



# The Campus Chronicle

Vol. XVIII, No. 15 December 13, 2002 for the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts

## News Briefs

### Swift spares higher ed. in latest cuts

Acting Gov. Jane Swift cut another \$60.7 million in state spending this week, though none from higher education.

Using emergency powers, she eliminated \$38.7 million in water and sewer rate subsidies, \$10 million for the Hynes Convention Center, \$10 million in welfare funding, \$1 million for zoos and \$1 million for anti-smoking programs.

### Bulger takes Fifth before House panel

Appearing before the U.S. House Committee on Government Reform in Boston on Dec. 6, President William M. Bulger invoked constitutional protections against self-incrimination and declined to answer questions about his fugitive brother, James "Whitey" Bulger.

The panel, which is probing FBI misconduct, adjourned after Bulger refused to answer any questions.

Bulger had asked the committee to postpone the hearing or close it to the public. Both requests were turned down by chairman Dan Burton, Republican of Indiana, who asked about a 1995 phone call between the Bulger brothers.

Bulger declined to answer and cited his rights. "The Fifth Amendment's basic function is to protect innocent men who might be ensnared by ambiguous circumstances. I find myself in such circumstances."

Bulger also cited his rights to privacy and due process.

Following the hearing, Board of Trustees chairman Grace K. Fey reiterated her support for Bulger, calling his action a "civics lesson" for students.

Alumni Association president Jess Kane and his predecessor, John Goodrich, also backed Bulger.

### No issues during holiday period

Due to the observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Chronicle will not be published on Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

The Dec. 20 issue will include listings and notices for the period through Jan. 10. The deadline to submit those items is Friday, Dec. 13.

During Intersession, the Chronicle will be published on Jan. 10, 24 and 31. There will be no issue on Jan. 17.

For information, visit the Chronicle's Web site ([www.umass.edu/chronicle](http://www.umass.edu/chronicle)) or call 5-4818.



### Pressing assignment

Stan Sherer photo

Junior Kayleen Ford applies ink to an aluminum plate as she prepares to make a litho print in "Lithography I," taught by Art professor Rosanne Retz. Ford's work is untitled.

## Inaugural to emphasize 'academic imperative'

Daniel J. Fitzgibbons  
CHRONICLE STAFF

Though all eyes will be on Chancellor John V. Lombardi during his inauguration in early February, the two-day event is being shaped to focus attention on the campus's prowess in teaching and research.

Under the theme, "The Academic Imperative," Lombardi and inaugural planners want to emphasize the overarching impor-

ance of teaching and research and highlight the strengths of the University system's flagship campus.

"The quality of people here is absolutely first-rate. They can compete one-on-one with any faculty in America," says Lombardi. "And the students are good and getting better."

To underscore those points, the Feb. 7 inauguration in the

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## Bulger seeks \$118.5m hike for contract costs

Daniel J. Fitzgibbons  
CHRONICLE STAFF

A fiscal 2004 budget request submitted to the governor by President William M. Bulger seeks \$118,551,204 in new funding to pay for collective bargaining agreements reached with unions representing faculty and staff across the University system. Combined with nearly \$4.6 million sought for non-unit salary hikes, the request reflects a 28 percent increase over this year's base appropriation of \$445.6 million.

Citing a 10 percent reduction in total state funds to the University since fiscal 2001, Bulger said the FY04 request "is aimed at stabilizing the University's financial condition and meeting contractual agreements with employees." Earlier this year, Acting Gov. Jane Swift vetoed funding for the union contracts because of concerns about the state's shaky financial situation.

According to the document, the \$568.7 million request "reflects no increased funding for general operations" and adds only the cost of the collective bargaining agreements, including \$53.2 million for retroactive pay for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, \$59.4 million for base adjustments next year and \$5.9 million in one-time professional development funds.

"The requested budget does not address general inflationary pressures such as increased energy costs nor does it allow for enrollment increases, program expansion or additional investments in other important areas of the academic or research enterprise," noted Bulger.

Bulger bolstered his argument

for support by citing the University's role as a "revenue generator" for the state. Those revenue sources include \$275 million in annual external research funding, \$95 million in tuition remitted to the state General Funds, and \$3 billion in economic activity directly related to the University. Bulger also highlighted the University's ongoing partnerships with state agencies and the system's A+ bond ratings.

On the needs side, the request also identifies \$40 million in University operating funds being used this year to service the debt on repairs and improvements to buildings as well as the loss of 940 employees, including 301 faculty, through the Early Retirement Incentive Program implemented last year to trim the state's personnel costs. Bulger also noted that state appropriation reductions last year spurred the Board of Trustees to raise some student charges.

Along with the general appropriation request, Bulger also is seeking funding for several line items, including:

- \$10 million for the Endowment Incentive Program to match private fund-raising for endowed professorships.

- \$2.8 million for Commonwealth College, an increase of \$1.05 million "to meet growing enrollment demands and to increase support for the statewide network of honors programs supported by the college.

- \$1.7 million for the Toxics Use Reduction Institute in Lowell.

- \$3.7 million for the New Bedford Star Store, which houses studios and galleries for the Col-

SEE FUNDS, PAGE 3

## Researcher identifies important gene in mice

### Gene may exert influence on obesity, physical activity and sexual behavior

Elizabeth Luciano  
NEWS OFFICE STAFF

A team led by assistant professor of Veterinary and Animal Science Deborah J. Good has identified a gene that appears to play a role in obesity, physical activity, and sex behaviors in mice.

Good works with so-called "knock-out" mice, which have a specific gene deleted. Scientists then monitor the animals for changes in their physiology and behavior, in an effort to determine the gene's role. Her find-

ings are detailed in the current issue of the journal *Physiology and Behavior*.

The project is funded with a four-year, \$1 million grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and a two-year, \$70,000 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, both of the National Institutes of Health.

Good is studying the mechanisms in the brain and nervous system that regulate appetite and

SEE STUDY, PAGE 3



Stan Sherer photo

Deborah Good and one of the "knock-out" mice used in the NIH study.

## Applications open for Jazz in July workshops

The Fine Arts Center is now accepting applications for the 22nd annual Jazz in July Summer Music Programs, a two-week, intensive, performance-based jazz education program to be held on campus July 7-18.

Participants from around the world will have the opportunity to join other musicians and educators for lectures, clinics, conversations, film and video screenings, performances and jam sessions.

Originally modeled after New York's Jazzmobile, the Instrumental Combo Program, led by the Billy Taylor Trio, emphasizes individual improvisation within small instrumental combos. Participants are assigned to combos that are coached by the artist faculty and attend classes according to applied instruments. Along with Taylor and his colleagues, bassist Chip Jackson and drummer Winard Harper, the faculty includes John Blake, violin; Charles Ellison, trumpet; Andrew Green and Rick Stone, guitar; Jeff Holmes, trumpet; David Sporny, trombone; and Frederick Tillis and Willie Hill, saxophone.

The Vocal Jazz Soloists with Resident Trios program offers vocalists a supportive environment to explore concepts of jazz phrasing and rhythms, preparing lead sheets and vocal improvisation, including scat singing. Coaching and master classes with Sheila Jordan are combined with rehearsals and performance opportunities with instrumental trios led by Jeff Holmes and pianist Matt Richard.

For information, including application materials, call 5-3530 or visit the program's Web site ([www.jazzinJuly.com](http://www.jazzinJuly.com)) or write to Jazz in July, 10 Curry Hicks, 100 Hicks Way, UMass Amherst 01003.

## Golden Key confers memberships and scholarships

Five students were awarded scholarships and four faculty and staff were named honorary members during the Golden Key International Honour Society's induction ceremony on Nov. 16, according to chapter advisor Gladys Rodriguez, interim dean of students.

Five undergraduates received \$500 scholarships during the ceremony. The recipients are seniors Jonah I. Katz, Music and Linguistics; Erik A. Betjemann, Psychology; and juniors Justen J. Harn, English; Lisa E. Jollimore, Communication; and Kate H. Van der Kloot, Comparative Literature and Mathematics.

Honorary memberships were bestowed upon professor Jose N. Ornelas, chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and director of the BDIC Program; Elizabeth A. Petroff, professor of Comparative Literature; Hind R. Mari, assistant director of Campus Activities; and Richard J. Pioli, assistant dean of students. Honorary members are recognized by the chapter for their commitment to teaching and their outstanding contributions to the University community, said Rodriguez.

Chancellor John V. Lombardi was the keynote speaker at the induction.

The outgoing officers of the honor society's executive board were also recognized with a society pin for their dedication and hard work the past year, said Rodriguez. Pins were given to Michelle-Kim Lee, president; Kathryn M. Baron, vice president and secretary; Kathryn J. Wilson, treasurer and newsletter coordinator; and Jorge L. Oliver, historian.



**Murky meadow**

Two horses peer through the fog at the Hadley Farm.

Stan Sherer photo

## UMass Extension's 2003 Garden Calendar goes on sale

UMass Extension's new Garden Calendar, "It's a Jungle Out There," features many familiar landscape and garden plants and their key pest problems. Gardening continues to be one of the favored leisure time activities of Americans. Gardens enhance the immediate living environment, are a source of beauty, and supply some daily food selections. As the knowledge of gardeners increases and the range of gardening aids expand, gardens are more luxurious and productive than ever. The lushness of home landscapes and gardens often simulates that of complex ecosystems such as is epitomized by a dense tropical jungle.

As with a jungle, there are far more organisms in gardens than just plants. Gardens are microcosms of lush vegetation inhabited by varied wildlife. Some of these organisms are considered pests and include insects, diseases and weeds. They often challenge or thwart gardening efforts. Maintaining productive and attractive gardens requires that one accumulate some knowledge of the organisms that are apt to diminish the quality of gardens. Recognizing key pests of garden plants is a start in the wise management of insects, diseases and weeds, and is at the core of Integrated Pest Management, a strategy which incorporates the use of all effective control measures and thereby minimizes the use of pesticides and their negative environmental impacts.

## Letters policy

The Campus Chronicle welcomes letters from readers and may publish those which have a direct bearing on University of Massachusetts issues, except issues related to collective bargaining. Letters longer than 30 lines may be condensed or excerpted. To letters which raise questions of University policy, or which criticize individuals, the Chronicle will invite the appropriate party to respond in the issue scheduled to publish such letters. Letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number. Open letters will not be published.

pacts.

The calendar is aimed at helping the gardener to demystify the garden jungle, identify and develop a better understanding of pest and garden problems, and help reduce unnecessary pesticide usage.

The calendar also offers color photos and information on garden pests and management strategies as well as daily gardening tips such as when to plant peas, how to manage grubs, sunrise/sunset times, and phases of the moon.

To order single copies, send \$8.50 pay-

able to UMass to the UMass Extension Bookstore, Draper Hall, 40 Campus Center Way, Amherst MA 01003-9244.

Orders of 25 or more to a single address qualify for the bulk rate of \$4.25 each plus shipping. For a price quote, including shipping, call the UMass Extension Bookstore at 5-2717.

For a preview, order form and more information, visit the calendar Web site ([www.umassgardencalendar.org](http://www.umassgardencalendar.org)) or call the UMass Extension Bookstore at the number above.

## Chronicle gift subscriptions available

Know a retired faculty or staff member who wants to keep up on campus news and events?

Or does your department want to ensure that key alumni, donors and other supporters are updated regularly about campus research and teaching?

An annual subscription to The Campus Chronicle is the ideal way to keep up on a wide range of UMass news, sports and events.

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## Budget needs submitted

FUNDS  
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lege of Visual and Performing Arts at the Dartmouth campus as well as classrooms and offices for University programs and others offered by Bristol Community College.

■ \$1.9 million for the Fall River Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center, an incubator for emerging technology firms

in Southeastern Massachusetts. Operated by UMass Dartmouth, the facility also has a conference center.

The University's budget request is one of many that will be awaiting Governor-elect Mitt Romney when he takes office on Jan. 2. Romney must recommend a fiscal 2004 budget to the House of Representatives by late January.

## Inaugural information placed on new Web site

PLANNING  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mullins Center will be preceded by a day of academic symposia featuring presentations by faculty, graduate students and undergraduates on topics related to teaching, learning and research. All of the colleges and schools will be represented during the academic showcase in the Lincoln Campus Center.

According to Lombardi, the "academic imperative" succinctly describes his view that the "consistent pursuit of competitive quality" in teaching and research is the number one priority of his administration.

"If you eliminate everything but teaching and research, you still have a university," he says. "The test of the academic impera-

tive is if you remove a function, do you still have a university?"

But that's not to say that a modern university can't operate without many support services, Lombardi adds. "You can't do teaching and research without a structure around them. You've got to have good staff, infrastructure and support departments."

Lombardi says his inaugural address will portray UMass Amherst as a "structured, focused institution" striving to be counted among the top universities in the country.

"We want to accumulate national value," he says. "Greatness is the national reputation of our people and the work that they do."

Inaugural planners have already mailed "save the date" reminders to faculty, staff, alumni and key supporters of the University. Other efforts are underway to raise private funds to pay for the celebration.

Details about the inauguration are also being posted on a new Web site ([www.umass.edu/inauguration/](http://www.umass.edu/inauguration/)) that is updated as plans take shape. The site includes biographical information about Lombardi and facts about the campus and the symposia schedule. In addition, there is an electronic guestbook that allows visitors to convey greetings to the chancellor.

The site will also allow invited guests to RSVP for various inaugural events.



Stan Sherer photo

### Biding time

Students share a newspaper while waiting for a bus on North Pleasant Street.

## Story glum about state's budget picture

Sarah R. Buchholz  
CHRONICLE STAFF

Painting a somber picture of the commonwealth's budget situation, state Rep. Ellen Story (D-Amherst) told the Faculty Senate last week that the outlook is unlikely to improve without new taxes.

"As you can imagine, I don't have any good news to tell you," she said at the Dec. 5 meeting.

Citing budget shortfall projections ranging from \$1.5 billion to more than \$2 billion, Story said, "Nobody knows, of course, and we will have to wait and see what the exact figures are, but it's going to be truly miserable for this year and probably next year and maybe the year after that.

"One of the peculiar reasons why it's so bad here is because, over the last 12 years, ... we have given 42 tax cuts. And that was too many. This is not just the fact that the stock market crashed or that Sept. 11 happened — those things did not help — but there is

a structural deficit in the budget."

Story said that despite a 7 percent reduction in the state payroll in the past 18 months, the commonwealth is in such need of income that she fears the Legislature will consider legalizing casino gambling or securitizing its tobacco-settlement money, a move which would mean trading access to cash in the short run for a much larger sum expected over the long term.

Story said that in the face of such a shortfall, increasing the state's income is necessary.

"If we raise the sales tax here by one penny, that at one whack brings in \$750 million in new rev-

enues," she said. "It's the biggest chunk of money that you can get at one time, and it's one penny on the sales tax, so I think that again is going to have to be seriously considered, and I would guess that our personal income taxes will also rise as well.

"That will be tough, because the governor-elect will veto them, so that means we can't just have a simple majority in the legislature, we have to have two-thirds in both houses, and that will be difficult to do unless both the speaker [of the House of Representatives] and the president [of the Senate] are twisting arms, and that may well happen."

## Rosenberg to address Faculty Senate

State Sen. Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst) will speak at the Dec. 19 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Also on the agenda is the election of an at-large member of the Rules Committee and the presentation of a special report by the

Committee on Committees concerning nominations to senate councils and committees.

Three new courses will also be considered for approval.

The meeting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. in 227 Herter Hall.



John V. Lombardi will be inaugurated as the 27th leader of the Amherst campus on Feb. 7.

## Mouse gene may influence body weight and physical activity

STUDY  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

body weight. Although more than 20 genes have been implicated in the regulation of body weight, the mechanisms through which these genes work remain unclear, she says. Recent evidence by Good suggests that a gene called Nhlh2 plays a key role in the regulation of genes controlling body weight, as well as physical activity levels and mating behavior.

"The knock-out mice can weigh up to 100 grams or more, while most normal mice weigh 25 to 30 grams. Thus, the knock-outs are the equivalent of a 450-pound person," Good says. Two issues contribute to their obesity: the all-too-familiar diet and exercise factors. The mice eat far past what should be the point of satiety,

and show a marked disinterest in running on an exercise wheel.

"Most mice love to run on a little exercise wheel when you put it in their cage," notes Good, "but not these guys. They run less than other mice before they become obese. Once they do put the extra weight on, their decreased physical activity contributes to their weight gain even more than their food intake."

But these mice can legitimately blame their weight on their genes — or rather, their lack of the Nhlh2 gene. "The gene is responsible for giving them the message, 'You're full, so stop eating,' or 'You need to increase your activity, so get some exercise.'" Without Nhlh2, the message is sent but can't be received on a molecular level, so their body weight

continues to increase, Good explains. "It's as if someone is sending you e-mail, but you're not reading the message. The message has been sent, but it's not useful."

"There are humans who have

**"Most mice love to run on a little exercise wheel when you put it in their cage, but not these guys."**

DEBORAH J. GOOD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES

this mutation," notes Good. "If we understand the molecular mechanisms that deal with obesity, perhaps we'll be able to develop pharmaceuticals for people whose enzyme activity is offset." She also notes that humans can

be coached to increase their exercise levels and lower their food intake.

In addition, the gene deletion appears to affect sex behaviors. The knock-out mice have a smaller genital size and lower

may not be analogous in human beings, in terms of infertility. "We don't know what would happen in humans," Good says. "There might be fertility problems, but human sex behavior is greatly affected by sociological and cultural expectations that certainly aren't a factor among mice."

In a related project, Good is studying the molecular control of male reproduction. Although more than 16 specialized proteins are implicated in controlling fertility, the molecular mechanisms of reproduction remain unclear, Good says. She and her team are working toward understanding the molecular control of reproduction and fertility by a specific gene known as Nhlh2.

sperm counts than typical mice.

In addition, they show disinterest in mating when they share a cage with a receptive female. (They are able to produce offspring through in vitro methods.) Good cautions that the findings



## Campbell Soup in a pickle: Professor heads lawsuit on behalf of Vlastic creditors

**Lou Wigdor**  
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

"Here's your chance to explore a real world case in progress," Isenberg School Finance professor Ben Branch recently told a gathering of 35 fellow professors and graduate students. The case in question involves a lawsuit by creditors of the bankrupt entity once known as Vlastic Foods International against its allegedly errant parent, Campbell Soup Company.

Branch is manager of the estate — VFB LLC — that represents the creditors. "I've been called in to be the manager of what's left of the company," remarked Branch, who is nationally known as an authority on distressed securities and businesses. Campbell, Branch contends, spun Vlastic off as an unviable entity back in 1998. "Campbell dressed Vlastic up to look good to investors and then borrowed \$500 million. The parent kept the money and spun out Vlastic with the debt," insisted Branch.

Pity the Vlastic stork. According to Branch, Campbell showed little respect for a brand whose synonymy with pickles (80 different varieties) had rendered it a household word. And Vlastic Foods International was much more — seven brands in all, including Swanson frozen dinners, Open Pit barbecue sauce, and a fresh mushroom purveyor. Vlastic filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2001.

To date, Branch and his confederates have issued two major actions — a lawsuit last February and an amended complaint in August. The original suit contends that Campbell dressed up Vlastic for a tax-free spinoff that was both improper and fated to fail. The 193-page amended complaint, fueled by interviews with Campbell and former Vlastic employees, adds that the Camden-based soup maker filed bogus financial data with federal agencies, which in turn gave Campbell's the green light for transactions that benefited the parent at the fatal expense of its offspring.

"Campbell relieved its own significant debt burdens with \$500 million in bank loans, nominally on behalf of Vlastic," notes Branch. "Campbell secured those loans using pro forma financial statements that misrepresented Vlastic's business viability. And Campbell, which locked in

the spin-off's tax-free status through the IRS' cost savings rule overstated and invented those savings, leaving Vlastic at a further disadvantage."

The spinoff, Branch continued, left Vlastic with little ability to raise capital by selling off its businesses. And Campbell cut Vlastic loose with major infrastructure problems: the pickle maker's components had few common financial, accounting, and information systems.

"Campbell and Vlastic employed the same law firm; Vlastic employees were Campbell employees until the day of the spinoff," observed Branch. Ultimately, the banks — we're talking leading investment banks — should have been more diligent in assessing the situation."



**Ben Branch**

Branch is no stranger to corporate bankruptcies and their often seamy vicissitudes. He has been Chapter 7 trustee to the bankrupt estate of the once mighty Bank of New England. In that role he has recovered \$200 million for distribution to the bank's bondholders and other creditors.

Before that, he performed similar services during the Texas banking crisis of the late 1980s. Branch is also co-author of "Bankruptcy Investing: How to Profit from Distressed Companies," published this year by Beard Group. Has a decade and a half of repo work with bankrupt businesses served to alter Branch's outlook on business and perhaps human nature? "Not at all," he replied. "We've seen all of these shenanigans before; only the names and the magnitudes have changed. Gimmickry with accounting and financial statements ultimately sows the seeds of its own destruction. Inflating income and deferring or understating costs only buys time. Eventually, the illusion becomes bigger and bigger and more readily detectable. Just look at Enron. As I remarked in a panel last spring, a whole lot of pain could have been avoided had professionals stood up earlier and had some spine."

## Grain&Chaff

### South of the border

Financial woes have university officials in Connecticut looking at tuition and fees increases to offset budget cuts ordered by Gov. **John Rowland**. At the University of Connecticut, President **Philip E. Austin** recently warned of possible limits on enrollment and higher student costs. UConn, which has seen state support drop from 50 percent to 40 percent of its budget over the past decade, has been ordered to cut personnel costs at the Storrs and regional campuses by \$13 million. Meanwhile, the four-campus Connecticut State University system is considering a 13-percent tuition increase, the largest in 10 years, to cope with a \$10 million shortfall in state funding. The tuition hike faces a Dec. 13 vote by the board of trustees. In the interim, the four campuses are cutting costs through a combination of hiring freezes, appointing fewer adjunct professors and teaching assistants and trimming out-of-state travel by faculty and staff.

### Delayed gratification

Greenfield Community College President **Robert L. Pura** and 11 members of the school's executive council are deferring 3 percent pay raises to demonstrate solidarity with 75 college employees whose pay raises were vetoed earlier this year by Acting Gov. **Jane Swift**. The GCC board of trustees this week approved the 3 percent increase for Pura after its personnel committee gave the president an outstanding evaluation for leading the college. With the increase, Pura's salary would rise from \$121,000 to \$124,630.

### Job market

Former associate vice chancellor for Facilities and Campus Services **Ted Weidner** is one of five finalists for director of the Facilities Services Group at the University of Iowa. Weidner, who was hired here two years ago, suddenly resigned in mid-November. ... Former UMass Police chief **Jack Luippold** was one of five finalists for the chief's post in Belchertown, but was passed over for an internal candidate. Luippold left UMass last year for a job with the state Department of Mental Retardation.

### Class acts

Boston Globe reporter **Kevin Cullen**, '81, is one of 26 Nieman Fellows currently studying at Harvard University. Under the auspices of the Nieman Foundation, about two dozen journalists are chosen annually to come to Harvard to broaden their interests or to develop deeper insight into an area of specialization.

## Researchers studying skeletal muscle fatigue in older adults

**Patrick J. Callahan**  
NEWS OFFICE STAFF

Campus researchers, working with the Yale University School of Medicine and Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, have received a five-year, \$1.4 million grant from the National Institute on Aging to study changes in the way muscles work as people age.

The researchers are using high-technology and non-invasive methods to measure the magnitude and mechanism of skeletal muscle fatigue in two groups of men and women volunteers of different ages, says Jane Kent-Braun, associate professor of Exercise Science and principal investigator for the project.

The actual measurement of muscle function will take place at UMass and at the Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy Research Center and the Resonance Imaging Facility at Yale University School of Medicine, she says. The project began in October.

One group will be men and women aged 20-35, while the other will be subjects between 65-85, Kent-Braun says. In addition to measuring muscle fatigue in the groups of volunteers, she says, the team will also study how muscles are activated by the brain, how energy is supplied for muscular contraction, whether blood flow to muscles changes with age, and whether that change affects muscle function. Other areas of study will be whether changes in muscle use vary between different muscle groups in the body and how reduced physical activity due to aging affects muscle size and how muscles work, Kent-Braun says.

The researchers also plan to compare muscle function in men and women to determine whether there is a gender difference in the way energy is supplied for muscular

work.

"We are very excited about this project," Kent-Braun says. "One of the unique aspects of it is the way it spans the gap from the mechanisms of how muscles work to real-life function. That makes it very challenging, but potentially rewarding."

Working with Kent-Braun on the study are Graham Caldwell, associate professor of Exercise Science, John Buonaccorsi, professor of Mathematics and Statistics, and David Russ, a postdoctoral fellow in Exercise Science, along with Douglas Rothman of the Yale University School of Medicine, Bruce Damon of Vanderbilt University, and Maura Brennan, a gerontologist at Baystate Medical Center, are also participating. In addition, graduate students Danielle Bartholomew, Ian Lanza and Marie Walsh are working on the project.

Associate professor of Exercise Science Jane Kent-Braun is the principal investigator for a five-year study funded by the National Institute on Aging. The project also involves researchers at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Yale University School of Medicine and Vanderbilt University.



## CFT honored

The Center For Teaching received a Bright Idea Recognition Award from the Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education at its Oct. 12 conference in Atlanta.

Bright Idea awards are given to programs proven to have a positive impact on teaching and that are easily transferable to other institutions. POD is an international organization for faculty development professionals.

CFT received the award for its Future Faculty Development Seminar for Graduate Students of Color, a program it began four years ago in cooperation with the Graduate School Dean's Office.

An annual seminar that meets five to six times across several months, the program gives students of color an opportunity to explore issues in teaching, as well as to explore information that prepares them to be efficient junior faculty members, according to Mathew Ouellett, associate director of CFT. Between 12 and 15 students sign up for the seminar each year, he said.

"One of the ways we know it is successful is that membership is now self-generating," he said. "People recommend it to other students who then contact us." Membership is open to all graduate students of color, he said.

"It's just another way we as a university and as a graduate school, in particular, can buttress our efforts to provide an inclusive community of scholars," he said.

## Obituaries

### Angel R. Sepulveda

Angel R. Sepulveda, 66, of Holyoke, a retired maintainer I in the Lincoln Campus Center, died Nov. 18 in Holyoke Hospital.

Originally from Ciales, Puerto Rico, he spent most of his life in Western Massachusetts.

He worked on campus for 21 years before retiring in 1999.

### Gesa Gordon

Gesa Gordon, 72, of Storrs, Conn., a former instructor in the departments of Music and Germanic Languages, died Nov. 19 at home.

She served the University for 16 years before resigning in 1971.

A graduate of the Hamburg State Academy of Music and Theater, she immigrated to New York state in the early 1950s. She received a master's degree in German from Middlebury College and continued her work with the violin, performing as a soloist at Carnegie Recital Hall.

Upon moving to Amherst in 1965, she began teaching German language on campus and soon added a position as concert mistress of the Symphony Orchestra. She also was a charter member of the Amherst Music Group and the Five College Chamber Soloists.

She leaves her husband, professor emeritus of Sociology Milton Gordon; a daughter, Karin Dionne; and four grandchildren.



Stan Sherer photos

## Finishing touches

Workers from Handford General Contractors recently wrapped up the installation of new steamlines from the Isenberg School of Management under North Pleasant Street to Parking Lot 62. The three-phase project, which also involved the replacement of aging steam pipes serving Herter Hall and the Morrill Science Center, began last February.

Above, steam rises into the cool air as a new sidewalk is paved. Left, a new wheelchair ramp provides access from the parking lot to the sidewalk and crosswalks. Landscaping improvements included in the \$4.2 million construction project will be completed in the spring.

## UMassOnline introducing Criminal Justice studies

Leslie Granese  
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Two new online criminal justice programs designed to meet the increasing educational needs of law enforcement, public safety and homeland security professionals will begin operation in January under the auspices of UMassOnline, the University system's Web-based learning division.

UMass Lowell's master of arts in Criminal Justice and the UMass Amherst undergraduate Criminal Justice Studies certificate will be offered online starting next month.

The programs were detailed Nov. 13 in President William M. Bulger's keynote speech at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting in Whitman, and in remarks at the grand opening of the UMass Center for Professional Education in Brockton, which houses the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management.

"The University prides itself in breaking down barriers to the excellent learning opportunities available on its campuses," Bulger

said. "These new programs deliver our noted criminal justice programs to the homes and workplaces of professionals engaged in the important task of protecting the safety of our citizens across this state and around the world."

According to UMassOnline officials, the two programs will provide academically rigorous, empirically oriented curricula that are relevant for potential or current professionals in the judiciary, corrections, policing, homeland security, victim services and related social service settings. Both programs offer a choice of cutting-edge electives, enabling students to tailor their knowledge and expertise for their individual career objectives.

"These online programs offer a tremendous opportunity for law enforcement professionals to prepare for leadership positions and work at the same time," says Gerald F. Burke, director of the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. "The demands on law enforcement officials, and the public's expecta-

tions of them, have never been higher. If we've learned anything since September 11th, it's that our law enforcement and public safety professionals need continued access to the most sophisticated, up-to-date training possible."

"We deliver the master of arts in Criminal Justice online because few working professionals have the luxury of suspending their careers in order to pursue advanced professional education," says Eve Buzawa, professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at UMass Lowell. "From a regional perspective, this flexibility is essential for criminal justice agencies because they cannot afford to absorb the loss of experienced personnel to full-time graduate or professional study."

Funded by a three-year, \$450,000 UMassOnline grant for new online programs, the UMass Lowell master's program provides state-of-the-art criminal justice knowledge and addresses a broad range of topics that appeal to a multi-disciplinary audience.

The program offers electives in

domestic violence and child maltreatment, leadership, policy development and evaluation, information technology and crime, forensic criminology and counterterrorism.

"The UMass Amherst Criminal Justice Studies Certificate gives working adults a high degree of fluidity and flexibility," says Anthony Harris, professor of Sociology and certificate coordinator. For 35 years, the Amherst campus has offered a classroom-based version of the certificate, he noted. "Now, working criminal justice professionals and other adults have a flexible new option for educational development, enhancing job credentials, and working towards completing a college degree."

The Criminal Justice Studies Certificate was developed collaboratively by the Sociology Department and the Division of Continuing Education. Electives are available in domestic violence, cyber crime, criminal forensics, alternative sanctions and international organized crime.



## Sports wrap-up

### Men's basketball (1-5)

L vs. Boston College	80-62
L vs. UConn	59-48

### Women's basketball (6-1; 1-0 A-10)

W vs. Vermont	53-48
W vs. New Hampshire	70-50
W vs. Rhode Island	59-45

### Hockey (9-6-0; 4-5-0 Hockey East)

W vs. Boston University	5-4
L vs. Boston University	3-1

### Women's indoor track

First place vs. BU, Central Conn., Maine New Hampshire and Providence.

## Upcoming schedule

### Home games in bold

Saturday, Dec. 14

W. basketball	<b>Northeastern</b>	2 p.m.
M. basketball	<b>Florida International</b>	7 p.m.

### Athletics

www.umassathletics.com

### Athletic Ticket Office

Mullins Center, 5-0851

## Deren named to all-region team

Soccer player Jeff Deren, who set new single season and career records this past season, was named last week to the NSCAA/adidas All-New England first team.

Yuri Morales and Derek Rhodes were named to the second and third teams, respectively.

Deren, a senior forward, broke the school single-season record for points (51) and goals (22), and also shattered the career record for points (113) and goals (48). His 17 career assists rank him eighth all-time, and his seven assists this year place him ninth on the single-season list. Deren was the Atlantic 10 Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight year, after leading the conference in scoring. He finished the season fifth in the country with 2.55 points per game and fifth in goals per game (1.10).

Morales earned second team honors after scoring 28 points (9 goals, 10 assists). His 10 assists place him third on the single-season list and his 28 career assists are a school record. The senior midfielder earned first team all-A-10 honors for the second straight season. He finished his career with 60 points (16 goals, 28 assists), tied for 10th on the school's career chart.

Rhodes, a senior backer who helped solidify the UMass defense, was named to the third team. Rhodes was switched from midfielder to backer after four games, and the Minutemen posted a 10-4-2 record with him directing the defense. He helped UMass to five shutouts, including four in a five-game stretch midway through the season.

The Minutemen finished a 12-6-2 record.

## Minutemen split series with BU

The Minutemen downed 13th-ranked Boston University in a 5-4 overtime win at the Mullins Center last Friday to open a two-game weekend series against the Terriers. On the following night, the action shifted to Walter Brown Arena, where BU ended a four-game UMass winning streak with a 3-1 victory.

Chris Capraro's breakaway goal 4:19 into overtime provided the margin of victory in the first game. UMass trailed BU 4-2 at the opening of the third period, but the Minutemen responded with goals by Greg Mauldin and Marvin Degon.

In the extra session, the Terriers fired four shots on freshman goalie Gabe Winer, including two from close range, he shut down BU until Capraro's heroics ended the

game.

In game two, Boston University shut down a resurgent UMass offense and scored two goals in the first four minutes of the third period to nail down a win. Tim Turner's eighth goal of the year was the only UMass point.

The loss dropped UMass' record to 9-6-0 overall and 4-5-0 in Hockey East.

The Minutemen travel to Princeton this week for a non-conference game. Following the game at Princeton, the Minutemen will have two weeks off before heading to Estero, Fla., for the Everblades College Classic. There, the Minutemen will play nationally-ranked Ohio State on Dec. 28 and either No. 4 Cornell or No. 2 Maine on Dec. 29.

## Minutewomen hands URI first loss

Senior Nekole Smith scored a game-high 18 points, 14 of them coming in the second half, as the Minutewomen (6-1, 1-0) handed the University of Rhode Island its first loss of the season, 59-45, Monday night at the Ryan Center.

Under new coach Marnie Daeko, UMass is off to its best start since the 1978-79 season where the squad began the year 6-1 en route to an 18-7 overall record.

In addition to Smith's 18 points, she pulled down a season-high eight rebounds. Senior Jen Butler added 14 points and 11 rebounds. The double-double was her fifth of the season and 46th for her career. With

her 11 rebounds, Butler became the first Minutewoman in history to eclipse the 1,000-point and 1,000-rebound plateau.

For the game, Massachusetts shot .413 (19-46), while holding the Rams to .274 (17-62). UMass out-rebounded the Rams, 40-38.

UMass was scheduled to play Villanova (6-0) Wednesday night in historic Curry Hicks Cage. It is the first basketball game in the Cage since the Minutewomen trounced Temple, 82-40 on Feb. 18, 1995. Overall, the Minutewomen are 124-107 (.537) in the Cage.

## Swim teams take 6 first-place finishes at Yale

The men's and women's swim teams concluded the three-day Nutmeg Invitational at Yale University last weekend with a total of six first-place finishes. Massachusetts added three second-place finishes and three third-place finishes to their honors on the third day of competition.

Senior Tommy Keane placed second in the 1,650-yard freestyle for the Minutemen. Rob Bellamy concluded a successful weekend by adding a third-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle. In the first two days of the meet Bellamy tallied first place finishes in the 200-yard freestyle, 500-yard freestyle, and was a member of the winning 800-yard freestyle relay team as well. On Sunday, Bellamy also earned second-place honors in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Along with Ryan Zaucha, Chad Arnold and Matt Woodfield, the team finished in second place.

Sophomore Matt Woodward finished third in the 200-yard breaststroke.

The Minutewomen were led by junior Christen Dexter and sophomore Colleen Wasson. Dexter finished second in the 200-yard breaststroke while Wasson finished right behind her in third place.

On Saturday, the swim teams won five events, including the women's 200-yard medley relay, and the men's 400-yard individual medley, the 200-yard freestyle, 100-yard breaststroke and 800-yard freestyle relay.

The Minutewomen's first place 200-yard medley relay team members are Lauren Rowell Dexter, Diana Alberti and Lizzy Boyle. Rowell also finished second in the 100-yard backstroke, while Alberti placed second in the 100-yard butterfly.

On the men's side Ryan Zaucha won the 400-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Both the teams will next compete on Jan. 4 at the Sacred Heart Invitational in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Courtesy of Media Relations

Stephen Werner

## Werner earns national award

Freshman forward Stephen Werner was named USCHO.com National Offensive Player of the Week last week after scoring eight points in wins over Dartmouth, Vermont and Princeton. Werner is the third Minuteman in school history to win the award.

Over three games, Werner had three goals and five assists, including a goal and three assists versus Dartmouth. He added a goal and assist in the wins against Vermont and Princeton.

Altogether, Werner leads the Minutemen with 15 points (7 goals, 8 assists), which ranks him second in the conference and fourth in the country among freshmen. Werner is the first player in school history to play for the United States National Development Team Program.

## Women's indoor track wins meet

The women's indoor track and field team opened its season Dec. 6 by racing first place in a six-school meet in Boston. The Minutewomen tallied 102 total points to defeat Maine (88.5) Boston University (82), New Hampshire (81.5), Providence (65) and Central Connecticut (55)

Sophomore Christina Huff paced the Minutewomen with a first place finish in the 55-meter dash and a second place finish in the 200-meter dash. Junior Brandy Green captured second place in both the 55-meter hurdles and the pole vault.

UMass also received contributions from sophomore Marissa Callahan and juniors Chante Soares, Kishana Hudson and Shannon Jackson. Callahan placed second in the triple jump while Soares finished third in the long jump competition. In the sprinting events, Hudson finished fourth in the 55-meter dash and Jackson finished third in the 400-meter dash.

Coach Julie LaFreniere's team next competes at the New England Challenge Cup in Providence on Jan. 18.

## UConn wins U-Game

No. 9 Connecticut rallied from 21-point deficit to beat UMass 59-48 Tuesday night at the Hartford Civic Center.

The Huskies (6-0) managed just nine points in the first half and trailed 30-9 at the break. But led by a flurry of 3-pointers, the Huskies came back to take the lead.

UConn leads the series in the rivalry dubbed the "U-Game," 67-38, and has won the last 12 meetings.



Stan Sherer photo

### Throwing her weight around

Sophomore Jennifer Iasiello throws a 20-pound weight, a substitute for the hammer when practicing indoors, during a workout in the Cage led by assistant coach Bob Otrando. Iasiello was second in the Atlantic 10 hammer throw last year.

**Baden-Württemberg directorship**

The opportunity to serve as resident director of the University's Baden-Württemberg Exchange Program for 2003-04 is now open. Candidates should be tenured members of the UMass faculty, with doctorate, fluent in German, and experienced in graduate and undergraduate advising. Some acquaintance with the German university system is desirable.

Candidates are invited to submit their curriculum vitae to the Baden-Württemberg Program, International Programs Office, William S. Clark International Center. Additional information concerning duties and qualifications is available from Regine John (reginejohn@ipo.umass.edu) or Frank Hugus (hugus@ipo.umass.edu); both can be reached at 5-2710. Applications must be received by Dec. 20.

**Faculty Senate meeting**

The Faculty Senate will meet Thursday, Dec. 19 at 3:30 p.m. in 227 Herter Hall.

**Student art work exhibited**

"The Sylph Deck: a Lepidopteran Tarot," an exhibit by Japanese major Tyran Grillo, is on display through Jan. 31 on the Garden Level of the Du Bois Library. The black-and-white creations are accompanied by samples of other tarot decks and books related to tarot.

**Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology seminar**

John Gross of Harvard Medical School, a candidate for a faculty appointment in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, will present a special seminar on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at noon.

Gross will speak on "Unraveling Protein Interactions that Control Eukaryotic Translation Initiation: Insights from the Solution Structure of the m7GDP/eIF4E/eIF4G Complex."

The seminar will take place in the eight floor seminar room in the Lazare Research Building.

**Library hours extended for finals**

The Du Bois Library has extended its hours for final exams. The building is open 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. through Dec. 19. On Dec. 20, the Library will be open 7 a.m. to midnight, and on Dec. 21 from 7 a.m. to noon.

The added hours are intended to provide students with additional study space during the last week of classes, reading period and finals. No staffed services will be provided during the added hours of 7-8 a.m. and midnight to 2 a.m.

The extension of the Library's hours is the result of a collaboration of Library staff, interim Provost Charlena Seymour, deputy provost John Cunningham, and the UMass Police.

The UMass Police Department's walking escort service coincides with the extended hours. Call 5-2123 (Escort Service) or 5-2121 (Police dispatch) to request a walking escort.

Hours for the branch science libraries are unchanged, and are available on the Library's Web site ([www.library.umass.edu](http://www.library.umass.edu)) or by calling 5-0414.

**Mosher, Lappas to speak at Sports Luncheon**

The Weekly Sports Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 18 will feature comments by Betsy Mosher, associate athletic director for Compliance Services, and men's basketball coach Steve Lappas.

The luncheon takes place at noon in 1009 Lincoln Campus Center. The buffet lunch is \$6.50. Call 5-4289 for reservations.

**Lappas show airs on Channel 40**

"The UMass Basketball Show with Steve Lappas presented by Coca-Cola" is currently airing on WGGB-TV, Channel 40 in Springfield and WLVI-TV, Channel 56 in Boston.

Hosted by Channel 40 sports director Scott Coen, the program features game highlights, interviews with the Minutemen and previews of upcoming contests.

The program airs Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Channel 40 and 11:30 p.m. on Channel 56.

**Campus tours end Dec. 20**

The last campus tour of the fall semester will be on Friday, Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m., according to Lisa Hargis of the New Students program.

No tours will be offered from Dec. 21 through Jan. 1. Daily tours at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. will resume on Thursday, Jan. 2 and continue through Intersession, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday on Jan. 20.

For information, call 5-4237.

**Expiration of personal leave time**

Personal leave time awarded to eligible employees on or after July 6, 2001 will expire on Saturday, Dec. 28, according to Juan A. Jarrett, assistant vice chancellor for Human Resources. Any balance remaining after that date will be forfeited.

Personal leave awards for calendar year 2003 will appear on check statements issued on Friday, Jan. 3. Eligible employees may begin using their new personal leave time starting on Sunday, Dec. 29.

Questions concerning the awarding or use of personal leave time should be directed to Dotty Lesko in the Time & Labor Section of Human Resources, (dlesko@admin.umass.edu) or by phone at 5-6121.

**Note card sets benefit Friends of the Library**

Boxed sets of note cards featuring Leslie Schaler's photos of the Library Courtyard Garden are on sale through the Library Office. The 12-card sets are \$10 with proceeds going to the Friends of the Library.

Send checks payable to Friends of the Library to Susan McBride in the Library Office.

**Physiology seminar offered at Medical School**

"The Development of the Neuroendocrine Brain" will be discussed by Stuart Tobet of the E.K. Shriver Center at the UMass Medical School on Monday, Dec. 16 at noon in the Physiology Seminar Room, S4-308 of the Worcester campus.

**Academic Computing offers faculty training during January**

The Academic Computing component of the Office of Information Technologies is offering several opportunities in January for faculty to develop their professional skills in the use of Web sites to support learning and teaching.

Faculty who are interested in learning how to post a simple Web site for their classes should sign up for "Building a Course Web Site (Why and How)," scheduled for Jan. 14-16 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The session includes lunch and open afternoon work sessions. The three-morning workshop consists of two parts. The first part, on Jan. 14, uses demonstrations and discussions with faculty who currently use Web sites to help them explore the specific ways a Web site can address the pedagogical or practical challenges faced in their courses. The second part (Jan. 15-16) is a hands-on site-building workshop based on the plans developed in the first session. Combining demonstrations of Dreamweaver with ample work time, the goal is to have participants complete the workshop with a posted site and the skills to maintain and expand it.

Register by calling 7-0072 or via e-mail (accofac@oit.umass.edu) by Dec. 30. Details, including daily agendas and prerequisites, are available online ([www.umass.edu/acco/workshops/faculty.html](http://www.umass.edu/acco/workshops/faculty.html)).

Faculty who already have a course Web site, but are interested in providing students with more interactive elements, should contact Academic Computing about setting up a custom introduction to WebCT. WebCT makes it easy to create a site with online discussions, quizzes, student project areas and other features.

Informal WebCT training sessions for individuals and groups will be arranged during January. Individual faculty or departments can contact Doris Peterson at 5-3957 (peterson@oit.umass.edu) to schedule a consultation.

## Seminars & Colloquia

**Chemical Engineering seminar**, "Self-Assembly of Phospholipids on Thermotropic Liquid Crystalline Substrates," Nicholas Abbott, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Friday, Dec. 13, 11:15 a.m., Math Lounge, 1634 Lederle Graduate Research Tower.

**Environmental Engineering seminar**, "to be announced," Samar El-Khoury, UMass; Friday, Dec. 13, 12:20 p.m., 220 Marston Hall.

**Polymer Science and Engineering seminar**, "Influence of Temperature and Strain Rate on the Constitutive Behavior of Polymers," George Gray, Los Alamos National Labs; Friday, Dec. 13, 3:35 p.m., A110-111 Conte Polymer Research Center.

**Distinguished guest speaker**, Thomas Fox, of the University of Alabama, will speak on "Writer Stefan Heym: Socialist and Jew in the U.S. and East Germany." Cosponsored by the DEFA Film Library, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Vice Chancellor for Research, and the DEFA Stiftung, Berlin. Monday, Dec. 16, 4 p.m., 301 Herter Hall.

**Microbiology seminar**, "Context Dependent Cellular Models," Jeffrey Blanchard, research scientist and Pathways Program leader, National Center for Genome Re-

sources. Blanchard is a candidate for the Microbial Cell Modeling faculty position. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 11:15 a.m., 201 Morrill IVN.

**Doctoral exams**

*Graduate faculty are invited to attend the final oral examination for the doctoral candidates scheduled as follows.*

**Defense cancelled for Ilhwan Kim, Ph.D.**, Electrical and Computer Engineering. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2:30 p.m., 234 Marston Hall. Dissertation: "Quality of Service Support for Wireless Networks." Aura Ganz, chr. This doctoral exam will be rescheduled at a later date.

**Paul Carrington, Ph.D.**, Chemistry. Monday, Dec. 16, 9:30 a.m., 703 Lederle Graduate Research Tower. Dissertation: "The Role of Nickel in Carcinogenesis, Methanogenesis, and Transcriptional Regulation. An X-Ray Absorption Study of Desulfovibrio Vulgaris Superoxide Reductase." Michael J. Maroney, chr.

**Terrence Caskey, Ph.D.**, Polymer Science and Engineering. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m., A110-A111 Conte Polymer Research Center. Dissertation: "Development and Characterization of Ordered, Highly Oriented, Composite Laminates Using Supercritical Carbon Dioxide." Alan J. Lesser, chr.

**William Coli, Ph.D.**, Plant and Soil Sciences. Thursday, Dec. 19, 9 a.m.,

305 Agricultural Engineering Building. Dissertation: "Understanding the Potential Role Played by Major Flavonoid Components of Apple Leaves in Plant Defense Against Herbivorous Arthropods." Wesley Autio, chr.

**Youlanda M. Gibbons, Ph.D.**, Sociology. Monday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m., 919 Thompson Hall. Dissertation: "The Business of Diversity: Strategies and Structures in U.S. Information Technology Businesses." Robert Faulkner, chr.

**David Hamblin, Ph.D.**, History. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1 p.m., 601 Herter Hall. Dissertation: "A Social History of Protestantism in Colombia: 1930-2000." Jane Rausch, chr.

**Eva Juarros-Daussà, Ph.D.**, Linguistics. Thursday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m., 217 Herter. Dissertation: "Argument Structure and the Lexicon-Syntax Interface." Margaret Spears, chr.

**Malcolm Keswell, Ph.D.**, Economics. Monday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m., 919 Thompson Hall. Dissertation: "Essays on Categorical Inequality, Non-Linear Income Dynamics, and Social Mobility in South Africa." Samuel Bowles, chr.

**Wen Li, Ph.D.**, Molecular and Cellular Biology. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1 p.m., 215 Morrill South. Dissertation: "Analyze This: Cuticular Collagen Genes in the Human Filarial Parasite Onchocerca Volvulus." Steve Williams, chr.

**Wenjun Li, Ph.D.**, Biostatistics. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 3 p.m., 120 Arnold. Dissertation: "Use of Random Permutation Model in Rate Estimation and Standardization." Edward J. Stanek, III, chr.

**Alberto Nisoli, Ph.D.**, Chemical Engineering. Thursday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m., Guinness Engineering Student Center, Marcus Hall. Dissertation: "Effects of Vapor-Liquid Mass Transfer in Reaction-Separation Systems." Michael F. Doherty and Michael F. Malone, co-chrs.

**Hao Qi, Ph.D.**, Physics. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1 p.m., 409 Hasbrouck. Dissertation: "Studies of Liquid Absorption, Condensation and Surface Conductivity in Porous Media." Po-zen Wong, chr.

**Karen Straight, Ph.D.**, Sociology. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2:30 p.m., W32 Machmer. Dissertation: "Saris, Spouses, and Software: Gender and Assimilation Among South Indian High-Tech and Homemaker Immigrants in Portland Oregon." N. J. Demerath, III, chr.

**Heather Thompson, Ph.D.**, Molecular and Cellular Biology. Monday, Dec. 16, 4:30 p.m., B05 McConnell, Smith College. Dissertation: "The Heat Shock Response to Uphill and Downhill Running in Mice: the Effect of Muscle Damage." S.P. Scordilis, chr.

## Steps to curb alcohol abuse approved

Sarah R. Buchholz  
CHRONICLE STAFF

The designation of an alcohol-free residence hall for first-year students and several other steps aimed at curbing alcohol abuse on campus were approved Dec. 5 by the Faculty Senate.

The vote came after the Chancellor's Task Force on the Prevention of Alcohol Abuse presented its report to the Faculty Senate.

The report also calls for the chancellor to continue the task force; the rescinding of the designation of Greek residences as campus-approved housing for traditional-aged first-year students; the review and editing of existing alcohol policies to ensure that they are concise, clear, and effectively implemented; and an evaluation of the effectiveness of student enforcement of laws prohibiting underage alcohol use in residence halls. The senate voted to endorse all five recommendations.

"This university is no different than the rest of the universities and colleges across the nation," said interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jo-Anne Vanin, co-chair of the task force. "This is a public health problem; it is a university problem; it is our societal problem."

Approximately 1,400 students between the ages of 18 and 24 die annually from alcohol-related injuries, and an additional 500,000 sustain such injuries, according to the report.

"Additionally, there are tens of thousands of instances of rape and assault, unsafe sex, attempted suicide, academic underachievement, drunk driving and vandalism that result from alcohol abuse," the report notes.

Vanin said rescinding traditional-age students' option to live in Greek housing during their second semester will help to ensure that the University provides a coherent first-year experience, including residence-hall programming.

"I do believe that this campus, though, for many, many years has had superb programs of intervention, superb programs of counseling, support and education," Vanin said. "But this is ... an ever-changing target ... Our popula-

## COMECC total at \$235k

As of Dec. 6, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees Charitable Campaign had received 752 donations totaling \$235,466.54, according to Gloria Fox, COMECC coordinator. The participation rate so far is 17 percent, she said. COMECC is attempting to raise \$380,000 and to garner 50 percent participation among campus employees.

There is still plenty of time to send in your pledge card, according to Fox. Pledge forms can be sent to one's COMECC department coordinator or to the COMECC office, 390 Whitmore Administration Building.

tion changes each year by one-quarter. That's a whole new host of young folks coming in with their norms and their values and their perspectives on substances.

"And that population over the last 10 years or so has changed dramatically. We have young folks coming to us now that have been in rehab already. We have young folks coming to us now who ask for substance-free facilities because they need to be in a safe environment. It's not the college environment of 10 or 15 years ago."

Vanin said that designating one of the smaller residence halls, which would hold 130-140 students, as an alcohol-free environment would maximize the chances of filling it next fall.

"It will have more, though, than just the designation of substance-free," she said. "There will be the appropriate kind of programming and life skills involvement going on so that it becomes ... a very positive living, learning environment."

Vanin said that Student Affairs will need to study the effectiveness of undergraduate residence assistants in preventing alcohol from finding its way to underage students in the residence halls.

"I think the students who are being put in that situation to try to stop their peers from bringing alcohol in do not have the capacity or the leverage to be able to stop that," said Robert Sinclair, professor of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies and the task force's other co-chair. "We're hoping that through this [recommended] evaluation, we'll be able to ... clarify if, indeed, our hunch is correct. Our hunch may be wrong: maybe they are doing a good job, but we think it's very hard for them to do this kind of monitoring of their own peers."

"Our committee believes that the greater insight you have to a problem, the more likely you are to create a meaningful solution."

Sinclair said that opening up student alcohol abuse for investigation and discussion might make the University more vulnerable to off-campus attention to the problem, but "it seems to us that unless we face squarely the fact that we have a problem, we will not be able to solve it."

Alcohol abuse has grown into the campus culture for too long without "a deliberate effort to be able to address it in an open ... fashion in which we ... anchor ... our recommendations in the kind of data and understanding of the problem that's necessary," he said.

Vanin said most off-campus alcohol-related problems are beyond the campus's legal control, and the task-force's recommendations center on what can be done with the on-campus living environment.

"The coming year will be an important one in terms of our continuing to connect with our students," Vanin said. "The challenge we face is understanding what they understand. The perceptions that we may have about alcohol, the perceptions we may have about its appropriate role, are not necessarily the perceptions that our students have. The challenge is to understand their perceptions and match those with programs, services and activities that will foster the kind of community we want."

"We're trying to have the kind of report that doesn't sit on the shelf, gathering dust," Sinclair said. "It's taken a long time to get where we are in terms of the culture of alcohol abuse on campus, and it's going to take a long time to be able to change it."



Professor Anna Nagurny directs the Virtual Center for Super-networks in the Isenberg School of Management.

## AT&T Foundation awards \$25k grant to Nagurny

Lou Wigdor

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

For the second year in a row, John F. Smith Memorial Professor of Operations Management Anna Nagurny has received a \$25,000 Industrial Faculty Fellowship from the AT&T Foundation.

The fellowship renews the foundation's support for her project, Supernetworks and the Environment: Foundations and a Virtual Center. "That's the Isenberg School's Virtual Center for Super-networks," notes Nagurny. Last year's project engaged Nagurny and a half dozen students in the formal study of a wide spectrum of networks, including e-commerce supply chains, transportation, telecommuting, teleshopping and regional economies. This year's agenda will explore supply chain networks with recycling (notably "e-cycling") and environmental aspects of financial networks with electronic transactions.

"Last year's initial AT&T fel-

lowship was mostly about the foundation's expectations; this year's it's just as much an endorsement of our work. They've seen it, approved, and want us to continue," emphasized Nagurny, who leads a research team of half a dozen students who have put their own stamp on the Isenberg School's Virtual Center. The team — a multicultural group representing the Ukraine, Cape Verde, Japan, and other countries — has contributed to articles that have been accepted for publication in Transportation Research, Quantitative Finance, European Journal of Operations Research and other journals.

The mission of the Virtual Center for Supernetworks is to foster the study and application of supernetworks and to serve as a resource to academia, industry, and government on networks ranging from transportation, logistical, and telecommunication networks to economic, environmental, financial, and social networks.

## ALS Association helps people with Lou Gehrig's disease

Kimberly Bova

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

To keep in shape, alumna and former University employee Dorothy Hayden used to climb the stairs through all 26 floors of the W.E.B. Du Bois Library on her breaks there before walking back down them.

"I believe there are something like 457 steps from the ground floor to the top," Hayden said. "During the time I worked at the University Library, I was very active physically. Imagine my surprise to be diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), or Lou Gehrig's disease. The possibility never entered my head."

Hayden, 55, received a B.A. in Classics, specializing in ancient history, in 1990 and then a master's in library and information studies through a University of Rhode Island program that allowed her to take most classes at UMass. She worked on campus from 1986 until 1993, first in Com-

munication Disorders and then at the Library. She left in 1993 to become the assistant director of the Athol Public Library.

She was diagnosed with ALS in August of 1999 after a fall caused injuries that did not heal properly. Facing this fatal and very frightening disease, Hayden immediately called the ALS Association (ALSA). ALSA is the only national non-profit health agency dedicated solely to ALS. ALSA works to help people with ALS in all ways, including research, patient and community services, and public education and awareness, as well as advocacy.

Hayden, who is confined to a wheelchair with lower body paralysis, is upbeat and positive about her life and the help ALSA provides. She emphasizes this

when talking about the support groups for ALS patients and their supporters that meet in Athol every month.

Hayden expresses the importance of having other people to talk to about everything from vitamins and equipment to what happens when the disease starts progressing. Another important aspect that ALSA brings to patients and their caregivers is ALSA's annual ALS symposium; where researchers, vendors and caregivers gather to inform everyone about "the latest devices in fighting this disease."

Hayden praises the ALSA staff.

"They are a wonderful group of people, many have known someone with the disease or have the disease themselves," she said. When she first received the diag-

nosis she was overwhelmed, and the ALSA helped to point her in the right direction in regard to doctors, equipment, and support groups.

"ALS is a very lonely disease. So while the ALS Association does many wonderful things, supporting research into causes and cures, lending medical equipment like hospital beds, wheelchairs and lifts, and providing communication devices to patients who lose their ability to speak, I think perhaps I am most grateful for their providing a sense of community for ALS patients and their friends and families."

University employees may support the ALS Association through COMECC contributions, using code 050188. For more COMECC information, contact Gloria Fox at 5-4203 or by email (gfox@urd.umass.edu).

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