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Fulbright Grants Awarded to Three Faculty

Three UMass Boston staff members have recently received Fulbright grants to study, teach, or conduct research abroad.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Charles Desmond will travel this month to the Federal Republic of Germany. He will examine how Germany is currently adjusting levels in their higher institutional systems. "The former West and East sides of Germany must come together to decide how their institutions of higher education will be classified," Desmond stated. He hopes that his knowledge of the Massachusetts three-tiered higher education system--community colleges, state colleges and the university system--will contribute to the German effort.

Beginning in August, Professor Frances L. Portnoy of the College of Nursing and the College of Community Service, will visit the University of Tromso in Norway, "the northernmost university in the world," for one year. She will lecture to doctoral students and faculty, focusing on qualitative research on Norway's health care practices. She will also be studying services that provide elderly housing.

The Fulbright Program is operated by the presidentially-appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, with support from various private organizations. Scholarships are awarded through open competition, with final selections made by the Foreign Scholarship Board. Forty-one countries share in these exchanges.

Marine Operations Supports Dolphin Release

On April 14th, a joint effort from UMass Boston's Division of Marine Operations in the Environmental Science Program, the New England Aquarium, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), and the Massachusetts Coast Guard, enabled the release of two rehabilitated white-sided dolphins (Lagenorhynchus acutus). The dolphins, a mother and a calf, were released into Stellwagen Bank, which runs between Gloucester and Provincetown.

Lisa Sette, an operator of the UMass Boston research vessel, the Neritic, assisted with research observations of the two white-sided dolphins. "Basically, this is only the third time in New England when we have been able to monitor this particular dolphin's behavior," stated Sette.

The white-sided dolphin is a fast, free moving animal tending to travel at 20 miles per hour, compared to seven mph of the humpback whale. "White-sided dolphins come into an area, they feed, and then they leave; generally, they stay off shore," explained Sette. "Any research is beneficial to the science community because it enables us to learn more about these dolphins."

The New England Aquarium has had a continued involvement with the rehabilitation of stranded animals. The two white-sided dolphins were part of a stranding from a few weeks ago. "A total of 35 animals came in, and these two dolphins were the only two that survived," said Sette. The two dolphins were tended by the New England Aquarium Animal Care Center.

"I am interested in who provides the services and the nature of the work force, such as their training and recruitment. They don't tend to put people in nursing homes, but keep them in the community because of their high expectations of the value of older people," Portnoy said.

This fall, Professor Linda Dittmar of the English Department will visit the University of Huderbad in India for six months. "I will be a consultant to the faculty for curriculum development in American literature from a multicultural perspective," stated Dittmar. "I will also teach and advise graduate students."
Asian Conference Brings Youth to University

Seven hundred Asian Pacific Americans (APA) students filled the Lipke Auditorium on March 16th for the Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY)'s second conference, Strengthening Ourselves to Shape the Future. Discussions and skill building workshops were facilitated by youth from CAPAY and Asian American professionals from the community. The workshops examined community development, Asian Pacific Americans in the media, parent/ youth relationships, getting involved in government, and interracial dating.

Professor Peter Kiang of the Graduate College of Education and American Studies Program at UMass Boston led an adult plenary session, Encouraging Our Youth to Become Activists and Leaders. "As a policy, we had the students in the workshops on their own and provided separate workshops for the adult chaperons who attended. This way the adults would not interfere with the process of the youth talking among themselves."

Mai Du, a CAPAY intern at UMass Boston, and a senior at Malden High School, facilitated a workshop for the Asian youth, Getting Involved in Government.

"When the students were told that a small percentage of Asian Pacific Americans are involved with the state and federal government, they were shocked," remembered Du, "then, when told that there is also a small percentage of APA citizens registered to vote, they became more stunned."

Shauna Lo, office manager at the Institute for Asian Americans in the media, parent/community. According to Lo, "an outpouring of donations followed." Besides funding from UMass Boston, donations were provided by the Reebok Foundation, Boston Globe Foundation, Boston Do Something, and the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants.

Although not a goal of the conference, UMass Boston gained exposure to numerous Asian youths. Seven hundred high school students came to the Harbor Campus. Many of them may not have had a chance to visit before, so this way their first time. They were able to see the magnificent resources that the school has," said Lee. "This will encourage students to apply," stated Lo. "Affordable tuition, a diverse student population, and various student support programs were presented to the Asian youths. There will also be written proceedings and a video documentary surfacing from the conference.

Correction
Contrary to the last issue of the Friday Report, Advocacy Resources for Modern Survival (ARMS) offers peer advice and daily counseling. This includes researching the laws and regulations of the rights of those students at UMass Boston who receive public assistance. "Students come in with issues and we help them straighten them out because many times their public issues get misconstrued," stated Anita Abrams, the director of ARMS.

UMass Boston Featured as a Model on CD-ROM for Diversity

UMass Boston has been chosen as a model among 200 colleges and universities whose diversity efforts will be featured on Network America, a CD-ROM resource to be funded by the Ford Foundation and the Lilly Endowment. The university was chosen because of the effectiveness of its educational programs in heightening intercultural communication on the campus and in the community. According to Professor Esther Kingston-Mann, the director of the Center for the Improvement of Teaching, UMass Boston is one of about ten models chosen by the Ford Foundation and the Lilly Endowment out of the 200, "because they think that what we are doing is really creative."

The purpose of the CD-ROM production is to enable colleges and universities to make use of each others' experience through a 1,000 word description of the goals and outcomes of their diversity work. There are also institutional profiles that include ethic breakdowns of the faculty and staff. According to Allen Sessions, the Executive Vice-President and Vice-President of Academic Affairs of UMass, this initiative would be an "opportunity for the university to market itself nationally."

"The reason UMass is involved with this is that it has done leading work on diversity," said Professor of Psychology Robert Steele of Wesleyan University. On March 23, Steele visited UMass Boston and gave a lecture-demonstration, UMB On-Line, explaining the use of Network America.

Network America has been specially designed for those who may not be computer literate. "The whole goal of this is to make it seem as if they aren't only dealing with the interaction itself," says Steele. External distribution of the computer program includes putting it on a CD-ROM master for $500, and a $1 fee for each additional disk.

Attention Readers
Send news information to Donna Rozetto or Neal Bruss at the Office of Public Information, Second Floor, Quinn Administration Building.

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