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Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 2
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October 1997

Civic Forum Focuses on Boston's Racial Divide

One of the few things all five panelists at the Forum for the 21st Century agreed upon was the existence of a racial divide in Boston. Their philosophies on the core of that divide, however, were as varied as their comments on busing, economic and class structure, and government involvement in race relations.

More than 200 people attended "Boston's Racial Divide: What Is It and How Can It Be Overcome," held Sept. 22 at Jordan Hall in Boston. The event was sponsored by UMass Boston in cooperation with the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts.

Moderated by James Jennings, director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute and professor of political science, the forum featured the following speakers: Jose Duran, executive director of the Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation; James M. Kelly, president of the Boston City Council; Patricia Smith, columnist for *The Boston Globe*; Byron Rushing, Boston City Council; and Diane J. Modica, Boston City Council.

"The issue of race seems to be one of the city's most interesting challenges," Jennings said in his introduction. The discussion should be one of many, he added, noting that several ethnic communities, including black immigrants and Asian Americans, were not represented in the Forum.

The first panelist to speak, James Kelly's initial remarks that Boston's racial divide exists because of government programs quickly sparked the two-hour discussion several guests described as too short. Government programs including forced busing, affirmative action and housing developments are the root of racial divisions in Boston, Kelly said.

Government is involved in the racial divide, but more so historically, was Byron Rushing's reply. Housing started out segregated and the

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A & F Update on Capital Repairs

The questions are frequent and seem inevitable for those on campus expected to know the answers. When will the garage be fixed? When will students be able to access the library from the Plaza?

The University Reporter recently spoke with LaVerne Cawthorne, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, who gave us an update on campus capital repairs and provided insight on why it takes time to get things fixed.

Parking Garage

According to Cawthorne, waterproofing, repairing the floor and reinforcing the expansion joints will eliminate potholes, wooden poles, and concrete shavings that often land on cars. Repairs will cost an estimated \$2.6 million.

For added safety, the University has hired independent structural engineers to assess the garage damage and recommend needed actions. The most recent visit was by Vollmer Associates on Sept. 9.

The projected completion date for garage repairs is 2002. "One of the problems facing the project is that we can't just shut down the garage entirely," Cawthorne said. Repairs will be made a section at a time to accommodate drivers, she said.

Bricks

The repairs to library's exterior will cost \$5.8 million. Bidding for repair to the bricks will be accepted in January or February, Cawthorne said. Repairs should start in the spring, and the entire project should be complete by fiscal year 2000.

Sprinklers

Almost all of the McCormack Building has been equipped with sprinklers, and bidding is currently being done for the installation of sprinklers in the Wheatley and Science buildings. The entire sprinkler project should be complete in 2000.

Roof Repairs

An estimated \$1.5 million project, the campus roof repairs are almost complete. The roofs of the McCormack and Science buildings have been replaced, and the University is waiting for approximately \$800,000 from the Massachusetts Division of Capital Planning and Operation (DCPO) to start repairs on Wheatley's roof.

Campus Center

The Campus Center, which will centralize student activities and services, is in its final design phase. A spring 1999 ground breaking is expected.

Capital repairs are those made to building facilities or infrastructure, Cawthorne explained. All capital repairs are monitored by DCPO, whose allocation of funds is approved by the state legislature.

Each project has three phases: study, design and construction. DCPO monitors the study, which assigns a cost estimate the project, determines if repairs are needed, and, when funding sources are identified, certifies the study. A similar process is done during the design phase. Bidding is accepted from companies excluding the one(s) who participated in the study.

In Depth With Trotter Institute Director James Jennings

Last week, James Jennings, director of The William Monroe Trotter Institute, was mulling over how to open the panel discussion at the latest Forum for the 21st Century, where he moderated the discussion on "Boston's Racial Divide: What is it, and how Can it be Overcome?" Although his opening statement was not yet precisely worded, Jennings said that he wanted to use an idea he remembers hearing from noted author and Duke University Professor Emeritus of history John Hope Franklin.

"Franklin made mention of how race relations reflect continuity and change," said Jennings. "So I intend to ask the panelists 'How have race relations in Boston changed? How have they remained the same?'" It is a big question, and yet it is one to which each panelist, whatever their background, should be able to speak.

Jennings is not afraid to tackle big questions. As director of the Trotter Institute since 1991, he has guided the Institute's mission of public service, research, technical assistance, and dissemination of information primarily to the black community. The Institute's activities speak volumes about looking at the big picture.

They have conducted studies and published papers and reviews on topics such as media images of black communities, the black church, violence in the black community, affirmative action,

the information superhighway and communities of color, and the politics of white racism in Great Britain.

"The Trotter is focused on race and race relations, and those subjects cannot be limited to one discipline," says Jennings. "It is interdisciplinary, and that explains our broad agenda. We achieve a balance through community members on our advisory board, and more and more, our agenda reflects the input of faculty associates and researchers from around the country," he adds.

Increased interest in the work of the Trotter Institute, according to Jennings, has been due in part to the widening reputation of the Institute's main communication tool, *The Trotter Review*. While the Institute has had increased requests from academics who wish to spend time there as research associates, and the Institute is developing initiatives with the African countries of Namibia, Cape Verde, and South Africa. The Institute recently sponsored a visit by Dr. Carlos Veiga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cape Verde to our campus.

Collaborations with other UMass Boston Institutes is also high on the list of important activities—and one where Jennings says we have unique opportunities. "Collaboration is something we have to be about—it is a priority, and I could list the activities we're partners in with other

institutes and groups—conducting research and creating grant proposals," he says.

"In fact, if you look at how much we collaborate with other institutes on campus, it really could be a model. There probably are not that many institutions where you can find 3 or 4 institutes of color that work as closely as we do. In the wake of the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles, there were many questions out there about how to communicate across communities, and we need to learn how to share what we do and how to market it," says Jennings.

A political scientist, Jennings earned his Ph.D. from Columbia University, where he wrote his dissertation on "Puerto Rican Leadership Patterns in New York City." He has researched the politics of African Americans and Puerto Ricans, especially in American cities, and also written on economic development, the nature of poverty, and urban education. A longtime teacher, he has worked with students from day care centers to universities. Before coming to UMass Boston in 1983, he was a teacher or administrator at Long Island University, SUNY Albany, Action for Boston Community Development, and Harvard University. Jennings won the prestigious Gustavus Myers Award for best book on human rights in 1992 for *The Politics of Black Empowerment: Transformation of Black Activism in Urban America*.

Bulger Installed as 24th UMass President

After eighteen months on the job, William M. Bulger was officially installed as the 24th president of the University of Massachusetts on September 18.

The day-long event began with a formal installation ceremony at Fanueil Hall where university officials, faculty, students, alumni, state and local officials, business leaders and delegates from academic institutions throughout Greater Boston and the country gathered for this auspicious occasion.

Archbishop of Boston Cardinal Bernard Law gave the invocation, followed by remarks from Boston University President Jon Westling, Senate President Thomas Birmingham, Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran, Mayor Thomas Menino, and Board of Trustees Chairman Robert Karam. Governor Paul Cellucci, a former colleague of Bulger in the Senate, swore in the 24th president.

In his address, Bulger expounded upon the need to focus on the humanities. "The humanities are the building blocks upon which we must structure the ideal of knowledge, indeed, knowledge as an end in itself ... The humanities provide the ennobling grace essential to our lives," he stated.

Following the installation ceremony, invited guests joined Bulger and his family for a luncheon at the John F. Kennedy Library. Musical entertainment was provided by the Noel Henry Orchestra.

That evening, in what is thought to be one of the largest fundraising events in the state's history, according to the President's office, a gala was held at Symphony Hall. The black tie event, which honored UMass alumni John Smith, chairman of General Motors Corporation and Jack Welch, ceo of General Electric, is reported to have raised \$2.5 million for scholarships. Welch and Smith were presented with the President's Medal, "recognize the pursuit of

excellence and high ideals of the university."

The evening's festivities also included a concert by the University of Massachusetts Wind Ensemble and the University of Massachusetts Chamber Choir. Pulitzer Prize winner, author, and historian David McCullough read an original passage. He commented on how "this day would be remembered as a day filled with music."

The final highlight of the evening was the presentation of the inauguration film, "Pursuing the dream." The fifteen-minute film profiles graduates from all five campuses, who offer their personal testimony of how the University of Massachusetts provided them with an excellent education and opportunity to pursue and achieve their lifelong personal goals and dreams. Clothing designer Joseph Abboud was one of several people featured in the film. Musical composer and UMass Boston alumnus Mark Governor produced the film's musical score.

Scholarship Office Goal: Increase Applications

Students applying for scholarships will find a new campus contact this school year. Kelly McLaughlin, coordinator for Merit-Based Scholarships, joined UMass Boston in July.

McLaughlin will administer more than 60 scholarship programs, some of which award scholarships to numerous students. Funded by private foundations and corporations, the

Merit-Based Scholarship Program is worth more than \$1 million. Already, McLaughlin is gearing up for the surge of applications she plans to receive by the Nov. 15 deadline.

McLaughlin intends to increase publicity of the Merit-Based Scholarship Program, in hopes of bringing up the number of applications submitted. Expect to see her conducting workshops,

classroom visits and mailings.

The former assistant director of financial aid at Brandeis University, McLaughlin has also worked in financial aid at Newbury College in Brookline.

For more information on the Merit-Based Scholarship Program, call McLaughlin at 7-6025. To pick up an application, visit her office on the 3rd floor of the Quinn Administration Building.

MUSE Program Inspires Distance Learners

In Greek mythology, "Muse" refers to any of the nine goddesses who presided over a different art or science. Shrink the "M" and you have a source of inspiration or an inspiring spirit or power that watches over artists. When one muses, he or she ponders or meditates.

It is no coincidence that the new trademarked acronym for UMass Boston's distance learning program is so power-packed, says Donald Babcock, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor, director of the Multi-Site Educational (MUSE) Distance Learning Program and the Graduate Program in Instructional Design.

"The reason it is trademarked is that our methodology for delivering distance learning courses is innovative and unusual," Babcock said. "We use both a video network and a dated network integrated into a single delivery system."

Far from the days when texts and workbooks were mailed to students, distance learning has gone high tech. "We've been conducting distance learning classes at UMass Boston for three years," Babcock said. "We have gradually developed the capacity for originating and receiving courses," he said.

Those who think distance learning sheds the virtues of the traditional classroom might be pleasantly surprised. The technology used by MUSE supports highly interactive teaching and learning:

- Primary video, including television, satellite, cable television and high quality

videoconferencing, is used for classroom instruction.

- Computer mediated communication provides interaction among teachers and students.
- Desktop-video conferencing connects teachers and students in real-time conversation.
- With application sharing, teachers can see and comment on students' work as they do it, and students can simultaneously share software running on a single machine.
- World Wide Web Interactive Teaching uses the MUSEWEB CLASSROOM, a copyrighted interactive web utility developed by the UMass Boston MUSE Distance Learning program, which supports real time presentation of slides, graphics and other materials and incorporates student questions and feedback.
- The general World Wide Web, as well as e-mail, whiteboard, chat and threaded discussion, are incorporated into many MUSE courses.

"This fall we have 140 registrants in eight distance learning classes," Babcock said. MUSE offers courses at various levels in collaboration with the Division of Continuing Education, other UMass campuses and two local high schools in areas including the following: engineering, information technology, marine science in K-12, pre-calculus, and introduction to college composition.

In prior semesters two graduate courses, "Environmental Management" and "International Marketing," were offered through the College of Management to other UMass campuses.

"The Middle School Child" and "The Philosophy of Rhetoric and Argument" are received from UMass Lowell.

Two programs target K-12 teachers and education majors. "Pulling in the Net: Information Technology in the K-12 Curriculum" and "Harbor Explorations: Marine Science in the K-12 Curriculum" are offered statewide through a partnership between UMass Boston and the Massachusetts Corporation for Educational Telecommunications. In Boston, the courses are presented in partnership with Cablevision of Boston on Channel PIN 36 and in cooperation with the Boston Public Schools on Channel A22.

Advanced students at Boston English High School take "Introduction to College Composition" for credit, while students at South Boston High School study "Precalculus." "It gives advanced students in the schools the possibility to do college level work without having to truncate the rest of the high school's curriculum," Babcock said.

A series of programs for health professionals, to be taken in their own workplace through distance learning, is being developed by MUSE and the College of Nursing. MUSE anticipates beginning with a pilot program in Spring 1998, with full operation of a certificate program in long term care planned for Fall 1998.

Tuition and fees vary. For more information, visit the Web site at http://www.umb.edu/Distance_Learning_Web_Site, or call 7-5400.

WUMB's 15th Birthday Bash Precedes Groundbreaking Partnership

Fifteen years after its official debut on the airwaves, WUMB FM (91.9) threw a party September 20 for more than 2,000 of its closest friends. Despite the forecast of thunderstorms, WUMB's all-day festival at Copley Square drew folk fans from throughout New England, and as far away as Nottingham, England, to hear locally and nationally known songwriters and performers Laurie Lewis, Christine Lavin, Sol Y Canto, Salamander Crossing and others. Although the concert was free, WUMB raised more than \$3,000 in new memberships and raffle ticket sales over the course of the day from faithful fans.

New England has a reputation as a folk music bastion, and WUMB reflects that interest, through its devotion to folk music in its many varieties. The station commits fourteen hours a day of folk music programming, more than any other station in the country.

Why folk music? According to General Manager Pat Monteith, "From the beginning, we wanted WUMB to have a strong cultural connection that wasn't being done elsewhere. Folk music is really "roots" music. It comes out of who we were and who we are. So we've had Celtic, Latino, and other traditional music programs that remind people of where they come from," she says.

Despite having found its programming niche, university support, and more than 48,000 devoted listeners a week, the realities of public radio broadcasting in these times of funding cutbacks have meant that WUMB has had to find creative ways of keeping its financial head above water. For example, because of funding cutbacks from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and increased costs, WUMB recently dropped NPR's "All Things Considered" from its programming lineup.

But tough times prove to be fertile ground for new ideas. In this case, creative thinking has led to a ground-breaking partnership unlike any other found on the airwaves. By November 1, WUMB and WILD AM 1090, the foremost Black owned and operated commercial radio station in New England, will join forces. WUMB's folk music format will continue during the day, but in the evening, turn to 91.9 FM and you will find a public radio version of WILD's music, news, and live programs.

This may be the first such partnership in which a station broadcasts commercially during the day and publicly at night, says Monteith. "I can't begin to tell you what the ramifications of this are, because we don't know yet," she says. The stations will share resources and revenues as well as airwaves.

For WILD CEO Bernardine Nash, broadcasting in the evening hours has been an elusive, 15-year goal. "It has always been a source of frustration to us and to the African American community that when the sun goes down, we lose our voice," comments Nash. "Now, we will be able to do more programming that we've wanted to do but couldn't. It will free us up to be more creative."

Nash says that WILD has opted to broadcast over the Boston and Worcester signals, but for the meantime, will not broadcast over WUMB's signal on the Cape, leaving both daytime and evening programming in that area to WUMB.

"Since I met Pat (Monteith) five years ago, the broadcast industry has changed, and we've both been affected by the changes," says Nash. "When we sat down to discuss this proposal, it just made so much sense."

In addition to the WILD partnership, WUMB is adding a fourth radio station to its network. WKPE-AM, which broadcasts from Orleans, was recently donated to WUMB through the UMass Foundation. This acquisition will now allow WUMB's programs to reach the lower Cape and Nantucket.

Joiner Center's Summer Programs

Focus on Vietnam and Post War Issues

This summer, some 115 writers interrupted work and family routines to attend the 10th annual William Joiner Center's Writer's Workshop from June 16-27. Participants came from Virginia, California, Idaho, Minnesota, and Louisiana as well as the local area.

The workshop faculty was distinguished and diverse. In addition to conducting writing workshops, they participated in seminars, panel discussions, readings, and consulted with students. Faculty members included Pulitzer-Prize winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa, noted short story writer Grace Paley, Central American poet Claribel Alegria, and Lee Swenson of the Institute of the Study of Natural and Cultural Resources in Berkeley, California.

A Vietnamese delegation—including fiction writers Le Luu, Do Chu, Nguyen Thi Nhu Trang and poet Nguyen Quang Thieu—joined National Book Award winning novelists Tim O'Brien and Larry Heinemann and poet Bruce Weigl to discuss writing from both sides of the war and post-war experience. Le Luu's novel, *A Time Far Past*, was published last year by the University of Massachusetts Press. Thieu was visiting to mark the publication of his book of poetry, *The Women Carry River Water*, translated by Professor Martha Collins of the Creative Writing Program and published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

One feature of this year's workshop was outreach to aspiring

high school writers and the local Latino and Asian American communities, coordinated by Jaime Rodriguez of the Joiner Center and the Gastón Institute. Fifty Hispanic students from the Boston Public Schools spent a day studying with the Latino members of the faculty, Martin Espada, Demetria Martinez, Claribel Alegria Leroy Quintana, Tino Villanueva, Norberto James, Alan West and Marjorie Agosin. Twenty Asian American high school students attended a workshop conducted by the Vietnamese American poets Barbara Tran and Christian Langworthy.

The workshop is supported by funding from the Lannan, Ford, and William Joiner Foundations, and was coordinated by Michael Sullivan of the Joiner Center.

For the fifth year, the Joiner Center also sponsored the Vietnam Institute June 23-25 which hosted 15 high school teachers interested in teaching the Vietnam war as part of their curriculum. The focus of this Institute was on postwar Vietnam, issues of economic development, and the status of women.

Discussions ranged from the effects of foreign capital on traditional Vietnamese culture, including rising prostitution and organized crime, to the pressures on society because of the reduced numbers of men due to war losses, and the consequences for women of child bearing age. In the words of Nguyen Ba Chung, Institute faculty member and research associate at the Joiner

Center, "Vietnam's house is one of many mansions, some harmonious, some in stark opposition, and all in some form of transition. Vietnam will have to remake itself ... if it hopes to come out of the modern challenge intact and with confidence."

Faculty included Marilyn Young, Professor of history at New York University; Karen Turner, Professor of history at the College of the Holy Cross; and Lady Borton, head of the American Friends Service Committee in Hanoi. The Vietnam Institute was coordinated by Paul Atwood of the Joiner Center.

A Fitting Tribute

The English department has honored the memory of Professor Edwin Gittleman with a new resource library for students. A dedicated colleague and teacher, Gittleman passed away in July of 1996. His wife, Rosalyn, cut the ribbon, officially opening the Edwin Gittleman Memorial library at a reception on September 26.

"We've set aside this room as a way of recognizing the distinctive combination of teaching and research in Ed's career," said Robert Crossley, chair of the English department. "Ed developed a reputation as someone who took on guiding students' theses and research projects. To honor him, we wanted to combine research and teaching and give students a place to go. We thought this was an appropriate legacy for Ed." Funding for the library came mainly from students, alums, and faculty.

Publications

Prof. **Nadim Rouhana** of the Dispute Resolution Programs has written a book, *Palestinian Citizens in an Ethnic Jewish State*, published by Yale University Press.

Prof. **Leverett Zompa** Chair of the Chemistry department, presented a paper, "Copper(II) and Zinc(II) Complexes of bis (1,4,7-Triazacyclononane) Ligands" at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in Las Vegas, on September 9.

Prof. **Marc Prou** of Africana Studies and the Graduate Bilingual/ESL Program has written an article, "Haitian Education Under Siege: Democratization, National Development, and Social Reconstruction." The article appears in *Haiti Renewed: Political and Economic Prospects* edited by Robert I. Rotberg and published by Brookings Institute Press.

Dale H. Freeman, GCOE staff member and student in the history MA program, has written an article, "The Crispus Attucks Monument Dedication," published in the Summer 1997 issue of the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*.

Two reports have been published by the **Gerontology Institute**: "How Workers Fare Under the Massachusetts State Retirement System," written by **Ellen Bruce**, associate director of the Gerontology Institute, and "Check Your Rights at the Door—Consumer Protection Violations in Massachusetts Nursing Home Admission Agreements," written by **Rebecca J. Benson**.

Clinical psychology doctoral student **Carolyn Zittel** was

co-author of a paper, "Scoring methods for the structure and content of narrative memory" presented at a symposium of the 105th Convention of the American Psychological Association.

Dissertation Defenses

On September 8, psychology doctoral candidate **Cathy Louie** defended her dissertation, "Self-construal and Empathy in Asian Americans." On September 19, psychology doctoral candidate **Mary Kiely** defended her dissertation, "The Meaning of Sexual Desire: An Exploratory Analysis of Women's Narratives."

Appointments

Prof. **Catherine Lynde** has been appointed Associate Dean of the Liberal Arts faculty. A member of the economics department, she has served on several university committees. As associate dean, Prof. Lynde's administrative work will focus on personnel reviews and Academic Program Review.

Prof. **Barbara Luedtke** of the anthropology department has been elected a Fellow of the Pilgrim Society in recognition of her archaeological research at native and colonial sites in Plymouth and Bourne, Massachusetts.

The **European Studies Program** welcomed its first Scholar in Residence for 1997-98, **Anand Menon**. Menon is University Lecturer in European Politics, Director of the European Politics Postgraduate Program and Faculty Fellow, St. Anthony's College, Oxford University. He lectured in political science and management classes on topics in European politics and international relations.

Conferences

Prof. **Charles Shively** of the American Studies Program attended the 49th International Congress of Americanists (ICA) in Quito, Ecuador this summer. The ICA is devoted to academic exchange in disciplines related to the study of the Americas.

NERCHE Director **Zelda Gamson** spoke on the "Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education" at the New England Institute of Technology in Warwick, Rhode Island, on September 29.

Clinical psychology doctoral students **Susan Ko** and **Jacob Ham** participated in a symposium, "Promotion and development of multicultural networks: Five graduate student success stories in advocacy and empowerment," at the 1997 American Psychological Association (APA) convention. Ko also presented a poster on conflict between parents and adolescents in Asian American families to the Asian American psychology meeting of the APA.

Grants

The **Department of Public Safety** has received a \$29,900 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Violence Against Women Agency. The money will be used for a new computer system, training programs for staff, and a violence prevention officer. Veteran detective **Kathy Potter** has been chosen to fill this position. She can be reached at 7-7799.

The **Department of Public Safety** received a \$150,000 grant from the Community Orientated Policing Services

Office of the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant funds half-pay and benefits for two full-time police officers for three years.

The **Institute for Asian American Studies** was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the UMass/Department of Mental Retardation Collaboration to conduct a needs assessment and survey of Asian American families with developmentally disabled children. Prof. **Connie Chan** is principal investigator, and associate researchers **Mabel Lam** and **Frank Wong** are project directors

Congratulations

Thanks to faculty and staff, UMass Boston's 1996 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employee Campaign (**COMEC**) raised \$22,052 for hundreds of community organizations in the Commonwealth.

In the News...

Prof. **James Green** reviewed *Big Trouble* by J. Anthony Lukas in the *Boston Globe* on September 15.

Lou DiNatale, Senior Fellow, McCormack Institute was interviewed on *WGBH-Channel 2's* "Greater Boston," September 22 on the future of the New England Patriots.

Prof. **Suzu Groden** of the GCOE was interviewed on *WSBK-Ch 38* on home schooling, September 13.

Prof. **Ramona Hernandez** of Latino Studies was interviewed for an article, "The New Nueva York" in the September 1997 issue of *Hispanic* magazine.

Theatre Evolves With UMass Boston Ties

One wouldn't know it just from looking at the names of steering committee members for the new Peabody House Theatre in Somerville. But anyone with connections to the theatre arts department might just recognize that eight of the nine members are UMass Boston theatre arts students, former students or alums.

As Brendan Hughes, former theatre arts student and producing director of the Peabody House Theatre tells it, Peabody House is the latest incarnation in a long line of theater companies. Prior to becoming the Peabody House Theatre in August, it was the New Broadway Theater. Over the summer, Hughes and others brought in friends and

colleagues from the Headless Theatre Company and cast members from last year's UMass Boston production of "Small Victories." Together, they came up with the idea of a theatre company cooperative, a place where actors, set builders, directors and audience members would collaborate to create a community through theatre.

"It isn't community theatre exactly," says Hughes. "But our focus is on the community of Somerville and the artists who live in this area. So we are working on the idea of having 'community' built-in—anyone who wants to be involved, can." Right now, Peabody Theatre Coop is getting by on the dedication of its members, support from

families and friends, and a small number of subscribers.

Their debut season offers an eclectic and ambitious selection of six plays, including two world premieres—Clive Barker's *Dread* and OBIE-winner Ed Bullins' *Dr. Geechee and the Blood Junkies*.

Other members with UMass Boston ties include technical director Rich Archer, artistic director Dave Dowling, house/box office director Kevin Gillespie, literary director David McCarthy, education/outreach director Brett Milanowski, administrative director Maya Parra, and marketing director Rich Stiles. For more information, call the Peabody House Theatre at 617-625-1300.

Best Wishes to Retiring Staff Members

The UMass Boston community bids adieu and best wishes to five longtime staff members as they head into retirement.

- Mary Barrett, Associate Director of Athletics, retires after 30 years of service at the end of October. An assistant professor of education, assistant athletics director and athletics director at Boston State College, she came to UMass Boston in 1982.
- Ronald Gerring, accountant, retired at the end of September after 30 years of continuous service in the UMass Boston Bursar's office.
- Dorothy (Dottie) Hall, retired at the end of September after 29 years of service. She has served UMass Boston in

several capacities, including as history department secretary, administrative assistant to the Dean of College I and to the Provost's Office, and for the last 20 years as administrative assistant in the Dean's Office, CPCS.

- Robert Patterson, librarian at the Healey Library, retired in September after 24 years of service. He has served as electronic systems librarian, and recently as webmaster to the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Madeleine Pidgeon, administrative assistant in the McCormack Institute, retired at the end of September after serving the University since 1987.

In Memoriam

Donald Ragland, an institutional security officer for the Office of Public Safety, passed away after a long illness on September 11. Remembered by his colleagues as someone who liked to tell a good story, Ragland worked at UMass Boston for 14 years. He is survived by his wife, Retha Jones Ragland, 9 children, 22 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

Bands March On in Boston as Columbus Day Controversy Continues

Indigenous Peoples Day for some, Italian Achievement Day for others, it's also called Discoverers' Day or Pioneers' Day. But traditionally, the second Monday of October has been known as Columbus Day, and it is one of only 10 holidays proclaimed by the federal government.

Columbus Day commemorates the Italian navigator's first landing in the New World on October 12, 1492. Recorded celebrations in the United States date back to 1792, when the Society of St. Tammany organized a ceremony in New York City marking the 300th anniversary of the landing. In 1937, Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed every Oct. 12 as C-Day, and in 1971, Richard Nixon declared the second Monday of the month a public holiday.

"For most of Americans it was an 'unconflicted' holiday," said Lois Rudnick, director of the American Studies undergraduate program. The 500-year celebration in 1992, however, prompted many people to question the significance of the holiday, she said.

Today, though the president annually proclaims Columbus Day, it is one of the most hotly debated days off. Many question why Columbus is credited with discovering an already inhabited land. Others believe he was not the first explorer to arrive in the New World. Some blame the

explorer for leaving what they believe was a legacy of genocide and slavery. Numerous sites on the World Wide Web address this issue.

"The United States honors only two men with federal holidays bearing their names," anthropologist and author Jack Weatherford wrote in the *Baltimore Evening Sun*. "In January we commemorate the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr., who struggled to lift the blinders of racial prejudice and to cut the remaining bonds of slavery in America. In October, we honor Christopher Columbus, who opened the Atlantic slave trade and launched one of the greatest waves of genocide known in history," he wrote.

Students of Rudnick mull over the following passage found on their syllabi from Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*: "October 12. The Discovery. It was wonderful to find America, but it would have been more wonderful to miss it."

"By the time Columbus Day arrives, my students have already had the opportunity to think about what this means," Rudnick said. "Why Columbus?" Rudnick says. "Shouldn't there be a holiday celebrating one of the Native Americans whose lives were decimated?"

Despite the controversy, Columbus Day manages to serve as a day of unity for some communities.

"I'm not really focusing on any negative aspect," said Daniel Toscano, general chairman of the Columbus Day Committee in Boston. "The reason why I got involved is because I wanted to do something positive for the community," he said.

This is Toscano's first year planning the Columbus Day parade, which has attracted numerous groups: the Greater Boston Hispanic Alliance; 15 marching bands, including the Boston University and Lowell High School bands; 12 military groups; ROTC programs from Boston English and East Boston high schools; five Italian societies; elected officials, children's characters and antique car owners.

"I'd hate to see 50 years of pride and tradition be lost," Toscano said. "I just want to make it fun for the kids and the neighborhood."

At 1 p.m. on Oct. 12, the parade will proceed from Charles and Boylston streets to the end of Endicott Street in the North End. An "Italian Night" is planned for the elderly on Oct. 11, and more than 230 tickets have been sold for an Oct. 10 banquet. For more information, call Toscano at 720-0317.

"The parade is basically for the community," he said. "It's a day for everybody — not just the Italians, not just the North End. It's a day for everybody to come."

Expect Change in the U.N., Experts Say

Several hundred people are expected to gather at the Grand Staircase of the State House on Oct. 24 for the United Nations Day Celebration. But for some local United Nations supporters, the celebration is undermined with a mild pessimism. Without reform, paying up of members' dues, and continued education about the organization, the United Nations may not see another half century.

"You can look at it now as a very frustrating time or a very exciting time," said Kari A. Heistad, executive director of the United Nations Association of Greater Boston, a 650-member organization that teaches people about the United Nations and its functions and importance. "I know the U.N. is going to undergo a lot of changes. I know it will not continue as it is," she said.

"I'm not tremendously optimistic," said Political Science Professor Robert Weiner, who teaches on the United Nations in his courses. "Much of the future depends on the willingness of some of the most powerful countries to give it what it needs," he said.

One debtor is the United States, which owes the U.N. \$1.4 billion for past and 1997 payments.

"One of the things I try to emphasize is that the United States should recognize its role of leadership to the United Nations, and it should pay up," Weiner said.

Weiner says United Nations Day is a special occasion for him. "It means a lot in terms of trying to support an institution with limited resources," he said. "If

the United Nations did not exist, something like it would have to be invented," Weiner said. "I think the United Nations is indispensable."

Leonard Robinson, visiting fellow at the McCormack Institute, agrees. "The United Nations today is more important than ever before in terms of insuring that there is a dialogue between leaders and representatives of all nations," he said.

"We now live in a world where the threat of nuclear conflict has been minimized significantly," Robinson said. "However, there is the justifiable concern that the proliferation of technology around the manufacture of nuclear weapons could imperil the world all over again," he said.

Weiner expressed confidence that reforms proposed by the new secretary-general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan of Ghana, will work. On July 16 Annan announced his intent to create a United Nations that is leaner and more cost-effective, committed to solvency, better coordinated, more accountable, operated by a staff that is committed to excellence, and positioned to take on the new global challenges of the twenty-first century.

Robinson adds his thoughts about the organization's future. "You are going to see an emergence of developing countries, particularly African nations and the countries in South America, assuming a more visible role in the debate as well as the operations of the United Nations," he said.

Robinson, Weiner and Heistad say Americans ought to be taught

more about the United Nations. "I think that Americans in general are woefully uninformed and misinformed about the realities of the world community," Robinson said.

Weiner said many American students have critical views of the United Nations. "Once the students understand the limitations of the United Nations, they tend to become more sympathetic," he said. One of those limitations is finances. The organization's regular budget is \$1.3 billion a year — equal to about four percent of New York City's annual budget. "The U.N. is so strapped for cash that in order to cover its regular budget expenses, it has been periodically forced to borrow from peace-keeping funds," the U.N. Department of Public Information reports.

"I would say quite easily that the United Nations is the most misunderstood organization that exists," Heistad said. "I think what people don't realize is that the U.N. affects their lives every day." If you use the Internet, make international telephone calls or watch the weather forecasts on television, thank the United Nations, she reminds.

The United Nations Association of Greater Boston holds model United Nations in schools, provides a curriculum for teachers and holds educational programs to inform students about the organization. The Oct. 24 celebration starts at noon and is free and open to the public. For more information, call 617-482-5487 or email unagb@gis.net.

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school district made conscious decisions to segregate, he said. Jose Duran said government is not the cause of the racial divide, though it exacerbates existing attitudes.

In her comments, Diane Modica, who represents East Boston and its 25 percent Latino population, said we should concentrate on the principles on which the nation was founded. "I'd rather focus on ways in which we can find commonalities than focus on divisions," she said.

A newcomer to Boston, Patricia Smith shared attitudes she has run into during her writing career. "I actually have really heard a lot about 'Why bother? This is Boston. Nothing is going to change,'" she said.

At one point the discussion turned to the lack of a diversified turnout at cultural events in the city. Smith said some African Americans previously told her going into town was too much hassle, saying they were often pulled over by police or forced to show additional identification. "I was warned not to go into Fenway Park. I was warned not

to go to the Garden," she said.

Kelly blamed segregated cultural and social events on economics. "I'm not sure there are too many working class families across the city of Boston that can afford to go to those types of events," he said. Kelly went on to question why people look for diversity at some events. "So what?," he said. "People have different tastes."

"If you make it friendly, people will attend," responded Leonard C. Alkins, president of the Boston branch of the NAACP. "If you make it unfriendly, people will choose whether or not they want to attend."

The discussion on economics continued with the topic of "white flight," white members of the middle class leaving cities to live in the suburbs. The "realities" are that the white middle class has fled the city to avoid the poor schools and crime that result from racially mixed neighborhoods, Kelly said, gathering audible disappointment from the audience.

"The rationale of white flight having something to do with black people is an invention of the 1960s," Rushing responded. Whites who left the city between 1950 and 1960 did not leave because five percent of Boston was black, they were "subsidized out," he said. "Black people don't need to take that weight — ever," he said to an applauding audience.

"I think we need to reject out of hand the notion that people bring crime and fear into the neighborhoods with them," Duran added. "We really need to look beyond the new residents as being the source of these problems."

The middle class moves to the suburbs in search of a better education for their children, one panelist said, shifting the discussion to a debate on busing and inequities in public schools.

Members of City Year, a group of 17 to 22-year-old volunteers from various backgrounds, were among audience members who shared their opinions. Ira Jackson, senior vice president of BankBoston, offered the Forum's closing remarks, synthesizing some of the speakers' points.

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