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# Reporter

News and information about the University of Massachusetts Boston

Volume 3  
Number 9  
May 1999

## “Justice” Will be the Subject of June 5 Commencement Address

### IN THIS ISSUE:

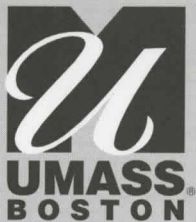
Commencement, 1999 .....	1,12
ARD's Summer Project.....	2
Virtual Classrooms .....	3
Community Web Page .....	3
Forum for 21st Century .....	4
Graduate Thesis Award .....	4
Research Conferences .....	5
Spotlights.....	6,7
Founders Gala .....	8
Classified Breakfast .....	9
Campus Notes .....	10,11
Bluestone Lecture .....	12
Calder Mobile .....	12

Congressman John Lewis of Georgia and Christopher Patten, chairperson of the Independent Commission of Northern Ireland and the last British governor of Hong Kong will be this year's Commencement speakers. Both gentleman will address the subject of justice, Lewis from an national perspective and Patten from an international perspective. The University's commencement exercises will be held on Saturday, June 5 at the Bayside Exposition Center. The main ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by the individual college ceremonies.

Congressman Lewis, a strict follower of nonviolent social protest, received his B.A. from Fisk University in 1967. He organized numerous sit-ins, freedom rides, and protest marches throughout the south in the 1960's. Lewis spent the first half of the 1960's serving as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. This position was followed by his work as a grass roots organizer for the Field Foundation, directing its Voter Education Project. In 1977, he was appointed by President James Carter as director of U.S. operations for ACTION, a federal agency that oversees various economic recovery programs on the community level. In the early 1980's he served on Atlanta's City Council before being elected to the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia, the position he still holds today.

The last British Governor of Hong Kong, Christopher Patten currently holds a crucial role in the Irish peace process by serving as chairman of the Independent Commission, an international commis

*continued on page 12*



## The University Reporter

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Send your news items to:  
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above mailing or e-mail  
address.

# Business Procedures Meet PeopleSoft this Summer

While some campus activities may move into low gear during the summer, Administrative ReDesign (ARD) work will be revving up—and the rubber will meet the road as teams of staff work to streamline our business processes and then match these processes with the capabilities of PeopleSoft technology.

In three broad areas—financial services, student services and human resources—teams will be working to redesign for improved business processes. Doing business with a new vendor, payroll procedures, processing a student's financial aid application, and the admissions process are some of the areas that will be under the microscope.

Leanne Marden, associate project director of ARD/PeopleSoft, explains the work this way: "Right now, if you need to pay a bill, there are many steps to go through. Along with our implementation partners, Anderson Consulting, we are working on creating ideal processes for how to do the University's business in the future. That means putting aside how we do that work now, and thinking in terms of how we can accomplish our work ideally. Once such a process has been created, it gets reviewed and approved, and then is matched up to the capacity of PeopleSoft," she says.

If PeopleSoft cannot provide all the utility needed, a "fitgap" analysis will look at whether we need to modify the process or if supplementing with other software will help us reach our goal.

For this summer, planning for PeopleSoft implementation is the key to progress in campus administrative redesign. Marden explains the need for this kind of planning and preparation: "PeopleSoft is a powerful and flexible technology which involves a great deal of planning before we can use it. It's not like installing WordPerfect on your pc and running with it," she says.

In financial services, reviews of processes for general ledger, budget, billing, and accounts receivable and payable are being undertaken. Human Resources will look at its procedures for payroll, time and labor, and benefits. In Student Services, admissions, advising, registration, student billing, and financial aid procedures will be reviewed.





# Professors, Students Take Virtual Classroom Home

Students off campus can now interact with professors and fellow classmates thanks to the University's virtual classroom. Now in its third semester, virtual classroom use has virtually skyrocketed. More than 70 classes have their own pages. Involvement depends on the professor's initiative.

"It's very helpful for students to be able to communicate with each other," said Prof. Cynthia Jahn, who has used the virtual classroom since its inception. "It gives the students the opportunity to teach, to work with each other." Most virtual classroom pages include a syllabus of the course, student assignments, additional information or website links, and a chat room where students and professors can share their research. Some professors use it as a medium for essays and exams.

According to Alejandro Eluchans of Web Services, setting up a classroom is amazingly simple. Virtual classrooms have four main features. First, they offer a password protected environment where only registered students get access to the information, and only faculty given specific permission can edit the pages. Second, faculty can edit files and create links without spending hours learning html language. Third, professors can upload images — photographs, charts, etc. — to augment information placed on the page. In the future, Eluchans hopes students will also have the ability to upload images. Fourth, the classroom provides a forum for "live" discussions. Professors can create topics to which students can respond.

"Some professors use just the posting of information, some use just the forum, and some use the whole thing... I'd be listening to

a wish list professors have, basically, and I would be taking from that," said Eluchans.

Jahn has witnessed teams of students using the classroom for their research projects. She said having University support is important because classrooms need to address UMass Boston students' needs. But don't expect the virtual classrooms to replace face-to-face interaction. "The idea is to extend the class, to improve the class presence," said Eluchans. "It's never meant to take away the classroom."

Eluchans organizes virtual classroom presentations each semester, and is willing to make special appointments for groups of six to 15 professors. He can be reached at 75411 or [alejandro.eluchans@umb.edu](mailto:alejandro.eluchans@umb.edu).

## Campus - Community Links Highlighted on Website

Let's say you live in Boston, and all the talk of the Boston Harbor Cleanup makes you curious about just what goes on in an urban harbor. Or maybe you are a teacher trying to develop tools to use in the classroom. Or maybe you are retired, and have a question about your pension.

The answer to all those questions, and many others, reside somewhere at UMass Boston as part of the university's mission of serving the community. But service isn't like a field of dreams; if you build it, there's no guarantee people will come. You have to get the word out to them. That's largely the purpose behind a new Community Outreach section of

the university web site. Accessible at [http://www.umb.edu/about\\_umb/community\\_outreach/](http://www.umb.edu/about_umb/community_outreach/), the section lists the many ways UMass Boston interacts with the community.

As part of its mission, UMass Boston has always had a strong sense of community service. However, with each part of the university carrying out its own efforts, there hasn't been one place people could turn to discover all that is available to the community.

According to Web Communication Specialist Joe Peters, that one location doesn't quite exist yet, but the new web site is close

to it.

"Every week more information comes in, and we're still refining parts of it," he said. "Since all this information wasn't in one place before, we've really had to draw on many departments and individuals to get what we need." "It's not complete, but in a sense it never will be," he added. "We want to keep the information fresh. We want people to continue to contact us."

Faculty, staff and students at UMass Boston are encouraged to relay their community-related information to Peters, [joseph.peters@umb.edu](mailto:joseph.peters@umb.edu) (7-5304).



## Forum for 21st Century Examines Gentrification

Five years ago, for just under \$1,000, a family could rent a three-bedroom apartment in Jamaica Plain. Today that same apartment goes for almost \$2,000 a month. The real estate boom that has seen property skyrocket has also thrust out many families and other long-time members of Boston neighborhoods. Recently, the Forum for the 21st Century, a UMass Boston sponsored program to publicly discuss the issues affecting the city in the next century, tackled this dilemma.

Whether phrased as "economic cycle," "gentrification," or "real estate boom," the issue boils down to a loss of stability in many neighborhoods. Kathy Brown of City Life, a community organization in Jamaica

Plain, told the Forum one step would be more housing funding from the government. Lew Finfer, director of the Organizing and Leadership Training Center in Dorchester suggested the answer also lies in communities becoming more organized and gaining more clout.

Former State Representative Charlotte Golar Richie, now director of the city's Neighborhood Development Agency, assured that housing is a priority, but there is no getting around that part of the solution is convincing communities to accept low and moderate income housing.

To that end, architect Kirk Sykes of the Primary Group talked about the need to bring stable

business back to the community as well, to provide permanent jobs and the type of business that will make a neighborhood less transient.

Change in the neighborhoods can be a bad thing, but most agreed, change is a problem when you lose the diversity of those neighborhoods. "If you look at the neighborhoods in Boston, they've always been defined by the waves of immigration over the years," said South Boston State Senator Stephen Lynch. "But with what we have going on now, the thing that is defining the neighborhoods is that the people there have enough money to afford the housing. What we're going to end up is one homogenous group. And that's not a good thing."

## Doctoral Student Wins NAGS Thesis Award

Paul Miller's thesis has been on a trajectory. First, it was chosen for UMass Boston's Distinguished Masters Thesis Award. That was followed by winning the Distinguished Masters Thesis Award for the UMass five-campus system. On April 23, Miller travelled to Atlantic City, New Jersey, to be presented with the 1998-99 Master's Thesis Award in the area of Social and Behavioral Sciences & Education from the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS), an organization of over 100 universities from New England and Mid-Atlantic states.

Miller's winning thesis, "Psychological Distress, Abuse Histories, and Perpetration in College Males," was remarkable for several reasons, according to

Prof. David Lisak, Miller's advisor in the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. There has long been an acknowledged link between childhood sexual abuse in males and the propensity to commit violence later, but most research looked at incarcerated offenders, who represent a small minority of those committing personal violence, since most goes unreported.

A chief contribution of Miller's work is that all of his subjects were outside of the criminal justice system. After a thorough assessment of psychological symptoms, he found that sexually abused men who do not report perpetrating violence express more symptoms of their abuse. Sexually abused men who report perpetrating violence on others in

the relatively recent past express fewer symptoms of their abuse.

"It was an ambitious project, and Paul accomplished it with great skill," says Lisak. Miller credits Lisak's work in psychopathology, male childhood abuse, and the perpetration of violence with inspiring his thesis topic. He also credits Profs. Michael Milburn and Castellano Turner who served as second and third readers respectively, for their valuable feedback on his thesis.

As for Miller, he is keeping his eyes on the ultimate prize—securing his doctorate, which he hopes to do in Fall of 1999 or early 2000. He hopes to eventually work in a teaching hospital, splitting his time between clinical work and research.



# Undergraduates Present Research at National Conference

For the first time, UMass Boston undergraduates presented their research projects at a conference devoted to undergraduate research from around the country. They joined approximately 2,000 students from over 400 colleges and universities nationwide at the Eleventh Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research which was held this year at the University of Rochester from April 8 to 10.

Nilton Medina, a senior biochemistry major from New Bedford, was one of those students. His project, "Mechanisms of ATP Depletion Induced by Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) /Ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>)," presents his research on *heliobacter pylori*, an ulcer-forming bacteria that liberates ammonia and is toxic to cells. Medina has also presented his research at Harvard Medical School, the Boston University School of Medicine, and at the Seventh Annual Ronald P. McNair Research Conference.

For Medina, these conferences are always worthwhile. "I get to interact with other students interested in the same kinds of research that I'm interested in, see their projects, and judge them for myself. I was impressed by the work I saw at the conference, but I also felt that our work was just as good," he says.

The chance to judge one's own work against the "competition" also recurs in the comments of senior English major David

Weiher, who was a first-time presenter at the conference. His research project, "The Two Grail Heroes of Edwin Austin Abbey's 'The Quest for the Holy Grail,' " grew out of his senior honors thesis, an explication of a series of mural paintings by Abbey in the Boston Public Library.

"Because UMass Boston is a public, urban university, access is an important part of its mission. At the conference, I also saw the excellence that UMass Boston produces. Our projects were being judged against those of other institutions, urban or not, and I thought the quality of the UMass Boston presentations were on a par. It was excellent and original research," Weiher comments.

English Professor Monica McAlpine, director of the CAS Honors Program, accompanied the students to the Rochester conference. She says that the experience of such a conference is important for a variety of reasons.

"What's most important is that the experience of presenting is invaluable. Students must adapt their projects to a new format, they must polish their presentations for the public, and they must be ready to answer questions."

Getting a sense of how UMass Boston students measure in relation to the national competition (although no prizes were awarded at the conference) was

also of interest to McAlpine. "At the national level, one does recognize the different league in extent, variety, and numbers, and it is interesting to see yourself in relation to that." The students were very supportive of one another, attending each others presentations, she says.

For UMass Boston as an institution, having students participate in such conferences establishes the reputation of the university, and the quality of the work that faculty and students are doing, she adds.

Students were aided in attending the national conference thanks in part to a Campus Performance Grant from the State Board of Higher Education, which also funds the statewide Conference on Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, Creative and Public Services Activities, which took place April 30 for the fifth year. Support also came from the UMass Boston Student Senate, which contributed \$5,000 this year to defray expenses for those students who participated in either the national or state conferences.

On campus May 19, a one-day conference on undergraduate research and creative activity will celebrate UMass Boston student achievements and set the agenda for future activities. On display at the conference will be a catalogue of 200 student projects. For more information, contact the Honors Program at 7-5220.



### **Nuclear Weapons Expert Discusses Russia's Nuclear Legacy**

On April 6, Richard Falkenrath, faculty member of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, spoke on the international threat posed by deteriorating conditions in the former Soviet Union's nuclear industry. His lecture was sponsored by the Joiner Center and the McCormack Institute, and was held at the Kennedy Library. Falkenrath described several security challenges, including accidental deployment of strategic or tactical nuclear weapons, theft of weapons or fissile materials, and the defection of Soviet scientists to other countries that want to develop their own nuclear capacities. He also spoke about ongoing discussions with the Russians to improve security and improve and verify disposal of nuclear materials. Paul Atwood of the Joiner Center provided introductory remarks, and Edmund Beard of the Center for Democracy and Development, McCormack Institute, served as respondent.

### **Welcome Day Greets Prospective Students**

On Saturday, April 10 the campus came alive for prospective students, when members of the University community turned out to welcome those who have been offered admission to UMass Boston for September 1999. Approximately 450 new students, family members and friends attended. Among the prospects were 13 students graduating first or second in their high school class and four students graduating first in their community college class, with 22% from out of state

and 5% from outside the U.S. Students and guests attended lectures and workshops on academic topics and on issues such as financial aid, scholarships, internships, and study abroad programs. Campus tours, actual and virtual followed, and then prospective students and parents could attend to practical matters with staff members from enrollment offices.

### **Campus gets Down to Earth All Month**

Only 6-7% of UMass Boston students and faculty carpool to campus. Of those who drive, 17% sit behind the wheel of a sports utility vehicle. The Environmental Studies Program conducted a transportation survey to promote environmentally friendly means of getting from here to there, which coincided with Earth Day (April 22). The first Earth Day, organized by former Senator Gaylord Nelson, gathered an estimated 20 million people in peaceful demonstrations across the country in 1970. UMass Boston students and faculty continued that spirit with a series of events. Earth Day events included:

- The Geography Department's Geography Awareness Week;
- The Biology Department Greenhouse's collection of plants native to tropical, desert, and temperate climates;
- The Urban Harbors Institute's Sustainability Clinic along with harbor tours for employees' children as a part of Bring Your Child to Work Day; and
- The Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences Program's Earth Day seminar with Gordon MacKay, professor of Geophysi-

cal Fluid Dynamics, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University.

### **Titus Receives Award from National Basketball Coaches Association**

Charlie Titus, director of athletics and head men's basketball coach, was one of three coaches to be honored with the third annual Outstanding Service Award of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). He received the award at the Division III meeting of the annual NABC convention held in Tampa, Florida, on March 27. The award honors those who have made invaluable contributions to their communities where they live and work. Titus, a resident of Roxbury, serves on the boards of several community organizations, including the Roxbury Boys and Girls Club, the Roxbury YMCA, Freedom House, and the City of Boston Council on Youth. He is also a member of the Boston Celtics Community Advisory Panel, and is associate commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Titus has coached men's basketball at UMass Boston for 24 years.

### **College of Management Sponsors Executive Forums**

The College of Management Senior Executive Leadership Forum continues to bring together accomplished senior executives, CM faculty, staff and MBA students for a special presentation and Q&A sessions. Two senior executive leaders, Ronald Skates, the president and ceo of Data General Corporation and Robert Pozen, president and



ceo of Fidelity Management and Research Company were Forum guests in April. Skates, from Westborough-based DG, addressed the issue of "Surviving in a Silicon Valley World" to classes on entrepreneurship, strategic management and global industry and corporate analysis with faculty members Turner, Franko and Habib. Fidelity's Bob Pozen addressed the mutual funds class on "Servicing Fund Shareholders" in a special session at University of Massachusetts President William Bulger's office. The mutual funds class was inaugurated, initiated and funded by Fidelity Investments. The forums continue May 3 with Christy Mihos, founder of Christy's Markets and a trustee of the University of Massachusetts.

#### **Higher Education Grant to Strengthen Services for Disadvantaged Students**

In fiscal year 2000, the University will receive \$275,707 from the State Board of Higher Education (pending legislative approval) to support a multi-faceted recruitment and retention strategy aimed to increase the number of disadvantaged student who graduate from UMass Boston. One set of activities will focus on strengthening student preparation for higher education through the Admission Guaranteed and the Directions for Student Potential (DSP) programs. A second set of activities will focus on more aggressive recruitment of disadvantaged students through such events as a guidance in-service day and dinner, targeted publications, and through enrollment ambassadors and a junior visitation program. Finally,

intensive academic support and advising will be provided for matriculated students, especially in the first two years of study. Overseeing the grant are Patricia Davidson, vice provost for academic support services, Kathleen Teehan, associate chancellor for enrollment management and university communications, and Joan Becker, assistant vice provost for academic support services.

#### **Daffodil Days Fundraiser Supports the American Cancer Society**

Bright yellow daffodils graced many a desk March 24 and 25, when the Department of Human Resources held its second Daffodil Days fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. This year, the sale raised \$2,000 to support a variety of programs for cancer research, prevention, education, and services for cancer patients and their families.

#### **Polaroid Corporation Donates Spectrometer to Chemistry Department**

The Polaroid Corporation has donated a Bruker 300 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer to the Department of Chemistry. Worth approximately \$250,000, this instrument reveals how chemicals are put together, by showing how atoms are connected in a molecule. Faculty and students will now have access to this important piece of equipment, which will be a cornerstone of the new "Green Chemistry Laboratory for Research and Education in Sustainable Innovation" which is being created in the Science Building.

#### **Retired Faculty Member Luise H. Bronner Dies**

Founding faculty member Luise H. Bronner, who taught courses in German language instruction and literature, died in April. Born in Heilbronn, Germany, Prof. Bronner's undergraduate education was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. After moving to the United States, she worked in industry as a chemist before resuming her undergraduate education at Middlebury College and the University of Rhode Island. She received her doctorate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She was a recognized poet, with work published in several anthologies, and a scholar of Berthold Brecht. A memorial service in her honor was held April 15.

#### **Senior Graphic Designer Joins University Communications Staff**

Sarah Weatherbee has joined the Office of University Communications as a senior graphic designer. She will be responsible for planning and designing publications for the university community. Sarah has over eight years of graphic design experience. Prior to accepting her job at UMass Boston, she worked as a freelance designer. Also during her career she worked as a graphic designer for Cape Cod Community College and Cape Museum of Fine Arts in Dennis, Massachusetts. Sarah received her BFA from Maine College of Art.



# UMass Boston Marks 35th Anniversary with Gala Honoring Founders, Charter Class

On April 10, approximately 150 members of the Charter Class of 1969 returned to Park Square, decked out in their party best. But instead of returning to the old Boston Gas Building, their destination was the Park Plaza Hotel, where they and over 130 founding faculty members who taught and mentored them, and close to 40 founding staff members who worked to make it all possible, were guests of honor at UMass Boston's 35th Gala Anniversary celebration. Nearly 400 faculty, staff, and friends of the University joined the guests of honor for an evening full of reacquainting and reminiscing, as well as fine dining and dancing.

Chancellor Sherry Penney hosted the formal program of the evening, and greetings of the University were brought by UMass President William Bulger. Special guests included UMass Boston's first chancellor, John W. Ryan, now Chancellor of the State University of New York system, and James Smith '69, president of the student council, and now a partner in the Boston law firm of Smith, Segal and Sowalsky. Retired Professors Ruth Butler and Joel Blair took to the podium to announce the establishment of the University's first endowed faculty career development fund in support of pre-tenured faculty, and English Professor Duncan Nelson grabbed a chair and provided an epic poem penned especially for the occasion.

The formal portion of the evening ended after dinner when each member of the Class of 1969 and founding faculty and staff stepped to the front of the ballroom, and announced their names into the microphone while their images were reflected on a large screen behind the stage. They were each then presented with a forged brass clock engraved for the occasion, from Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Michael Luck and his staff.

The evening was a success as a reunion, as evidenced by the fact that it was hard to distract the crowd from their conversations during the formal portion of the program. Yet everyone present recognized that the gala celebration was more than just a reunion—it was also a celebration of the University's founding—and of the spirit which in those early years overcame many obstacles to incubate and nurture the University that exists today. It was this historic aspect that gave the gala celebration special meaning.

"Think about it," said recently retired CPCS Professor Richard Hogarty, a founding faculty member who served on the steering committee for the gala. "How many other universities can produce their founding faculty, staff, and charter class? Seldom have I seen the UMass Boston community come together quite the way it did at the 35th Birthday celebration. As the songwriter said, 'it was a lovely way to spend an evening.'"

The seeds of this event were planted nearly one year ago by the Office for Institutional Advancement. Steering Committee member Don Costello, UMass Boston's first director of admissions, got the call to join the planning. He credits Joe O'Brien, associate vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement, and Judy Byrne Ariel, director of Donor Relations, for moving the process along from beginning to end. Along the way, many others—former and present faculty, staff, and alums—gave time, energy, and expertise to make this event a success. Especially instrumental were first Dean of Faculty Paul Gagnon, and Class of '69 alum Jim Smith.

Costello adds that Chancellor Penney's support was critical. "We had all kinds of plans, but when Chancellor Penney got involved, she lent her support and invested in a very strong celebration. That's when things really took off," he says.

It was, all in all, a spectacular evening honoring the founding of a great university, says Institutional Advancement's Luck.

"The gala was unprecedented," he says. "Dozens of volunteers produced the largest event in the institution's history. The evening provided the opportunity for all who attended to relive history for a brief moment, while recognizing all the people who helped make UMass Boston possible."



# Classified Staff Breakfast Celebrates New Skills, Accomplishments

On April 20, over 150 classified staff members from units throughout the University attended the annual Classified Staff Breakfast in the University Club, where Chancellor Sherry Penney applauded their many accomplishments, including the recent participation of 18 staff members in Worker Education Program (WEP) professional communication classes sponsored by the University and SEIU Local 285.

Introduced by Beth Marshall, Acting Director of Human Resources, one of those participants, Christine Boseman of the Auxiliary Service Department, read her essay "Then and Now." She stated, "While working at the University, I have accomplished some valuable goals. Some of my major accomplishments have been working toward getting a degree and improving my secretarial skills."

Delivering a similarly positive message, Karla M. DeLeon, who recently moved from the Office of Career Services to the Division of Continuing Education, read from her text entitled, "The Right Path." She announced, "In the future, I will not only become a professional, but a more educated person with a lot to offer." Both essays were published in the WEP course book *Working Writers III*.

Noting the eloquence and poise of these two presenters, Chancellor Penney reminded attendees that individual staff accomplishments contribute to the strength and growth of the University as a whole. She went on to applaud

the prizewinning artwork of Bernadette Levasseur of the Copy Center, and mention that Barbara Davis of the Anthropology Department was recently interviewed by *The Boston Globe* for her work with the Holbrook Public Schools.

The Chancellor also recognized university-wide successes such as Daffodil Days and the Making Strides against Breast Cancer walk as well as widespread staff participation in ARD committees. She said, "The staff of UMass Boston has great talent and energy. I am very proud of your hard work and accomplishments. You are the unsung heroes of the university."

Gail Hobin, Director of Community Relations and Special Events explained, "This is an event used to recognize all the contributions of the staff and to update them on things that happen around the University." Staff members in attendance expressed gratitude for the chance to meet with each other and learn more about university happenings. Ann Disessa of the Classics Department remarked, "I enjoy going and meeting some of the people I talk with on the telephone but never get a chance to see." She added, "It is also an important opportunity to get an update on what's going on in the campus community."

Chancellor Penney provided the staff with information on rising enrollment figures and updates on projects such as ARD, PeopleSoft, the acquisition of the Pump House, and the new student center—all of which

signal the growth of the university. Chancellor Penney also noted the growing numbers of employees who have been with the university for 20, 25, and 30 years. Addressing the staff as a whole, Chancellor Penney stated, "You are the source of our success."

— By Anne Marie Kent

## SEIU Grant Funds Worker Education Program Classes

Last May, an exciting partnership between the University and SEIU Local 285 resulted in the availability of Worker Education Program courses for staff skills enhancement. Interviews and focus groups conducted with classified staff helped identify training needs, and classes were developed in response. In October, the WEP, working with the Learning Center and Human Resources, offered programs emphasizing skill development in the following areas: writing, workplace communication, conflict negotiation, and collaborative problem solving. Summer WEP courses offered will include "Speaking Up, Speaking Out," a course in public speaking; "Effective Communication," for enhancing personal communication styles; and "Negotiation Skills" training to help deal with conflict. All classes are hands-on and interactive.

—A.K.



Conferences and Events

Graduate Dean **Martin Quitt** commented on three papers and chaired a session on "Science and Reform in Early Republican Philadelphia" at the New England Historical Association at Rivier College in Nashua, New Hampshire on April 17. He also moderated and presented at a session, "The Role of Research at Public Urban Universities" at the 4th annual meeting of Urban 13 Graduate Deans and Research Officers in New Orleans.

The recent national conference of the Association for Asian American Studies in Philadelphia was attended by UMass Boston faculty members Profs. **Andrew Leong** and **Madhulika Khandelwal** of CPCS, English Prof. **Rajini Srikanth**, and GCOE Prof. **Peter Kiang**, who presented papers and chaired a variety of sessions.

Art Prof. **Victoria Weston** will speak on issues of art pedagogy at a round table discussion focusing on the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe on May 22 in Washington D.C. The roundtable is being held in conjunction with an exhibit, "Georgia O'Keeffe: The Poetry of Things" at the Phillips Collection which opened April 16.

Theatre Arts Prof. **Ron Nash** was invited to hang an exhibition of art from the People's Republic of China at the United States Institute for Theater Technology Convention in Toronto, Canada, held March 23 to 27. The work of two designers, Wang Cunyu of the Beijing Peoples Art Theater, and Suo Wanjin, China's foremost puppet designer, were displayed in the exhibition for the first time in the West.

**Melodie Wenz-Gross** and **Robin Parker** of the Center for Social Development and Education presented a poster, "Differences in Stress and Social Support Among Students entering Urban, Urban Fringe, or Suburban Middle Schools," at the 1999 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in April.

Sociology Prof. **Stephanie Hartwell**, CPCS Prof. **Sylvia Mignon** and Applied Sociology Graduate Student **Laura Lempicki** presented their paper, "Reducing Alcohol Misuse Among College Students: Results from a Model Brief Intervention Feasibility Study," at the 1999 Eastern Sociological Society meeting in Boston.

**Harold Horton**, associate director of the Trotter Institute, served as a discussant at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Montreal, Canada, on April 19. He responded to papers on the role of research in challenging racial inequality in education.

English Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz** took part in a poetry reading at Holyoke Center, Harvard Square as part of National Poetry Week on April 8, and also read the part of Virgil in a reading of Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky's version of "Dante's Inferno" at Butler University in Indiana on April 14, and in Santa Fe New Mexico on April 26. Participants besides Schwartz and Pinsky were poets Eavan Boland and Frank Bidart, and replacing Boland in Santa Fe was Pulitzer Prize winner Louise Gluck.

College of Management Prof. **Abhijit Chaudury** will present

a paper, "Impact of Web Technologies on Information Systems Skill Requirements," at the Information Resource Management Association conference on May 17.

Sociology Prof. **Siamak Movahedi** presented a paper on gender and attitude towards risk, and sat on a panel on graduate education at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in March.

Prof. **Linda Eisenmann** of the GCOE moderated a panel discussion, "Breaking Boundaries: Origins of Single-Sex Education for Girls and Women" as part of a lecture series sponsored by the Old South Meeting House on April 7.

Grants & Fellowships

The **College of Management** has received a \$150,000 grant from the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation to support the Minority Scholarship Model Program, which creates academic support services and scholarships for students who are first generation, new immigrants, minorities, or low-income management students.

Psychology Prof. **Amy Weisman** has been awarded a \$25,000 B Start Grant, a behavioral sciences-track award for young investigators, from the National Institute of Health for her research proposal, "Culture and Family Reactions to Schizophrenia."

Two students working with Chemistry Prof. **John Warner** have received summer fellowships: **Iyore Otabor** has received a Council on Undergraduate Research Summer Research Fellowship in Chemistry for research on synthetic derivatives of

thymidine; and **Brian Ferla** has received a 1999 Pfizer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program to work with Warner on a project, "Templated Photodimerization of Cinnamic Acids."

History/American Studies Prof. **Esther Kingston-Mann** recently completed a fellowship at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden. She completed a project, "A Comparative History of Private Property/Privatization Across Cultures: England, Russia, Sweden, Botswana."

Awards and Appointments

Gerontology faculty member **Marion Spencer** will receive the Frank J. Manning Elder Advocate of the Year Award from Governor Cellucci at the annual Governor's Conference on Aging, held May 19 in Boxborough.

Anthropology Prof. **Barbara Luedtke** received the Society for American Archaeology's Award for Excellence in Lithic Studies at their annual meeting in Chicago.

Chemistry Prof. **John Warner** has been named an American Chemical Society "College Chemistry Consultant" to help colleges develop interdisciplinary research programs and integrate environmental concerns throughout undergraduate education.

Prof. Emeritus **Joseph Cooney** of the ECOS Department has been named a Foundation for Microbiology Lecturer from July 1999 to June 2001. The Foundation makes speakers available throughout the U.S.

Nursing Prof. **Lin Zhan** has been appointed an editorial board member of the *Journal*



of *Nursing and Health Care*, an official journal of the National League for Nursing, and as an editorial review panel member of the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*.

**Karen O'Connor**, director of the GCOE's Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning, has been appointed to the Governor's Design Team on Teacher Professional Development and Support.

GCOE Counseling Program student **Barbara Davis** was honored by the Medford Human Rights Commission as a "Women of Achievement." The award highlights individuals who make a positive impact on the reputation of the city.

Profs. **Prudence King** and **Jim Collins** of the GCOE's Teacher Education Program have been made honorary members of the Golden Key National Honor Society for their enthusiastic commitment to teaching.

Prof. **Michael LaFargue** of the Study of Religion Program has won the *Choice* 35th Annual Outstanding Book Award for *Lao-tzu and the Tao-te-ching*, which he coedited.

#### In the News

An article, "Asian Elders in America: Health Researcher **Lin Zhan** discusses the health concerns of Boston's elderly Asian immigrants," appeared in the March 19 issue of *Sampan*, a bilingual newspaper serving the Asian American community.

English Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz's** poem, "Her Waltz," first published in Microsoft's online magazine *Slate* was reprinted in the April 15 *Somerville Journal* for National Poetry Month.

UMass Boston's **Asian American Studies Program** was highlighted in the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* feature story on the field of Asian American studies which appeared in the April 2 issue.

#### Publications

Prof. **Lois Rudnick**, director of the American Studies Program, served as editor for the Winter 1999 issue of *Magazine of History*, which is published by the Organization of American Historians for secondary school history and social studies teachers. The theme of the issue is "Using Literature to Teach History."

English Prof. **Susan Horton** served as advisory editor to the newly released *The Oxford Reader's Companion to Dickens*, published by Oxford University Press.

History/American Studies Prof. **Esther Kingston-Mann** published an article, "The Danger of Universal Principles" in *Challenge: A Magazine of Economic Affairs*, in January.

ECOS Prof. Emeritus **Joseph J. Cooney** and Dr. John M. Tobin of the Dublin City University, Ireland, have published "Action of inorganic tin and oraniotins on a hydrocarbon-using yeast, *Candida Maltosa*," in the *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* 36: 7-12 (1999).

An article by Chemistry Prof. **John Warner** and student **Khai Bui** highlighting Bui's award winning research on "The Reaction of Benzal-doximoyl chlorides with organic oxides as a form of Green Chemistry," was published in the American Chemical Society's newsletter, *The Nucleus*.

Biology Prof. **Solange Brault** is co-author of an article, "Declining Survival Probability threatens the North Atlantic Right Whale," which appears in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, March, 1999.

Sociology Prof. **Siamak Movahedi's** research report, "The Utopian Pursuit of Death," appears in the Spring 1999 issue of the journal *American Imago*.

Physics Prof. **Edward Ginsberg's** solutions manuals for instructors and students, which are supplements to the text *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* by Richard Wolfson and Jay M. Pasachoff, have been published in third editions by AddisonWesley Publishers.

GCOE Prof. **Peter Kiang's** article, "Writing from the Past, Writing for the Future: Healing Effects of Asian American Studies in the Curriculum," appears in *Transformations: A Resource for Curriculum Transformation and Scholarship*, in April. His article, "Curricular Connections and Reflections for the Pacific Century" appears in *Intersections: A Professional Development Project in Multicultural and Global Education* published by the Children's Museum.

Sociology Prof. **Stephanie Hartwell** co-authored an article, "Taking the Long View: Joint Training of Criminal Justice and Mental Health Professionals in the Assessment of Substance Abuse Problems Among the Incarcerated Dually Diagnosed in Massachusetts," which appeared in the Jan/Feb. issue of *American Jails*.

#### Elected to Office

**Fred Koed**, a student in the Master's Program in Public Affairs, has been elected a selectman in the town of Cohasset. Koed will graduate from the Masters Program in June.

#### Performances

Music Prof. **David Patterson's** composition, "Strayhorn in Harlem, 1941" has its American premiere by the Portland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Toshiyuki Shimada in "A Tribute to Duke Ellington" on May 1 and 2 at the Merrill Auditorium, Portland Maine. An arrangement of Patterson's composition for clarinet and piano will be performed by the composer and Gerald Farmer at the College Music Society's international meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in June.

Prof. **Jon C. Mitchell**, chair of the Music Department, will conduct the Filharmonia Sudecka in Walbrzych, Poland, on May 7. The program will include works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Rachmaninoff.

#### Events

The **Biology Department** held an alumni gathering to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the University on April 30. Retired faculty members from the department, including Profs. Ruth Bennett, Lawrence Kaplan, Fuad Safwat, and Bettina Harrison were present, along with alumni, department faculty and staff.



## Commencement

*continued from page 1*

sion looking into ways to reform the police in Northern Ireland. Patten was Minister for Northern Ireland in the early 1980's, a particularly tense time in that country's history, and is regarded in both the Protestant and Catholic communities as one of the best ministers to have served there. A scholar and statesman, Patten's book, East and West: China, Power and the Future of Asia, was chosen as one of the best books of 1998 by *The New York Times*.

In addition to delivering the commencement address both Lewis and Patten will receive honorary degrees along with Judith Jamison, artistic director

of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Daniel Goleman, behavioral science writer and author of Emotional Intelligence and the sequel Working with Emotional Intelligence; and Donald Rodman, philanthropist and successful businessman.

All members of the University community are invited to attend Commencement. Please bring your university identification card for admittance.

## WUMB 91.9 to broadcast commencement address on June 6

If you are unable to attend commencement but are interested in hearing Congressman John Lewis and Christopher Patten's commencement address, tune into WUMB 91.9 FM on Sunday evening, June 6. The station will present a live broadcast of the entire address.

## Calder Sculpture Comes to UMass Boston Courtesy of Fleet Bank

A 300 pound mobile, 14-feet wide by 9- feet high, is the newest addition to the "Arts on the Point" collection. Created by noted sculptor Alexander Caldwell, the mobile has been loaned to the University by Fleet Bank. It was installed on Friday, April 23, and is on view near the reference desk of Healey Library, on the fourth floor. Considered one of Calder's finest examples of monumental mobiles, this sculpture is the only one of its kind on display and accessible for public viewing in New England. Originally purchased by Connecticut Bank and Trust (CBT) in the 1960s, Calder's artwork hung at One Constitution Plaza in Hartford for over 30 years. It became part of Fleet Bank's permanent collection in the early 1990s when CBT was acquired by Fleet.

## Veteran Journalist Christopher Hedges Gives Bluestone Lecture

For almost two decades, Christopher Hedges has journeyed from one international hot spot to another, putting himself in harm's way, bearing witness to the atrocities and the realities of war throughout the world.

As a war correspondent and Shakespearean scholar, Hedges can offer a unique perspective on how the famous English playwright lends sense to a senselessness of war. Hedges, on a year's sabbatical as a Nieman scholar at Harvard University, shared his thoughts on Shakespeare and war as the guest speaker of the English Department's April 23 Max Bluestone Lecture.

"I've always carried Shakespeare with me," he told the audience, "if not for solace, then at least for some understanding of the dark

forces inside all of us." Hedges is presently Balkan Bureau Chief for the *New York Times*.

## Thanks for Contributing

Our thanks to everyone who contributed stories to the *University Reporter* in 1998-1999. Contributors include University Publications Editor Jeffrey Mitchell, Anne Marie Kent of the Division of Continuing Education, Web Master Ellen Evans, Patrick Dwyer of Undergraduate Admissions, Kelly McLaughlin, coordinator of the Merit Based Scholarship Office, graduate students Mark Sheehan and Michael Lally, and student intern Ann-Joyce Brandt. A special thanks to Barnas Monteith for providing the ARD illustrations, and to Hisako Matsui for design assistance. The staff of the *University Reporter* wishes all our readers a great summer. See you in September!