

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

1991-1996, Friday Report

University Publications and Campus
Newsletters

3-8-1996

Friday Report - Vol. 06, No. 02 - March 8, 1996

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_fridayreport



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "Friday Report - Vol. 06, No. 02 - March 8, 1996" (1996). *1991-1996, Friday Report*. 85.

https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_fridayreport/85

This University Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications and Campus Newsletters at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1991-1996, Friday Report by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.

Volume 6
Number 2
March 8, 1996

News and information
about and for the
University Community from
the Chancellor's Office

NSF Grant Funds Professors Moore and White's Neuroscience Project

Professor Celia Moore and Biology Professor Richard White have received a three-year \$260,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund research in the area of integrative biology and neuroscience. White's expertise is electron microscopy, and Moore's is the relationship between hormones, early experience, and development of both behavior and the nervous system. Their collaboration enables them to examine the fine structures of nerve cells in male and female rats to explore the effects of hormones and social factors on the differential development of the nervous system.

"My research asks if maternal stimulation contributes to the differences in development of the nervous system between male and females," says Moore. "Through electron microscopy, we are now looking at differentiation of the axons of nerve cells." Moore and White are assisted by Neil McGaffigan, an electron microscope technician whose work is supported by the NSF grant.

Moore's multidisciplinary work in this area has been continuously funded by the NSF since 1976, and led to the discovery that the sense of smell allowed mother rats to distinguish between their male and female offspring. Her research established a link between two aspects of animal life that scientists had previously assumed to be independent of each other: social behavior and biology.

"We began experiments in changing the scent factor, and exploring the reproductive success of the manipulated offspring. What we found was that if mothers could not respond to the olfactory cues delivered by their offspring, the mother's social behavior towards them was weakened. The male rats matured into less sexually successful adults. We discovered that by making the mother unable to distinguish the male from the female by smell, we could identify a social influence on dimorphic sexual development. Our research discovered a link between social behavior and biology."

Moore received her Ph.D. in psychology from Rutgers University. She spent 1989-90 at the University of Illinois studying neuroanatomy in order to further her multidisciplinary research capabilities.

Through her grants, Moore has trained as many as six to twelve undergraduate students a year as researchers in her lab. Some of Moore's students

have gone on to earn advanced degrees or work in biomedicine or other research areas. Professor Susan Brunelli, a developmental psychobiologist at Columbia University is an alumna of Moore's lab, as is Professor Gilda Morelli, a cross-cultural psychologist at Boston College, and Professor Denise Jackson, a neuroscientist at Northeastern University.

White notes that cross-disciplinary collaborations and research in neurobiology have increased recently. He has collaborated with scientists from St Louis University and Syracuse University on his research into the light-sensitive cells in the eyes of a species of moth, which has been funded by the NSF for the past ten years. "Neurobiology is becoming more and more of a collaborative field," he says. "For this kind of collaboration, you need a good group of active scientists, which we have here at UMass Boston." Moore and White began collaborating in 1992, when they received a Healey Grant from UMass Boston to conduct joint research into a sensory nerve that carries input from maternal stimulation.

Demographics Study Cites Changes in Boston

Traditional images of Boston as consisting of largely white ethnic neighborhoods are no longer accurate, according to a new study by three UMass Boston research institutes. The study, *A Dream Deferred: Changing Demographics, Challenges & New Opportunities for Boston*, shows that 40% of Boston's residents are non-white, and nearly 30% are newcomers to the City within the past five years.

A Dream Deferred examines data from the 1990 U.S. census and other sources, and shows that the population of Boston has been moving towards increasing diversity, with large gains in the percentages of communities of color, and increasing diversity within those communities.

The study presents evidence that gaps are widening between whites and non-whites in the areas of employment and income. While the median income for Boston households increased 36% from 1980 to 1990, the poorest 20% of the population moved further away from the city median during that time. Twenty percent of households made less than 40% of the median income in 1980, and 20% of all households made less than 34% of the median income in 1990.

The study contains an extensive demographic and socioeconomic profile of Boston, citing figures by race, ethnicity, and neighborhood composition, and showing newcomers as percentages of population. It discusses socioeconomic characteristics, such as housing, education, employment, and income. It also provides a recent history of Blacks, Asians, and Latinos in Boston, including institutional responses to the growth of new groups of immigrants.

A Dream Deferred was a joint effort among UMass Boston's Institute for Asian American Studies, William Monroe Trotter, and Mauricio Gaston Institutes. Paul Watanabe, Professor of Political

Science and Co-Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies, is principal author of the report and collaborated with James Jennings, Gemima Remy, and Russell Williams of the Trotter Institute; Edwin Melendez and Christina Gomez of the Gaston Institute; and Michael Liu of the Institute for Asian American Studies. Each Institute brought its expertise and cultural perspective to the project.

"We argue that the many diverse communities of Boston should be recognized as a source of strength. If you look beyond downtown Boston, you can see growth in many neighborhoods," says Watanabe. "Driving this development are groups of new residents. Their energy is going into these areas, unappreciated and unseen by many segments of the Boston community. In our opinion, Boston's economic, social, cultural, and political life has not kept pace with the big changes that have occurred in the demographics of the city. We want people who care about the present and future of Boston to see this study." *A Dream Deferred* concludes with calls for a broad and inclusive dialogue on the part of Boston's institutions and individuals who wish to develop a shared sense of community.

The report was commissioned by The Boston Foundation, a participant in the Ford Foundation's *Changing Communities, Diverse Needs* initiative. "There is perhaps no more urgent task than generating public dialogue about our differences in order to find and affirm our shared concerns and aspirations," according to Anna Faith Jones, president of the Boston Foundation, in her introduction to the report. Jones also offers a strong endorsement of UMass Boston's unique research and policy analysis capabilities. She notes that the three research institutes have a growing history of collaborative work, and that they provide the City of Boston with a unique institutional capacity for community analysis.

Campus Notes

A Higher Education Coordinating Council task force chaired by Chancellor Sherry H. Penney, has issued a major report on financial aid programs in Massachusetts. The report was used in a recommendation by HECC Chancellor Stanley Z. Koplik to enhance communications on the availability of financial aid information for the state's public colleges and universities.

Hubie Jones, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Urban Affairs, was a featured panelist for a Boston University videoconference, *The Challenge of Violence World-wide*, hosted by television journalist Charles Kuralt on February 6. More than 200 schools of social work nationwide used the videoconference as an introduction to the problem of violence in the United States and in developing countries.

WUMB Radio has developed an Artist-in-Residence Program, bringing blues musicians John Cephas and Phil Wiggins into Boston's Timilty, Tobin, and Cleveland Middle Schools this month. The program was developed with funds from the University's Public Service Endowment Grant Program.

Two graduate students from the Dispute Resolution Program presented papers at the 5th Annual Symposium on Conflict Resolution held in Ottawa, Canada on February 1 and 2. "The Paradox of Ethical Resistance" was presented by Diane Marcinow, and "Ethical Considerations for Mediators" was presented by Claudine Langlois. Gillian Krawjeski, Assistant Director of the Dispute Resolution Program, also made a presentation outlining the links between graduate study in dispute resolution and careers in mediation.

UMass Boston Theatre Arts student Rob Stroschio joined the cast of *The Mousetrap* at Boston's Wilbur Theatre on February 9. Other UMB students working in the production include Andres Puigbo, Kristen Hohlstein, Brian Purdy, Brian Gallagher, and Eileen Lanci.

The first of a series of seminars on the changing roles of federal and state governments in health and human services was held by the McCormack Institute of Public Affairs on January 30 and will continue through May. For further information call 287-5534.

Leadership Development Program Provides Professional Opportunities

Eight UMass Boston students have joined the Leadership Development Program (LDP), bringing the total number of students to twenty-four in two years. The program is designed to enhance leadership skills and gives students the opportunity to make connections in the profession they wish to pursue. It was created through the efforts of Donna Neal, Program Director of Student Life, John Applebee, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, and Kelly Clark, Director of the Student Life Office.

The three-semester program's first component presents leadership theory and skills through workshops focusing on leadership styles. Topics include education, social welfare, negotiation, volunteerism, team building, health care, ethics, and communication. "We have had some well presented workshops," says LDP member Brenda Callender, who will complete the program this spring. "During one session, David Matz, Director of the Dispute Resolution Graduate Program, divided the class into groups to analyze a conflict. This workshop showed me the relevance of hearing both sides before reaching a conclusion."

"In professional life after college, success is based on the ability to work with diverse groups of people," says Neal, Director of the LDP. "An employer wants to hire someone who can talk to people and unite them in a common cause, quickly and confidently. Many of our students come from inner-city schools and they have not yet had the opportunity to express their full leadership capabilities."

The second component allows students to pair up with a community leader in their area of professional interest. UMass Boston student Emily Lopez is paired with Cynthia Schwartz, a first grade teacher at Charles Sumner Elementary School in Roslindale, who received her Bachelor of Science in education from Boston State College. "I highly recommend the LDP mentorship," says Schwartz. "I got the opportunity to think about my job while helping a student understand what it means to be a contributing member of society. It is a great experience."

Those from outside the University Community participating as mentors include Peter Berlandi, Managing Partner of Custom House Street Associates and former campaign official for Governor William Weld; playwright Rosanna Alfaro; and Frank Grundstrom, Vice President of Human Resources at the *Boston Globe*. Matz, Dean Brenda Cherry of the College of Nursing, Chancellor Sherry Penney, and Professor Lloyd Schwartz of the English Department all serve as mentors.

"The mentoring component helps the student view the professional world and feel comfortable in it before beginning an internship, which is the major part of the third component of the program," says Leslie Paladino, Assistant Coordinator of the LDP. The internship, chosen by the student and conducted on a volunteer basis, require eight to ten hours per week throughout the semester. "The internship offers leadership experience," explains Paladino. "For many students graduating from college, it is difficult to find a job without any experience. The internship gives these students preparation for entry into professional life."

After three semesters, students are awarded a certificate of completion. A copy of this certificate is placed in each student's folder in the Career Services Department. Employers review these folders when looking for prospective employees. "Employers who see that a student has graduated from the LDP will know that he or she has experience in the professional world," explains Neal.

Students are selected for the program through UMass Boston staff and faculty recommendations, or students may nominate themselves by completing an

application. The student is then interviewed by a committee, which consists of Applebee, Clark, Neal, and selected faculty and staff. After the candidates are interviewed, the committee meets to discuss the merits of each applicant and select those who will be accepted.

The deadline for faculty and staff to recommend students for the Leadership Development Program is April 15th. Please contact Donna Neal or Leslie Paladino at 287-7950.

The Department of Public Safety moved into new headquarters on the plaza adjacent to the Robert H. Quinn Administration Building on March 5. "The Public Safety Department is something that all of us should be very proud of," said Chancellor Sherry H. Penney. "Under Chief David Cella, training and community outreach have been high priorities. We take enormous pride in the fact that 28 of UMass Boston's public safety officials are Academy trained."

Student Receives First *Globe* Library Award

UMass Boston senior Jennifer Coffey has received a *Boston Globe* \$2,500 Co-op Tuition Aid Award for her work in the *Globe* Library. She is the first UMass Boston student to receive the award. Coffey was one of three students selected to receive the award from over sixty college students interning at the *Globe* last fall. As an intern, Coffey developed background information for *Globe* news and editorial writers. She was selected on the recommendations of her supervisor.

Coffey, who is majoring in psychology and communications, began her position at the *Globe* last January and continued in the library until June. "My job at the library included organizing materials, working in the photo library, and retrieving pictures for reporters who were working on deadline," she explains.

"Working in the library can be a stressful job," says Lisa Tuite, Head Librarian at the *Boston Globe* library and Coffey's supervisor. "Reporters are often under critical deadlines, and Jennifer would have to confirm a specific fact, or compile a comprehensive package of reference work on a particular topic. Jennifer was not someone who could be lulled into giving something out quickly rather than checking it thoroughly."

According to Claire Larson, Human Resource Associate at the *Boston Globe*, 61 co-op internship positions are available each year. Students from Merrimack College, Suffolk University, University of Connecticut, UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, and Wentworth Institute of Technology are eligible. "When we are choosing students from UMass Boston, I visit the university for a day to conduct interviews," says Larson. "The students then meet with the department supervisors, who pick the students they feel would work well at the newspaper."

"A co-op position is a great opportunity for students to see what they might like to do when they graduate," says Coffey. "It is a great resume builder and it's a nice change from going to classes full time. I was able to work at the *Globe* for forty hours a week."

The *Boston Globe* offers co-op students who have worked or are currently working at the newspaper the opportunity to apply for the tuition award. Students are chosen for the award in November of each year, based on their grades, performance on the job, and a letter of application outlining their experience at the *Globe* and how it has affected their career goals.

University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393

UMass Boston