UMass Boston’s Fifteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon

On October 12th, 2012, Provost Winston Langley welcomed more than 75 guests to the Fifteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon. The event’s emcee was Retired Faculty Leadership Council member Jack Looney, Professor Emeritus of Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences. This year’s luncheon featured guest speaker Professor Emerita of Philosophy Jennifer Radden, a Retired Faculty Leadership Council member. She spoke about Robert Burton’s *Anatomy of Melancholy* as recommended reading for retirement.

Last year’s Faculty Career Development Award recipient, Professor Lakshmi Srinivas of the Sociology Department, made a presentation on her research accomplishments that were aided by the award.

Provost Langley announced the 2012 Faculty Career Development Award Professor Emerita of American Studies Lois Rudnick was invited to speak at TEDx Acequia Madre, on November 3rd in Santa Fe, New Mexico. TEDx, a program of local, self-organized events, brings people together to share a TED-like experience. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to “ideas worth spreading.” For more information, including a video of Professor Emerita Rudnick’s talk, visit http://tedxacequiamadre.com.

**An Interview with Lois Rudnick: TEDx Speaker on the Immigrant Blame Game**

How was this speaking engagement different from others that you have done?
Preparing for my TEDx talk was definitely one of the most interesting and challenging experiences of my life. “The Immigrant Blame Game” was about our history of scapegoating.

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immigrants for social, cultural, political, and economic problems that are systemic to our nation. I gave an overview of this history from the pre-Revolutionary Era through the early 20th century, and devoted the rest of the talk to animus against Mexican immigrants, and the “myths and facts” about contemporary immigration.

As both an academic and public lecturer for some 40 years, I assumed that it would be a “no-brainer.” At UMass Boston, I taught “The Immigrant Experience” course for 35 years. I know the material well, and I’m a very confident public speaker. Well, I had a lot to learn. First, I started out with a 40-minute talk. My three coaches told me the talk was not only much too long, but way too academic. I fought them tooth and nail, but I learned that they were right. I ended up with a ten-minute talk that is one of the best I’ve given on the topic. I had to memorize this talk, no notes, and give it as if it were entirely fresh in my mind.

Where do you teach and what classes do you teach now?
Since my retirement, I have taught and lectured extensively. I regularly lecture (and docent) at various art museums on the topics of Anglo cultural patronage of Pueblo Indian and Hispanic art and culture; Mabel Dodge Luhan, an art patroness whose 4th husband was a Taos Pueblo Indian, and her circle (my life long study!); and on immigration history. I’m teaching a course on immigrants in film and literature this April. My students take these classes in lifelong learning institutions in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. It’s total bliss. No papers to grade, adult students who are motivated and interested in learning...a joy.

What are some of the projects that you are currently working on?
I’ve published a book and curated an exhibition on a wonderful gay artist who lived in Santa Fe. I’m now working on a major exhibition called Mabel Dodge Luhan & Company that encompasses her life as a salon hostess, cultural catalyst, and patron of the arts in Florence, Greenwich Village, and Taos. I am on the board of our public radio station KSFR 101.1 and do regular interviews with their brilliant talk show host who covers social, political, and cultural issues. I’m on the board of New Mexico Women in the Arts and I volunteer at the Food Depot, which supplies food banks throughout northern New Mexico.
Message from the Provost  (Con’t from page 1)

or college, the School for the Environment (SFE). This new school experienced immediate success, both in its programs in Nantucket, and also in the support it has received. We have just heard that SFE and our university will be the academic leader of the federally funded Mystic River Watershed Initiative, one of eleven new urban water federal partnerships nationwide.

Master’s and PhD degree programs in our School for Global Inclusion and Social Development as well as a proposed new college—the Honors College—are before the board of trustees at its June meeting.

Several of our faculty and students have received national or international recognition for the quality of their work. For the first time in our history, two UMass Boston doctoral students received National Science Foundation Research Fellowships. A third student—an undergraduate in physics—is leaving for the University of California, Berkeley, to pursue a doctoral degree after receiving one of these prestigious fellowships. In addition, the University of Zurich awarded a special distinction to a new doctoral student in the SFE for her master’s thesis. Two of our new students in the conflict resolution program are Fulbright scholars. Three of our faculty also received Fulbright scholarships.

There are other outstanding individual achievements of the faculty to report. Professor Peter King of the Asian American Program and the Curriculum and Instruction Department received the Research on the Education of Asian and Pacific American Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Education Research Association. The White House honored Professor Karen Suyemoto of the Psychology Department as one of 15 Asian American and Pacific Islander women named “Champions of Change.” Professor Karen Dick of the Nursing Department received the American Association of Nursing Practice State Award for Excellence.

Professor Brian White was appointed Provost Fellow for Teaching and Technology. The position will help our faculty further develop their ability to employ technology to enhance their teaching and research. Professor Jill A. Macoska was named to the Brann Chair. She will lead our Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy. Professor Judith Goleman from the Department of English was appointed director of the Office for Faculty Development. She will lead our efforts to focus on the development of the university’s most important asset, its faculty.

We continue to make progress in meeting the goals of our strategic plan. The retention rate of freshman students has increased, which we hope will correspond with an increase in graduation rates. Increases in both areas are very important features of our strategic plan. As we work to create a more international presence for the university, we continue our work with Columbia, Mexico, the Horn of Africa, and countries in the Balkans. The expansion and improvement of our physical infrastructure also continue. The Integrated Sciences Complex is on its way to completion and we have broken ground for General Academic Building No. 1. We are in the process of identifying where to locate General Academic Building No. 2 and which programs it will house.

As a final note, let me say that one of your colleagues, Professor Monica McAlpine, has become a rather remarkable artist. You can see two of her paintings at an exhibit sponsored by Unbound Visual Arts at the Harvard Educational Portal, 175 Harvard Street, Allston, until June 30th.

UMass Boston’s 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Retired Faculty Leadership Council is contributing its suggestions to author Michael Feldberg, who is in the process of writing a history of the university in conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebration of our institution. The council is soliciting email addresses from all retired faculty in order to invite their participation in the process. If you would like to be included, please email Martin.Quitt@umb.edu.

To learn more about what’s happening in the Provost’s Office, visit us at: www.umb.edu/academics/provost/

Or contact the office at:
Telephone: 617.287.5600
Location: Quinn Administration Building, 3rd floor, Room 61A
To submit Retired Faculty Newsletter story ideas, please ask for Aimee Ladner.

Upcoming Events
October 4, 2013: Sixteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon

Teaching Opportunities
If you are interested in teaching a course or doing a guest lecture for the Honors Program, please contact Rajini Srikanth at 617.287.5521.
Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro

By Peter McClure, Professor Emeritus of Management and Marketing

At 76, I was the oldest in our group of 14 folks attempting to climb Kilimanjaro. Yes, we had 64 guides, porters, and cooks taking care of us; nonetheless we did hike for eight days, rising some 12,000 feet to reach the summit (we started in the jungle at around 7,000 feet). And yes, the summit air is thin, containing only 40 percent of the oxygen we breathe at sea level. I was lucky and experienced few negative effects.

Prior to the summit, we completed a very strenuous, almost vertical climb up what is called the Western Breach, the most dangerous route to the top (I wasn't aware of that before I started!).

The photo to the left is a view from the bleak 19,000-foot lava top of Kilimanjaro (after all, it is a volcano), looking north over one of the remaining glaciers out to the 15,000-foot Mount Meru, some 50 miles away.

The photo above is me proudly posing with my UMass Boston pennant at the summit.