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News and information
about and for the
University Community from
the Chancellor's Office

Students Siegmann and DiNardo Win Leadership Awards

Student Trustee Stephanie Siegmann of Dorchester and Kristine DiNardo of Waltham, a student in the Human Services Center at the College of Public and Community Service, have each won awards for demonstrating outstanding leadership abilities.

Siegmann is one of 200 young women from around the nation who have been selected to attend a two-week "Women As Leaders Seminar" in Washington, D. C., next month. During the seminar, Siegmann will be involved in a highly structured program of reading assignments, lectures, panel discussions and workshops organized by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

DiNardo was selected as the top female student in the state's public university system by Massachusetts Women in Higher Education, a statewide organization of higher education administrators. Awards were also presented to students in the state college and public community college categories.

Siegmann was elected student trustee from the Boston campus last year and joined the University of Massachusetts board in July 1993. She will graduate in June and plans to attend law school in the fall. Siegmann currently has a grade point average of 3.8 and is pursuing a double major in history and psychology.

All of the students in the leadership program are expected to keep a daily journal of their activities, and will get to spend one day working alongside a prominent woman leader. Siegmann's first choice for this exercise is U. S. Attorney General Janet Reno, although the assignment has not yet been confirmed. Siegmann's interest in observing Attorney General Reno comes from her desire to work as a prosecutor.

In addition to her duties as trustee, her regular studies and her job at the Blue Cross Blue Shield legal department, Siegmann this year is writing an

honors thesis in history on women's suffrage in Massachusetts. Her research focuses on discussions of women's rights at Constitutional Conventions in 1778, 1820 and 1853. Siegmann said she's astonished by the low status of women evident in convention transcripts. "It wasn't until the 1853 convention that they finally voted that women were human beings," she says.

The University trustee has come to admire people like Harriet Hunt, a Boston widow who argued in 1853 that because she possessed no individual rights she should not have to pay property taxes. "That's a great woman," Siegmann says.

Besides being a superior student, DiNardo, who is legally blind, is coordinator of the Dis-ABILITIES Center at the Office of Student Life. The Center provides support services and sponsors activities for physically impaired and learning disabled students.

DiNardo will receive a bachelor's degree in December and plans to attend graduate school. She is currently organizing a fair for students with disabilities that will take place at the campus May 3 and 4.

"Kristine is a highly motivated person and a natural leader," according to Kelly Clark, the University's director of student life. "She's somebody who doesn't allow obstacles to distract her from achieving her goals."

DiNardo has been a member of numerous campus committees and has recently helped to administer the University's compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. She also is on the board of directors of The Vision Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports the visually impaired.

DiNardo is active in the Unitarian Universalist Church in Waltham and teaches Sunday school. She is married and has two children.

NSF Grant Supports Villareal's Studies of Pacific Phytoplankton

Environmental sciences professor Tracy Villareal and a University of California researcher have received a \$420,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to examine a type of phytoplankton whose biological processes are little known.

The grant will enable Villareal, a specialist in phytoplankton ecology, and Mark Brzezinski, a biology professor at the Santa Barbara campus, to conduct research in the Pacific Ocean, where the larger-than-usual phytoplankton are abundant. During the summer of 1995 and again in 1996, the two scientists will embark on three-week journeys into waters approximately 1,500 miles off the coast of Hawaii.

Villareal and Brzezinski will scuba dive near the surface of the ocean to examine the phytoplankton, which are about a foot long and resemble a mass of tangled string. Their research will focus on learning how silicate is cycled in these phytoplankton, and the relationship of this process to the release of carbon and nitrogen into the ocean and the atmosphere.

"We're hoping to find a small piece to the puzzle of how carbon dioxide is cycled on the planet, which ultimately will lead to a deeper understanding of the greenhouse effect," Villareal says.

Last summer Villareal brought three of his UMass Boston graduate students on a Pacific Ocean research venture supported by grants from the NSF and the University.

Their investigations provided the basis for an article Villareal wrote for the science journal *Nature* about the importance of a certain rare phytoplankton that migrates between the ocean surface and deep regions of the Pacific.

Campus Notes

Human services professor Miren Uriarte was among 15 community leaders honored recently by television station WGBH Channel 2 for "devoted efforts to improving the lives of others." Uriarte was cited for her work as founding director of the University's Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy. Awards were presented at a 15th anniversary celebration of the WGBH's "La Plaza," one of public television's longest running public affairs programs devoted exclusively to Latino issues.

Mantle Hood, director of the Institute of Ethnomusicology at UCLA, will speak on "The Workings of Music in South-east Asia" at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, in the Chancellor's Conference Room. Hood is a visiting professor this semester in the UMass Boston music department. His talk is part of the College of Arts and Sciences' colloquium series.

Theatre arts students will present "West Side Story" at the McCormack Theatre next month. Opening performance is Friday, May 6, at 8:00 p.m. Performances will also be held May 7-8 and May 12-15.

Tickets are \$7, or \$5 for alumni, students and senior citizens. More information is available by calling the theatre arts office at 7-5645.

Gerontology Institute director Scott Bass has received a Fulbright Award and will be in Japan for six months to examine issues of older workers. He will begin his research in September at the Japanese Silver-Haired Human Resource Center in Yokohama.

Trotter Institute director James Jennings was honored last month at the spring luncheon of the Greater Roxbury Chamber of Commerce.

Geography professor Zong-Guo Xia recently organized a workshop on geographic information computer software that was attended by representatives of the U.S. Army and other government agencies, as well as representatives from Harvard University, the University of Connecticut and several consulting firms.

A workshop on diversity awareness will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, in Room 64 on the first floor of Wheatley Hall.

Chemistry professor Walter Weibrecht presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Science

meeting in San Francisco results of a program he has operated with biology professor Bill Hagar and education professor Maurice Easch to enhance teaching in the sciences at the middle and high school level. The program was funded by the National Science Foundation.

Carole Upshur, a community planning professor at CPCS, was appointed to the Massachusetts Health Care Advisory Committee, which will assist the state with health care reform.

The McCormack Institute's conference on regionalism will take place on Friday, April 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

The abstract paintings of retired UMass Boston professor Truman Egleston were displayed last weekend at the Five Points Gallery in East Chatham, New York.

Due to budget problems at the campus, a search for a director of the Trotter Institute will not take place, and professor James Jennings will remain in the post for three more years beginning July 1.

The deadline is April 19 for submitting applications for the University's International Development Fund research grants.

Student Poets From Local Colleges
To Read At Harbor Campus Festival

The University will host the seventh annual Greater Boston Intercollegiate Undergraduate Poetry Festival on Wednesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the University Club. One student from each of 14 colleges, universities and community colleges will read from his or her poetry at the festival. The event is free and open to the public.

Representing UMass Boston at this year's festival is senior English major Chris Jackson of Dorchester, who is enrolled in the creative writing program and is also a drummer in a rock band. According to English professor Lloyd Schwartz, the campus is fertile ground for talented student poets like Jackson. "Year after year, our students who read poetry at the festival are considered the best," he says. "Our students tend to have had many life experiences, and therefore have much to write about."

Lecture Highlights Dedication
Of Arthur W. Martin Observatory

A lecture by Harvard University physics professor Irwin Shapiro was given today at the dedication of UMass Boston's Arthur W. Martin III Observatory. Shapiro, director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Observatory, demonstrated techniques used to attempt to determine the dimension and age of the universe.

Following the lecture was the dedication of the Science Center observatory, now named for former UMass Boston physics professor Arthur Martin, who died in 1992. Martin taught for 23 years at the University and possessed a zeal for astronomy. He was instrumental in helping the campus obtain funds from the National Science Foundation in the early 1970s to build the observatory he had designed.

More Campus Notes

Former state representative Nelson Merced and Seth Racusen, a Ph.D. candidate in political science at MIT, will discuss "Strategies for Latino Political Empowerment in Massachusetts" at noon on Tuesday, April 12, at the University Club (11th floor, Healey Library). The discussion is sponsored by the Gaston Institute.

The Trotter Institute will hold a seminar on Friday, April 15, to discuss cultural issues raised in the book *Behind the*

Eurocentric Veils: The Search for African Realities, written by Clinton Jean, the UMass Boston black studies scholar who died last year. Participants in the day-long session will talk about the problems of Eurocentrism and strategies for creating Afrocentric perspectives. The seminar activities will be held in the lounge on the fourth floor of Wheatley Hall. Molefi Asante, author of the book *Afrocentricity*, will deliver the keynote address at 5:00 p.m. in the media auditorium on the

Governor's Wife To Attend Asian American Institute Opening

Leaders of the local Asian American community and Susan Weld, the governor's wife, are expected to attend the formal opening of the University's Institute of Asian American Studies on Tuesday, April 19, at 5:30 p.m. in the Ryan Lounge on the third floor of the McCormack Building.

The Tuesday opening begins a series of events marking the launching of the only policy and research center in New England focusing on issues important to Asian Americans. Other events are:

• Monday, April 25: a symposium from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the University Club (11th floor, Healey Library) to introduce new research on Asian Americans in Massachusetts. Sociology professor Tom Chung will discuss Asian American resettlement trends in Greater Boston. Sociology graduate student Indrani Ray will talk about how Asian American youth define their identity. CPCS professor Andrew Leong will speak on the ongoing dispute between New England Medical Center and Chinatown residents over the territory known as Parcel C.

• Tuesday, April 26: presentation of Asian American films in the teleconference room on the lower level of the Healey Library.

• Thursday, April 28: book reading by author Jade Ngoc Quang Huynh at 4:00 p.m. in lounge on the fourth floor of Wheatley.

• Friday, April 29: ninth annual Asian Culture Festival organized and hosted by the students of the Asian Center; from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on the fourth floor of Wheatley.

The Institute of Asian American Studies was created last summer and is co-directed by CPCS professor Connie Chan and political science professor Paul

Watanabe. Its coordinator is Hiep Chu, former director of the Vietnamese American Civic Association in Dorchester.

The Institute recently awarded research grants of \$1,500 each to four UMass Boston faculty to examine issues of concern to Asian Americans, the state's fastest growing minority group. In Boston between 1980 and 1990, the number of Asian Americans nearly doubled, to approximately 30,000. The recipients of the Institute grants and their research topics include:

Connie Chan (CPCS), HIV prevention efforts in Asian American communities; Peter Kiang (Graduate College of Education), Asian American youth in Boston; Andrew Leong (CPCS), Parcel C dispute; Michael Stone (CPCS), housing status of Asian Americans.

University Offers Population Teleconference

Several of the world's leading policy makers will be in New York City on April 14 to discuss global population growth at a conference in which UMass Boston will participate by satellite. The discussion will help form the basis of a draft document which the United States will present in September at the United Nations' International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo.

The April 14 conference will be shown in the Teleconference Room on the lower level of the Healey Library. Panelists include U. N. Population Fund director Nafis Sadik, Population Council president Margaret Catley-Carlson, and former U. S. senator Tim Wirth, now an official in the state department. Vice President Al Gore and actress Jane Fonda will deliver taped statements. UMass Boston is one of 86 sites around the country to join the conference by satellite, and so far the only one in Massachusetts.

lower level of the Healey Library. Local civic leaders, academics and clergy are invited to attend. More information is available by contacting the black studies department at 7-6790.

The University will celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 24, with a variety of activities, including exhibits of environmental products, an outdoor concert and nature walks.

Biology professor Kamaljit Bawa discussed biodiversity

at a symposium in Kyoto, Japan at which Harvard University professor E. O. Wilson was honored for receiving the Japan Prize in Biology. Bawa presented a paper on the effect of deforestation on the genetic diversity of tropical forest trees. Bawa has also edited a special issue of *Current Science*, India's leading scientific journal.

Biology professor Lawrence Kaplan, editor-in-chief of the science quarterly *Economic*

Botany, has obtained funding to create an index of the journal's articles published over the last five decades. The index will be a valuable resource for researchers, and its completion in 1996 will coincide with the journal's 50th year of publication. The project is supported by the New York Botanical Garden and the Society of Economic Botanists.

Political activist and linguist Noam Chomsky, a longtime professor at MIT, will speak at

UMass Boston on Tuesday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Large Science Auditorium. He will discuss democracy and human rights in Third World nations.

Former Suffolk University president Daniel Perlman, a visiting fellow in 1989-1990 at UMass Boston's New England Resource Center for Higher Education, died of cancer on March 31. Since 1990 Perlman had been president of Webster University in St. Louis.

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