaches the womens soccer team.

Top Athletes Honored

More than 100 athletes, along with friends, family, coaches and administrators, attended the Department of Athletics’ Annual Awards Banquet May 15 on the softball field. The department awarded 231 varsity letters to 201 athletes.

The highlight of the banquet was the retiring of the soccer jersey worn by Carlos Fernandes, the team’s four-time Most Valuable Player. The only soccer jersey retired at UMass Boston, Fernandes’ #7 will hang with only two others in the Clark Athletic Center.

Fernandes also won the William Puerto Award, the top prize for sportsmanship and overall ability. The Athletic Director’s Distinguished Student Athlete Award was presented to volleyball player Tüba Unsal.
Awards and Honors

Institute for Asian American Studies Program Coordinator Hiep Chu received the 1997 Community Service Award from the Asian American Unity Dinner Committee on May 3.

Elizabeth Sherman, Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, will receive a 1997 Abigail Adams Award from the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus. Sherman, who will receive the award on June 12, was chosen because of her contributions towards political, economic and social equality for women.

Alums Lionel Hogu, Kevin Freely, Susan Friel, and Diane Stafford have been honored with 1997 Golden Apple Awards by the City-Wide Education Coalition (CWEC). The Golden Apple awards are given by the CWEC and the Boston Teacher Union to honor excellence in education and commitment in teaching in the Boston Public Schools.

Cecilia Dour O'Malley, part-time faculty member in the College of Nursing, received the Award for Clinical Excellence in Nursing Practice from the Massachusetts Nurses Association at a luncheon on May 8.

Mei Wang, doctoral candidate in the Public Policy Program, received a Health Care Financing Agency (HCFA) Dissertation Award of $21,000. The award supports her study of how various patient and hospital characteristics affect the outcomes of patients who suffer heart attacks. This national award is one of six given out annually by HCFA.

The Center for World Languages and Cultures has received a $102,000 grant from the University of Puerto Rico to provide an intensive summer English program for 30 students. This program is part of a relationship with the University of Puerto Rico that will also include future faculty and student exchanges.

Robert Woodbury, Director of the McCormack Institute, was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American University in Bulgaria. The American University, located in Blagoevgrad, is a liberal arts institution with an enrollment of 700 students, established in 1991.

Happy Birthday to the UMass Boston Faculty Staff Union, which celebrated its 21st Birthday in the Faculty Club on May 5. U.S. Representative Joseph Kennedy II was the guest speaker. Entertainment was provided by the Blue Suede Boppers, featuring CPCs faculty member Reebee Garofalo and Dick Laurie of Publications.

Computer science major Angela Lilleystone's Window's 95 tip page was recently commended by Microsoft, Inc., as one of the top Windows 95 technology resources. Lilleystone's tip pages can be found at http://www.cs.umb.edu/alilley/ win.html. Over 42,000 visits to the site have been made since June of 1996.

Conferences and Presentations

Dean of Graduate Studies Martin Quitt moderated a session on "Dissertation Quality" at the second annual Conference of the Urban 13 Graduate Deans and Research Officers held at Virginia Commonwealth University, April 24-26. Dean Quitt and Vice Provost of Sponsored Projects Paul Benson organized the first conference one year ago.

The Trotter and Gaston Institutes and the Institute for Asian American Studies, along with HUD-funded Community Center for Economic Development, sponsored a roundtable discussion to explore questions relating to small businesses and the economic revitalization of Black, Latino and Asian neighborhoods in Boston on May 15. The roundtable was held at Roxbury Community College.

Gary Siperstein, Director of the Center for Social Development and Education presented one of the opening addresses at the Johns Hopkins Medical School annual conference, "The Spectrum of Developmental Disabilities." His address, "Mental Retardation: Utility of a Concept for the Twenty-First Century" looked at the impact of medical advances in neuroimaging, neuropasticity, and genetics in relation to mental retardation.

Professor Betty Woody of CPCs and the Trotter Institute, recently returned from a visit to South Africa as a member of the Massachusetts State Trade Commission. The mission bolsters a joint sister state accord of cooperation recently signed by Governor Weld between the Eastern Province of the Republic of South Africa and Massachusetts to promote trade, technical assistance and educational collaboration. Possible programs, including faculty and student exchanges with several South African universities were discussed. For more information, contact Prof. Woody at "Woody@umsky.cc.umb.edu."

Paul Wright, Boston office editor of the University of Massachusetts Press, chaired a session at the New England American Studies Association meeting at Salem State College May 3 and 4. On July 4 and 5, he will present a paper, "Herman Melville and the Print Culture of the Civil War" at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing annual meeting in Cambridge, England.

Calendar

On May 31, the City of Boston will honor the 100th anniversary of the monument to Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment. A public symposium on May 29 and 30 at Suffolk University is dedicated to the memory of UMass Boston English Professor Edwin Gittleman, who prior to his death last summer, played a pivotal role in organizing this event. Professor Shaun O'Connell moderates a panel speaking on "The Art of Heroism: Poetry, Music, and the Memorial Monument" on Friday May 30. The University of Massachusetts Press and the Trotter Institute are cooperating institutions for the symposium. Attendance is free and open to the public.

May 29-31, Cathy Burack and Sharon Singleton of NERCHE will present a workshop, "Institutionalizing Professional Service: Cultivating Enclaves of Success," at the American Association of College and Universities Conference on Community Service and Service Learning. For more information, call 7-7740.

From June 2 to July 5, painter and printmaker Liz Marran, a
Study Says Choose Health Clubs Wisely

With the prevalence of heart disease in the United States affecting one in four of the population, the U.S. Surgeon General has made it a public health priority to warn that a sedentary lifestyle is dangerous to your health.

But if you have heart disease, take heed: A study recently released by Associate Professor Kyle McInnis of the Human Performance and Fitness Program and Boston University Cardiologist Gary Balady recommends that to ensure your good health, be careful about the health club you choose.

McInnis' study of 110 health clubs in the Commonwealth found that 40% do not routinely screen new members for cardiac risk, and that although 80% of the clubs interviewed had emergency plans, approximately half of them never review the plan or practice for an emergency.

“What concerns me is that there are current national health initiatives to get people exercising,” says McInnis. “And those efforts will reach the one in four adults with cardiovascular disease. For them, the risk of exercise is ten times greater than for someone without it. Many will choose to exercise in health clubs, so we need to see that the health club staff have the training they need.”

The American College of Sports Medicine and the American Heart Association set recommended standards for health clubs, but guidelines are not mandated. “If you put out a shingle and open a health club, you can run it any way you want,” says McInnis.

Online System to Increase Job Access

Students and alumni seeking career advice and job leads will have access to even more jobs when Career Services implements a new online system this summer.

“We’re kind of excited, because we’re going to have an automated job matching service beginning in July,” said Grace McSorley, associate director of the University Advising Center, the umbrella office of Career Services.

The new system, JobTrak, will include positions posted in the Internet. Students and alumni will be able to use JobTrak in the Career Resource Library for online searches. For the three career counselors and three support staffers, JobTrak will provide a better method of tracking the number of students and alumni Career Services serves, while increasing the number of resumes matched with employer inquiries. “We’re currently making between 200 to 300 matches per month by hand,” McSorley said.

In addition to job-matching, Career Services offers job assistance through other avenues:
• The Career Resource Library, located in McCormack Hall, 3rd floor, room 638, contains books, job listings and graduate school information. Walk-ins are welcome.
• The Career Services Job Bulletin is distributed bi-weekly to 400 people. To be placed on the mailing list, call Career Services at 7-5519.
• Individual advising sessions are available to students and alumni. Call Career Services to set up a personal appointment.
• Group seminars on interview- ing, resume writing, and job searching are conducted each semester.
• Recruiters are brought to campus throughout the year and during Career Services’ annual spring Job Fair.
New Trustees
Named to Board

Governor William Weld and Lieutenant Governor Paul Cellucci named Peter J. Berlandi, Robert M. Mahoney, and Heriberto Flores to the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees.

Berlandi, a 1969 graduate of Boston State College, brings decades of management experience to the Board. He has been a managing partner of Custom House Street Associates since 1988.

Mahoney, president and CEO of Citizens Bank, is a 1970 UMass Amherst graduate. He serves as a director of the Childrens Museum, The Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the Massachusetts Business Development Corporation, and Savings Bank Life Insurance. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

Flores, executive director of the New England Farm Workers Council in Springfield, is a Vietnam veteran who received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UMass Amherst. He is a former member of the Rhode Island Board of Regents for elementary and secondary education.
Experts Discuss Cure for Health Care

The future of health care in this country will be bleak, unless a major overhaul takes place in the near future. That was the sentiment expressed by panelists and guests May 21 at the fourth Forum for the 21st Century.

“Transformation in Health Care: Cure or Harm?” featured five health care experts: Dr. Mitchell Rabkin, president and CEO of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Jackie Jenkins-Scott, president and CEO of Dimock Community Health Center; Lawrence R. Kaplan, M.D., president and CEO of Columbia MetroWest Medical Center; Suzanne Gordon, author and commentator on health care; and Kate Goonan, VP health affairs and chief medical officer of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

The forum was moderated by Dr. Kenneth Edelin, managing director of Roxbury Comprehensive Health Center and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Boston University School of Medicine.

Prior to the Forum, speakers and guests were greeted outside Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston, by protesters, many holding signs blasting the current health care system. Panelists agreed the system is distressed.

“I see a system that I believe is near collapse,” Kaplan said. “I believe that we need to really turn around the direction of health care,” he said.

“Many people are pulling themselves out of the health care system just when they need to be in,” said Jenkins-Scott, predicting that those people will be sicker when they finally get care. “We’re going to find ourselves in a real struggle in order to just stay alive,” she said.

One solution discussed is a single-payer system, touted to cover all citizens at lower costs, which the panelists agreed would be an improvement.

For Rabkin, Kaplan, Jenkins-Scott and Goonan, a single-payer, tax-supported, universal health care system is clearly the way. Gordon used her poetic license to term the current system “mismanaged care,” saying patients and care-givers should work in a partnership. “We need a tax-supported system in which we pool our money,” she said.

“Are you telling us that we’ve got to spend our tax dollars to take care of people who ruin their health,” moderator Edelin asked, in what he called his “Pat Buchanan role.” Despite warnings on cigarette and alcohol packaging, tax-payers must pay for those who smoke themselves into lung cancer or drink themselves into liver failure, he asked.

Rabkin’s “yes” was emphatic. “If you wouldn’t have the security of knowing you’ll be treated, the health care system would be sorry,” he said.

Jenkins-Scott was blunt. “The fact of the matter is that we’re all paying for it anyway,” she said. Gordon responded that taxpayers may not resent paying for universal care if they received care themselves.

Several questions on for-profit hospitals were addressed to Kaplan. “My goal as CEO of a for-profit hospital is to provide quality health care to the people I serve,” he said. “I believe that I can serve both masters — the stockholders and the community — in providing quality health care.” Gordon disagreed. “In a system increasingly based on profits ... patients have less of a voice,” she said.

The voices of some of those patients were heard during the Forum. Comments and questions from audience members were enormous, prompting several small “boo”s at the end of the program from participants with raised hands who were unable to ask their questions of the panel.

WGBH-FM will broadcast the forum on June 1 at 5 p.m. Also on June 1, The Boston Globe will publish an edited transcript as part of its Dialogue Series.
ultimately to adult functioning.

What might these linkages be? Aseltine's research will be influenced by sociological and psychological perspectives. Psychology tends to look at the internal consequences of early adversity—low self esteem, for example—while sociology tends to look at the external consequences—early marriage and childbearing, and success or failure at establishing a career.

The challenge will be looking at both the internal and external issues, and differentiating cause and effect. "Earlier studies suggest that childhood adversity is linked to the early onset of depression, around 18 or 19 years of age," says Aseltine. "That may predispose an individual to other problems, like an unstable marriage or career, which can then become risks for the recurrence of depression. Without identifying this chain of events, it is difficult to know where to intervene. There has been much theorizing about these pathways, and this study provides us with one of the first opportunities to test these theories empirically," Aseltine says.

Aseltine has several hypotheses about what they will find. "My inclination is that we will see a lot of early adult role disruption among kids who have had childhood problems, difficulties in creating new family relationships and establishing careers, which is different from simply getting a job. I think this is where we will see them struggle most," Aseltine says.

"I also suspect that we'll see great variability in long-term outcomes," he continues. "A divorce or parental death is experienced differently by different individuals. We'll try to see what creates these differences, looking at the social and personal resources that subjects may use to handle these problems."

Aseltine's NIMH grant is a First Independent Research Support and Transition Award (FIRST Award). It is dedicated to providing research support to promising investigators who will develop their research ideas in the alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health fields. Aseltine, who received his Ph.D. and M.A. in sociology from the University of Michigan, and his B.A. from Wesleyan University, has been with CSR since 1989.

Her Majesty, Queen Silvia of Sweden, will receive the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Service at Commencement on May 31.

The Queen, who has been long admired for her support of educational and social welfare organizations, has within recent years taken a courageous and outspoken stand against the sexual exploitation of children.

ABC "20/20" news correspondent Lynn Scherr will give the commencement address. In addition to Scherr, honorary degree recipients include Sidney Fine, J. Donald Monan, William Taylor, and Donna Summer.

All members of the university community are welcome to attend Commencement. Please bring your university ID for admittance.

Commencement begins with the procession at 10:45 a.m., at the Bayside Exposition Center.