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The 3rd annual Julie Rodick scholarship race was hosted by family and friends on Thackeray Farm on July 18, attracting over 600 participants. Rodick, a graduate of UMass Boston, died in an auto accident in Hingham. The race has raised over $25,000 for the scholarship fund during the past three years.

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Students Undertake Ecology Research Projects

Fourteen biology majors from eight colleges and universities prepared and presented original research projects this summer at UMass Boston through the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program.

UMass Boston was chosen by the NSF as an REU research site in biology, but to provide a coherent experience for students, the focus was narrowed. "We chose to focus on ecology and conservation biology because it is a strength in our department," said Professor Jeremy Hatch, Director of the program. Nine biology faculty members served as research supervisors.

Of the fourteen students who participated in the program, seven are students at UMass Boston. The others attend Brown, Harvard, St. Lawrence and Iowa State Universities; and Allegheny College, the College of the Atlantic; and the University of Colorado. Each student received a $3,100 stipend.

Through the REU program, UMass Boston undergraduate Amy Tucker continued research on the evolution of separate sexes in a plant which she had begun studying the previous year. She spent her summer mapping genes on the x and y chromosomes of silene latifolia, commonly known as white campion, a European import found across New England. Silene latifolia is dioecious, which means that an individual plant is either male or female. The development of dioecy in silene latifolia is a topic Tucker continues to research this semester in Professor Richard Kesseli's lab.

"One of the best things about REU is that it gave me time to devote just to research," said Tucker. She, like many UMass Boston students, juggles courses, work, and other obligations during the school year. "The experience dispelled my fears about going on to graduate school by giving me a taste of what work will be like on that level." A senior, Tucker plans to take a year off after graduation and attend graduate school the following year.

Other research projects include studies of the parental roles of common terms in normal and supernormal clutches, the distortion of sex ratios in the endangered roseate tern, honeybees' ability to find resources, and a plan for migratory animal conservation in Costa Rica. UMass Boston is one of approximately fifty universities which serve as REU research sites, and will offer the program again next summer.

Attention Readers

Send news information to Annette Ferrie or Donna Rotvo at the Office of Public Information, Second Floor, Quinn Administration Building.
Minority Recruitment Focus of Videoconference Linking 175 Colleges

To recruit and retain minority faculty and administrators, universities and colleges must make a multi-leveled effort to set goals, gain strong support for those goals across the campus community, and have top administrators "model" those goals.

This was the message of a videoconference entitled "Creative Ways of Finding and Keeping Faculty and Administrators of Color," presented by the journal Black Issues in Higher Education, sponsored by the Chancellor's Office and coordinated by UMass Boston's Office of Affirmative Action and Multicultural Relations.

The videoconference linked 175 institutions of higher education around the country to moderator Julian Bond, host of the syndicated news show "America's Black Forum," member of the Georgia General Assembly for 29 years and active participant in the civil rights movement, and a panel which included Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Ethnicity and Race in America, University of Colorado at Boulder; Brenda Richardson Malone, Vice Chancellor, Faculty and Staff Relations, City University of New York; Judith M. Gappa, Vice President for Human Relations, Purdue University; Omero Suarez, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Planning and Research, City Colleges of Chicago; Donald J. Stedman, Professor and Dean, School of Education, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Trevor L. Chandler, Executive Director of Academics, Affirmative Action and Diversity, University of California, Davis. The panelists discussed strategies for attracting minority candidates to college campuses and answered questions from participants.

Although progress in recruiting faculty and administrators of color nationwide was cited, employment figures are relatively low. For example, statistics gathered by Black Issues in Higher Education show a six percent increase in the number of African American faculty members on U.S. campuses between 1981 and 1991; however, African Americans still represent less than five percent of full-time university and college faculty nationwide.

A discussion of how to increase the pool of candidates elicited suggestions such as hiring individuals who are in a position to finish their Ph.D.'s quickly rather than requiring them to have their Ph.D. as a job prerequisite; redefining scholarship to include areas of expertise such as community service in order to enlarge candidate pools; and creating university programs which aim to identify and develop promising scholars at the high school and undergraduate levels.

Panelist Donald J. Stedman noted that strategies for attracting and keeping minority faculty and administrators will be determined by the institution's mission and goals and their commitment to creating a diverse community. "I think that our ability to attract people of color improves when we can define our own goals clearly," he stated, noting that the goals of a research university and a community college are quite different.

"Despite the abolition of affirmative action by the California Board of Regents this summer, institutions of higher education by and large continue to embrace affirmative action," said Charles Diggis, Interim Director of Affirmative Action at UMass Boston. "I thought it was important to note that it is possible to have diversity in the university while still not having it within the colleges. Often, minorities are concentrated in certain areas or disciplines. There can be areas which are not diverse. There is still work to be done."

Network for Women in Politics and Public Policy Has First Fall Event

"Beyond Beijing: A Look Back, A Look Forward," a conference held on October 10th sponsored by the Network for Women in Politics and Government, assessed the impact of the "United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women" in Beijing last summer. The Network's event was held on the UMass Boston campus through the support of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy of the John W. McCormack Institute.

The conference was the first major event of the 95-96 season sponsored by the Network, an organization of public policy analysts, legislators, scholars, journalists, faculty, advocates, and students of politics and government from the Boston area concerned with women's participation in politics.

It opened with remarks from Elizabeth Sherman, Director of the Center, Jillian Dickert, President of the Network for Women in Politics and Government, and Janine Getek, Director of the Network. "The motivating force behind this conference was to promote the exchange of information from women to women," explained Getek. "Those women who attended the conference in Beijing had a responsibility to share what they observed with those of us who were unable to travel to China. Through our event that responsibility was fulfilled."

Professor Molly Mead of the Urban and Environmental Policy Department at Tufts University said that at the 300 workshops held during the Beijing conference, men and women were brought together to discuss issues of economics, education, environmental concerns, health, and violence.

"One panel that I was able to attend discussed the fact that in many agricultural countries only one crop is grown, and it is solely to export," said Mead. "This approach to agriculture is bad for the soil. It is also detrimental to the local people. Countries that grow food for export often fail to grow enough food for the people who live in that country."

Mead described a quilt that women from Botswana had sewn and brought to the Beijing conference. "Each panel of the quilt memorialized a woman or girl who had died before her time," she explained. "Some of the most striking panels were of young girls who had been killed at age two, or age eleven, or age eight, by a man in the country."

The women who had made the quilt held a vigil and displayed the quilt for hours while participants of the Beijing conference viewed it.

Other members of the panel who discussed their experiences at the Beijing conference were Diane Balser, former Director of the Women's Statewide Legislative Network; Meizhu Lui, Coordinator of the Boston Health Access Project; Mary Yeaton, Director of Health Care for All Hotline, and Loretta McLaughlin, a former Boston Globe editor.

"We are thinking of working with the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators in order to hold another forum at the State House," said Sherman. "This meeting would serve as a retrospective of the Beijing conference and would be attended by lawmakers and other government officials."

Nancy Carapazza, President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, has been named the Network's Woman of the Year. Carapazza will be honored at an awards dinner on December 6th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at the University Club in the Healey Library. For further information please contact Janine Getek at 287-5562.