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9-30-1994

Friday Report - Vol. 03, No. 23 - September 30, 1994

University of Massachusetts Boston

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Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "Friday Report - Vol. 03, No. 23 - September 30, 1994" (1994).
1991-1996, Friday Report. 67.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_fridayreport/67

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Volume 3
Number 23
September 30, 1994

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

Biologists Win NSF Support For Study That Opens 'New Window' To Deep-Sea Research

Two UMass Boston biologists are using a three-year \$323,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct an unprecedented analysis of the genetic makeup of deep-sea clams and snails.

Assistant professor Ron Etter and professor Michael Rex will utilize an innovative technique for extracting DNA from preserved microscopic-size organisms that live at least 3,000 meters below the surface of the ocean. The technique was developed by Etter, Mary Smith (a technician in Etter's laboratory) and Stanford University molecular biologist Joseph Quattro. It involves extracting and amplifying the DNA — the genetic code that determines characteristics — taken from tiny ocean creatures. These samples will enable scientists to measure genetic variation, which until now has been unattainable.

"The procedure we've developed opens a new window into our explorations of deep-sea life," says Etter, the project's principal investigator. Rex and Quattro are co-principal investigators. A significant portion of the scientists' experiments will be conducted in laboratories at UMass Boston.

Memorial Service Held at Hampshire College For Former UMass President Franklin Patterson

A memorial service was held on Sunday, September 25, at Hampshire College in Amherst for Franklin K. Patterson, a former interim president of the University of Massachusetts. Patterson died on July 13 at his home in Framingham. He was 77. Patterson was a longtime member of the faculty at UMass Boston and served as interim president of what was then the three-campus UMass system for 10 months in 1978. He was succeeded by David Knapp.

Patterson came to UMass Boston in 1971 as the University's Frank L. Boyden Professor of Political Economy and taught courses in political science and public policy until his retirement in 1986. He was

"Right now there's very little known about the genetic makeup of these organisms, and that's why the NSF is interested in our efforts," Etter adds. "The deep-sea environment covers about two-thirds of the Earth's surface, and yet scientists know virtually nothing about the processes that have generated the rich and endemic deep-sea fauna. We're going to be addressing fundamental ecological and evolutionary questions that without DNA extraction technique would be impossible to answer."

Etter, who holds a bachelor's degree from UMass Boston and a Ph.D. from Harvard University, joined the faculty 1991. The NSF and the Office of Naval Research have funded several of his research ventures in ecology and conservation biology.

Rex has a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a Ph.D. from Harvard. He has taught at UMass Boston since 1972 and conducts research on the ecology and evolution of deep-sea organisms. In addition to this latest grant, he also is working on another NSF-funded project on deep-sea snails.

the first president of Hampshire College, serving from 1966 until 1971. He then became chairman of Hampshire's board of trustees. Today a building at the campus is called Franklin Patterson Hall.

Patterson began his career as a high school teacher in California in the 1950s. He then taught at New York University and Tufts University, where during the 1960s he was director of the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs. Patterson held degrees from Occidental College, UCLA and Claremont Graduate School. He was a captain in the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946. In recent years he was a consultant to schools in New Hampshire and Colorado.

Project To Boost Manufacturing Receives Increased Funding

A UMass Boston program that opened in February to assist local manufacturing firms in modernizing operations and becoming more competitive has received a major funding boost from the Massachusetts agency that manages the program. The Greater Boston Manufacturing Partnership, based at the College of Management, has recently had its budget increased from \$70,000 to \$280,000 by Bay State Skills Corporation.

Bay State Skills Corporation is a quasi-public entity that is supported primarily by the U. S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. It also receives funding from the state government. "This is an indication of the quality of the board of trustees that the Partnership has assembled, and the overall confidence that the Partnership has inspired through its successful effort to get up and running," said director Jerry Rubin.

The Partnership recently hired a manufacturing engineer, David Geschwind, as project manager. Geschwind and Rubin are currently helping several local manufacturers improve their productivity. One of the Partnership's current projects involves aiding a metal working firm that is seeking help in reviewing and re-designing its management information systems. A second project involves working with a packaging company to streamline production. In a third project, the Partnership is helping management and employees at several garment factories analyze the way they do business.

The Partnership is also conducting several outreach initiatives. A series of forums for manufacturers will begin with an October 19 session on workforce training, to be held at United Electric Controls in Watertown. Subsequent forums will cover market diversification, quality improvement and mistake proofing, and cellular manufacturing.

Campus Notes

Alix Cantave, director of the Haitian Studies Association based on the campus, has been quoted in numerous newspaper articles exploring the situation in Haiti. Cantave, who was born in Haiti and lived there for 14 years, is enrolled in the University's Ph.D. program in public policy. Also, Jemadari Kamara, a professor of black studies, is teaching two courses this semester on Haiti. The courses are called "Haiti: Politics and Underdevelopment" and "Topics in African-American Studies: Modern Haiti." Cantave is assisting in the presentation of both courses.

McCormack Institute senior fellow Padraig O'Malley appeared recently on

"MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour" to interpret developments in Northern Ireland. He also wrote an article on the topic in the Focus section of *The Boston Sunday Globe*.

Marcia Crowley, director of professional development at the College of Public and Community Service, was recently elected president of the state chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Correction: In the last issue of the *Friday Report*, we incorrectly identified one of the co-directors of the Institute for Asian American Studies. The Institute's co-directors are Connie Chan (human services) and Paul Watanabe (political science).

Full-time employees of UMass Boston are eligible to spend up to seven hours a month out of their regular work schedule to serve as volunteers in public schools. Volunteers are required to receive permission from their supervisor and must attend an orientation program conducted by the participating school district.

Lloyd Schwartz, the University's first Frederick S. Troy Professor of English, has been appointed to the jury that will select three finalists for the 1994 Pulitzer Prize in Criticism. Schwartz won the 1993 Pulitzer in criticism for reviews of classical music he wrote for *The Boston Phoenix*. Also, Schwartz will read from his poetry on October 4 (7:00 p.m.) at the district courthouse on Washington

Street in Brookline; and on October 12 (3:30 p.m.) in Room 222 of the O'Leary building at UMass Lowell.

Political science professor Primo Vanicelli, director of the international relations program, and Malisa Roberts, associate director for credit programs at the Division of Continuing Education, visited three universities in Colombia over the summer to explore the potential for creating student and faculty exchange programs, as well as joint research endeavors.

The next event on the Gaston Institute's fall speaker series will take place on Tuesday, October 4, at noon in the Library Staff Lounge. Louise Jezierski, a sociology

professor at Brown University, will speak on "Organizing an Identity Formation Among Latinos in New England."

Anne McCauley, an associate professor of art, presented a paper this month at a Paris symposium on French photographer Felix Nadar. Nadar's work will be exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City from April 3 to July 9.

The first event of the provost's 1994-1995 Distinguished Lecture Series will be a talk by Floyd (Jack) Fowler, a senior research fellow at the Center for Survey Research, entitled "The Role of Patient Preferences in Medical Care." Fowler will speak at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 3, in the

Chancellor's Conference Room.

Representatives of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will be on campus October 17 to 21 to teach instructors from all grade levels methods for enhancing teaching in the sciences. More than 100 teachers from three states have signed up for the program. Training sessions will be conducted aboard NASA's mobile resource center, a 65-foot truck outfitted with technologically advanced teaching aids. The vehicle will be parked adjacent the McCormack Building. The NASA visit was arranged by geography professor Jack Looney.

More Campus Notes

Peace Corps representatives will be in Room 618 on the third floor of the McCormack Building on Monday, October 3, from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. to answer students' questions.

The McCormack Institute Seminar for Older Adults will feature a talk by visiting fellow Bob Wood on "Options for Boston and Urban America" on Tuesday, October 4, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the JFK Library.

The Boston Network for Women in Politics and Government will hold a night for women candidates on Wednesday, October 5, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the University Club. The network will pay a special tribute to Rep. Susan Tracy of Brighton.

University President Michael K. Hooker will discuss the future of higher education at Lipke Auditorium on Wednesday, October 12, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. His appearance is sponsored by the Faculty Council.

On Saturday, October 1, radio station WUMB is inviting listeners and friends to view foliage during a day-long train and river boat ride from Boston to the Berkshires and Hudson River Valley. Meals and musical entertainment will be provided during the journey. The price is \$365 per couple.

Theatre arts professor John Conlon has recorded on audiotape his novel *The Dickens Murders*, which will be broadcast in January in 24 hour-long installments over the Talking Information Center's radio reading service for the blind.

Over the summer, UMass Boston senior Tasha Baizerman and Anne Marie Collins, a 1994 graduate of the University, addressed the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation on efforts to make diversity training part of the University's curriculum. UMass Boston, which received a grant from the

Ford Foundation supporting diversity programs, was the only institution asked to participate in the meeting.

Professors Oscar Gutierrez of the College of Management and Bette Woody of the College of Public and Community Service have received a grant from the New England Women Business Owners Organization to develop a database of businesses owned by women.

Public safety officers Laura Hayes and Richard Lee this month completed a 25-mile bicycle ride to benefit children at risk. The officers raised \$600 in pledges, some of which came from UMass Boston students and employees.

Jack Archer and Robert Bowen are among five co-authors of a new book called *The Public Trust Doctrine & The Management of America's Coast*. The book examines the English common law doctrine of public trust as an alternative to the right of eminent domain in the management of coastal areas.

Gabriel Grasberg, the University library's chief bibliographer from 1970 through 1993, died September 17 following a lengthy illness. A memorial service will be held at Arlington Street Church in Boston within a few months.

Judy Owens, an administrator in the Office of Special Education and Support Services, has published a collection of her poems in a book titled *Revolutionary Soul*. Owens recently read from her works during a poetry forum at the Wit's End Cafe. She has done several readings outside the campus.

Several members of the "Framingham 8" be at Lipke Auditorium on Wednesday, October 5, at 3:30 p.m. to discuss domestic violence.

NSF Grant of \$536,000 Supports Research Group Led by Villareal

Environmental sciences associate professor Tracy Villareal is the lead member of a four-person research group that has been awarded \$536,000 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to test Villareal's theory of how nitrate, a form of nitrogen, is supplied to the region near the surface of the ocean.

The grant will enable scientists to verify Villareal's theory that certain Pacific Ocean phytoplankton transport nitrogen from deep regions of the Pacific to the ocean's surface and then release it into the air. Villareal, a specialist in phytoplankton ecology, first stated his theory last year in an article he wrote published in the science journal *Nature*.

Villareal, whose portion of the grant amounts to \$178,960, is the lead principal investigator on the three-year project. The other principal investigators are Mark Altabet of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; Fred Lipschultz of the Bermuda Biological Station; and Cindy Pilskaln, an oceanography professor at the University of Maine at Orono. Two others from UMass Boston will take part in the research: George Gardner, a research associate in the environmental sciences program, and graduate student Leanne Joseph, who will incorporate some aspects of the research into her thesis.

Month-Long Trip Across the Pacific

Next summer the researchers will sail a research vessel from Japan to Hawaii and conduct their experiments during a 33-day journey throughout the northern

regions of the Pacific Ocean. In the summer of 1996, the group will perform the same experiments while travelling from Hawaii to California. It then will take at least a year to analyze the data, according to Villareal.

As part of their efforts, researchers will check for the presence of phytoplankton in deep waters by submerging a remote control vehicle that dives several hundred meters deep and transmits video images to the research vessel. Near the water's surface, the scientists will scuba dive to collect phytoplankton.

Solving a Sea Mystery

If his theory is proven accurate, Villareal says, it would help decipher part of the mystery of how nitrogen is cycled in the ocean. "We can't yet figure out how all of the nitrate in this near-surface region of the ocean gets there," he says. "Perhaps this will help us account for some of it."

This is the second major NSF award supporting Villareal's continuing studies of how carbon and nitrogen are transported in the ocean and atmosphere. He and a biologist from the University of California at Santa Barbara have received \$420,000 for a three-year analysis of how these phytoplankton cycle silicate. Villareal received his undergraduate training at Texas A&M University and has a Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography. He joined the faculty at UMass Boston in 1991.

Charity Drive to Start Oct. 3

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employee's Campaign (COMEC) will hold its 1994 fund drive from October 3 to November 30. UMass Boston employees will be receiving by October 14 a COMEC pledge card and a booklet which lists the numerous charitable organizations to which donations can be earmarked. Contributions can be made by check or money order, or through payroll deduction.

State workers last year donated \$1.5 million to COMEC. UMass Boston employees contributed \$20,861. COMEC's campus representatives are: Vincent Cristiani (Wheatley Hall), Len Konarski (McCormack Building), Henry Mariani (Science Building), Albis Mejia (Quinn Administration Building and Clark Athletic Center), and Louisa Tseng (Healey Library). Other COMEC committee members include Sue Kim, Becky Lam Hsu and Muriel Ridley. The campus campaign chair is Harold Horton (Trotter Institute).

Gerontology Institute's Profile Of Elders' Advocate Frank Manning To Air on PBS Next Month

The Gerontology Institute and the WGBH Educational Foundation have collaborated on a film documentary about the late Frank Manning, who was the catalyst in turning Massachusetts' senior citizen population into a politically influential group.

"Old Warrior," a 30-minute production, will air on Channel 2 on Monday, October 3, at 10:00 p.m., and on Channel 44 on Wednesday, October 5, at 9:00 p.m. The film is written and produced by Joshua Seftel, who won numerous awards for "Lost and Found: The Story of Romania's Forgotten Children."

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