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PRESS RELEASE

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UHS staff members creating change, sharing knowledge

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AMHERST, Mass. – From helping shape state policy to educating colleagues from across the country, University Health Services (UHS) staff are making news.

- Governor Deval Patrick has appointed UHS health educator **Amanda Collings Vann, M.Ed.**, to the Massachusetts Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. The Council is charged with creating and updating law enforcement guides, revising and updating state policies, evaluating the response of legal, health and human services systems and considering legislative needs. Vann is a peer health education instructor, directs the Not Ready for Bedtime Players and oversees the Women's Health Project. She is a member of the Five College Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention Committee and the Five College AIDS Committee and serves on the Western Massachusetts Development Committee of Planned Parenthood.
- **Frederick H. Bloom, O.D.**, Director of Eye Care Services at UHS, is among the featured speakers at the American College Health Association (ACHA) annual meeting, May 26 -30 in San Francisco, Calif. With more than 2,800 members, the ACHA is the nation's principal advocate and leadership organization for college and university health. Dr. Bloom's presentation, "The Red Eye and Selected Ocular Emergencies," addresses the types of eye conditions and emergencies clinicians may encounter in a college health setting, and provides treatment guidelines. Dr. Bloom has more than three decades of experience and is credentialed in diagnostic and therapeutic ocular pharmaceuticals by the Massachusetts Board of Optometry.
- Three proposals from UHS staff members have been accepted for presentation at the New England College Health Association/New York State College Health Association 2009 Combined Meeting, October 28 – 30 in Burlington, VT. The annual event attracts higher education healthcare professionals from across the Northeast.
Psychiatrist **Benjamin F. Levy, M.D.**, will discuss "Bipolar Disorder and Dissociative Identity Disorder: A Pluralistic Approach," while advanced practice nurse **Kathryn A. Proulx, Ph.D.**, psychologist **Jennifer Lexington, Ph.D.**, and mental health intern **Sara Rigney** are presenting on "Complex Trauma in a Brief Treatment College Mental Health Setting." BASICS project director **Diane Fedorchak, M.Ed.**, and **Gloria DiFulvio, Ph.D.** of the university's Commonwealth College honors program will share their work in "From Alcohol Abuse to Recovery: Using Digital Storytelling to Address the Needs of Students in Recovery and Those Struggling with Addiction."

UHS, UMass Amherst's fully accredited health center, offers comprehensive care, referral and education services, with a special focus on the health needs and concerns of students. For more information, visit www.umass.edu/uhs, or call (413) 577-5000.