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Peers Honor Athletic Trainer Brian FitzGerald
For Distinguished Service to Sports Community

UMass Boston's Brian FitzGerald is the 1993 athletic trainer of the year, an honor bestowed on him by the group which represents professional trainers throughout the Commonwealth. "The award means a tremendous amount to me," says FitzGerald, a former head trainer at Boston State College who came to UMass Boston in the 1982 consolidation of the two institutions. "It's especially gratifying to be recognized by my colleagues."

At UMass Boston FitzGerald, who lives on Pond Farm Road in Dedham, and associate trainer Larry Venis are responsible each year for 300 men and women competing in 17 sports. Together they've treated thousands of injuries ranging from mild strains and contusions to torn ligaments and broken bones. Besides providing a range of treatments to ailing athletes, FitzGerald and Venis monitor rehabilitation programs and design strategies to prevent injuries from occurring. Either FitzGerald or Venis is present at every athletic event at the University, and often accompanies UMass Boston teams travelling to games at other campuses.

A Family That Loves Sports
"You have to love the job to do it well," says FitzGerald, who also supervises a part-time staff of 10 students from the Human Performance and Fitness Program, a component of the University's College of Nursing. For six years he's arranged for a student to intern as a trainer for the New England Performance Program, an intern at the Boston State athletic department. FitzGerald's zest for his job has roots in his love of athletics and some of them accomplished athletes and some of them accomplished athletes and some of them accomplished

therapy. As a student trainer he had a seat on the same bench as Marquette's powerful basketball team, which included future NBA players Jim Chones and Dean Meminger, as well as Al Maguire, a competitive coach who has since become a colorful television analyst. "Those were fun days," says FitzGerald, who nonetheless grew homesick and after two years left Marquette to return to Mission Hill.

In the early seventies FitzGerald was an aide in the psychiatric ward at the Veterans Administration hospital in Jamaica Plain, a painful and enlightening experience. He returned to school at Fitchburg State and received a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1975. He then worked evenings as a nurse at Harvard University's Stillman Infirmary and during the day as an intern at the Boston State athletic department.

Raising Status of Trainers
FitzGerald is a charter member of Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts and chairman of the organization's legislative committee, which is lobbying for legislation that enhances the professional status of trainers. He belongs to many other professional groups and remains an active volunteer. Each year he donates his services to the Bay State Games, the Boston Shootout high school basketball tourney and the Boston Marathon, where he's a member of a medical crew that provides assistance to thousands who struggle across the finish line, sometimes on their hands and knees. "You should see our tent. We look like a MASH unit," he says.

Of all the athletes he's observed, FitzGerald's deepest admiration is for those at UMass Boston. "Our kids don't have athletic scholarships, and almost all of them have jobs and pay their own rent," he observes. "It's amazing when you think about the sacrifices a lot of these kids make to play sports. I have tremendous respect for them."

Campus Notes

Peter Nien-Chu Kiang of the Graduate College of Education was selected by the Boston Foundation as one of nine "Bostonians whose active giving strengthens community," Kiang, a Jamaica Plain resident, is recognized for his research and writing on issues important to Asian Americans, and for his efforts establishing an American Chinese studies program at the University. A profile of Kiang appears in the Foundation's 1993 annual report.

Faculty and teaching staff are eligible to compete for three grants of $5,000 each that will be awarded in February. Grants will support projects that use innovative techniques to improve the quality of undergraduate education at UMass Boston. Applications can be obtained from deans and must be submitted to the provost's office no later than February 7.

Sociology professor emeritus Robert Dentler, now a senior fellow at the McCormack Institute, received the 1993 Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association. Dentler, who teaches graduate courses in sociology, has worked for three decades on issues concerning urban education and school desegregation.

Senior fellow Ed Beard, coordinator of the McCormack Institute's new Center for Emerging Democracies, was in Russia for the nation's December 12 elections. Beard was invited by a pro-Democracy Russian, a top television production company called Persoma.

The new director of student life is Kelly Clark, a Suffolk University graduate who was academic dean at Katherine Gibbs School in Boston. Clark is a former assistant development director at the March of Dimes and a former account specialist at Conventures, a special events, marketing and public relations firm.

Thirty seniors from South Boston and Dorchester High Schools, and Jeremiah Burke High School, also in Dorchester, attended a reception at the University Club on November 29. The students, accompanied to campus by their parents, are enrolled in the University's Admission Guaranteed Program, which guarantees admission to UMass Boston for students who successfully complete a prescribed curriculum at their schools. The first class of Admission Guaranteed students arrives on campus next fall.

Three awards have been presented to WBUR by the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association. Dave Palmer took two prizes: a first place in the music specials category, and a third place in the regular music programming classification for a piece that he co-produced with Sandy Sheehan. Writer Bob Cannon received a third place prize for his New England Heritage series.

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Flying Free, CPCS professor Philip Hart's book about America's first black aviators, was recently recognized as a "Notable Social Studies Book" by the Children's Book Council and the National Science Teachers Association. Larner Publications has recently started a second printing of the book. Hart was elected treasurer of the newly formed Boston Emergency Industries Center, which is recruiting technological firms to locate at Crosstown Industrial Park in Roxbury.

Students in the University's long-standing relationship with the Globe has enabled students to work on the editorial staff and in the advertising, personnel and community affairs departments. Several students have gone on to attain full-time jobs at the newspaper.

This semester three UMass Boston students are contributing reporters covering local news. They are Cheong Chow, Kevin O'Leary and Pamela Teehan Miele. Chow, a former co-op and intern, is now a part-time member of the Globe staff, while current co-ops O'Leary and Teehan Miele were recently named student-writers, positions highly sought after by the dozens of students from local colleges and universities who serve as interns at the newspaper. Two other University students, Patrick Glennon and Christine Marchand, are contributing reporters in the sports department.

Street Smarts' Pay Off
Chow, an English major who will graduate in June, has worked at the newspaper for five years. Born in Hong Kong, he obtained his position in part because of his extensive knowledge of Boston's neighborhoods and because he is fluent in Cantonese. In 1990 he helped report on a deadly shootout at a Chinatown social club. "I knew the right people to talk to, and where to find them," he says. Chow was selected for the newspaper's prestigious 1993 summer internship program, which accepts about 20 students out of approximately 400 applicants nationwide. He plans a career in newspapers, and has had discussions with the Los Angeles Times and Providence Journal.

O'Leary, who also will graduate in June, hopes to attend law school next fall. He recently had his three-month tenure as student-writer at the Globe extended to six months. O'Leary says he's surprised by his success because he'd neither written for a school paper nor any other publication before beginning as an intern on the newspaper's city desk in 1992. Thus far he's written about 60 stories, as many as four on a single shift. "I didn't think they'd have me writing this much," he says. "But it's been a great experience. When I started working at the Globe I did it because I thought it was something that would look good on my law school applications. But now I've got a feeling that this could be a career direction."

Got Started at Mass Media
Teehan Miele, an English major who hopes to graduate in two years, wrote for the Mass Media and started working part time at the Globe in 1991. Before becoming a student-writer she coordinated photo assignments, wrote weather summaries and churned out restaurant reviews. Now she's covering a variety of stories for the paper's metro pages. Raised in Dorchester's Savin Hill section, Teehan Miele is the youngest of 10 children.

Glennon, a Hull resident, works about 30 hours a week on the sports staff and will begin his second cooperative tour of duty in January. So far he has covered about a dozen events, but spends the majority of his time at the sports news desk answering telephone calls and writing summaries of high school games. "I've always had an interest in TV and radio, but working at a major newspaper has changed my thinking," he says. "Learning how to write is so important." Sports is a natural calling for Glennon. Before transferring to UMass Boston in 1992 he was a member of the Division 3 national champion hockey team at Plattsburgh State College in New York. His brother Matt is a former Boston Bruin.

Marchand wrote last year for the Mass Media before she started working at the Globe. She's handled about 20 writing assignments so far, in the process learning that there is no substitute for first-hand experience. "Dealing with the pressure of deadlines has taken some getting used to," she says. "In college you have two weeks to write a paper for a course. In newspapers you have an hour." Marchand will graduate in June with a degree in English and women's studies.