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Reporter

News and information about the University of Massachusetts Boston

Volume 3
Number 6
February 1999

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Mark the Date and Don't Be Late!

Come enjoy a dish of ice cream and mingle with your fellow employees at an ice cream social sponsored by the ARD Experiencing the Community Group on **Feb. 11**. See story on pg. 2 for details.

Mortgage Lending Patterns Mapped by Professor

Since 1995, Economics Prof. Jim Campen has been mapping trends in mortgage lending to low-income and minority borrowers in Boston. In December, he released his latest findings in "Changing Patterns V: Mortgage Lending to Traditionally Underserved Borrowers and Neighborhoods in Greater Boston, 1990-1997."

So how are aspiring minority and low-income home-owners faring? "What's new is that mortgage lending to minorities and low-income people actually fell in 1997," says Campen. The most underserved group remains Hispanics. After six years of modest growth, the percentage of loans to Hispanics dropped to 5.9% in 1997, after rising from 5.1% of all Boston home purchase loans in 1990 to 7.2% in 1996. For African Americans, the percentages fell for the third year in a row, to 14.7% after a high of 20.8% in 1994. Hispanic households accounted for 8.1%, and African American households accounted for 20.6% of all Boston households in 1990, according to 1990 U.S. Census figures.

This year, Campen for the first time extended his analysis to 27 communities surrounding Boston, and found that in these communities as well the percentage of loans that went to Hispanics and African Americans fell in 1997 (Asian Americans, in Boston and surrounding communities, received slightly more than their proportionate share of all loans).

The Boston area has been experiencing a booming housing market—low interest rates make it an attractive time to buy—but escalating housing costs hinder many who would like to own, especially for the first time. "The single most important reason for these numbers is that Hispanics and African Americans have lower incomes, and housing in the Boston area is more and more expensive," says Campen. "So a big issue is affordability."

continued on page 12

Experiencing the Community at UMass Boston

The University Reporter

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What is the difference between working at UMass Boston and being a permanent member of the UMass Boston community? Either way you get a paycheck, but with the latter you feel that your 40 hours a week are invested into something important, something more than the day to day activities of your department. Being a member of the university community means contributing to the overall success of Boston's only public university and having a say in the processes that help it to improve.

Identifying this distinction between going to work and belonging to a community is the task of the ARD group called Experiencing the Community (EC). Their goal is to find out how to bring employees together for something other than work—maybe even a little fun! The EC began by sending out a survey to find out if there was campus-wide interest in social activities, what kinds of activities people might attend, where and when. Over 300 people responded, many of whom offered suggestions for events, like having a charity race/walk in harbor point, a campus yard sale, a cruise around the harbor, a tour of the JFK library, and many others.

The survey also asked if people would participate in a cross-departmental “buddy” program for new university employees. In

addition to introducing new employees to the ins and outs of university life outside of any one department, a buddy could help the new employee become a permanent member of the community by bringing him or her along to some of these social activities. “If everyone brings a buddy,” says EC group member Sandy Blanchette, “the event is sure to be a success!”

Armed with positive responses for both social events and the buddy program, the EC has set out to make things happen. And what better way to bring people together than to offer them ice cream—Ben & Jerry's no less! The first event will be an ARD ice cream social on Feb. 11, from 2:30-3:30, in Upper Level Hallway adjacent to the Quinn Administration Building. Ben & Jerry's Regional Sales Manager, Bob Carlson (UMass Boston, '87) has generously donated more than enough ice cream to go around. So, write down the date, call a buddy in another department, and take a mid-afternoon break to join the Experiencing the Community group for a little Cherry Garcia.

—By Ellen Evans



New ECOS Director Brings Interdisciplinary Focus to the Job

Many great moments in science have come about as chance, and such may be the case with Curtis Olsen, UMass Boston's new director of the Environmental Coastal and Ocean Sciences (ECOS) department

As an undergraduate at Columbia University in New York, Olsen pursued a track that may have been more designed for a hospital than a harbor. "I was a biology major. I was pre-med and thinking of medical school. I had a professor who asked me to work for him in a work study job in the geology department," recalls Olsen. "That summer I worked in the San Juan mountains in Colorado doing field research, and I just loved it."

The chance experience opened Olsen's eyes to new opportunities. Olsen eventually double majored in biology and geology and started on a career, that like the location of his new job, is a junction of land and sea.

In ECOS, Olsen believes he has found a university, colleagues and students that share his vision from years ago of crossing disciplines to better understand the problems of society and science.

"The strengths that attracted me to the ECOS Department were the integrated multi-disciplinary nature of the ECOS faculty, the diversity of the students, and the dedication of the administration, faculty, and students to high-quality research and scholarship without traditional disciplinary borders," explains Olsen.

Olsen's science credentials also come with experience with federal agencies and grants. "Curtis is an experienced scientist whose contacts in Washington and with major funding agencies should serve the department and the campus very well," explains ECOS program Founder and Professor Emeritus, Joseph Cooney.

Cooney adds that Olsen's appointment, which coincides with ECOS moving from a graduate program to a full department signals what he hopes is the university's renewed commitment to ECOS.

For his part, Olsen sees much enthusiasm for the interdisciplinary program. "I was impressed with all the people I met during my interviews, especially with their desire, as a group, to see ECOS develop to its full potential in interdisciplinary education and research at the land-ocean interface," he says.

Since earning his Ph.D. in environmental biogeochemistry from Columbia in 1979, Olsen has been performing environmental research for segments of the federal government. Just prior to his arrival at UMass Boston, Olsen led a new initiative with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, coordinating programs of environmentally relevant federal agencies.

Olsen has managed and attracted millions of dollars in grants, and his results have garnered attention. Vice President Al Gore awarded him a certificate recognizing his "contribution to building government that works better and costs less."

Olsen also has earned international notoriety for his research. He has published more than 60 articles, and even as a government administrator, he published an average of about two papers per year, something the science community holds as an example of his commitment to research and scholarship.

With these credentials, Olsen chose UMass Boston to be his future, in part, because he sees programs such as ECOS as leading to the solutions of the future. "In the next century, many of the most promising frontiers for advancing society and science will occur at the interfaces of cultures and disciplines," explains Olsen.

"Interdisciplinary collaborations will be particularly important for developing new teaching and research initiatives and for effectively addressing environmental issues."

"I am confident that ECOS will be successful in educating the American public and training students with the cross-disciplinary skills needed to effectively conduct environmental research, and to understand the tradeoffs involved in making informed decisions about social, economic, and environmental issues," he adds.

Campus Center Plans Taking Shape

Construction of the \$60 million campus center project isn't expected to begin until March 2000 but behind-the-scenes work is moving ahead smoothly, according to Associate Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Laverne Cawthorne. The schematic design is completed and now architects Kallmann, McKinnell and Wood are working on the design development phase, which creates a more detailed plan for the new building.

The campus center, to be located at the east end of the science building facing the harbor and Neponset River, will likely house student affairs, enrollment management, student services,

student organizations, and health services. In addition, the building will boast study and recreational facilities, a conference center, an alumni room, the bookstore, and dining facilities.

The building will be joined to the rest of the campus through the catwalk structure but will not abut any existing building. Cawthorne has enjoyed watching the building plans take shape. "You can appreciate the way [the architects] translate what you want into an actual structure," she said.

Advisory committees are still tying up the final details on which departments will be housed where. Cawthorne

expects the plans and model, when finalized, to be placed on display for the campus community to study sometime during the spring semester.

In the meantime, a retro-fit committee, comprised of representatives from deans offices, faculty, and staff, is starting its work to determine what to do with the space left behind once the selected departments have moved into their new home. Committee members are reportedly taking the entire campus into consideration and are hoping to group complementary departments together. "It gives the institution a chance to say, what do we really want," said Cawthorne.

Recipients of Healey, Public Service Grants Named

The 1998-99 recipients of awards from two internal grant programs sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Presidents Office—the Public Service Grant Program and the Joseph P. Healey Grant Program—have been announced.

Eight Public Service grants, ranging from \$1300 to \$3000 were awarded to: **Wichian Rojanawon** of the Gerontology Institute for "UMass Boston Institute for Learning in Retirement;" **Andres Torres** of the Gaston Institute for "The Careers Ladder Project;" **Susan Haussler** of the College of Nursing for "Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Dorchester School Children;" **Carol Cardozo** of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy for "Latina Information Access Project;"

Karla Klein and **Amy Weisman** of the Psychology Department for "Parent Education Program Development;" **Lisa Gonsalves** of CPCS for "Tracking the College Retention of Jeremiah Burke High School Graduates;" **Martha Montero-Sieburth** of the Graduate College of Education for "Engaging Latino Parents in the Education of their Children;" and **Sabra Brown** of Student Affairs for "Voices" Magazine.

Seven Healey Endowment Grants, ranging from \$1600 to \$3500 were awarded to: **Richard Eckhouse** of the Mathematics and Computer Sciences Department for "Modification of the Locomotion Trajectory After Chronic Stroke Through Error Feedback;" **Pamela Jones** of the Art Department for "Genre,

Audience, and Display in Italian Religious Art;" **Laura Milliken** of the Human Performance and Fitness program for "Comparison of Skin Puncture and Venipuncture Techniques for Obtaining Human Serum Samples for the measurement of Bone Formation;" **Kyle McInnis** of the Human Performance and Fitness program for "Exercise and Heart Disease Prevention;" **Padraig O'Malley** of the McCormack Institute for "South Africa: A study in Transition;" **John Warner** of the Chemistry Department for "Application of Photolyase to Synthetic Derivatives of DNA;" and **Amy Weisman** of the Psychology Department for "Culture and Reactions to Schizophrenia."

Ph.D. Candidate Wins Prestigious Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship

Jennifer Arnold, a Ph.D. candidate in Environmental Biology, has been selected as a 1999 Dean John Knauss Marine Policy Fellow. This one-year fellowship, sponsored by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association's (NOAA's) Sea Grant College Program, is designed for graduate students with an interest in marine/ocean/Great Lakes resources and the national policy decisions affecting them. The program was started in 1979 by the NOAA with the purpose of integrating biology and public policy. Students are paired with host offices in the executive or legislative branch of the US government. Twenty to thirty fellowships are granted each year.

To date there have been 341 fellows working in this collaboration between science and public policy; Arnold is the first biology student from UMass Boston, previously five Environmental Science students have received fellowships.

Arnold will be working at the Restoration Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Department of Habitat Conservation in the executive branch in Washington, DC. This department conducts damage assessments on any habitats degraded by human activities—oils spills, chemical pollution and other threats to the ecology. After an assessment of the degraded

habitat, officials then work toward establishing what needs to be done in order to restore the habitat or make it biologically stable.

Arnold's area of specialization is the science of sea birds, in particular the common tern. Locally, Arnold has worked in Buzzard's Bay in Massachusetts, a nesting place for the common tern. She is studying evolutionary ecology in sea birds at UMass Boston and intends to return from Washington D.C., to complete her dissertation on the life history study of the common tern in Buzzards Bay and Massachusetts.

—By Mark Sheehan

Science Day '99 Demonstrates Fun and Fascination of Science to High Schoolers

For the 7th year, high school students were invited to the university to learn about opportunities in the sciences at Science Day '99, held Jan. 6 & 7. Over 700 students from 22 local schools attended the all-day event where they participated in minicourses designed by professors to demonstrate just how fascinating science studies can be. Students participated in three 45 minute sessions, choosing from offerings such as "A Modern Day Tea Party" and "Drugstore Chemistry," where they observed and participated in experiments, explore laboratories, and met university students and professors.

"The purpose of Science Day is not to recruit students, but to

honestly show them how science impacts their lives," says Geography Prof. John Looney, who along with Biology Prof. William Hagar, has participated in Science Day since its inception.

"I became interested in science after attending a science fair myself," says Hagar. "The students enjoy working with the older, UMass Boston students in the labs. They can see that these students are not much older than themselves, and they can relate to them," says Hagar, who teaches "Drug Store Chemistry," which is designed to introduce students to commercial enzymes such as Lactaid through lab experiments.

Faculty members volunteer for Science Day, believing that high

school teachers should not be alone in promoting the sciences. "The kids really enjoy Science Day because they don't know what to expect," says Keith O'Connell, UMass Boston alum and Abington High School science teacher. "I take my honors chemistry class every year, so they can see for themselves just how exciting science can be in a university setting. If someone had told me I would be a chemistry teacher when I was growing up, I wouldn't have believed them," says O'Connell. "The students find Science Day a very positive experience, and our high school looks forward to it every year."

—By Anne Joyce-Brandt

Founding Chair of Mathematics and Computer Sciences Department Dies

Prof. Taffee Tanimoto, founder of the Mathematics and Computer Sciences Department, died Dec. 11. Prof. Tanimoto was born in Kobe, Japan in 1917, came to the United States in 1920, and grew up on the West Coast. Interned along with most of the Japanese American population during World War II, he helped construct a school at the internment camp and taught mathematics there.

He received his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in 1950, and worked in the fledgling computer industry before coming to UMass Boston in 1965. He served UMass Boston for 25 years; 12 as chair of the Mathematics and Computer Sciences department, which he established. He is remembered by his colleagues for his patient and passionate teaching, his desire to help students learn, and his grace and vision as an administrator. Upon his retirement in 1990, the department established the Taffee Tanimoto Award for Service, which is presented each year to a graduating senior who has served the community.

WUMB Broadcasts Examination of Science and Ethics in *The Genetics Files*

On Jan. 10, WUMB 91.9 FM began broadcast of *The Genetics File*, a nine-week, nine-hour documentary exploring how the genetics revolution has affected our health, our food, our families and our future. People whose lives have been changed by the genetics revolution will tell their stories, and experts and public

watchdogs will explore the ethical issues. The one-hour programs air on nine consecutive Sundays: January 10, 17, 24, and 31; February 7, 14, 21, and 28; and March 7, at 8 p.m. The series is hosted by journalist John Hockenberry.

John Ciccarelli on Board for Economic Development

John F. Ciccarelli joined the University as assistant to the chancellor for economic development on Nov. 1. From his office in the College of Management, Ciccarelli is already working on a variety of projects, from cataloguing the university's work in economic development locally and internationally, to finding new opportunities consistent with the University's mission of teaching, research and service.

Prior to coming to UMass Boston, Ciccarelli was state director of the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network, part of a national network funded by federal and state government at UMass Amherst. He served in various capacities for the national network, including as president, vice president and as a member of its accreditation board. Ciccarelli received his undergraduate degree from Holy Cross College, and his Masters of Public Administration from Northeastern University.

New Assistant Deans Welcomed to Office of Dean of Students

Two new assistant deans, Chris Hogan and Adrian Haugabrook, have joined the Office of Dean of Students. Hogan, who assumed

his new duties on Dec. 28, is former director of UMass Boston's Urban Scholars Program. His responsibilities will include serving as liaison to Health Services, Student Legal Services, and the Childcare Center, and advising Dean Stephanie Janey on budgetary and technology issues. Haugabrook, who assumes his new responsibilities on Feb 1, was most recently Assistant Dean of Student Services at Framingham State College. His areas of responsibility will include overseeing the student judicial system and code of student conduct issues, and serving as liaison to the Office of Student Life, student governance, and organizations.

Joe Peters Joins University Communications Division

Joe Peters joined the University Communications Division as the Web/ Communications Specialist on December 22. As the newest member of the Web Development Team, Joe works with Ellen Evans and Alejandro Eluchans in developing web sites for the administrative offices of the University, along with maintaining the University Communications web site. Joe also works with the Public Information Office, writing for the *University Reporter* and other University publications. Joe received his bachelor's degree from Boston College. Prior to joining the UMass Boston community he was a freelance web designer for *Microline Golf*.

●

NERCHE's Lynton Awards go to Kiang, Withorn at AAHE Conference

Prof. Peter Kiang of the Graduate College of Education and American Studies Program received a 1999 Ernest A. Lynton Award for Faculty Service and Professional Outreach at the 7th American Association of Higher Education Conference on Faculty Roles and Rewards, held Jan. 22 in San Diego. Kiang was recognized as a founder of the Institute for Asian American Studies, and the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment (CIRCLE). He was also cited for his work analyzing racial conflict in schools, developing Asian American youth leadership, and supporting technology access for minorities. Prof. Ann Withorn of the College of Public and Community Service was awarded an Honorable Mention for her work in the area of social justice and welfare rights. The Lynton Awards honor the contributions of Ernest A. Lynton, a founding member of The New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE).

●

New Five-Year Program in Applied Sociology Combines B.A. and M.A. Degrees

Students can now opt to apply for a five-year program in Applied Sociology which will grant a combined BA and MA degree in less time than it would take to earn the degrees separately. Students will be accepted into the program in their junior year, take graduate courses in their senior year, and complete requirements in the fifth year. If a student does not complete the program, or meet the GPA requirements for

the M.A. degree, they can apply earned credits towards a B.A. degree. For further information, contact Graduate Program Director Prof. Siamak Movahedi by email at movahedi@umb.edu, cc.umb.edu, or at 287-6267.

●

Applications for James Bradford Ames Fellowships Invited by Africana Studies

Applications are being accepted for the 1999 James Bradford Ames Fellowship Program, which was established to stimulate and support research into Black life and history on Nantucket Island. The Ames fund may also sponsor scholarly lectures, especially in connection to presentation of funded research. Grants will range from \$500 to \$2,500. Deadline for applications is March 30. For more information, including preferred research topics, contact Prof. Robert Johnson, Jr., Africana Studies. Send email to: johnson_r@umb.edu, or call 287-6794 or 6790.

●

Applications for McCormack Institute Summer Faculty Grants Due Mar. 15

The McCormack Institute's annual program to support faculty research on applied public policy issues is accepting proposals for Summer, 1999, and will award up to five \$4,000 grants to proposals that fit with the interests of the Institute and its five Centers. Research proposals are due by March 15. Applicants are encouraged to contact center directors to discuss the appropriateness of their projects. For more information on project

criteria and preferred subject areas, contact Sandra Blanchette at the McCormack Institute at 287-5550.

●

February Forum for 21st Century Examines "Getting Ready for the Millennium."

On Thursday, Feb. 18, a panel of experts will examine "Getting Ready for the Millennium: How Are We Doing in Boston?" This civic forum will focus not just on year 2000 celebrations or the Y2K problem, but on the millennium as a marker of where we in Boston are, and how to move ahead. Panelists include Geri Guarino, executive director of First Night; Michael Taylor, president of Boston 2000 Inc.; Hillel Schwartz, consultant to Millennium Projects in Europe; David Davies, director, Information Technology Division of Local Services, Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Moderator will be Paul Guzzi, president and ceo of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and John Drew, president, World Trade Center, Boston, and chairman of Boston 2000, Inc., will be commentator. The forum will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 600 Atlantic Avenue, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., and is free of charge.

"Asian Voices" Speak Out on Health

"But when their voices are silent it doesn't mean that they don't have any needs. They have tremendous needs."

—Lin Zhan

These "silent voices" belong to Asians and Asian Americans—too many of them—who lack adequate health care. Lin Zhan, a faculty member at UMass Boston's College of Nursing, is the editor of *Asian Voices: Asian and Asian-American Health Educators Speak Out*, newly published by the National League for Nursing Press.

The thirteen chapters of *Asian Voices*, reflecting what Zhan describes as an "overwhelming" response to a call for manuscripts, range widely. Among the topics are major health problems of Asian American Pacific Islanders;

elderly Filipino women in Florida who formed a society of "Golden Dreamers" to fight loneliness and lack of health care; HIV/AIDS among Asian Americans; Buddhist ethics and end-of-life issues; rising mortality rates among Korean women; cultural factors affecting Chinese Americans' pursuit of health; the challenge to the Japanese health care system of a rapidly growing elderly population; traditional Chinese medicine; and (of particular interest at UMass Boston) "problem-based learning," a tutorial approach culturally appropriate for Asian American students.

Major themes emerge: the absence of useful data on Asian American health conditions; how language barriers and poverty

block access to health care; how Asian beliefs and practices frequently conflict with their American equivalents; the destructive myth of Asian Americans as a "model minority." For many Asian Americans—especially recent immigrants, who may be desperately poor and isolated but are nonetheless ashamed to reveal the difficulties they face—the American health care system is a "puzzle" that contributes to "tremendous uncertainty and fear."

Asian Voices does not attempt completeness. Instead, it aims to increase the skill and wisdom of health care providers and educators by helping to "expose, case by case, little by little" the real health care experiences of Asian people and communities.

—by Jeffrey Mitchell

Faculty & Staff Contribute to Harbor Islands Park

Visitors to the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area may not see any changes since the former state park islands were designated a part of the National Park Service three years ago. But changes are in the making.

"It probably looks very much the same as it did two or three years ago," said Advisory Committee Chair Jack Wiggin of the Urban Harbors Institute. "This park has a huge potential, but there's a long way to go."

Wiggin, and UMass Boston faculty and staff from ECOS to biology, geography, art and education, have been assisting as the unofficial research unit of the Advisory Committee. They have been hard at work compiling a

draft management plan which designates use of the park area for the next 20 years and longer. The plan aims at transforming the 30 islands into a cohesive national park while preserving their natural and historical resources.

"The people here at this university have a lot of expertise that might not otherwise be employed in a project like this," said Wiggin.

In particular, UMass Boston joined with the New England Aquarium and Modern Continental construction firm in planning the operation, management and programming of Spectacle Island, a former landfill being capped with Big Dig dirt. The Central Artery is responsible

for building a visitors center, which Wiggin said the group is creating into a "green building," including solar panels and other energy-producing equipment. They aim to educate visitors in sustainability.

Construction is expected to begin next fall, with an opening in summer 2001. With vegetation taking root and a new ferry dock in place, "it's beginning to look the way it would in the future," said Wiggin.

Wiggin indicated UMass Boston could also be influential in providing ferry access for Dorchester area residents through the JFK Library dock.

Snowden Auditorium Undergoes Revival

Dim lighting makes for great theater, but imagine taking a test in it.

Perhaps the best performance at Snowden Auditorium has been the auditorium itself. The theater has played multiple roles including classroom, conference area and testing center, all without modern accoutrements.

However, by this June, close to \$170,000 of new equipment, lighting, carpeting and seating will help move 27-year-old auditorium into the present day, allowing it to continue in its multiple roles.

Originally, \$25,000 was budgeted to perform renovations. To prioritize those renovations, CAS Dean Neal Bruss decided to

bring some of the facility users together with representatives from Facilities Operations. "As people went through their needs list, it became obvious that so many issues of committee members were not being addressed," explains Deputy Director of Facilities Operations Lee Nason. "Neal ended up with a very long list."

Rather than trying to make a little go a long way, the group decided to have Nason apply for a grant from the President's Fund. While she didn't receive all she asked for, Nason was awarded enough to do most of the work the committee sought.

To date, only the first part of the overhaul has been completed. While it goes by the name of

Instructional Technological Teaching System, its purpose is much more user-friendly than its title. The ITTS is a state-of-the-art presentation system that not only captivates an audience but also befriends presenters with its ease of use.

Over the next several months, students, faculty, staff and visitors will notice many improvements to the 250-seat auditorium. A condition of the grant requires the work to be finished by June 1, and Nason said this is one act that will finish on time. "This really is owed to Neal Bruss and his bright idea," said Nason. "It's very difficult to form a committee of so many different people and reach a consensus on going forward, but Neal brought everybody in."

College of Management Forms Partnership with Associated Industries of Massachusetts

The College of Management at UMass Boston has formed a collaborative agreement with Associated Industries of Massachusetts (A.I.M.). This partnership, originally initiated by former Dean Eric Hayden and secured by Dean Philip Quaglieri, will allow individuals employed by A.I.M. member companies to receive financial assistance in the form of fee waivers at UMass Boston. A maximum of 20 of these individuals who are enrolled as either full or part time students in the College of Management's MBA program will be eligible to receive a partial waiver of UMass Boston's mandatory fees.

As part of the agreement, Associated Industries of Massachusetts professionals will conduct career

service seminars on topics such as resume writing and interviewing skills to students of the College of Management. A.I.M. is a non-profit, dues supported, non-partisan employers' association dedicated to improving the economic climate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; over 5,000 individuals, firms, corporations and institutions are members of A.I.M.

The association monitors issues of public policy, tracks and reports on economic trends, and lobbies on behalf of their members; they also offer training and development seminars, and insurance services ranging from workers compensation to small group health and group accident insurance to its members and

their employees. A.I.M. is also a full-service employers' association which supplies information and seminars on various topics from laws and regulations to dealing with inquiries from the media. Any individual or corporation engaged in or concerned with business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can apply for membership in the association. For more information about the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, call (800) 470-4677, or visit their web site at (www.aimnet.org).

—By Patrick Dwyer

Prof. **Zong-Guo Xia** of the Earth and Geographic Sciences department has been invited to edit *The Remote Sensing Core Curriculum Peer Review Publication*. This curriculum is an initiative of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

Andrew Feld, graduate of the Creative Writing Program, received a Stegner Fellowship in creative writing at Stanford University, a two-year post-graduate award. Feld received his MFA from the University of Houston last year.

Appointments

Prof. **Fiora Bassanese** of the Modern Languages Department has been elected vice president of the American Association of the Teachers of Italian for a three-year term.

Conferences and Presentations

Heléna Ragoné of the Anthropology Department organized and chaired an executive session at the American Anthropological Association meeting titled "Questing for Perfection: The New Eugenics?" She also presented a paper, "Defining Desirability: Healthy, Intelligent Gametes Need Only Apply."

Dr. **Harlyn Halvorson** of the ECOS Department was named honorary president of the International Congress, "Biotechnologia Habana '98," held in Nov. in Havana, Cuba. He gave the keynote address, "The Leveraging Power of the New Biotechnology," and

presented a paper, "Increased Public Involvement in Enriching our Fish Stocks Through genetic Enhancement," with F. Quezada. Halvorson is founder of the North American Cuban Scientific Exchange Program (NACSEX), formed in 1983.

Publications

Five poems of Brazilian poet Rogerio Zola Santiago, translated by English Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz**, appeared in a recent issue of the online magazine, *The Cortland Review*.

English Prof. **Martha Collins'** new book of poetry, *Some Things Words Can Do*, has been published by Sheep Meadow Press.

The Gastón Institute has released a demographic study, "Latinos in Massachusetts: An Update," a mid-decade, socioeconomic profile written by Institute director **Andres Torres** and **Lisa Chavez**.

Economics Prof. **Jim Campen's** article, "It's a Bank-Eat-Bank World," appeared in the Jan/Feb. issue of *Dollars and Sense Magazine*.

ECOS Prof. **Robert Chen** and Graduate Student **Steven Rudnick** published an article, "Laser-induced fluorescence of pyrene and other polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in seawater," in *Talanta* 47.

Performances

CPCS Prof. **Philip Hart** co-sponsored Sandra Campbell's visit to 3 Boston-area schools to present her one-woman play on pioneer aviator Bessie Coleman in December. Hart's 1987 PBS film, "Flyers in Search of a Dream" was recently remastered by Warner Home Video for release in January. Hart donated footage from the film to the City of Los Angeles for a film on the history of African Americans in that city, unveiled in January as part of Black History Month.

Music Prof. **David Patterson's** composition for flute and harp, "Spin," will be performed at the 1999 Pappousakis Flute Competition, for which it was commissioned. Four finalists will perform the work at the New England Conservatory of Music on Feb. 7 at 2:00 p.m. The Competition winner will perform "Spin" at the Greater Boston Flute Assn.'s meeting Mar. 9 at Weston High School.

In the News...

Prof. Avery Faigenbaum of the Human Performance and Fitness Program, appeared on Channel 68's "Doctors On Call" on Sunday, Jan. 31.

Debra Wein, general manager of the Beacon Fitness Center, was interviewed on *FOX 25 News* on how to stick to New Year's resolutions.

Elizabeth Sherman, director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, was a commentator on the inauguration of Governor Cellucci for *WBUR's Here and Now* on Jan. 6.

English Prof. **K.C. Frederick's** novel, *Country of Memory*, received a favorable review in the *New York Times Sunday Book Review* on Dec. 13. *Pagoda*, Prof. **Patricia Powell's** new novel, also received a positive review in the *Times*.

Prior to delivering her lecture, "No Common Lot: An African American Sailor's half Century at Sea," at the USS Constitution Museum in February, History Prof. **Julie Winch** was interviewed on *WSJZ FM*, *WODS FM*, *WBET AM WILD AM* radio during January. Her lecture is an event honoring Black History Month. Winch will also be interviewed on *WBZ TV* during February.

Dissertation Defense

Michael Liu, doctoral candidate in the Public Policy Program, will defend his dissertation, "Chinatown's Neighborhood Mobilization and Urban Development in Boston," on Feb. 10 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., 10th floor, Healey Library, Public Policy Large Classroom.

Nirzka Labault-Cabeza, doctoral candidate in gerontology, defended her dissertation, "Effect of Diversity on Health Care Use," on Jan. 27.

Gifts

Prof. **William Robinson** of the ECOS Department received a donation of two Alcatel Model 2050 Vacuum Pumps from Varian Associate, Inc., of Beverly, Mass. The pumps are worth approximately \$3,500.

Pots to Call Kettles Black in Quinn Cafeteria Courtyard

The latest acquisition for Arts on the Point are two pots and three kettles which have found a new home just outside the Quinn cafeteria. "Black," as the pieces are collectively called, are the creation of artist Dennis Oppenheim. They arrived in December, the result of a serendipitous telephone conversation between Prof. Paul Tucker and the artist.

"It was very fortuitous—we've been trying very hard to install another Oppenheim work, 'Searchburst,' a 25-foot long, hanging sculpture, but have yet to come up with a solution that will neither harm the piece or the (Healey) library," Tucker said. "During the conversation, Oppenheim said to me, 'Black' is back."

It turns out that "Black" was being transported by truck back to Oppenheim in New York City from the Yale University Art Gallery, where it had been on display. Tucker managed a speedy arrangement with campus officials to have the truck re-routed so that "Black" could go on display here, where it is sure to provoke the kind of discussion that Tucker hopes all the Arts on the Point sculptures will prompt.

The reason: there is an audio component to the work which has yet to be connected. Each piece has a speaker inside it, which makes a boiling sound followed by the word "black" at intervals. So as a viewer can see from the way the pieces are arranged, the pots are indeed calling the kettles black.

Tucker has this to say about what this work suggests to him: "While initially charming and amusing—like a renegade from Alice in Wonderland—there is an underlying, edgy message about many things, including hypocrisy and absurd statements," he notes, adding that in this year of political bombshells, the message of "Black" resonates with events taking place in the nation's capitol. "This work is really about arrogance, humility, and ambiguity, among other things," Tucker adds.

College English Moves After Seven-Yr. Term

In January, *College English* (CE), the official journal of the College Section of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), ended its seven-year term of residence at UMass Boston. The scholarly journal has been under the editorship of Professor Louise Z. Smith of the English Department. Her term, which started with the September 1992 issue ended early in 1999; the July 1999 issue will be the last edited by Smith. The newly appointed editor is Professor Jeanne Gunner of California's Santa Clara University.

CE provides a forum in which scholars working within any of the various subspecialties of English can address a broad

cross-section of the profession. CE is a refereed journal: articles are reviewed anonymously by scholars with established reputations in the relevant field. CE covers a wide spectrum of topics relevant to the discipline at the level of higher education; for example, some of the most recent issues of CE include articles entitled "Teaching Writing in a Culture of Technology," "(Re)Reenvisioning the Dissertation," and "The Ethics of Teaching Literature."

A number of faculty members in the English Department have contributed to the success of *College English* over the years, among them are Anita Anger, Helene Davis, Gillian Gane,

Thomas Hurley, Tom O'Grady, Lloyd Schwartz, and G. Patton Wright. Also, various graduate and undergraduate students had the privilege of working as interns at CE. Throughout its term at UMass Boston CE provided a unique opportunity for graduate students in the Master's Program in English to be exposed to scholarly publishing during their internships. Former interns have gone on to pursue successful careers in publishing, teaching, and a variety of other professional fields.

—By Mark Sheehan

Mortgage Lending

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Campen's report also analyzes the performances of three major types of lenders, including large banks, smaller banks and credit unions, and mortgage companies. Boston's large banks—Fleet, BankBoston, Citizens, and Boston Safe Deposit—had by far the best record of lending to minority and low-income borrowers, but their share of all loans fell from 35% to 25%. "Meanwhile, the mortgage companies, who do a much worse job of lending to traditionally underserved borrowers, for the first time made more than half of all mortgage loans in the city," says Campen.

"Denial rates are also important," says Campen, who says that the picture is brighter here, where denials of loan applications for minorities and low-income applicants increased slightly in 1997, but remain low in relation both to the levels here in 1990

and to nationwide denial rates today.

For local and historical context, the impetus for Campen's research on this topic can be traced back to several reports in the late 1980s issued by federal, state and local agencies revealing substantial racial disparities in Boston's home mortgage lending market. In 1990, leaders of the statewide banking industry responded to a year-long campaign by community advocates by making a commitment to increase mortgage lending to underserved borrowers, especially in minority and low-income communities.

In 1995, Campen was commissioned by the Massachusetts Community and Banking Council to look at how minorities and low-income loan applicants had fared in light of that commitment. A report has ensued annually. In addition, the Gastón Institute commissioned Campen

to expand on the finding that Hispanics were the most underserved minority in the City. His report, *Trailing the Pack: Mortgage Lending in Sixteen Massachusetts Cities, 1992-1996*, was published in February, 1998.

After delving into this issue for years, Campen has developed three recommendations for reducing lending disparities for minority and low-income borrowers. First, expand support for "targeted mortgage programs" designed to make homeownership affordable to low-income residents, such as the Soft Second Mortgage Program of the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance. Second, ensure that fair lending laws are enforced. Third, expand the Federal Community Reinvestment Act, "to cover mortgage companies as well as banks," says Campen, who expects to continue this research in future years.

Columbia U. Scholar & Author Designated 1st Robert Wood Visiting Professor

For the first time since it was established in 1996, the Robert C. Wood Visiting Professorship in Public and Urban Affairs has been awarded to Charles Hamilton, the Wallace S. Sayre Professor Emeritus of Government at Columbia University. Hamilton, a distinguished scholar and author of several books, including the acclaimed *The Dual Agenda* (which he co-authored with his wife Dona Cooper Hamilton), begins his professorship at UMass Boston on March 1. During his three day visit, Hamilton will guest lecture in classes related to the field of political science. His agenda does include a public lecture in the evening of Mar. 1 on "The Role

of Government: The Perennial Debate." It will be held in the Chancellor's Conference Room, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Hamilton holds several degrees including a Ph.D from The University of Chicago and a J.D. from Loyola University School of Law. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Advisory Committee on Judicial Selection for Senator Daniel P. Moynihan (D-New York). He has received several honors, awards and fellowships during his career, included among them is the Urban Politics Award and the Guggenheim Fellowship.

Hamilton holds the distinction of being named the first Robert C. Wood Visiting Professor in Public and Urban Affairs. The professorship was established by and named to honor Wood, the former president of the University of Massachusetts (1970-1977), professor of political science, and senior fellow at the McCormack Institute. The endowed professorship, administered by the McCormack Institute, will bring distinguished and thoughtful scholars and public figures to the university to lecture, lead seminars and engage students and faculty in discussions of public policy and political life.