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UMass Boston Participates in \$5M National Science Foundation Project Aimed at Improving Teaching of Mathematics and Science

Several UMass Boston faculty are taking part in a National Science Foundation project whose aim is to better prepare elementary and secondary school teachers to teach mathematics and science.

The five-year project is supported by an NSF grant of \$5 million and led by Harvard University. The project involves a researchers from Harvard, UMass Boston, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Wheelock College, as well as teachers in the public school systems of Boston and Cambridge. UMass Boston's portion of the grant will amount to \$800,000 over the next five years.

Teaching Teachers Better

The project is expected to improve college curricula so that students who are training for teaching careers will possess the knowledge and skills to teach science and mathematics more effectively. For elementary and secondary school instructors currently working in selected schools in Boston and

Cambridge, the project will provide professional development initiatives designed to make them more effective mentors in mathematics and science.

The co-principal investigators of the project are Irwin Shapiro, director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, and Katherine Merseeth, dean for program development Harvard University's Graduate College of Education. UMass Boston's involvement in the project is co-directed by Judy Clark, an assistant professor in the Graduate College of Education, and Joan Lukas, a professor of mathematics and computer science.

Several Faculty Involved

In addition to Clark and Lukas, teams of University faculty working on the project right now include Bill Hagar (biology), Walter Weibrecht (chemistry), George Lukas and Robert Seeley (mathematics and computer science), Carol Smith (psychology) and Jim Parziale (Graduate College of Education).

These faculty teams will work with teachers in Boston and Cambridge to develop three new courses at UMass Boston designed to train students who plan to become elementary school instructors. UMass Boston students who are training to become high school instructors will have the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants in these courses.

Turning Ideas into Action

"The most exciting aspect of this project is that it enables our students to gain experience in actually using strategies that are being presented to them in their course work," says Clark.

The UMass Boston faculty teams will work with other project members to provide seminars, summer institutes and mentoring program at 10 schools in Boston and Cambridge. UMass Boston will work closely with teachers at the William E. Russell elementary school in Boston and the Graham and Parks (K-8) school in Cambridge.

Voice Familiar To Boston Airwaves Buoy's 'Quiet Storm'

The arrival of weeknight host Maurice Lewis, a radio and television personality in Boston for 25 years, has expanded listenership at WUMB-FM (91.9) and triggered the most successful fundraising campaign in station history, according to general manager Patricia Monteith.

Monteith says that as host of the station's weeknight music show, *The Quiet Storm*, Lewis has helped WUMB attract new listeners from throughout Greater Boston and garner significant donations from such communities as Concord, Cambridge, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Lowell, Norwell, Wellesley and Worcester. Lewis's program airs from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. and features contemporary jazz and rhythm and blues music, as well as news updates twice an hour.

"Maurice is one of the local broadcast industry's most respected members, and our listeners have indicated through their generosity that they very much appreciate his presence," Monteith says. "A substantial portion of our donations can be attributed to the success of Maurice's show."

Lewis began working on *Quiet Storm* last summer. "The opportunity to work in a University setting and at a station as highly regarded as WUMB is something I couldn't pass up," he says.

Lewis is a native of Chicago, where as a youth he cultivated a love of jazz music and radio. Eventually he developed an exceptional voice that would lead

him to broadcasting. His first job was as a disc jockey on WAAF in Chicago, and he gained more experience during a stretch in the Navy by working at military-run radio stations in North Africa and Europe.

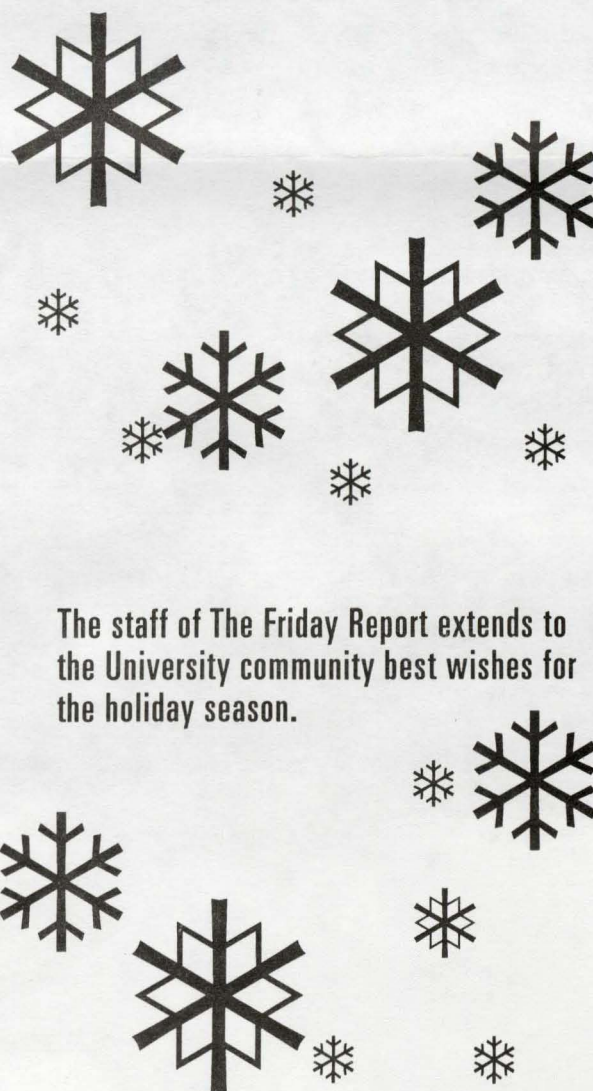
Lewis arrived in Boston in the 1970s as a young radio reporter for WBZ-AM. He quickly branched out into television, and was among the city's first prominent minority newscasters. Lewis worked two stints as an anchor and news reporter at Channel 4, and in between was at Channel 7, where he helped to create and anchor *Black News*. Lewis later spent a several years as news anchor at Channel 56.

In addition to reporting the news, Lewis has analyzed it as host of several public affairs programs on television and radio. On WBCN-FM's *Boston Sunday Review*, Lewis explored topics in politics and entertainment, and conducted live interviews with Muhammad Ali, Philippine president Corazon Aquino and Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neil. He is especially proud of his work as host of *Black Perspectives on the News*, a weekly discussion program that aired in the 1970s on PBS stations around the country. "That was one of the most informative and enjoyable projects I've ever been associated with," he says

Lewis has recently worked for a Boston public relations firm on a statewide antismoking campaign, and handles a variety of 'voice-over' assignments for several companies.

Correction

Bette Woody of the College of Public of Community Service is a professor, not an associate professor, as was reported in the last issue of the *Friday Report*.



The staff of The Friday Report extends to the University community best wishes for the holiday season.

Management Students Selected for Co-op Assignment Will Earn Money by Handling Queries from Taxpayers

Twenty-six students from the College of Management who are enrolled in the University's cooperative education and internship program have been awarded temporary positions with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and will spend the spring semester assisting taxpayers who need answers to questions about their state tax returns.

The students will start three weeks of training later this month. In January they begin four-month assignments at the state's Taxpayer Assistance Bureau, where they will be responsible for handling telephone calls from taxpayers who have questions about a variety of personal income tax issues.

A Strategy for the Future

The hiring of students at the Taxpayer Assistance Bureau is a pilot initiative that Department of Revenue views as a way to enhance customer service during the agency's busiest period, according to Sheila LeBlanc, deputy chief of the bureau. She said the addition of the students, along with the establishment of an interactive voice response system, will strengthen the bureau's capacity to respond to telephone inquiries, which average about 27,000 a week during the tax filing season.

"These positions require a detailed knowledge of the tax system and because of the volume of calls we receive, these positions also require diplomacy and a cool head," LeBlanc says. "The students will have to

work hard and address a range of taxpayer concerns, although there will be supervisors available to handle the more complicated matters."

Students Make Strong Impression

The Department of Revenue conducted interviews for the positions last month at UMass Boston. "We were especially impressed with the UMass Boston students because so many of them have well-rounded lives and seem comfortable balancing the demands of school and work," LeBlanc said. "In general, the students we interviewed showed a willingness to take on a lot of responsibility and perform their jobs well."

Nearly all of the students selected for the positions are accounting and finance majors. Twenty-three of them will work full-time at the bureau, and three will work part-time. Students will be paid approximately \$13 an hour, providing fulltime workers with a weekly salary of \$510. "This is the largest group of co-op students ever hired by a single employer," says Bob Dunbar, who co-directs with Carole Remick the University's co-op and internship programs. "This is also one of the best-paying assignments our students have ever had."

The co-op and internship program at the University provides valuable work experiences to students with a variety of career interests. Students earn an average of \$10 an hour.

Higher Education Outreach to be Examined

The New England Resource Center for Higher Education, housed at UMass Boston, will use a grant from an anonymous donor to conduct a five-year study of faculty professional service and academic outreach activities being pursued by colleges and universities in the six-state region. In the first phase of the project, which will begin in the next few weeks, the Center will collect information on existing outreach and service initiatives and store the information on a computer database at UMass Boston. In the project's second phase, the Center

will hold at campuses skill-building workshops which will provide institutions "on-site consultation and technical assistance to help campuses bring about the changes necessary to support and sustain faculty professional service and outreach," according to project director Cathy Burack. During the final year of the grant, the Center will hold a regional conference to describe its findings and showcase model programs. More information on the project is available by contacting Ms. Burack at the Center at 7-7740.

Campus Notes

Psychology professor Ester Shapiro has received a one-year grant from the Social Science Research Council for her research endeavor titled "Developmental outcomes for Puerto Rican adolescents under different circumstances of migration: A risk and resilience developmental approach."

Walter Littell, associate vice chancellor for external relations and special assistant to the chancellor, is leaving the University at the end of this month to pursue several writing projects. Littell joined UMass Boston in the fall of 1990.

A review in the *Journal of Modern History* calls history professor Spencer DiScala's book, *Renewing Italian Socialism: Nenni to Craxi*, "a perceptive history of the [Italian] socialist party from the fall of fascism to 1976."

Reverend Francis O'Brien, a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, has joined Aldona Lingertat in the campus's Catholic Ministry. Rev. O'Brien, a 1980 graduate of UMass Boston, has worked in parishes in Belmont and Cambridge.

The Nellie Mae Fund for Education has awarded \$25,000 to the University's Urban Scholars Program.

Helena Ragone, a lecturer in the anthropology department, has received a \$12,000 grant from the Foundation for Anthropological Research for a project called "Distant Kin: Gestational Surrogacy and Egg Donation."

The Office of Student Life will hold a party for students from 8:00 p.m. to midnight on Thursday, December 22, in the McCormack Cafeteria. Admission is \$5.

WUMB general manager Pat Monteith was in Washington, D.C. this month to testify before the Federal Communications Commission. She discussed strategies for

improving the FCC's communication with broadcast outlets. She was representing the country's 400 public stations.

UMass Amherst is looking for a resident director of its German exchange program. Candidates must be tenured faculty, fluent in German and experienced in advising. Applications should be submitted to the Baden-Wurttemberg Program, International Programs Office, William S. Clark International Center, UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA 01003. Additional information is available by contacting Christine Arnold at (401) 545-2710.

A gathering in memory of the late Gabriel Grasberg, the longtime chief bibliographer at the Healey Library, will be held from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 29, at the Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston Street, Boston.

U. S. Congressman Joe Moakley was at UMass Boston this week for a workshop which offered local school superintendents and principals guidance on how to apply for federal grants. Some 50 elementary and secondary school administrators from Greater Boston communities attended the workshop. Also present were two administrators from the U. S. Department of Education, governmental relations specialist Ed Augustus and Brenda Dann-Messier, the department's regional representative.

Attention Readers

News items for the *Friday Report* should be sent to John Craig, Office of Public Information, Second Floor, Quinn Administration Building. Mr. Craig can be reached by telephone at 7-5316.

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