



UNIVERSITY of  
MASSACHUSETTS  
150 Infirmery Way  
Amherst, MA 01003-9288

University Health Services

voice: 413.577.5000

fax: 413.577.5488

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Dunbar Scully, UHS Communications & Marketing  
(413) 577-5077; [kdscully@uhs.umass.edu](mailto:kdscully@uhs.umass.edu)

## Training helps campus counselors enhance suicide prevention skills

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AMHERST, Mass. – Forty UMass Amherst staff members received advanced training in suicide prevention, response and mental health risk management, as part of a program led by the Mental Health Services (MHS) department of University Health Services.

M. David Rudd, Ph.D., of Texas Tech University, a nationally-known expert in mental health issues, suicide and risk management, worked with staff from MHS, the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program, Everywoman's Center, Psychological Services Center, Counseling and Assessment Services, the Athletic Health Enhancement Program and the Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention during a full-day session on Aug. 29. The program built upon training in "Recognizing and Responding to Suicide Risk" offered through MHS last fall.

In 2006, MHS became one of only 46 organizations nationwide awarded suicide prevention funds from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; efforts under the grant have included trainings for clinicians, Student Affairs staff, faculty and others who work closely with students.

MHS director Harry Rockland-Miller, Ph.D., cited the multidisciplinary nature of the training, noting that it "pulls together people across campus who provide counseling and mental health-related services, keeping us abreast of developments in the field and the most current standards of care."

University Health Services, UMass Amherst's fully accredited campus health center, serves students, faculty and staff. The center offers comprehensive medical and mental health care, referral and education services, with a special focus on the health needs and concerns of students. For more information, visit [www.umass.edu](http://www.umass.edu), or call (413) 577-5000.

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### **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Harry Rockland-Miller, Ph.D., Director, Mental Health Services, UHS
- Kerry Morrison, Psy.D., Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Mental Health Services