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### University Reporter - Vol. 03, No. 02 - October 1998

University of Massachusetts Boston

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#### Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "University Reporter - Vol. 03, No. 02 - October 1998" (1998).  
*1996-2009, University Reporter*. 68.  
[https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university\\_reporter/68](https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_reporter/68)

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# Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 3  
Number 2  
October 1998

## Center Promotes Social and Educational Success in School

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Not long ago, Gary Siperstein, director of the Center for Social Development and Education sat in a high school lunchroom, and watched the dynamics. "The social forces unleashed there were amazing," he recalls. "You can learn a lot about how a kid functions by watching what happens in the lunchroom. For kids who are not connected, that's a key place where stress occurs," he adds.

The Center for Social Development and Education has been on the forefront of research into how the social aspects of a child's educational experience influences their learning. Two new projects will put into practice the findings of the Center's ten years of research into the social issues that face children in early adolescence.

One initiative, the Promoting Social Success Program, aims to provide to children with cognitive delays the skills and support they may need to successfully join in a regular education classroom. The program focuses on 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. "Just because these children are being physically included into a regular education classroom, doesn't mean social inclusion," says Siperstein. "Often, it means that these children are more alone, more challenged."

Project staff will provide training to classroom teachers and staff—including bus driver, school lunch aides and teachers aides—who work and interact with children with cognitive delays, as well as technical assistance to teachers and special education teachers, and training materials and workshops for parents. Stipends, professional development points, and graduate course credit will serve as incentives for teacher and staff participation.

The project will last for a minimum of three years, and will establish partnerships between the Center and public elementary schools in the Greater Boston area. This project is funded by the Joseph P. Kennedy

*continued on page 12*

## The University Reporter

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The *University Reporter* is published monthly during the academic year except for the months of June, July and August by the Office of University Communications. It is free to all UMass Boston faculty, staff and students.

Send your news items to:  
The *University Reporter* at the  
above mailing or e-mail  
address.

## Editorial Policy for the *University Reporter*

The *University Reporter* is published by the Office of University Communications (OUC) at the University of Massachusetts Boston on the first Monday of every month from September-May. This newsletter is free to all members of the University community (students, faculty and staff) and is also distributed to outside constituencies. The purpose of this publication is to celebrate the mission of the University by providing information on events, faculty, student and staff accomplishments, feature stories, administrative and academic changes, and all aspects of campus life. We welcome submissions from the University. The deadline for *campus notes* and *spotlights* information is the second Friday of the month. Story ideas should be submitted by the first of the month, as issues are planned one month in advance.

The editor, along with the editorial staff of the OUC, determines how and what news will be covered in each issue. The Associate Chancellor for Enrollment Services and University Communications is the publisher of the *University Reporter*. Central Duplicating is responsible for printing the *University Reporter*.

## Staff Changes in the Office of University Communications

On September 11, Stacey Carter-Lane left her position as Web Communications Specialist to accept a public relations position at the Department of Agriculture in Columbia, Maryland. Stacey served the University for 18 months and was a great asset to the Office of Public Information during her tenure. We wish her the best of luck and success.

Joyce Doyle of Marshfield, MA will join the Office of University Communications as a senior staff writer on October 5. Joyce brings several years of journalism experience to the job. She is the former senior editor of *Mariner Newspapers*. Joyce received her bachelor's degree from Fairfield University. We are looking forward to working with her in the Communications Office and to the contributions she will make to the University.

## Correction

In last month's *University Reporter*, Professor Richard Hogarty was mistakenly identified as the director of the Doctoral Program in Public Policy (pg.6). Prof. Carol Upshur is director of that program, and Prof. Hogarty is director of the Masters of Science in Public Affairs Program. In addition, the article on administrative changes (pg. 5) should have noted that Prof. Kiran Verma of the Accounting and Finance department, College of Management, has been appointed associate provost.



# In Depth With The Minority Business Assistance Center

"I know I earned \$1 million in sales last year, but I don't know where the money went," is a complaint many small business owners might dream one day would issue from their lips. Helping small business owners answer this and other questions is at the heart of the Minority Business Assistance Center's (MBAC) mission: to provide start-up and growth assistance to minority entrepreneurs in the Commonwealth.

Counseling business owners and helping them develop business plans, marketing plans, and cash flow analyses are just some of the services that the MBAC offers. Although the Center targets and markets to minorities, its services are available to anyone who walks in their door or calls for an appointment.

"All the centers do free one-on-one counseling for anyone who wants to start or grow a business," says Henry Turner director of the MBAC, "but our expertise lies in assisting minority entrepreneurs, especially in the Boston area." He and management counselor Linda Johnson provided 1700 hours of counseling services last year, which translates into approximately 300 clients served. Support staff at the Center include Sheila Jones, administrative assistant, and work-study student Jaime Mendez.

In addition to one-on-one counseling, the Center also offers low-cost workshops and seminars.

These fall into two basic categories. "Getting Started in Business" is a free, three-hour seminar offered twice a month for aspiring entrepreneurs. This seminar offers practical information, such as how to determine what licenses, taxes and fees apply to a new business, the forms of business organizations, the significance of business plans, and a guide to writing one. It is co-sponsored by Fleet Bank.

Twice a year, the MBAC also offers a twelve-week training program, "NxLevel for Business Start-ups" (offered in the Fall) or "NxLevel for Entrepreneurs" (offered in the Spring) designed for individuals thinking about starting a business who need to develop a start-up business plan which test the feasibility of their ideas, and acts as a blueprint for a start-up venture.

"Our philosophy is that people who succeed in business are people who write business plans," says Turner. "Across the nation, people who write business plans create more jobs, pay more taxes, and have lower closure rates for their businesses," he adds. The next session of NxLevel training begins October 22.

In addition to counseling and workshops, Turner and his staff work collaboratively with others in the University. Turner will be assisting Paul Camacho, director of special projects at the Joiner Center, in a study of ways to increase small business opportunities for disabled veterans. The

MBAC also recruits the services of College of Management faculty and students in the service of client needs. For example, Profs. Mary Ann Machanic of the Management and Marketing Department and Thomas Hogan of the Accounting and Finance Department have assisted clients of the Center.

The MBAC is a regional office of the Massachusetts Small Business Development Centers Network, which is headquartered at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Other centers in the network are located at UMass Dartmouth, Boston College, Salem State College, and Clark University. Federal and state support for the centers come from a partnership of the U.S. Small Business Administration and Massachusetts' Executive Office of Economic Affairs.

Turner's own experience as an entrepreneur began in the early 80s when he left the teaching profession to become part-owner of a telecommunications company, CAR-TED Industries, Inc. He sold his interest in the company in 1985, and planned to play racketball and spend time with his children. However, an acquaintance at the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center at UMass Lowell recruited Turner as a counselor. From 1991-94, he directed Boston University's small business development center while he earned an MBA from BU. The MBAC relocated to UMass Boston from the Boston Bank of Commerce in 1994, the same year that Turner was appointed director.



## Enrollment Goal for Fall '98 Surpassed

The new school year is off to a strong start with a substantial increase in enrollment. The goal established last year to bring our total student population to 12,000 has been surpassed. At the conclusion of the add/drop period, our total enrollment is projected to exceed 12,400.

The enrollment numbers represent an increase of more than 10% over Fall '97. Of this 12,400, approximately 2200 are new students. A variety of new undertakings are credited with the increase. For the first time, the university launched a coordinated advertising campaign, which included radio, cable tv, print ads, and MBTA posters. Together, each medium presented a consistent message designed to reinforce the University's image and reputa-

tion. Further showcasing the University system was a series of radio and television spots developed by the President's Office.

Other initiatives included a variety of campus-wide events for prospective and transfer students. Enrollment Services hosted several meetings of the Urban Collaborative, a student service-oriented partnership of the University and several community colleges.

Efforts from the Offices of Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Aid Services, and Merit-Based Scholarships also contributed to the enrollment success. Earlier outreach and quicker responses from each office allowed students ample time to weigh their options, and left them with a positive impression of the University.

The Joint Admission Program also had an impact on increasing enrollment. Through this program, students who meet the appropriate criteria are granted admission to UMass Boston while still working toward their associate's degree at a participating community college. Joint Admission students who have a high enough grade point average may qualify to participate in the Tuition Advantage Program (TAP) and received a one third reduction in their tuition costs here.

According to Katheen Teehan, associate chancellor for enrollment Services and university communications, "Surpassing the 12,000 goal was a result of much planning and strategizing and the work of many departments and individuals."

—by Kelly McLaughlin

## International Students Welcomed at Conference

For international students enrolled at UMass Boston, a first-time conference on September 2 served as an official welcome "to the University, to Boston, and to the United States," according to Michael Mahan, coordinator of International Student Services. Organized by Mahan and Lurlene Van Buren, assistant to the coordinator, the event was held in the University Club as part of international student orientation, and attracted approximately 120 students representing 33 countries.

Attended by new undergraduate and graduate international and exchange students, the theme of the conference was cultural adjustment. Students were

provided with information on housing, banking, insurance, and immigration issues. They were introduced to student life opportunities at the University, encouraged to get to know one another, and invited to participate in a discussion about cultural issues. The discussion was lead by J. Scott Van der Meid, who directs European study abroad programs at Boston University's Office of International Programs.

Provost Richard Lyons gave the opening remarks. Included in the audience was a student from the Czech Republic sponsored by philanthropist Charles Merrill, and two exchange students from the prestigious Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques in Paris, France.

In addition to the conference, the Office of International Student Services is planning several initiatives addressing the needs of international students. One is a collaborative effort between the office and the Clinical Psychology Department. PhD. Candidate Laura Wald is currently overseeing a series of workshops addressing cultural issues.

The International Student Conference will be held again for new students in January and at the beginning of every semester thereafter. The Office for International Student Services is located on the third floor of McCormack Hall, in the University Advising Center.

—by Kelly McLaughlin



# African Nation Rocked by Coup During Professor's Visit

In June of this year, Donaldo Macedo, director of the ESL/Bilingual Graduate Program, travelled to the small African nation of Guinea-Bissau. Macedo, who is originally from Africa, is often invited there to help with educational issues. He had planned to assist in the development of a university system, but his plans were soon diverted.

Shortly into his stay, the impoverished, but seemingly peaceful nation was rocked by a military coup. Chaos reigned as thousands attempted to flee the country. Constant shelling and firefights made any efforts to evacuate virtual suicide missions. UN workers feared that those risking escape would have no chance in the now devastated capital of Bissau. What days ago had been a thriving metropolis was now a mere pile of rubble. Macedo was one of those trapped.

"We were on a dock," he recalls with a calmness that belies the intensity of the experience. "Over four thousand people trying to escape, being bombed every half-hour by the rebels. We were like sitting ducks. Just ten minutes before I boarded the ship to leave, a missile just missed the ship and us by about 50 yards."

The supposed refuge and passage to safety of the transport ship also proved to be a grueling ordeal. Two thousand people were "packed like sardines under the tropical sun" onto a container ship meant for 1100 with no food, little water, and only two bathrooms, as missiles rained down around the vessel.

"That was the worst moment," he recounts. "Trying to get out from the dock to the ship and then in the ship for about 30 hours to Senegal... There were two or three critical moments during this time that bombs were exploding so near to us that I didn't think that I was going to make it."

From Senegal those fleeing were transported to Portugal and from there to the United States. Macedo credits UMass Boston officials for intervening to facilitate his escape when the US embassy was surprisingly slow to respond. The Portuguese government was also helpful during this difficult time. Finally, after nearly ten days of hell, he made it home alive.

For Macedo, this harrowing experience validated and made more urgent what he sees as the crucial role of the educator in an increasingly global culture. "In fact," he says, "it intensified my

commitment to work towards a world that is less ugly, more just, and more democratic. With all the ugliness that I saw, and the despair, and the fear, it gave me the conviction that it is important that all of us be activists working toward saving our endangered humanity. That, after all, is all we have. It reinforced my commitment to work for a place like UMass that is trying to make a difference in peoples lives."

Along with this strengthened commitment is a desire to return to Guinea-Bissau.

"It would be very difficult because the level of openness and lack of fear I had in travelling the country and meeting people will not be the same. But the people are enormously beautiful open, and giving. I think the risk would be well taken."

Macedo sums up the lessons learned best when he states simply, "We are first human beings. Then we are advocates. But, we must remember that life is only worth living in a context that is humane."

—by Mike Lally

*This is an excerpt from a longer article which will appear in the 1998 Fall/Winter issue of UMass Boston magazine.*



### UMass Boston Team Remembers Colleague at Breast Cancer Walk

On Sunday, October 4, colleagues, friends and family of Mary Ann Allard, who died of breast cancer in July, will join the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk" in her honor.

Allard, who was the director of the McCormack Institute's Center for Social Policy, was a steadfast supporter of breast cancer research and awareness, and a participant herself in past walks as part of the UMass Boston team. All money raised this year by the "UMass Boston/Mary Ann Team" will be donated to the American Cancer Society in Allard's name.

"This year we've had the highest turnout, 75 people are walking," says Claire Poirier of Human Services, who organizes the walk. This is the third year that a UMass Boston team has participated in the five-mile fundraiser.

### Swedish Fellowship Awarded to Prof. Kingston-Mann

Prof. Esther Kingston-Mann, American Studies and Department of History, has been awarded a fellowship from the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden, for the fall semester. She is one of nine scholars from the United States, England, India and South Africa who will be in residence.

Kingston-Mann will use her fellowship to build upon the research findings that appear in her forthcoming book, *In Search*

*of the True West: Culture, Economics, and Problems of Russian Development* (Princeton, 1998). She will examine the history of Russia's engagement with western economic models in the light of the westernization experiences of selected third world nations.

### Anniversary of Disability Act Section 504 to be Celebrated in October

Carol DeSouza, ADA Compliance Officer and current president of AHEAD will attend the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the signing of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The event takes place in Washington D.C., in mid-October. DeSouza will represent disability issues at the higher education level.

In August, DeSouza met with staff members of the Departments of Education, Special Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services, and the Office of Civil Rights, in a planning session for the event. "Section 504 was first civil rights legislation for persons with disabilities, and part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in all programs and services of institutions receiving federal assistance, and is the basis for Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990," says DeSouza.

### Future of Financial Services Industry Topic of Conference

On Oct. 27, the College of Management will host a conference, "The Future of the Financial Services Industry." National and local industry experts will discuss this topic at the day-long

conference, which will be held at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library. It is co-sponsored by UMass Boston's College of Management, the UMass President's Office, and State Street Bank and Trust Company.

There will be two keynote addresses. "Blurring the Distinctions in Financial Services: Regulatory Implications," will be given by Dr. Roger Ferguson, Jr., member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Robert Mahoney, vice chairman of the Citizen's Financial Group will speak on "U.S. Banking: What's Next?"

A panel discussion will include participants Lawrence Edelman, business editor of *The Boston Globe*; Lawrence Franko, professor of finance and strategic management, UMass Boston; Kathleen Graveline, senior vice president, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company; Timothy Harbert, president, State Street Global Advisors; and David Weinstein, chief of administration and government affairs, Fidelity Investments. Panel moderator will be Cathy Minehan, president and ceo of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. For more information and registration materials, call 287-7702.

### DisRes Graduate Student Conference Held Here Oct. 23-24

An opportunity for graduate students in the field of dispute resolution to share ideas, network, and meet with experts in the field is the purpose of a conference, "Conflict Studies: The New Generation of Ideas,"



which will take place on campus October 23-24.

Papers presented at the conference were chosen by a committee of experts and students, in response to a call for papers in the Spring of 1998. In addition to the paper sessions, plenary sessions on effective teaching in conflict studies and on career opportunities will be held.

The conference banquet will feature a keynote address by Deborah Kolb of the Center on Gender in Organizations at Simmons College, and an award for the conference best paper. For more information, contact the graduate programs in dispute resolution office at 7-7415.

#### **ECOS Shuttle Takes First Voyage in August**

The ECOS Shuttle, launched by Prof. Robert Chen, Research Associate Bernie Gardner, and five graduate students, took its first voyage in Boston Harbor this summer. The instrument-packed, 350 lb. "fish," which is towed behind a research vessel, was constructed on campus and field tested in Boston Harbor.

Instruments on the shuttle send back information on seawater temperature, dissolved oxygen, fluorescence, turbidity and salinity, back to computers on the research ship. The ECOS Shuttle then went on a week-long research cruise in Delaware Bay during August. Chen expects to conduct research with the shuttle in San Francisco and San Diego Bays in Spring of 1999.

#### **Agency Director to Speak on Global Warming Challenges and Solutions**

Brian J. Atwood, Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (U.S. AID) will come to campus on Tuesday, October 6, to speak on "Global Solutions to Meet the Climate Change Challenges." His talk will take place at 3:00 p.m. in the Faculty Club, 11th floor, Healey Library.

Both industrial and developing nations contribute to and suffer the consequences of global climate change. Mr. Atwood is a key U.S. leader in this area, and will discuss the United States' initiatives and assistance to foreign countries to help meet these challenges. Mr. Atwood's visit is sponsored by the Urban Harbors Institute. For more information, contact the Urban Harbors Institute at 7-5570.

#### **Welcome Week '98 Helps New Students get Oriented**

The first weeks of classes were enlivened by a campus community effort to welcome all new students for the fall semester. During the six days of the add/drop period, an information table was staffed in each building, and a variety of events and activities were scheduled. Many students and staff wore "Ask Me" badges to help new members of our community find their way on campus.

This event was coordinated by Kelly Clark in Student Life, Hannah Gilman in the Advising Center, and LaVerne Cawthorne in Administration and Finance. However, many other people—

students and staff—were critical to the success of Welcome Week. Many thanks to all who participated. Another Welcome Week is planned for January.

#### **Obituary**

*Professor Edward Strickland*

Professor Edward Strickland, a member of the department of psychology faculty since 1974, died on September 16. Retired since 1995, Prof. Strickland will be remembered for distinguished service as a faculty member, chairing the former Black Studies Program, developing a course in the psychology of the Afro-American experience, and serving campus affirmative action and equal opportunity programs.

Prof. Strickland received his bachelor's, masters and doctoral degrees from New York University. He specialized in visual perception, teaching courses in perception and experimental methods. An artist as well as an academic, he continued to paint until the last few months of his life. His art criticism appeared in *ART New England*, *The Bay State Banner*, *the Boston Globe* and *Smithsonian* magazine. He was a mentor and role model for students, and an admired colleague.

Check out what's new in Administrative Re-Design on the ARD website at [http://www.umb.edu/NEWS\\_AND\\_EVENTS/ard](http://www.umb.edu/NEWS_AND_EVENTS/ard)



## Publications

CPCS Prof. **Clark Taylor's** book, *Return of Guatemala's Refugees: Reweaving the Torn*, has been published by Temple University Press.

Music Prof. **Joseph Dyer** had several articles on medieval chants appear in volumes 7 and 8 of the new edition of the German music encyclopedia, *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*.

"The Straight Goods," an essay by English Prof. **Linda Dittmar**, appears in *The Passionate Camera: Photography and Bodies of Desire*, published by Routledge.

CPCS Prof. **Carla Johnson's** 6th book, *Global News Access: The Impact of New Communications Technologies*, was published by Greenwood Publishing Group in July.

**Kevin Bowen's** second collection of poetry, *Forms of Prayer at the Hotel Edison*, was published by Curbstone Press in September. Bowen, director of the Joiner Center along with Joiner associate **Nguyen Ba Chung** and Bruce Weigl edited a bi-lingual collection of poetry, *Mountain River: Vietnamese Poetry from the Wars*, published in September by University of Massachusetts Press.

English Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz** has had two poems published. "Grief" appeared in the *Western Humanities Review*, and "Who's on First?" was included in the anthology, *The Handbook of Heartbreak: 101 Poems of Lost Love and Sorrow*, edited by poet-laureate Robert Pinsky and published by William Morrow.

Modern Languages Prof. **Edythe Haber's** book, *Mikhail Bulgakov: The Early Years*, has been published by Harvard University Press.

English department alumnus **Richard E. Miller's** book, *As If Learning Mattered*, has been published by Cornell University Press.

Officer **Richard W. Lee** of the Public Safety Office wrote an article, "The Move Toward Community Policing for a Safer Campus," published in the July/August issue of *Campus Law Enforcement Journal*.

Psychology Prof. **Elizabeth Roemer** co-authored an article, "Increases in Retrospective Accounts of War-Zone Exposure Over Time," in the *Journal of Traumatic Stress* in July.

English Prof. **Patricia Powell's** third novel, *The Pagoda*, has been published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Psychology Prof. **Ester Shapiro** was coordinating editor for *Nuestros Cuerpos/ Nuestras Vidas*, the Spanish adaptation of *Our Bodies Ourselves*, which will be published in June, 1999 by Ballantine/Random House.

Psychology Prof. **Amy Weisman** has co-authored two articles, "Evaluation of Therapist Competence and Adherence to Behavior Family Management with bipolar patients" in *Family Process*, and "Expressed Emotions, Attributions and schizophrenia symptom dimensions" in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.

Prof. **Andres Torres**, acting director of the Gastón Institute, has co-edited a book, *The Puerto Rican Movement: Voices from the Diaspora*, published by Temple University Press.

Sociology Prof. **Stephanie Hartwell** was co-author of "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Among Connecticut Youth: Implications for Adolescent Medicine and Public Health," published in *Connecticut Health*.

University Research Prof. **Spencer Di Scala** of the history department has co-authored a new book, *European Political Thought, 1815-1989*, published by Westview Press. A second edition of his 1995 book, *Italy: From Revolution to Republic, 1700 to the Present*, has also been published.

Conferences and Presentations

Psychology Prof. **Ester Shapiro** was invited to El Salvador to attend a conference on social violence sponsored by the United Nations Development Program and the Department of Education. She presented papers on grief and war, and on violence prevention programs for adolescents.

Assistant Vice Chancellor **Anita Miller**, chapter advisor to the Golden Key National Honor Society, attended the Society's International Convention in Los Angeles during August. She was accompanied by students **Linda Mason**, chapter president, and **Brian Chandley**, chapter secretary.

English Prof. **Linda Dittmar** was invited to participate at Tel Aviv's Second International Colloquium in Cinema Studies in June, and presented a paper, "Regimes of Longing: Staggered Narration and the Persistence of Vision."

Dr. **Harlyn Halvordson**, director, PCMBT, chaired a session on policy, politics and marine resources at the 18th annual meeting of Association for Politics and Life Sciences in September. He presented a paper, "The Politics of Marine Aquaculture in the United States: Finding Socially and Environmentally Acceptable Solutions," and ECOS doctoral student Jean Poitras presented "Integrated Coastal Management Partnerships."

Music Prof. Joseph Dyer presented a paper, "The Eleventh Century Epistolary of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere," at a Fordham University Symposium, *The Liturgy of Rome in the Eleventh Century* in September.

English graduate student Krystyna Colburn presented a paper, "Collecting: Virginia Woolf, Elizabeth Bishop, and Bessie Head," at the International Virginia Woolf Conference in June.

**Zehra Schneider Graham**, environmental coordinator of the Environmental Health and Safety Office, gave a presentation at the 216th Annual Meeting of the American Chemical Society, "Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Reform Efforts for Laboratories."



English Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz** taught workshops in reading aloud at the Joiner Center and at the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center during the summer.

Sociology Prof. **Russell Schutt** was co-author of a paper, "Housing Preferences of Homeless Mentally Ill Persons: A Paradox for Mental Health Policy," presented at the August meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco.

#### Awards and Honors

Five scholarships from the Betty Taymor Fund for the Education of Women in Politics and Government have been awarded to the following members of the Women in Politics and Government Program: **Kristen Andriola, Carline Desire, Suzanne DuMont, Maura Greaney, and Myriam Ortiz Piniero.**

Nursing Prof. **Kristine Alster** receives the Distinguished Alumna Award for Excellence in Nursing from her alma mater, Illinois Wesleyan University, on October 10.

The **New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE)** has been chosen by the Ford Foundation to evaluate the Foundation's major initiative to improve social science instruction and curriculum. Initiative members are Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, and Stanford Universities, the Universities of Chicago, Pennsylvania, California at Los Angeles and Minnesota, and Pomona, Carleton, and Bryn Mawr Colleges.

**Bernadette Levasseur**, staff member of the Wheatley Copy Center, won second prize for her watercolor, "Coastguard Beach," and an honorable mention for her mixed media, "Moving Sand," at a juried art show held by the Quincy Art Association.

The **College of Management** received an honorable mention for integrating environmentalism into the curriculum in the report, "Grey Pinstripes with Green Ties: MBA Programs Where the Environment Matters," published by the World Resources Institute.

Prof. **Gerald Garrett** of Sociology and the Criminal Justice Program has assumed the presidency of the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences, and has chosen the Society's theme for the year, "Confronting Alcohol/Drug -Related Crime."

Art Prof. **Sam Walker** has been juried into two major international print competitions, The Silvermine Print Biennial in New Canaan, Ct., and the World Print Festival in Ljubljana, Slovenia. A solo exhibit of his work will be held at the Immig Gallery, Emmanuel College, Boston, from Oct. 14 - Nov. 12

CPCS Prof. **Herman Hemingway** was recently reappointed to the Governor's African American Advisory Commission until December, 1999. He also organized a series of workshops on the American legal system for 20 visiting judges from China, hosted by the McCormack Institute.

**Kevin Bowen**, director of the Joiner Center, received a Massachusetts Cultural Council Award for fiction in July.

English Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz** received the Greater Boston Business Council's 1998 Award for Individual Excellence in June.

#### On Stage and Screen

Theater Arts Prof. and UMass Boston alum **Steve Sweeney** currently appears in the films, *There's Something About Mary* and *Next Stop, Wonderland*, and in ads for Honey Dew Donuts.

Theater Arts Prof. **John Conlon** appeared as Polonius in a production of *The Essential Hamlet*, directed by alumnus **Michael O'Halloran**, at the Boston Center for the Arts on September 22.

#### In the News...

"It's a Field of Dreams Labor Market," an article co-authored by Political Science Prof. **Barry Bluestone**, appeared in *The Boston Sunday Globe* on September 6

Prof. **Richard Hogarty**, senior fellow, McCormack Institute, was interviewed by reporter Bill Shields of *WBZ TV* channel 4, prior to the release of the Starr Report, regarding the presidential crisis and prior impeachment attempts.

#### Appointments

**Beth Marshall** was appointed director of personnel administration for the Office of Human Resources in September. She comes to campus from UCLA, where she was director of human resources for the Department of Continuing Education. She received her Master's Degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh.

#### Grants

ECOS Profs. **William Robinson** and **Jack Archer** are co-investigators on a faculty and graduate student educational exchange grant funded for 2 years by the European Community and the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE). Three European institutions (the Universities of Wales, Seville, and Genoa), and three U.S. institutions (UMass Boston and the Universities of Delaware and Miami), each with graduate programs in coastal and ocean affairs are participating. The \$400k grant will also fund internships for ECOS students in non-governmental organizations and international agencies.

#### Dissertation Defense

**Jean M. Cummiskey**, doctoral candidate in the Public Policy PhD program defended her dissertation, "Risk Perception and the Generation of Public Policy: Case Analyses of Smoking and Septic System Regulations in Massachusetts," on September 28.



# Haiti Today Program's Inaugural Trip Reveals Nation's Rich Traditions

**"This experience opened up a whole new world for me."**

**— Charles Joyce,  
Haiti Today Student**

Under the direction of the Africana Studies Department, the Haiti Today Program offered by the Division of Continuing Education made its first trip to Haiti this August. Participants studied Haiti from literary, economic, cultural, and political perspectives; spent three weeks with award-winning Haitian author Edwidge Danticat; and worked together to develop a lively educational presentation for over 200 Haitian children. In short, the inaugural trip was an overwhelming success.

Africana Studies Professor Marc Prou couldn't be happier. The program represents his dream of introducing students to the richness of Haitian culture in person, giving them a chance to extend their study into the streets and countryside of Haiti. Prou explained, "The real objective of this program is to help demystify Haiti and dispel the many misconceptions some Americans have about Haiti." The way to do this, Prou suggests, is to bring them into direct contact with the very people, places, and culture that they are studying. Working with the Division of Continuing Education, Prou and Haitian Studies Association Director Alix Cantave together developed a program designed to engage students in an intensive course of study, on-site at the American

University of the Caribbean in Les Cayes, a scenic center for port commerce in the southern peninsula of the country.

Although students enjoyed the warm Caribbean waters and lush scenery, their experience involved rigorous study and considerable course work. "This program is not a travel tour," explained Prou. "It is part of global education. It exposes students to the country and the richness of its culture, its history, and its people" he added.

Like other Continuing Education international programs of study, the Haiti Today Program combines classroom learning with on-site exploration, visits from guest speakers, and first-hand experience in the country to deepen students' understanding of classroom concepts.

Student Charles Joyce reported, "We would have some kind of classwork every day, discussion, and trips to points of interest. It was very demanding. Some of the work was done in small groups. We discussed aspects of the course and made presentations. It was a group of very high caliber students."

Cantave stated, "There is no other program like this in the country. There are professors who do trips, but this is really a comprehensive course." The uniqueness of the program may well explain the distances many were willing to travel to partici-

pate. Among others, the program attracted Oona Burke, an anthropology major from the University of Chicago, as well as Ph.D. candidates Joanne Hyppolite and Natasha Tinsley from the University of Miami and the University of California, Berkeley, respectively.

Hyppolite, who is also a 1997 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Boston's Haitian Creole Institute and an author of children's books, reflected on the program's capstone experience: "We came up with this idea to do a literary and cultural activity, a presentation for the kids in Les Cayes. We wanted to give something back to the community." The children's activities included singing, poetry, and a fiction reading by Hyppolite, who read from her first book, *Seth and Samona*.

Program participants were happy to give something to the children in Les Cayes, and grateful for the welcome they received from the community at large. Many commented on the generosity of their hosts in Haiti and the depth of their program experience.

Joyce remarked, "This experience opened up a whole new world for me. My neighbors are from Haiti. I now see the whole thing. I have a much greater understanding of them and where they are from."  
*—by Anne-Marie Kent*



## Forum for 21st Century Examines Charter, Pilot Schools

Proponents of charter and pilot schools held the floor at the September 17 Forum for the 21st Century, "A Look at Charter and Pilot Schools: What are We Learning?" There was a high level of consensus that charter and pilot schools are pathfinding new ways to deliver quality education to public school students in Boston. They are successfully forging new communities of learning, aided by small size, the freedom to hire staff who are motivated and entrepreneurial, and the flexibility to use their time and budget as they see fit in pursuit of the school's mission.

However, questions and cautions were raised. How, for example, do good ideas from charter and pilot schools get transmitted into

the public schools? According to Sarah Kass, co-founder and president of the City on a Hill Charter School, it is unleashing the energy and entrepreneurship of teachers "that can establish systemic change."

Bak Fun Wong, deputy superintendent for clusters and school leaders, Boston Public Schools, agreed, and said that certain elements of school success are well recognized: let teachers be the best they can be, and focus on the needs of children.

"We must encourage and stimulate each other... there are many initiatives going on in the Boston Public Schools—grants, after school and home collaboration programs, and many rules and

regulations we want to throw out. I don't know if we need more charter and pilot schools, if we are all doing this work," he said.

Besides Kass and Wong, the first forum of the 1998-99 academic year featured panelists Scott Hartle, director, the Harbor School, Kevin Andrews, headmaster, Neighborhood House Charter School, Stacey Boyd, founding director, Academy of the Pacific Rim, with moderator Daniel Cheever, president of Simmons College, and commentators Daniel French, Executive Director, Center for Collaborative Education, and Scott Hamilton, Associate Commissioner for Charter Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education.

## Students Rate Importance of Campus Services

During spring semester, 844 students responded to a survey to assess the services provided by the Office of Student Life, Athletics, Health Services, and the UMass Boston Day Care Center—all services for which students pay fees. The vast majority indicated that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the services they received or the activities in which they participated.

An overwhelming majority of respondents indicated they felt it was "very important" or "important" for the University to continue to offer the same level of services even if it meant that students would incur the increased cost of doing so.

Conducted by the Division of Student Affairs with the assistance of the Office of Institutional Research, the survey was developed and designed to measure both satisfaction level and willingness to support fee-based operations of the division. Over a period of seven days in early May, surveys were distributed to students campus-wide and at the four points of service.

An analysis of the surveys revealed several other key points. First, the rankings of "very satisfied" and "satisfied" extended to all four areas.

A higher percentage of female respondents than male respon-

dents indicated that they considered it to be "very important" that the University continue to provide these Student Affairs services. This was the result in all areas except athletics.

Two areas were determined to warrant further study. The sample profiled did not reflect the graduate student population. Additionally, more accurate data on day care is needed. Most respondents were not users of the day care services.

—by Kelly McLaughlin

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## Social Education

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Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Boston Public Schools.

The Center's second initiative is the Bridges to Success in Middle School program. This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, aims to bridge the transition between elementary and middle school for children, especially those with special needs. Siperstein says it is no mystery why this time in a child's life is so critical. During adolescence, children go through an enormous amount of change. If there is stress in any major area of the child's life—academic, social, home,—the impact can be felt everywhere.

According to Siperstein, the three "bridges" the program focuses on are academics, peer relations, and the new school environment.

"Kids can have problems in any one or all three of these areas. What holds the three bridges up is support. We focus on helping parents and teachers be more supportive, and teaching children the skills to access the support of their peers and others," he says.

Without support, children may experience short and long-term adjustment problems, such as poor achievement, behavior problems, attendance problems, lack of motivation, poor self-concept, alienation and eventual drop-out. Siperstein notes that the majority of children who drop out of high school are those with special needs.

A three-year project, The Bridges to Middle School Program will be implemented in six middle schools and as many elementary schools that feed the middle schools as possible. It is also a three year project. Funding sources for the Center's projects include \$250,000 from the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation, and \$1.1 million from the U.S. Department of Education. Additional funds are being provided by the Boston Public Schools.

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### Student-Researcher Studies Sickle Cell Anemia at National Institute of Health

Few undergraduate students can say that they spent their summer working in the laboratories of the National Institute of Health on important medical research. Probably fewer still get to explain their research directly to the Surgeon General of the United States. This was the summer experience of Chukwuka Okafor, a biochemistry major and one of 24 undergraduate students nationwide who have been selected for the NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

For 12 weeks this summer, Okafor worked in the laboratory of Dr. Grissin Rogers, chief of the Division of Molecular and Clinical Hematology at the NIH headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. Okafor and his colleagues constructed a novel protein that has applications for gene therapy in sickle cell anemia. This novel protein genetically increases the

production of hemoglobin A2, which is known to inhibit the polymerization, or clumping, of sickle cell hemoglobin. The "clumping" of hemoglobin cells is the prime reason why victims of this genetic disease experience episodes of severe pain and a variety of other symptoms, including strokes.

At the end of his twelve weeks of intense research, Okafor presented his work at the annual summer research poster session held at the NIH, before researchers, visiting scientists, and the Surgeon General.

Okafor's NIH scholarship grant has been extended for another year, so he can look forward to returning to the NIH lab next summer. Under the conditions of the Undergraduate Scholarship Program, recipients must plan to spend a year working with NIH for every year of scholarship assistance they receive. For Okafor, who plans to go to medical school, this could mean spending two years of his residency at the NIH, which would hardly seem like a burden.

"It is an opportunity that before I could only dream about—it is very, very competitive to get a research position at the NIH, and I am guaranteed a space—it is a tremendous opportunity," he said.