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# Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 2  
Number 4  
December 1997

## Transforming Science Education is PKAL Goal

Over the past several years, more than 20 UMass Boston faculty members have attended workshops on topics such as revitalizing undergraduate biology, science for all students, interdisciplinary approaches to teaching undergraduate science and mathematics, revitalizing introductory chemistry, and teaching sciences on urban, commuter campuses. The workshops were offered through Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL), an alliance of individuals and institutions nationwide engaged in the work of transforming undergraduate education in science, mathematics, engineering and technology (SME&T).

PKAL's goals are to build teams of faculty and administrators who will work to transform the environment for learning these disciplines on campuses throughout the country, increase public awareness of how strong undergraduate SME&T programs serve the national interest, and create a vision of SME&T education that truly serves the interests of students and society.

An active participant in PKAL activities since 1994, UMass Boston is one of 40 invited institutions participating in PKAL's Phase III as a "Core Institution," a designation that recognizes UMass Boston's efforts to transform the learning environment in SME&T for undergraduates, and the University's planning process for building and sustaining programs of excellence for all students in these fields. As a core institution, UMass Boston will work closely with PKAL to document the process of changing policies, programs and practices that affect undergraduate SME&T.

One stage in this process of change was the proposal developed by the Science Working Group of the General Education Committee, which recommended a framework for new science requirements and curriculum reform, according to the Dean of Science Faculty, Christine

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Send your news items to:  
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## A Letter From the Editor

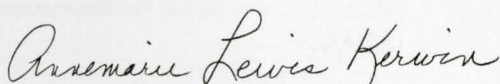
Dear Readers:

September '97 marked the first-year anniversary of the *University Reporter*. I, along with Annette Fernie and Stacey Carter, would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who has helped us deliver important news and information to the University community this past year. We'd also like to thank the number of faculty, staff and students who have taken the time to allow us to feature them in this publication. Whether it's a story about biological research or the work being done by faculty and students to help struggling environmental start-up companies, we believe that the University community is interested in reading about the work of the people who help make UMass Boston the unique and important institution that it is.

During the next semester, we are planning to do a readership survey, so we can learn whether this publication is meeting your expectations. We will also, occasionally, feature more news updates from your area of the University. For more information, please call us at 7-5317. Please keep in mind that there are deadlines for this type of material.

We look forward to working with you in 1998 and encourage you to continue providing us with new and interesting story ideas and information.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season,



Annemarie Lewis Kerwin  
Editor  
*University Reporter*

## Pornography Controversy stirs Campus, Media

The Nov. 20 issue of *The Mass Media* garnered media attention and sparked harsh criticism from many members of the UMass Boston community.

*The Mass Media*, the independent, student-run newspaper, reported that pornographic photographs were being stored in Student Senate files. To illustrate the story, the newspaper ran three photos they said were obtained from the files.

While editor Sam Farrington and some students defended the newspaper's decision, many voiced outrage, mostly over what they believe was poor taste and poor judgement exercised by *The Mass Media*.

Administrators met with the editors of *The Mass Media* on Nov. 25 and are investigating the allegations against the Student Senate.



# In Depth With Connie Chan, Paul Watanabe

Professor Connie Chan is a clinical psychologist who teaches a course on race, class and cultural issues in human services at CPCS. Paul Watanabe is a political science professor who specializes in American foreign policy and is frequently quoted in the media on local and national political issues. Chan was born in Hawaii and her background is Chinese American. Watanabe is a Japanese American who grew up in Utah.

Their different interests and backgrounds have been an advantage during four years of sharing the directorship of the Institute for Asian American Studies (IAAS). Their responses to the question "Who is an Asian American?" show why their differences in gender, ethnicity, disciplines and interests benefit their work.

"The idea of 'Asian American' is an artificial construct," says Chan. "Asia is a diverse place. But here, we are a small community, even with all of us put together. So better to put us together, so we can develop a little clout," she says. Watanabe agrees that there is no consensus on the concept of Asian Americans, who come from a variety of cultures and speak many languages. But, he says, neither is it a made-up notion.

"There is something fundamental about the American experience for all Asian Americans that binds them together, whether they

came here 100 years ago or yesterday, not the least of which is that other Americans see them as 'the same,'" he says.

The IAAS is one of only two or three pan-Asian organizations in the region to look at the totality and the commonality of Asian Americans and their experiences.

Co-directing has also enhanced their ability to handle the many tasks of the Institute, says Chan, where she and Watanabe are the only full-time employees. "It has given us a broader reach and greater influence—a synergy that we could not have achieved on our own," says Chan. Adds Watanabe, "Each of us has a lot of direct involvement, so you end up with a sum greater than one director."

The Institute's goals are to conduct research and policy analysis on issues relating to Asian Americans, strengthen community development, and provide support for students and curriculum development.

With only two part-time staff members and the help of graduate students, its accomplishments include two major publications, *A Dream Deferred: Changing Demographics, Challenges, & New Opportunities for Boston* and *The Asian American Civil Rights Resource Guide*; the co-sponsorship of a national conference on educational issues for Asian Americans, and a variety of

cultural activities brought to campus, including this fall's Multicultural Drumming Festival.

Current research projects include assessing HIV knowledge and use of services for Asian American men, and a needs-assessment review of developmentally disabled individuals in the Asian American community. Modest research fellow stipends are awarded to researchers pursuing topics relevant to the Institute's interests.

Many of the Institute's activities are undertaken in partnership with other organizations. *A Dream Deferred* was researched and written in partnership with the Trotter and Gaston Institutes and funded by the Boston Foundation; the Multicultural Drumming Festival was co-sponsored by ZUMIX, a community-based organization devoted to bringing arts into schools and supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

It is creating links, whether it be between the wide variety of Asian Americans, or between research institutes and centers, community groups and funding organizations that characterizes the way the IAAS works to create a stronger voice for the Asian American community. "It can be a very enlightening thing to see a shared agenda," says Watanabe. "I think that is the exciting part."



# *Women's Economic Security is the Focus of Labor Resource Center's Research*

Cheryl Gooding, research coordinator at the Labor Resource Center, recently completed a study of factors that shape the economic status of women in Massachusetts. Gooding prepared the report, "Economic Security and Women in Massachusetts: An Overview of the Issues," for the Theresa and H. John Heinz III Foundation and the Women's Institute for Leadership Development, a leadership training program for union women. The report is a first step towards broader research in the area of women's economic security.

According to Gooding, "women's economic security is a complicated picture of interwoven factors." In order to focus the picture, she examines four interconnected factors that affect a significant percentage of women. These include women's responsibility for family care, women's participation in the paid labor force; poverty and benefit programs for the most vulnerable women; and violence against women.

Gooding argues that even very differently-situated women share common problems. These include unpaid work for family care, pay equity, occupational

segregation in low-wage jobs, the glass ceiling, cuts in public benefits programs that disproportionately affect women and their children, and domestic violence. Gooding's research shows that the paths to economic security for women include marriage, joining a union, and going to college.

The Heinz Foundation has invited Gooding to submit a proposal for broader, in-depth research on the economic status of women. The Foundation intends that this research will lay a foundation for policymaking aimed at promoting the economic security of women throughout the Commonwealth.

## **Mass Field Center Teacher-Researcher Seminar to be Held In March**

The Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning will sponsor a Teacher Researcher Conference on March 5, 1998 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. A key benefit of teacher research, according to teachers engaged in it, is that it helps them more clearly understand their classroom teaching and their students' learning.

This conference will afford educators, from kindergarten through college level, and those who prepare them, an opportunity to develop awareness of classroom-based research, share expertise, learn the nuts and bolts of systematic inquiry, and con-

sider strategies for organizing support networks.

If you are an educator looking for ways to gain deeper insight into your own teaching, to fine-tune good practice, or to prepare for a major change, the Teacher Researcher Seminar can help develop the habits and skills of reflective practice. For Massachusetts teachers, six professional development points may be awarded for attending this seminar.

For more information or to register, call the Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning at 7-7660.

## **Public Safety's Auto Etching Program Deters Car Theft**

About 40 cars belonging to UMass Boston faculty, staff and students were "marked" on Oct. 21, according to Officer Richard W. Lee of Public Safety. But these were no acts of vandalism. The owners took advantage of Public Safety's Auto-Etching Program. The vehicle identification number of the cars was etched onto each window surface, a process that deters thieves who know the marked cars will be more difficult to resell or chop up.



# Smoking Ban Could Lure New Customers, Study Shows

A new survey of 2,356 Massachusetts adults conducted by Lois Biener of the Center for Survey Research and Michael Siegel M.D. of the Boston University School of Public Health indicates that three in ten customers would choose to dine out more often at smokefree restaurants. Two thirds of those interviewed said that a smoking ban would have no effect on how frequently they patronized a bar or restaurant that became smoke free.

The new findings contradict common arguments that bars and restaurants would lose business if ordinances were enacted to ban

smoking, arguments that have swayed some restaurant and bar owners to the side of the tobacco industry.

"I think it is time for bar and restaurant owners to realize that their interests may be in conflict with those of the tobacco industry, which has been fighting smoking bans," says Biener. "The evidence suggests that a smoking ban could actually increase their business."

Biener and Siegel believe that the survey has uncovered a potential new clientele for smoke-free bars, with ten percent of those sur-

veyed saying they would start going to bars if smoking was banned. This could translate into approximately 120,000 new customers for smoke free bars and clubs.

On December 2, Biener and Siegel participated in a press conference sponsored by the American Medical Association/American Public Health Association in New York City to release the findings of the study. An article by the researchers on their survey results appears in the December issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

## Bone Marrow Donor Sought for Former Financial Aid Director

Former Financial Aid Director Corine Williams Byrd devoted her career to helping thousands of UMass Boston students pay for their educations. Now, a committee of her former colleagues and friends are hoping someone on campus may be willing and able to pay her back.

Corinne has leukemia, and her doctors tell her that she needs a bone marrow transplant. As with a blood transfusion, the bone marrow must come from a compatible donor, but the match must be much more exact. The best chance for compatibility comes from a close relative. Next best, is someone from the same racial or ethnic group—in Corinne's case, African American—and then the population at large.

During the week of December 1, testing will be done to determine a possible match for Corine.

If you are between 18 and 60, in good health, and willing to be tested, call (toll free) 1-888-223-6667 for more information. Testing will be done at the New England Medical Center's (NEMC) Blood Bank in Braintree, or at NEMC's downtown facility on Stuart Street.

former and restoring power required the McCormack Building to be closed until Friday, Nov. 21 when it reopened for classes and all normal activities.

In the case of such an event, news updates on the closure and re-opening of buildings will be broadcast on local radio, and a message will be available on the UMass Boston web site ([www.umb.edu](http://www.umb.edu)) and telephone line, at 287-5000.

## Transformer Fire Closes McCormack Building

On the afternoon of November 18, a transformer failure caused a fire in the McCormack Building. The Boston Fire Department, Clean Harbors and Boston Edison responded to the alert. Everyone was evacuated safely from the building and there were no injuries. Replacing the trans-



# Campus Resource Helps Employee Deliver Story of a Lifetime

UMass Boston employee Katherine Huggins wasn't a stranger to public speaking, but she'd never delivered a speech of this magnitude.

Knowing she would share a podium with former governor Michael Dukakis and writer/comedian Al Franken, Huggins, a staff member in Computing Services who currently works in The Learning Center, had to do some major preparing.

At the second annual Health Law Advocates Benefit Breakfast held Nov. 7, Huggins described to more than 550 people how she was forced to institutionalize her quadrapalegic son after the state terminated his benefits. Working with Health Law Advocates, Huggins was able to successfully restore skilled nursing home care and bring Matthew back home.

Huggins hooked up with Janelle Winston a consultant who runs SpeechCoach and who offers workshops through The Learning Center.

"I actually wrote Matthew's story and had an opportunity to run it by Janelle," Huggins said. "She really gave me a lot of reinforcement. It made a big difference."

Although Huggins found helpful Winston's advice on techniques such as relaxation and positioning body weight, delivering the speech wasn't so hard.

"It was so personal to me, and it was something that we have lived through," Huggins said. "It was our story, and because of the

intensity that we have lived it, when I actually got up to tell the story, it was very easy."

Huggins candor and preparation paid off in a big way. She received a standing ovation.

"Tony Martin [director of The Learning Center] was actually really terrific when I told him I was giving the talk," Huggins said.

Huggins found support from coworkers not only during the speech preparation, but also during the trying times she actually spoke about. "If I didn't have such a wonderful work atmosphere, I don't think I could have gotten through this," she said.

When benefits for Matthew, now an eighth grade honor roll student at Andover Middle School, were terminated by the state, Huggins placed him at a residential hospital school. Then she "went to work to advocate and bring awareness to this travesty."

"After seven years, DMA terminated his benefits and arbitrarily decided that Matthew didn't need health care," Huggins said.

"I knew that it was medically unsafe to leave him in the care of unlicensed unskilled caregiver," she said. "I really believe that I was being forced to choose between welfare and institutionalizing my son. The decisions before me and my family were rather horrifying."

Huggins spent the summer working with Health Law Advocates to get skilled home care restored. As the struggle continued, she garnered statewide support from families in similar situation, local media and others.

Her UMass Boston coworkers were also there along the way, many of whom shared information and forwarded news articles pertaining to her plight. "I thank everybody that I work with, both Computing Services and The Learning Center," she said.



# Theater Students Produce "Noises Off"

Who says a night at the theater has to set you back financially? "Noises Off," this semester's UMass Boston Mainstage Production, costs little more than a cafeteria lunch and is a rare opportunity to catch on campus a contemporary play well known in theatrical circles.

Written by Michael Frayn, "Noises Off" is a comical Broadway play that takes as its premise a group of American actors who are booked to tour the cultural backwaters of Britain playing in the British farce, "Nothing On."

"In academic theater ... we don't often do roughly contemporary things that are done in popular theater," said John Conlon,

professor of theatre arts and director of the play. (The last contemporary production performed on campus was "West Side Story" in Spring 1994.)

"Noises Off" offers theater students many challenges and playgoers many delights in seeing them meet those challenges," Conlon said.

The actors must convince audience members that they are watching onstage and behind-the-scenes theatrics of another play. The production poses technical and building challenges as well. The two-level, revolving set, which reflects the stage and backstage of a theater, must be built entirely on location at the UMass Boston stage.

Open to the public, the production will be performed in McCormack Theatre (McCormack building, second floor) at 8 p.m. on Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13. A matinee will be performed Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. and a weekday show Wed., Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m.

The Dec. 13 evening show is scheduled to be a special alumni performance, while the Dec. 10 show was planned for the convenience of high school groups.

General admission tickets are \$7; student tickets are \$5; and groups of 15 or more pay \$3 per person. For more information or reservations, call 287-5645.

## Music Review: Rachid Bahri and Hart Rouge at L'Air du Temps

A jazz performer from Algeria and a folk group with French roots from Saskatchewan may seem to be an unlikely double bill, but pianist and vocalist Rachid Bahri, and Hart Rouge, a five-person band performed on the same program Saturday November 15 at Paine Hall, Harvard University. They were brought to the stage by L'Air du Temps, a festival of music from the French-speaking world, held October 7-16, at venues in and around Boston. The production was organized by Prof. Brian Thompson of the Modern Languages Department.

Bahri played a jazzy set, improvising expertly with soprano saxophonist Philippe Chretien. Instead of the blues influence usually found in jazz, Bahri's music has a middle eastern influence and a touch of cabaret.

He performed mostly original compositions, one of which he wrote and dedicated to his native Algeria, where a state of civil war has resulted in the deaths of thousands. Between songs, he created an intimate rapport with the audience speaking in both French and English.

At the nucleus of Hart Rouge are three siblings, Paul, Suzanne and Michelle Campagne, whose striking vocal harmonies are the core of the band's sound. Davy Gallant, who plays a variety of instruments from guitar to uilleann pipes, and percussionist Michel Dupire round out the group. They sang in French, English, and Micmac, a Native American language of Canada's Maritime Provinces. A stunning rendition of James Taylor's "Millworker" was one of a variety of songs performed by the band.

Other performances were scheduled at venues as varied as Johnny D's Music Club in Somerville and the French Library in Boston. School concerts were scheduled at Leominster, Norwell, and Brookline high schools and at the Boston Latin School.

For five years, L'Air du Temps has brought the music of the French speaking world to as wide an audience as possible, supporting the teaching and learning of French to the area's young people. Unfortunately, L'Air du Temps founder Thompson is not optimistic about the Festival's future prospects. "One of the meanings of 'vivre l'air du temps' is 'living on air,'" says Thompson, who lost two major festival underwriters this year. "Unfortunately, I'm not assured of being able to produce the festival again."



## Appointments

Prof. **Celia Moore**, associate dean of the faculty of sciences, has been named president-elect of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, an interdisciplinary group of developmental scientists from neuroscience, psychology, biology and medicine. She will assume the office in July 1998.

Prof. **Lin Zhan** of the College of Nursing has been appointed honorary professor at the Changzhou Allied Health School and Jiangsu Medical College, and as a consultant for the Advanced Nurse Training Center, the People's Republic of China.

**Joel Fowler** has been appointed as Healey Library's Science/Reference Librarian.

**John Applebee** has been appointed Acting Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs while Vice Chancellor **Janet Robinson** is recuperating from injuries she received in a fall.

Prof. **Sam Walker** of the Art Department has been named president of the Boston Printmakers, one of the older national print organizations in the country.

## Grants and Awards

Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz** of the English Department was one of ten writers honored at the Newton Free Library's 2nd annual Library Lovers' Ball held Oct. 26.

Nursing Prof. **Margaret McAllister** received the Nursing Education Award from the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) at the 1997 MNA Awards Banquet held Oct. 29 in Newport, R.I.

Profs. **Elizabeth O'Neil** and **Patrick O'Neil** of the Math and Computer Sciences Department have been awarded a three-year \$360,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for work on isolation testing for transactional systems.

The **Healey Library** has received a \$55,000 grant from the UMass President's Reserve Fund for library technology enhancements, which will allow faster and better access to catalog and databases in the library.

Profs. **Joan Lukas** of Mathematics and Computer Science and **Judy Clark**, Graduate College of Education, received a two-year, \$172,545 grant from the National Science Foundation for "Teacher Preparation in Mathematics and Science at UMass Boston."

## Publications

Prof. **Frank Nisetich**, chair of the Classics Department, has published an article, "Pindar's Modernist Debut," in the journal *Classical and Modern Literature*.

**Gillian Gane**, lecturer in English, has published an article, "The Hat the Hook, the Eyes, the Teeth: Captain Cuttle, Mr. Carker, and Literacy," in the *Dickens Studies Annual*.

Economics Prof. **Randy Albelda** has published two books: *Glass Ceilings and Bottomless Pits: Women's Work, Women's Poverty*, co-authored by Chris Tilly of UMass Lowell and published by South End Press, and *Economics and Feminism: Disturbance in the Field*, published by Twain Publishers.

CPCS Prof. **Philip S. Hart's** book, *Up In the Air: The Story of Bessie Coleman*, was optioned by Hollywood producer Jo Mayer, who will co-produce with Hart a made-for-television movie based on the book. Coleman was the first African American to earn a pilot's license in 1921.

Prof. **Russell Schutt** of the Sociology Department has completed two research reports on homelessness in Boston, co-authored with several graduate students from the Applied Sociology Program. The papers are "City of Boston Homeless Services: Employment and Training for Homeless Persons" and "Boston's Supportive Housing Programs: Building the Continuum of Care for Homeless Persons."

Prof. **Edmund Beard**, senior fellow, McCormack Institute, has written a study, "Judicial Salaries In Massachusetts: An Update of the 1992 Boston Bar Association Report."

**Charles A. Schwartz** of the Healey Library is the editor and a contributing author of *Restructuring Academic Libraries: Organizational Development in the Wake of Technological Change*, published by the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries.

"What's Fair? Justice Issues in the Affirmative Action Debate," written by Prof. **Susan Opatow** of the Graduate Program in Dispute Resolution, was published in the October issue of the journal, *American Behavioral Scientist*.

## Presentations, Conferences, and Exhibits

CAS Dean of Undergraduate Education **Patricia Davidson** was the keynote speaker at the Conference of the Association of American Schools in South America (AASSA) in Santiago, Chile, Oct. 29-31. She gave two addresses: "Enhancing Critical and Creative Thinking Skills and Dispositions in Grades K-12 (and for Life)," and "A Neuropsychological Perspective on Teaching and Learning K-12: Current Research and Classroom Strategies."

ECOS faculty member **Bernie Gardner** gave a presentation, "Physical Processes related to the Stellwagen Bank," at the Stellwagen Bank Science and Education Symposium held on campus in October. At the same meeting, UMass Boston faculty and staff, including Profs. **William Robinson** and **Zong Guo Xia**, and **Richard Delaney**, director, and **Madeleine Walsh**, education director of the Urban Harbors Institute met with delegates from Chinese universities and the Chinese environmental protection department to discuss environmental education and protection in the U.S.

Twenty four faculty, staff and



Ph.D. students from the **Gerontology Institute and program** participated in the 50th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, held in Cincinnati Nov. 17-18. They were participants in seven symposia and twelve paper and poster sessions.

Fifty representatives of organized labor met at a forum, Labor at the Crossroads, sponsored by the **Labor Resource Center** here in October. Featured speakers included columnist Robert Jordan of the Boston Globe and Sarah Nathan, media coordinator for the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Prof. **Anne McCauley** of the Art Department was co-curator of the first exhibition devoted to the Second Empire French photographer, Olympe Aguado held at the Musées de Strasbourg, France, Oct. 18 1997 to Jan. 4, 1998. She is also the author of catalogue essay, "Les frères Aguado, photographes amateurs à la cour du Second Empire."

The Ninth Annual Conference of the Haitian Studies Association, held Oct. 23-25 in Detroit, MI., was attended by Profs. **Marc Prou** and **Jemadari Kamara** of the Africana Studies Department, and **Alix Cantave**, director of UMass Boston's Haitian Studies Assn. who co-chaired

the conference. Prou's paper, "Haitian Creole Onomatopoeia: An Analysis," and Kamara's paper, "Pan Africanism, Redistribution, and Reparations: The Case of Haitians and African Americans," will be published in the next issue of the *Journal of Haitian Studies*.

Prof. **Dolores Gallo** of the Critical and Creative Thinking Program gave the keynote address, "THINK BIG, Start Small, Cultivating Creative Potential," at Bunker Hill Community College's professional development day in October. She also was the keynote speaker at the Third International Conference on Creativity at the University of Malta, where she spoke on "Empathetic Role-taking: Its Nature and Impact."

Prof. **Estelle Disch** of the Sociology Department gave the plenary address, "Creating Community across Differences in the College Classroom" at the National Women's Studies Meeting in St. Louis.

Prof. **Siamak Movahedi**, director of the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology, was the discussant and moderator of a presentation by child psychoanalyst Leo Hoffman, M.D., at the Forum of the Psychoanalytic Society of New England East. The presentation was "Passions in Girls and Women: Toward a Bridge between Critical Theory of Gender and Modern Conflict Theory."

In October, Prof. **Steven**

**Sweeney** of the Theater Arts and Communications Program was in New York City working on a film with actor Peter Falk.

**Elizabeth Sherman**, director of the Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy, spoke at a gathering of the Newton Democratic City Committee on "The First Ladies and History" on November 19.

#### In the News...

Prof. **Barry Bluestone** of the Political Science Department and McCormack Institute was interviewed on Neighborhood Network News about the results of the study, *The Greater Boston Social Survey* on October 31.

Prof. **Lois Rudnick**, director of the undergraduate American Studies Program, was interviewed by National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition" on her book, *Utopian Vistas: The Mabel Dodge Luhan House and the American Counterculture*, November 8.

Prof. **Ramona Hernandez** of the Latino Studies Program co-authored a socio-economic report on New York City's Dominican community which appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, *Newsday*, *La Prensa*, and *El Nacional* of the Dominican Republic.

#### Serving the Community

Approximately 50 people affiliated with UMass Boston participated in the Oct. 5 "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer," a five-mile walk held by the American Cancer Society. The walk raised more than \$2 million to support research, the Reach to Recovery program, one-on-one support programs, and a mobile mammography van. UMass Boston's participation was sponsored by the **Office of Human Resources**.

**WUMB's** October fundraiser raised \$105,000 from 1,320 supporters, \$5,000 over its goal. An additional piece of good news—40% of the donors were first-time supporters.

#### International Relations

Six executives from Turkmenistan's petroleum and natural gas industry have begun a six-month course in English language and American business customs in a program developed by **Jack Hughes**, director of the International Executive Program of the Division of Continuing Education. Their studies are sponsored by Mobil Oil Corporation, where the executives will hold paid internships before returning home.



# UMass Boston Joins Laboratory Reform Effort

The Environmental Health and Safety Office of the University has joined a consortium of schools exploring regulatory alternatives to the current scheme of environmental regulation of laboratories. The group, the Laboratory Consortium for Environmental Excellence (LCEE), currently consists of eight New England schools: Boston College, Tufts University, the University of Vermont, UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, Northeastern University, Trinity College, and Harvard University. Other schools have participated in preliminary discussions and are expected to join soon. It is possible that the consortium will

expand outside of New England in the future.

One of the first efforts of the LCEE is to develop a proposal for regulatory reinterpretation and relief under the Environmental Protection Agency's Project XL program. A successful Project XL will allow the consortium schools to institute specific alternatives to the current regulatory scheme, providing more flexibility in managing environmental programs in laboratories. Preliminary discussions of this idea with EPA representatives, both in the New England region and in the national office, have been encouraging. This project is

expected to be developed by January 1998.

Other activities of the consortium include development of common training packages for laboratory workers about the possible environmental effects of laboratories. The package will also address issues pertaining to regulatory compliance, definition of "best management practices" for management of hazardous materials and wastes to prevent harm to the public health or environment, and the sharing of information and resources to assure that the laboratory environmental programs are as effective as possible.

## PKAL Story, Continued from Page 1

Arnett-Kibel. "The working group proposed goals for a science component of general education, with emphasis on making courses less oriented to conveying information, and more oriented towards introducing students to science as a method of investigation," says Arnett-Kibel. Some ideas for this proposal evolved from discussions held by faculty at PKAL workshops and meetings.

Faculty have also been involved in other aspects of PKAL's innovative work. Biology Professor Rachel Skvirsky is a member of the PKAL Faculty for the 21st Century Network, which is designed for faculty who are emerging as leaders in education reform within their institutions. As part of PKAL's Keck Consulting Program, she took part in evaluating the biology curriculum at Bennett College in North

Carolina, one of two historically black women's colleges in the United States. The teams provide advice and counsel to institutions as they proceed with curricular and other science reforms.

Skvirsky also was a member of the planning committee for a PKAL conference on the topic of science education at urban commuter institutions, held at the City College of New York (CUNY). "We talked about particular issues we see at commuter schools, like the need to create a sense of community, how to make the best use of students' time, and how to teach a diverse population of students," says Skvirsky. This year, John Warner of the chemistry department joins Skvirsky as a new member of the PKAL faculty for the 21st Century Network.

In November, Warner, Skvirsky,

Arnett-Kibel and Fuad Safwat, professor emeritus of biology and campus liaison for PKAL's Phase III project, attended the 1997 Faculty for the 21st Century Network, held in Houston. The theme of the conference was "Thinking Outside the Box: Problem Solving and Problem Solvers."

Since 1989, PKAL has expanded its constituency from liberal arts colleges to include over 660 diverse institutions of higher education. Since 1992, nearly 3200 individuals have participated in PKAL activities developed by the organization's founder and director Jeanne L. Narum and her staff in Washington, D.C. PKAL receives funding from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and private foundations.



# CPCS Welcomes Famous Mathematicians

A conference and speaker series at the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) has attracted several internationally known mathematicians.

The conference was sparked by a new book, *Ethnomathematics: Challenging Eurocentrism in Mathematics Education*, edited by Marilyn Frankenstein, a professor in the CPCS Center for Applied Language and Mathematics, and Arthur B. Powell, associate professor in the Academic Foundations Department at Rutgers University-Newark.

"Ethnomathematics, coined in the 1980s by Brazilian mathematician Ubiratan D'Ambrosio, is described by the International Study Group on Ethnomathematics (ISGEm), an affiliate of the U.S. National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, as follows:

"It is sometimes used specifically for small-scale indigenous societies, but in its broadest sense the "ethno" prefix can refer to any group — national societies, labor communities, religious traditions, professional classes, and so on.

"Mathematical practices include not only formal symbolic systems, but also spatial designs, practical construction techniques, calculation methods, measurement in time and space, specific ways of reasoning and inferring, and other cognitive and material activities."

"This is an international movement, and we have a real diversity

of opinions and experiences in terms of our backgrounds," said Frankenstein, an ISGEm member. "We're trying to have an impact on mathematics education."

During part one of the conference, held Nov. 3 and 4, CPCS Dean Ismael Ramirez-Soto presented Dirk Struik and Lee Lorch with special recognition awards.

Struik is "a living model for the lifelong learning we hope to encourage," Ramirez-Soto said. "He's been a friend or colleague to many of the 20th century mathematicians."

At 103 years old, Struik, emeritus professor of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has experienced myriad transitions in his field.

Struik highlighted a century of mathematics history, including the misconception that "mathematics is a pure invention of the mind," the 1920s revelation that "Babylonian mathematics was more advanced than we had believed," the distinct character of Islamic mathematics, and the complicated mathematics system of the Incas.

Lee Lorch, emeritus professor of mathematics at York University in Toronto, focused on his political struggles as a mathematician and how racism and sexism have limited access to the field. He candidly discussed being fired from several universities (two of which later presented him with honorary degrees) for vocalizing

against discrimination and injustice. He also discussed the treatment of he and his colleagues during the civil rights movement.

Lorch and Struik, both targets during the McCarthy era, are not the only politically outspoken ethnomathematicians. Mathematicians are political because mathematics interacts with the culture and politics of knowledge, Frankenstein said.

Brazilian mathematics educator Gelsa Knijnik, who will keynote part two of the conference in January, is active in the Landless People's Movement in her country. Martin Bernal, the April 1998 speaker, has generated controversy by challenging the myth that Africans, Middle Easterns and Asians have made little contributions to mathematical history.

Approximately 100 people showed up for some or all of part one of the conference, including other well-known mathematicians from around the nation. Mozambican Paulus Gerdes traveled from Georgia, while Gloria Gilmer, co-founder of the ISGEm, flew in from Milwaukee.

The conference is sponsored by CPCS in collaboration with Trotter Institute, the CAS Mathematics Department and Dean's Office, the Graduate Program in Bilingual Education, TEAMS-BC, and the Center for Applied Language and Mathematics.



## Snow Policy and Announcement Procedures, Winter 1997-98

We want to take this opportunity to update you on the Snow Day Policy and the procedures to be used for making the announcement for closing of the campus. In the event that a snow storm, or other inclement weather presents a risk for our faculty, staff and students in commuting to or from the campus, the Provost and the Deputy Chancellor will make a determination of the appropriate campus response. The following is information you will need in the event of weather emergencies.

UMB Main Switchboard number 287-5000 will carry a voice mail announcement which notifies callers if the campus will be open for operation. Please do not call the public safety offices. The phone lines need to remain open in case of emergency.

University Website - The bulletin board at the UMB website will contain weather announcements. The internet address is <http://www.umb.edu>.

Radio and TV Stations that will carry the UMB Announcement. Please listen to the radio and TV stations rather than call the Public Safety Office phone, as we would like to keep that line free for emergencies.

WBZ TV (Channel 4)

WCVB TV (Channel 5)

WHDH TV (Channel 7)

WRKO AM (680)

WBZ AM (1030)

WUMB FM (91.9)

WBUR FM (90.9)

What the Announcement will say and what it means for Campus Operations:

**University Closed/Classes Canceled** — All classes canceled, all offices and the library closed, only designated and pre-assigned snow day personnel will report at regular time, (Notification by Radio and TV).

**Late Opening** — Campus will open at 11:30 a.m. All morning classes are canceled, classes will resume at 11:30 a.m. Snow day personnel will report at regular time, all others at 10:00 a.m.. (Notification by Radio and TV).

**Evening Classes Canceled** — All classes beginning at 4:00 p.m. are canceled. Snow day personnel will work their regular hours, all others will be allowed to leave by 4:00 p.m. (Notification by Radio and TV). On the campus, the Office of Human Resources will start a telephone tree notification system by notifying Deans and Directors, who will then contact the various units in their areas.

**Weekend Classes:** Class cancellations at off-campus sites due to weather conditions will be announced on local radio stations in communities where sites are located.

**Transportation:** The UMass shuttle from the Campus to JFK station will continue to operate even though classes may be canceled. In the event of an early closing or late opening, the shuttle will continue to operate for several hours after the closing and before the opening. Of course, weather conditions may cause delays.

**Food Services:** Every effort will be made to have some level of service available in the Quinn Building when the Campus is open for operations. Menu may be limited.

**Athletic Events:** If the University closes early, and there is an Athletic contest scheduled, the Athletic Department, after consultation with Public Safety, will determine if the event can occur. If canceled, the Athletic Department will have a recording on the main University phoneline — 617-287-5000.

**Day Care Center:** If the University is closed, the Day Care Center will be closed. If there is an early dismissal the Day Care Center will arrange with the parents for appropriate pick up time.

**Special Events and All Other Activities on the Campus:** If you have need to inquire about the operation of Continuing Education, the Library or any Special Event scheduled to occur on campus during the weekend, you should call the main campus number 617-287-5000 and there will be a recording to provide specific information about these activities or direct you to further information.

Edward Glynn  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
and Provost

Jean MacCormack  
Deputy Chancellor