Summer is a time of great weather, beauty, relaxation, renewal—and, of course, a time when we all root for another Red Sox pennant. At UMass Boston’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), the season is also filled with promise for a new academic year and more opportunities to expand our profile as a vibrant center of higher learning.

This edition of Harbor Reflections features articles about a number of exciting new CNHS projects: GoKids Boston, a collaboration with the world-class Children’s Hospital of Boston; our new Center for Clinical Education and Research (CCER), a state-of-the-art facility equipped with simulators as learning tools; and our partnership with Dana-Farber Harvard Cancer Center (DFHCC) to launch a fast-track baccalaureate-to-PhD program. This installment also provides news about our illustrious alumni, our faculty’s cutting-edge research, significant awards for research and student funding, and the latest developments from our Nursing and Exercise and Health Sciences (EHS) Departments. Special thanks to all of our faculty and staff.

GoKids Boston—Up and Running!

By Maria Shea, Director of GoKids Boston

GoKids Boston (also known as the Interdisciplinary Youth Fitness Research and Training Center), an exciting new world-class facility located at UMass Boston, was formed to advance the science and clinical practice of improving physical activity and health in youth. Its primary goal is to provide participants with personalized instruction and support to become more physically active, improve fitness, eat nutritiously, and gain self-confidence. Consistent with the university’s urban mission, the facility’s emphasis is on reducing health disparities in underserved families. GoKids Boston consists of the latest technologies in the field, including “exergaming,” which combines new interactive video games with player movement to develop motor skills and physical fitness in a fun and engaging way. Strategically combining fitness technologies with evidenced-based behavioral strategies (e.g., self-monitoring, goal setting, and positive reinforcement) to promote lasting changes in healthy habits, for both the children and their caregivers, is a unique aspect of GoKids Boston’s broad community-outreach capacity.

GoKids Boston was developed in collaboration with the world-renowned Children’s Hospital Boston. The collaboration, as well as partnerships with community health centers in and around the city and with the Boston Public School system, offers an entirely new resource that helps improve healthy lifestyles in kids and adolescents. It serves youth with a wide variety of medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, obesity, asthma, cancer, and congenital heart disease) or other physical or intellectual concerns, as well as healthy children and teens who want to improve fitness and young athletes who wish to achieve peak sports performance. GoKids Boston brings together faculty researchers and clinical investigators from multiple institutions and disciplines to collaborate in complementary areas of research focused on developing, testing, and disseminating evidenced-based strategies to get children more physically active at home, in school, and in the community. With a focus on studying the link between physical activity, health, and weight control, GoKids Boston promises to provide needed research about how to effectively prevent or reduce obesity and its many co-morbidities.

Equipped with the latest technology in exercise instruction, research, and education, the 5,300-square-foot center provides a “living laboratory” for students in a variety of health and education disciplines, including exercise science, nursing, education, and psychology. Undergraduate and graduate students earn course credit while working in the center. GoKids Boston has also begun to develop an outreach program with the Boston Public School System. One example is a peer mentoring and leadership...
Introducing the Center for Clinical Education and Research

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences’ new Center for Clinical Education and Research (CCER) is a clinical teaching center for students designed to simulate actual patient situations. No classroom can substitute for an emergency room, and no case study is as immediate or has as much impact as the real thing. The CCER provides students with a powerful and effective learning tool—a laboratory that will enable us to simulate patient situations with real-world equipment and scenarios that teach students to make quick decisions that can mean life or death. Simulation offers the opportunity in high-risk, low-frequency clinical situations for students to gain experience to improve patient safety and strengthen patient care.

The CCER, scheduled to open in spring 2008, will enable students to practice evidence-based nursing care and exercise science in a risk-free, hands-on environment and enhance their self-confidence and performance when they are working with actual patients in actual clinics. It will incorporate the following components, which will benefit both the Nursing Department and the Exercise and Health Sciences Department:

- A “smart” classroom for 24 students, with a demonstration area and nursing station
- An exercise and health sciences teaching center with a “smart” classroom for 18 students and an exercise and fitness testing area
- Three exam rooms with videotaping capability, three exam cubicles with exam tables, and all necessary diagnostic equipment
- An enclosed, fully equipped ICU room that allows advanced simulation activities for students and licensed professionals
- A maternal child health cubicle that can be converted into a birthing unit, pediatric bedside, or homecare setting
- Six patient bedside cubicles with headwalls for oxygen, suction, monitors, ceiling lifts, and IV equipment (simulating an acute-care patient room)
- A clinical simulation/competency testing room and a clinical simulation and med room, both with videotaping capability
- A tutorial/study group room and a computer/AV viewing lab
- An AV control room, storage areas, and a reception area

The aim of the CCER is to develop and nurture knowledgeable, competent, and compassionate nurses and exercise and health sciences professionals who are interested in lifelong learning and who will positively impact the health and well-being of their patients and clients. The facility promises to be a significant resource for our students, health care professionals, and the wider community for years to come.

Dean’s Message

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who did the outstanding work that resulted in these stories.

Our College has other good reasons to expect an outstanding 2007-08 academic year. Funding for research and training has increased significantly: We are now at more than $2 million in funding, which allows us to support more students, conduct large-scale research projects, and hire faculty who show great promise. Despite a current nursing faculty shortage, we have successfully recruited three outstanding full-time, tenure-track nursing faculty with PhDs: Thomas Connelly (UMass Amherst), Haeok Lee (University of California), and Laura Hayman (University of Pennsylvania). Prof. Hayman will begin as our first Associate Dean for Research in September. A new EHS faculty member, Scott Crouter, joins us after doing post-doc work at Cornell University.

Across the nation, the potential of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is being recognized. For example, the External Advisory Board for our DFHCC-UMass Boston project began its site visit report as follows: “The UMB and DFCI Fast Track BS-PhD Program has the potential to become the signature doctoral program in the region.”

The lazy days of summer are waning. At the same time, we look forward this coming year to fulfilling the promise of our opportunities for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners—across the Commonwealth and beyond.
CNHS Convocation and UMass Boston Commencement: June 1, 2007

The spring 2007 College of Nursing and Health Sciences convocation ceremony was held on Friday, June 1. There were 146 graduates for the ceremony, including 87 undergraduate Nursing, 23 undergraduate Exercise and Health Science, 34 Master’s in Nursing students, and two PhDs. This year’s CNHS convocation followed the UMass Boston commencement; the ceremony was organized by the CNHS senior class officers along with academic advisor John Mascetta. It included an address by Chancellor Collins, a salute from the Provost, an address by Dean Glazer, presentation of EHS students and awards, distribution of degrees, pinning of the nursing students by a chosen family member, and addresses by both the nursing class president and an EHS representative. In addition, more than 100 Boston City Hospital nursing alumni were recognized. Boston City Hospital School of Nursing was considered the best-known for its output of nurses since 1878, fine faculty, great leaders, and students that cared for the inner-city population and had pride in carrying out that mission. When the School of Nursing closed in 1975, Boston State and subsequently UMass Boston took up where Boston City Hospital School of Nursing ended. Many thanks to all of the CNHS staff who helped make this day possible. This year’s CNHS convocation was enjoyed by all and was a day to be remembered.

Associate Dean Marion Winfrey addressing students during the UMass Boston 2007 commencement.

Dean Glazer (right) and Robert Kraft share an exchange during the 2007 UMass Boston commencement.

The Boston City Hospital Alumni Association enjoys the commencement.

UMass Boston PhD in Nursing Students’ Week on Capitol Hill: George Mason University’s Washington Health Policy Institute, Washington DC, June 4–8, 2007

From left to right: Terry Kahlert Eng (UMass Boston), Patricia Hickey (UMass Boston), Valeria Ramdin (Northeastern University), Mary Jane O’Brien (UMass Boston), Joe-Ann Fergus (UMass Boston), Kim Sauder (UMass Boston), Ameia Yen-Patton (UMass Lowell), Jean Bernhardt (UMass Boston)

Fifth Annual Career Fair: April 17, 2007

The 5th Annual CNHS Career Fair was held April 17, with representatives from top local hospitals coming to recruit our future graduates for prospective careers in nursing and health sciences. Agencies that participated in this year’s event include: Boston Medical Center, South Shore Hospital, United States Army, and the Faulkner Hospital. The career fair, a vital opportunity for our students to network with prospective employers, is coordinated by Heidi Wallace, Clinical Placement Coordinator. The funds generated from the fair are used for scholarships, professional development, and for hiring clinical faculty.

The University of Massachusetts Boston, College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Sigma Theta Tau International, Theta Alpha Chapter Honor Society of Nursing hosted their twentieth annual Research and Scholarship Day on Thursday, May 17, 2007. Associate Professor Amy Rex-Smith, DNSc, APRN, BC, presented the Sylvia Gendrop Lecture, on “The Three Joys of the Synergy Model.” The lecture was endowed as a memorial to Dr. Sylvia Gendrop, who served the College exceptionally well as the Director of Faculty Development and Research throughout the 1990s. Her presentation was followed by an address from Kyle McInnis, ScD, on the Interdisciplinary Youth Fitness Research and Training Center, a collaboration with Children’s Hospital Boston to create the GoKids program, which aims to develop measures to combat today’s childhood obesity epidemic. After a final presentation, “Nursing Strategies in Reducing Ventilator Associated Pneumonia: Program Evaluation” by Linda Curtain, the day wound down with presentations of master’s students’ comprehensive master’s papers and doctoral students’ internship projects. Awards and scholarships were presented during lunch, and posters were available throughout the day. A lovely reception followed.

Professor Jacqueline Fawcett speaks at Research and Scholarship Day.

Nursing Department Chair Cynthia Aber (foreground) and Nursing PhD Program Director Carol Ellenbecker (far right) join faculty and staff to hear Research and Scholarship Day presentations.

CNHS EVENTs

Twentieth Annual Research and Scholarship Day: May 17, 2007

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From left to right: Terry Kahlert Eng (UMass Boston), Patricia Hickey (UMass Boston), Valeria Ramdin (Northeastern University), Mary Jane O’Brien (UMass Boston), Joe-Ann Fergus (UMass Boston), Kim Sauder (UMass Boston), Ameia Yen-Patton (UMass Lowell), Jean Bernhardt (UMass Boston)
Lynch Foundation Award to Endow Nursing PhD Scholarships at UMass Boston

By Ed Hayward

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Boston has received a $500,000 grant from the Lynch Foundation to fund fellowships for students in the university’s fast-track nursing baccalaureate-to-PhD program, which is designed to build a diverse pool of PhD-prepared nurses focused on cancer nursing care, health disparities, and health policy, the university has announced. The grant is one of the largest awarded by the 19-year-old charitable foundation started by vice chairman of Fidelity Management & Research Co. Peter Lynch and his wife, Carolyn. “Peter and Carolyn Lynch set an example for philanthropy in Massachusetts by making investments in projects and programs where the results are expansive and sustainable,” said former UMass Boston Chancellor Michael F. Collins, MD.

By establishing the Lynch Foundation Fund for Nursing Fellowships, the grant will help change the way nurses earn doctoral degrees. The fast-track program was developed in collaboration with Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center through a $4.3 million National Institutes of Health grant awarded to the two institutions in 2005. “The Lynch Foundation award will improve the capacity of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences to address the national shortage of PhD-prepared nursing faculty and researchers,” said Dean Greer Glazer.

The goal of the fast-track program is to remove financial and other obstacles confronting nurses who want to pursue doctoral studies. Currently, students are enrolled in doctoral nursing programs in the U.S. an average of 8.3 years, compared to 6.8 years for all research PhD programs. The average time between entry into graduate study and earning a PhD is 15.9 years in nursing, compared to 8.5 years in other disciplines.

The Lynch Foundation, which was started in 1988, supports education, religious organizations, cultural and historic organizations, and hospitals and medical research.

Announcing the GAANN Fellowship Program for PhD Nursing Students

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) at UMass Boston has announced the GAANN Fellowship program, with funding of $784,170 from the U.S. Department of Education. With this fellowship, CNHS will provide education and research training to five nurse scholars at the PhD level, with a particular focus on individuals from traditionally under-represented backgrounds in nursing, including men and minorities. The GAANN Fellowship will prepare nurses who can fill faculty roles and who will be prepared to teach and mentor students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

GAANN fellows will take NURSNG 667 (Nurse Educators in Clinical Practice) and NURSNG 668 (Nurse Educators in Academic Settings). Fellows will also be partnered with a master teacher who will provide supervision and mentorship, and GAANN fellows will participate in an ongoing peer-led seminar during their teaching experiences. Each fellow will teach a minimum of six classroom lectures, will engage in online discussion and support as part of the course, and will supervise one clinical group during a clinical practicum of seven weeks. GAANN Fellows will be full-time students in the PhD Nursing Program at UMass Boston, which prepares students to be nurse leaders who will improve the practice and delivery of health care and educate the next generation of professional nurses. Graduates of the program will have gained the skills necessary to develop, maintain, and enhance health care delivery environments that foster equitable access to high-quality health care. They are prepared for careers as policy analysts, researchers, educators, and executives in health care organizations. The GAANN Fellowship relates directly to the priorities of CNHS and UMass Boston to provide superior education and research training at the PhD level to nurses from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, with a goal of helping to ease the national shortage of nurse faculty and researchers.

Gerontological/Adult and Family Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate Programs

The CNHS graduate program provides eligible candidates with the opportunity to earn a post-master’s nurse practitioner certificate through distance education provided by UMass Boston Online. The certificate program is designed to assist RNs who have an MS degree in nursing to acquire the knowledge and clinical experience that will prepare them to sit for national certification exams as geron, adult, or family nurse practitioners. To date, 12 graduates of the online program have passed the national certifying exams and now practice as school nurse, family nurse, and geriatric nurse practitioners.

Eligible candidates enroll in either a 12- or 21-credit option and complete the same clinical courses as students enrolled in the family or gero/adult MS program. To qualify for the program, candidates must hold an MS in nursing from an accredited institution and demonstrate prerequisite courses in advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and advanced health assessment. Students needing prerequisite courses can enroll for either online or in-classroom offerings with permission of the program director. Students arrange for clinical experiences in their home state, and contracts for clinical practica are arranged with the CNHS.

The 21-credit option can be completed in two semesters (full-time) or four semesters (part-time). The 12-credit option can be completed in one semester (full-time) or two semesters (part-time), depending upon the semester one chooses to matriculate. The 12-credit option is open to candidates with an MS and active national certification as a nurse practitioner. All graduates receive a certificate of post-master’s graduate education.

For information, contact the program director, Margaret McAllister, RN, FNP-C, PhD, FAANP, at margaret.mcallister@umb.edu.
Kristen Reske and Her Magnificent Voice

By Deborah Mahony

What a thrill to see one of our own, Kristen Reske, a second-semester senior in the nursing program, singing the national anthem at the university graduation. Her magnificent voice inspired others to sing along. How did we know she could sing so well? In addition to being a stellar student, Kristen is an athlete. As a member of the girls’ basketball team, she sang the national anthem at every home game for the past four years. As was reported in the Boston Sunday Globe on April 1, 2007, Kristen “ended her college basketball career as UMB’s all-time leading 3-point shooter (149) and tied for the school lead in games played (102) and her free-throw percentage (0.754) is the second most accurate in school history.” It is rare that you find a nursing student able to balance a rigorous academic schedule with a demanding sports schedule, but as the Globe said, Kristen did not want to give up basketball and felt that “When I was stressed out with school, I had basketball.” In addition, Kristen was honored at the university’s Student Leadership Banquet in April. She will be finishing up one more semester, graduating in December, and hopes to work as a pediatric nurse. Congratulations, Kristen. We are very proud of you. ◆

Deszarae Busi, An Exemplary EHS Student

Deszarae Busi graduated from the Department of Exercise and Health Sciences with a BS in exercise physiology. In addition to obtaining her degree summa cum laude with a GPA of 3.9, she received several awards this past year, including a student leadership award, an award for academic excellence, and the Dean’s Award. She is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and was also recently named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. During the spring 2007 semester, Deszarae served as an EHS representative and helped plan the CNHS convocation ceremony alongside the senior nursing class officers. Says Deszarae: “The affordable education offered by UMass is incredible, and the classes offered by EHS are so hands-on and informative! The EHS faculty is all extremely supportive of and invested in their students’ education, which I really appreciate. I feel fully prepared entering the workforce and graduate school.” She currently works at Spaulding Cambridge Outpatient Center as a physical therapist’s aide and a medical service representative, and she plans to attend graduate school to receive her doctorate in physical therapy next year. To current and incoming EHS students Deszarae says, “We are a fast-growing and up-and-coming department with a lot of opportunities to be had, so get involved and take advantage of all the wonderful things that both UMass and the EHS Department have to offer.” ◆

Nancy Roy, An Inspirational Nursing Student

By JoAnn Mulready-Shick

Nancy Roy, a recent nursing baccalaureate graduate from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, UMass Boston, has enhanced her knowledge of cancer care and nursing research during her senior year by working with nurse researcher Susan Bauer-Wu, PhD, RN, at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DCFI). Nancy participated on a research team on a quantitative research study, a master study of symptom management in cancer patients receiving bone marrow transplant. Her mentor was Martha Healey, FNP. She was also part of a qualitative research study, “Expressive Writing in Advanced Breast Cancer Patients.” Her mentor for the expressive writing project was nurse scientist Marsha Fonteyn.

Through this partnership, Nancy made public presentations, coauthored an abstract for a cancer conference, and coauthored a manuscript for peer-reviewed publication. Nancy received the McNair Fellowship for the 2006 – 2007 period, the first and only nursing student so far to have been accorded this honor. She also received an award for her fellowship speech. Through the McNair Fellowship, her tuition was waived, and she received $2,800 toward her college education and travel expenses for conferences related to her study. She was well prepared and supported during her study here in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Nancy is a shining example of the opportunities available to nursing students at UMass Boston through the McNair Fellowship and our close affiliation and partnership with DCFI.◆

UMass Boston Nursing Students Help Heal the Wounds of Hurricane Katrina

By Josh Anyaosah

My name is Josh Anyaosah. I am a native and citizen of Sierra Leone. I came to the U.S. as a refugee six years ago. I am interested in nursing because of my undying passion to care for humans, strong respect for the worth of a human life, and a desire to make a difference. In addition, I believe that caring for humans as a nurse is a privilege that comes with sacrifices, unselfishness, challenges, and rewards.

Empathy, compassion, and my dedication to the worth of a human life motivated me to take part in UMass Boston students’ relief response to hurricane-ravaged New Orleans. The agency that orchestrated and sponsored the trip was a student club I founded at UMass Boston known as the United for African Growth club. The club’s mission is to inspire students to help the destitute and serve humanity.

Twenty-eight students from the UMass Boston community volunteered to make the trip to New Orleans, among whom were 22 nursing students. I am honored to be among the volunteers whose willingness to present themselves in the spirit of helping others regardless of social status or race represents the fabric of humanity. We devoted our energy from May 20 to 27, 2006, to helping rebuild New Orleans. We gutted eight houses, cooked for other volunteers, cleared debris, and above all, bonded as a team for a common humanitarian cause. During the course of our trip, everyone was in a giving spirit. We all shared foods, drinks, and laughs together.

We were accommodated by Common Ground, an organization in New Orleans that helps with the rebuilding effort. We lodged in a school building in the Upper 9th Ward. Each day at 6:30am we geared up for house gutting, a hard and tedious job, especially with the hot temperature. Every house had a foot-thick layer of toxic mud, overturned furniture, large debris, and contaminated water. We tore down walls, doors, fixtures, and ceilings with sledgehammers, crowbars, and shovels. I continually made sure that we had enough water to carry us through the day. I had some people volunteer to work with children who had experienced and were traumatized by the hurricane. Others worked in a women’s shelter home.

In this age of globalization, I believe the spirit of helping others will build solidarity in our community and counteract the injustice and inaction that present a moral challenge to us all. ◆
JoAnn Mulready-Shick, MS, RN, CNE, became Undergraduate Nursing Program Director in July 2006. Together with the undergraduate nursing faculty, efforts to enhance student learning are underway, including implementing a student online learning system and a medication safety competency evaluation. She recently became nationally certified as a nurse educator and particularly enjoys assisting faculty in developing their roles as clinical, lab, and classroom educators. She hopes to soon complete her doctorate in the Graduate College of Education.

JoAnn’s abstract “Evolution or Revolution: Re-Creating Nursing Education” was accepted for a paper presentation at the National League for Nursing Education Summit 2007, Mentoring AD-prepared RN’s Returning to School: Stories of Challenge, Strength, Support, and Success, in Phoenix, Arizona, September 2007.

Esther Seibold, DNSc, APRN, CPNP
A 2006 graduate of Yale University, Assistant Professor Seibold joined the CNHS faculty in 2006 to pursue her research in school health services, mental health services for children, child health policy, and organizational theory. She is collaborating with Assistant Professor Jessica Whiteley and Professor Kyle McInnis, both colleagues from the Department of Exercise and Health Sciences, on an R21 Grant: “Influence of Targeted Parent Skill Training on Success for Minority Students. Through findings from the University of Massachusetts Boston, I am close to the decision-making process that brought me here to teach. First and foremost, I wanted to be part of a university and college that are dedicated to improving the health of urban populations. Throughout my career, my work has had to have personal as well as scientific significance. The university values equity in access to quality health care for all individuals, and to that end they support faculty who do research in health disparities, including this in the curriculum at all levels, and recruit and educate a diverse workforce. This mission/ vision is important to me as an individual, a Bostonian, a practicing nurse, and a researcher/educator; and this is what brought me to the University of Massachusetts Boston.”

—Eileen Stuart-Shor, PhD, APRN, BC, FAHA

The Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship

The Helene Fuld Health Trust has awarded grants to 11 baccalaureate nursing programs, including the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The grants are intended to create endowments that will provide continuing financial aid to students seeking a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN). We will receive $550,000 over three years to create an endowment and provide scholarships.

The UMass Boston College of Nursing and Health Sciences received 116 applications from current students enrolled in the undergraduate nursing program, including the RN-BSN On-Line Program for the 2006 Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship. The selection of the final 10 recipients, who were awarded a $2,500 scholarship, was based on a combination of scholastic achievement, leadership roles, and financial need.

Sheila Jones Cannon, APRN-PMH, BC, PhD
Assistant Professor Cannon graduated from Hampton University in 2002. In 2006, she joined the faculty of CNHS, where she teaches and conducts funded research in health disparities and strategies for NCLEX Success for Minority Students. Through findings from her study, she has worked in consultation with Black Churches as an educator on mental health, and has implemented and facilitated numerous African-American caregiving support groups.

“I chose UMass Boston because it affords me an opportunity to collaborate, partner, and be mentored by research scholars and academicians. I also feel that UMass is well suited to my program of research in exploring health disparities in the minority population.”

—Sheila Jones Cannon, APRN-PMH, BC, PhD

Eileen Stuart-Shor, PhD, APRN, BC, FAHA, a 2002 University of Massachusetts Boston graduate, returned to CNHS after a three-year postdoctoral research fellowship in cardiology at Harvard Medical School (NIH Cardiovascular Research Training Grant). Her research activities—centered on primary and secondary prevention, and best-practices-outcome research and adaptations to minority communities—have been supported by grants from the Boston Public Health Commission, DHHS/Office of Minority Health, Harvard Pilgrim Foundation, CDC/MHDP, the Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Office on Women’s Health (OWH), and NIH-NIA.

“As a first-year faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Boston, I am close to the decision-making process that brought me here to teach. First and foremost, I wanted to be part of a university and college that are dedicated to improving the health of urban populations. Throughout my career, my work has had to have personal as well as scientific significance. The university values equity in access to quality health care for all individuals, and to that end they support faculty who do research in health disparities, including this in the curriculum at all levels, and recruit and educate a diverse workforce. This mission/vision is important to me as an individual, a Bostonian, a practicing nurse, and a researcher/educator; and this is what brought me to the University of Massachusetts Boston.”

—Eileen Stuart-Shor, PhD, APRN, BC, FAHA

Kathleen Witoski, RN, has a 4.0 GPA! Kathleen, an RN to BS student, started school in 1979 with an Associates Degree from Mass Bay. She has a 4.0 GPA and is currently clinical manager at Quincy Medical Center on the Geri/Psych Unit. The reason she returned to school was to improve patient care and she feels that the online program has given her access to an education that she might not have been able to attain. Now she wants to continue with her masters and maybe a PhD. She states that she is very driven, even with very difficult family issues, to pursue her education, in order to be a role model and to bring back to the nurses on her unit the richness and excitement the online program has given her.

Idriz Limaj volunteered as a nurse in the refugee camps on the border between Kosovo and Macedonia during the war. Idris is a first-year junior with a GPA of 3.7. In addition to being a student, he is an LPN at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, a husband, and a father of two daughters. Idris came to UMass with a world of experience behind him. In his native Macedonia, he went to nursing school, later volunteering as a nurse in the refugee camps on the border between Kosovo and Macedonia during the war. After the war, he worked as a medical team leader for the International Organization of Migration, heading a team of eight physicians and six nurses, repatriating refugees, helping to coordinate care for those with medical problems, and ultimately assisting with 200,000 returning refugees. Idris received the first annual Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship. He states: “This scholarship would help to ease the burden of our school loans and give me a little more time with my family as I pursue my goals.”

Chibuzo Okafor is one of about 200 students from around the country who went to New Orleans as a volunteer. Chibuzo, a second-semester junior with a GPA of 3.4, is the president of the Real Life Christian Fellowship at UMass Boston. She was among 13 UMass Boston students who went for a weeklong National Christian Student Missions Conference in Panama City, Florida, and was one of about 200 students from around the country who traveled that week from Florida to New Orleans, working in groups to clean and clear houses and help owners rebuild. Through her hard work she earned a spot on the dean’s list for her first two semesters of study at UMass Boston and was accepted into the National Scholars Society. In order to continue her studies at UMass Boston, Chibuzo must work 28 hours per week as a certified nursing assistant. She says that the Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship will go a long way in helping her pay for school fees and other supplies.
GoKids Boston

Continued from page 1

development program called Fit2Lead, designed for students considered to be at high risk for dropping out of school. The center is also used as an extension of physical education experiences and after-school programs.

Prior to its grand opening, GoKids Boston was honored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with a special presentation, titled “What We Know and Don’t Know About Physical Activity and Obesity in Youth,” by Dr. William Dietz, Director of the Division of Physical Activity and Nutrition. The center was additionally supported by inspiring presentations on its official opening on Tuesday, June 19. Sandy Fenwick, COO of Children’s Hospital, delivered a speech in appreciation of the hard work and spirit of collaboration shown by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Children’s Hospital Boston in spearheading a healthy environment for Boston’s youth.

“We see the consequences of childhood obesity on a daily basis, with an increased incidence of diabetes and other diseases,” said Dr. James Mandell, President and CEO of Children’s Hospital Boston. “We hope that supporting this innovative program will directly help children in Boston and through research improve the fitness of healthy environment for Boston’s youth.

The center is also used as an extension of top local hospitals and long-term-care facilities.

Huan Zhang, BA, accepted the web/database manager position in May of 2007. Huan has built database-driven websites and provided design, quality assurance, and accessibility consultation for many web-based projects. He has worked for a number of companies and has taught web animation and graphic design classes at local colleges. In his new position, Huan welcomes people’s thoughts about his work so he can effectively meet people’s needs. He is looking forward to contributing his part to the continuing success of the college.

Karen McInnis, MEd, became undergraduate program assistant in June of 2007. An alumnus of the University of Massachusetts Boston, Karen received her master’s in education while working as the senior counselor in UMass Boston’s Upward Bound Program. She brings to CNHS over ten years of experience working in education and over four years working in higher education. “I am looking forward to working with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences,” says Karen. “Health care and education have always held my interest. The aspect of working in a career field with such a variety of opportunities to improve the quality of life is exciting. Ensuring that every student has an opportunity to explore this field as well as receive the support to achieve success will be one of my goals as program assistant.”

GoKids Boston

Carolyn Collins’s leadership, exemplifies what I feel is the true mission of the University of Massachusetts Boston—a contribution to access to higher education to those who might otherwise be unable to afford it, a chance to improve the lives of those in the communities around us, while exposing our students to the richest academic traditions of the humanities and helping to advance and expand scientific knowledge. This opportunity contributes to making our city, our state, and our world a better place.”

“By sharing what we learn with communities and our schools, GoKids Boston will inspire health change throughout our Commonwealth and the nation,” added Greer Glazer, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

“We envision GoKids Boston being a resource for all types of kids and families—from the nine-year-old struggling with asthma in their daily life, to a family looking to safely incorporate exercise into the life of a pre-diabetic ten-year-old, to the high school athlete who is interested in advancing to the next level of athletic competition through the safe use of strength training,” said Kyle McInnis, Chair of Exercise and Health Sciences.

For the latest news on GoKids, please visit its website: www.gokids-boston.com.

Rosa Giorgio, BA, became faculty administrative assistant in July of 2006. Rosa is currently an American studies graduate student at the University of Massachusetts. She received a BA in political science at the University of North Texas at Denton in with a minor in kinesiology. Prior to enrolling at UMass Boston, Rosa taught world history, geography, and health at Dallas’s Sunset High School. She also excelled as a corporate trainer for Chase-Paymentech Merchant Services for two years, then lived in Austin as a bilingual teacher before moving to Massachusetts to pursue graduate study. “It’s great,” she says, “to see firsthand the dedication the faculty and staff commit to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.”

Heidi Wallace, BA, became our clinical placement specialist in September of 2006. An alumnus of the University of Massachusetts Boston, she is currently a candidate for a master’s degree in public affairs. This position is fast paced, challenging, and rewarding for her. She enjoys hearing about students’ many positive and fulfilling experiences gained through their clinical rotations at top local hospitals and long-term-care facilities.

Yahaira Vargas, BA, became administrative assistant to the associate and assistant dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences in the fall of 2006. She is currently attending Northeastern University with a major in criminology (criminal justice) and a minor in sociology of law. Yahaira is currently a notary public and is certified as a paralegal, although her goal is to become a probation officer for juveniles. She plans to continue her education here at UMass Boston. Says Yahaira: “I am grateful that the College of Nursing and Health Science has given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge. Although not directly involved with students, by supporting the associate dean and the assistant dean for administration and finance, I hope to help CNHS students to become the best possible nursing and exercise and health science professionals.”

Karen McInnis, Chair of Exercise and Health Sciences, Paul Fonteyn, Provost of the University, William H. Dietz, MD, PhD, Maria Shea

Boston faculty and staff members: “GoKids Boston, a research center that had its beginnings during my time as interim chancellor and under Chancellor Collins’s leadership, exemplifies what I feel is the true mission of the University of Massachusetts Boston—an opportunity to provide access to higher education to those who might otherwise be unable to afford it, a chance to improve the lives of those in the communities around us, while exposing our students to the richest academic traditions of the humanities and helping to advance and expand scientific knowledge. This opportunity contributes to making our city, our state, and our world a better place.”

“For the latest news on GoKids, please visit its website: www.gokids-boston.com.”

PROUDLY WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CNHS STAFF

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UMass Boston is ranked fifth in the nation in faculty productivity among small research universities.

“...CNHS has successfully launched a faculty external mentorship program, and we are meeting our goals by the number of externally funded research projects, increased funding of research projects, and number of scholarly publications and presentations.

Our goal is to continue to increase student and faculty research and scholarly productivity by creating successful cross-disciplinary collaborations and partnerships. The majority of our research proposals have interdisciplinary collaboration with neighboring institutions and with the two departments in the College.

—Greer Glazer, PhD, FAAN, RN, CNP, CNHS Dean