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University of Massachusetts Boston

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Summer Camp for Kids Gets High Grades

More than 300 boys and girls from Boston are at UMass Boston until August 12 for a highly acclaimed day camp that emphasizes a "fun approach" to learning the importance of personal responsibility. “This isn’t your typical summer camp,” says Rodney Hughes, community coordinator for the University’s Department of Athletics. “We aim to shake things up and keep the kids interested by having real people teach them about real world issues. This is a very structured program.”

Hughes has been chief administrator of the UMass Boston camp for 10 years. The camp was recently ranked among the five best of 177 such programs currently operating nationwide under the aegis of the National Youth Sports Foundation.

The camp, which began on July 11, runs Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A staff of 25 instructors is composed primarily of Boston public school teachers and coaches. They collaborate with some 30 volunteers to provide instruction and organize competitions in a variety of sports.

But the distinguishing feature of the camp is the daily sessions that include frank discussions between young people and professionals from fields that include law enforcement, education, entertainment, health care and the military. This year’s camp schedule includes presentations by National Basketball Association star Dana Barros and officials from the Boston Police Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Boys and girls participate in the camp at no cost. They range in age from 10 to 16 years old and come from Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Roxbury and South Boston. UMass Boston provides daily bus service to and from the campus, as well as breakfast and lunch.

National Youth Sports Foundation camps are supported by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Camps this summer are also held at American International College, Boston College, Springfield College and UMass Lowell.

UMass Boston’s TAG Program Celebrates Ten Years Helping Latinos Attain Academic Success

The University’s TAG program is celebrating its 10th summer of helping Latino students enrolled in Boston middle and high schools achieve academic success. Established in 1985, the Talented and Gifted program provides intensive, year-round instruction to Latinos in a range of subjects.

During the school year, TAG students are tutored daily at their schools by UMass Boston undergraduates. The students also form clubs that meet once a week with their teachers. Last year’s program involved approximately 150 students, a figure that is expected to hold steady for the coming year.

TAG also has an annual four-week summer session at UMass Boston. It consists of five hours of instruction each day in reading and writing, Latin, mathematics and science. The classes are taught by Boston teachers. Other activities include computer workshops and drama classes. This summer 140 TAG students are taking classes at the Harbor Campus until July 29.

TAG’s middle school component is geared toward preparing students for the SSAT exam, which is the basis for admission into Boston’s three elite high schools — Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy and the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science.

At the high school level, TAG’s emphasis is on helping students maintain high grades and stay on track to attend college.

Thirty-one Latinos who graduated in the spring from Boston Latin School spent several years honing their academic skills in TAG. Each will enroll in college in the fall, including such institutions as Barnard College, Boston University, Cornell University, Harvard University, Howard University, New York University, Northeastern University, Wellesley College, UMass Amherst and UMass Lowell.

“One of the main reasons that our program works is its emphasis on working with small groups of students and making certain that the learning experience remains interesting and fun,” says Lucia Mayerson David, a staff associate at the University’s Institute of Learning and Teaching, who founded TAG.

Addy Mayerson David, “We also stress the significance of parental involvement in the education process. Parental influence is a vital part of building an infrastructure that leads to academic success.”

Parents serve as volunteers in the program and maintain close contact with TAG leaders.

Year-round funding for the TAG program is provided by the Boston Public Schools, with additional support from UMass Boston.

Another UMass Boston initiative provides accelerated training to talented Latinos in the third through sixth grades. Project ALERTA, as it is called, was developed five years ago and is modeled after the TAG program. During the school year Project ALERTA provides three hours a week of instruction before and after the regular school day to 240 students in seven elementary schools.

Academic modules focus on creative writing, computers, science and math, drama and culture. Sessions are led by Boston teachers.

A three-week ALERTA summer program at UMass Boston consists of weekday morning classes in mathematics, reading, history and geography. This summer’s ALERTA program runs through July 22 and involves about 70 students. It has an academic focus on marine sciences.

According to Mayerson David, ALERTA is producing students who are better equipped to handle the rigors of the TAG program. “We’re starting to see a lot of students go from one program to the next,” she says. “The continuity strengthens both programs.”

Campus Notes

Thaddeus Wellman of Jamaica Plain has been awarded UMass Boston’s first Iwo Mataudra Grant, which covers the travel costs of a student who spends a year studying in Japan. Wellman will begin a year-long program of study in the fall at Sophia University in Tokyo, where he will work toward a major in Japanese language. Wellman, who is also an English major, holds a 3.7 grade point average at UMass Boston. The Mataudra grant is named after the late president of Japan’s Chukyo University. Another UMass Boston student, sophomore Michael McNamara, has won a $4,100 scholarship to spend the 1994-1995 academic year at Beijing Normal University in China. McNamara, an English major, plans to study Chinese languages. Money for the scholarship comes from a pilot initiative of the National Security Education Program.

Anthony Hall, a professor of history, died on Friday, July 1, following a lengthy illness. He was 70. Hall, who lived in Sherborn, joined the faculty of UMass Boston in 1966 and came to UMass Boston when the two institutions merged in 1967. He had planned to retire next month but was forced to stop teaching in February because of his illness. Hall was a specialist in Japanese language and wrote three books. E.F. Weiss: His Art, Life and Times, Goya: Man Among Kings and Charles III and the Revival of Spain.

The University of Illinois Press will publish history professor William Percy’s forthcoming book Pedantry and Pedagogy in Ancient Greece. Another of Percy’s works, Outing: Shattering the Conspiracy of Silence, has gone into its second printing. Also, Percy is on a national committee to organize events for the first Gay History Month, in October.

Free lunchtime concerts will be held on Wednesdays throughout the summer at Old Harbor Park, located along the shoreline inside the Harbor Point apartment complex. All performances begin at 12:30 p.m., and a shuttle bus to and from the Harbor Campus will pick up concert-goers at 12:15 at the University dock. The next concert, July 20, features The Courage Brothers.

Mc McCormick Institute senior fellows Ian Meric and Joe Slavett discussed World War II at a July 15 workshop for teachers at the John F. Kennedy Library. Meric and Slavett participated in the Allied invasion of Normandy. Several thousand amateur athletes from Massachusetts have been competing at UMass Boston in the 13th annual Bay State Games. The Harbor Campus is one of six sites to host the games, which conclude this weekend.
Chukyo Students Visit Campus To Absorb Language and Culture

Thirty-three students from Chukyo University in Japan will arrive at UMass Boston on July 18 for three weeks of instruction in English language and American culture. This is the fourth year of the summer program, which is coordinated by Jack Hughes, the Division of Continuing Education's director of professional training programs.

The Chukyo students will be at UMass Boston until August 4 to take courses taught by faculty from the University's ESL/Bilingual Studies program and from the music department. The academic coordinator of the program is English department lecturer Michael Buss.

In addition to the classroom instruction, Chukyo students will get a flavor of the local culture by attending a rock concert at the Hatch Shell, hiking in the Berkshires, going to a Red Sox game, and attending a Tanglewood performance of the Boston Symphony conducted by Seiji Ozawa.

Another UMB Student Wins Prestigious Fellowship

A 1994 graduate of UMass Boston has become the University's third chemistry student in five years to win a prestigious summer fellowship from the pharmaceutical manufacturer Pfizer Inc., which bestows grants annually to young researchers in New England.

Andrew Maioli of Dorchester has won the $5,000 award, which he is using to conduct research in organic chemistry at UMass Boston. Maioli holds bachelor's degrees from UMass Boston in chemistry and economics. In the fall he will begin a five-year-long doctoral program in chemistry at Brandeis University.

"This is a very prestigious honor that recognizes the considerable talents of Andrew as well as UMass Boston's strong track record in producing promising scientists," says chemistry professor Jean-Pierre Anselme, who has been directing Maioli's research work.

Maioli is spending the summer at Professor Anselme's laboratories at the UMass Boston campus, where he is investigating the chemical properties of such organic compounds as sulfonylhydrazines and three-pyrazolidinones.

"One of the ultimate goals of this research," explains Maioli, "is that some day it may provide a less expensive replacement to a highly useful but costly compound named diethyl azodicarboxylate, which may prove to be useful in the synthesis of organic compounds such as drugs."

Maioli grew up in Medford and graduated in 1985 from Pope John XXIII High School in Everett. He attended Suffolk University for three semesters, then transferred to UMass Boston and received a bachelor's degree in economics in 1990.

Maioli had then planned to pursue a master's degree in economics at Boston College, but dropped out of the program a few weeks before it started so he could return to UMass Boston to take undergraduate courses in chemistry and physics. "I'd always had a lot of interest in the sciences," he says. "It was a last-minute decision, but I know now it was the right one."

Maioli completed a major in chemistry with a 3.8 grade point average. He received his second UMass Boston undergraduate degree at commencement ceremonies last month. Maioli hopes to some day embark on a career in pharmaceutical research.

In Harmony

According to Lourie, the band has succeeded in staying together because of similar musical tastes and close personal relationships. Lourie is a longtime friend of Garofalo and guitar player Howie Tarnower, who is married to bass player Pam Swift. Keyboard player Mitch Kossak attended graduate school many years ago with Tarnower and Swift. "If we weren't playing music together, we'd be hanging out together," says Lourie.

Much of Garofalo's intellectual energy is devoted to the study of popular music. He's a former president of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music.

Lourie's artistic bent includes poetry, which he writes and reviews as coeditor of Hanging Loose Press, a small company that publishes books of poetry and a literary journal three times a year. Lourie operates Hanging Loose with two other UMass Boston people, Mark Pawlak, a math instructor and director of the CAS tutorial program, and Ron Schreiber, a professor of English. Robert Hershon, a New York City resident, is also involved.

The Boppers have performed at a number of UMass Boston events, including convocation celebrations and Christmas and birthday parties.

It's an Adventure, Not a Job

The Boppers range in age from 38 to 56, and each has a career outside of music. The group generally practices once a week and plays a couple of gigs a month, a workload that suits members. "If you make your living as a musician, you play what people tell you to play," explains Lourie. "With this kind of a band, we get to choose the music we like, and that makes the experience more enjoyable."

Musicians Garofalo and Lourie
Bop to 50's Tunes in Local Rock Band

The Blue Suede Boppers, a 1950s rock and roll band that includes two UMass Boston musicians, will be playing a free concert in Dorchester on Thursday, July 28. The concert will be at Hemenway Park on Adams Street at 7:00 p.m.

Reeree Garofalo, a professor in the Human Services Center at the College of Public and Community Service, is the Boppers' drummer and lead singer. Dick Lourie, an editor in the Publications Office, plays saxophone and trumpet and provides backup vocals.

The five-person band formed seven years ago and travels the local club, concert and party circuit, playing tunes by Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Dion and the Belmonts, Elvis Presley, Fats Domino, The Coasters and Little Richard, among others. The band's Dorchester performance is part of Boston's summer concert series. It will do another free show on Saturday, July 30, at Somerville Art Beat, an annual outdoor festival organized by the city's arts council. That performance will be at 1:00 p.m.

The Boppers are one of 45 musical acts performing in the Hatch Shell performance series at the Esplanade in the 1994-95 season. Other concerts include the Boston Pops, the Boston Symphony, the African-American Children's Chorus and in August the Boston Symphony Orchestra.