UMass Boston’s Fourteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon

On October 7, 2011, Provost Winston Langley welcomed over 75 guests to the Fourteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon. The event’s emcee was MaryAnna Ham, Professor Emerita of Counseling and School Psychology, who also serves on the Retired Faculty Council. This year’s luncheon featured guest speaker Ruth Butler, Emerita Professor of Art, and an honorary chair of the Retired Faculty Leadership Council. Emerita Professor Butler, along with Professor Emeritus of English, Joel Blair, started the council together.

Last year’s Faculty Career Development Award recipient, Susan Zup of the Psychology Department, made a presentation on her research accomplishments that were aided by the award. Professor Zup’s research is based on studying hormonal influences on brain development and behavior, particularly the incidence of autism spectrum disorder, which is rising at an alarming rate and is diagnosed three times more often in boys than girls. She gave a slideshow presentation of the results of her research thus far, in which she has been using an animal model. Her research has the potential to demonstrate whether being male appears to be a major risk for developing autism.

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A Living Legend in Massachusetts Nursing

Professor Emerita of Nursing Frances L. Portnoy has received the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses’ 2012 Living Legend Award. She was nominated by her dear friend and colleague, Professor Linda Dumas, of our College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Professor Portnoy has been active in the field of community nursing and gerontology for over 50 years. In addition to a lifelong passion for both nursing and sociology, she is known as an exceptionally kind person, who is loved and respected by many as both a mentor and a friend. On winning this award, Professor Portnoy says she is “amazed to

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Message from the Provost

As the spring semester moves to its close, one finds a number of initiatives and developments which merit inclusion in a brief report to you. They include the ongoing implementation of the strategic plan, continuation in the development or approval of new degree programs, information on new appointments, and expansion of research.

The strategic plan implementation process is still in its first “one hundred days.” New leaders Vice Chancellor Kathy Teehan and Vice Provost Joan Becker (who have taken over during Dean Steve Crosby’s leave) have been moving aggressively on all fronts to continue the shaping of our collective future, especially in the area of student success—whether one looks at the focus on service learning and internships, learning communities, or the use of technology-based retention tools to help students make satisfactory progress toward graduation and retention.

The university has also been able

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Provost Langley announced the recipient of the 2011 Faculty Career Development Award: Lakshmi Srinivas of the Sociology Department. Professor Srinivas will use the award to support her research for the completion of a book manuscript titled *House Full: Indian Cinema and the Active Audience*, currently under contract with the University of Chicago Press. She will use the award to travel to Bangalore, India, to pursue archival research at local newspapers, to conduct additional interviews, and to take photographs for the book. Retired faculty members contributed $4,595 in response to this year’s fundraising appeal. In addition, the provost and the chancellor pledged an additional $5,000 in matching funds. The retired faculty members who served on this year’s Faculty Career Development Award committee were Patricia Davidson, Peter McClure, and Martin Quitt.

This year’s Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon will be held on Friday, October 5, 2012. We hope to see you there!

Since retiring in the spring of 2010, Professor Emerita of Philosophy Jennifer Radden has found herself as busy as ever in her career. She found more time to pursue various research interests in the field of philosophy, including delusions (her book on the subject, pictured to the left, came out last year), mental illness memoirs, the self, ethical issues around suffering, and depression. These interests have led her to travel the world: to Freie Universitat in Berlin; Durham University in the UK; the International Philosophy and Psychiatry Conference in Gotenborg, Sweden; Linkoping University in Sweden; the University of Copenhagen in Denmark; and most recently, Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

Starting at the end of January 2012, Professor Radden spent six weeks conducting research at a center for cognitive neuroscience in the Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics at Macquarie University in Sydney. This center engages philosophers, psychologists, and others in an intensive study of delusional cognition. “This was a steep learning curve for me, but absolutely fascinating,” says Professor Radden. She was particularly intrigued by the uses of hypnotism and other laboratory techniques to create simple delusions, such as those held by people after stroke and other damage to the brain. Professor Radden was also interested in whether there can be delusions about feelings.

**Upcoming Events**
- May 18, 2012: Retired Faculty Council meeting
- June 1, 2012: Commencement
- October 5, 2012: Fifteenth 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.
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be in the company of people who have made such a big contribution to nursing and healthcare, such as one of the previous award winners, Dr. Anne Kibrick.”

During the early part of her career, Professor Portnoy served as a cadet nurse during WWII, an infant-care nurse in a kibbutz in the Galilee, and a visiting nurse in Philadelphia, where she also received her baccalaureate degree in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. She went on to receive her MS in community nursing at Boston University, and her PhD in sociology, through a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. Shortly after receiving her PhD, she began her academic career as part of the Boston University faculty at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center. She also began to pursue her interest in documentary film-making for the purpose of nursing education.

In 1978, Professor Portnoy learned that the new baccalaureate program in nursing at Boston State College was recruiting faculty, and she decided to join the college. When Boston State College closed, the nursing school moved to UMass Boston. Along with her colleagues, Professor Portnoy initiated a Program of Health Studies at UMass Boston. While at the university, she received a joint appointment in gerontology and nursing, and later served as Interim Dean of the College of Nursing. Her interest in gerontology led to a Fulbright Scholar Award in Norway. In Norway, Professor Portnoy built an international reputation with her research on nurse assistant training and education for the care of people with Alzheimer’s disease.

While at UMass Boston, Professor Portnoy developed lasting friendships with colleagues. Her colleague, Professor Linda Dumas, has this to say to her: “You are a wonderful listener, you always keep it simple and you bring out the best in students and friends.” Another colleague, Cathy Strachan Lindenberg says of Professor Portnoy, “I have always been struck by your sense of the bottom line; the importance of implications for public and social policy... What do we need to do to make the system better for all?” Professor Portnoy describes her time at UMass Boston as “very dynamic and challenging” in terms of having a joint appointment in both nursing and gerontology, and that she “misses it very much.” She continued to teach at the university until her retirement in 1997.

Post-retirement, she continues to be involved with the university by serving on dissertation committees, guest lecturing, collaborating with colleagues to develop long-term care modules in the curricula, and by publishing articles and book chapters in her field. She now resides in a continuing care retirement community, where she serves on health committees and the technology task force. She continues to publish and lecture about the sociological underpinnings of nursing and health policy. She also keeps in touch with many colleagues and friends from UMass Boston, both current and retired faculty.

This article was compiled from three sources: an article written by Linda Dumas in the March 2012 Massachusetts Report on Nursing, the nomination letter, and from speaking with Professor Portnoy herself.

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to further the development of new academic programs. They include a recommendation for the creation of an Honors College, which I have accepted. We aim to send a proposal for an Honors College to the Board of Trustees by December of this year. Other initiatives include doctoral programs in applied linguistics, sociology, and in exercise science, which were approved by the Faculty Council and submitted to the President’s Office. The Faculty Council also approved the establishment of a new school, the School of Global Inclusion and Social Development. It will focus on disability studies.

During the semester, we also had a number of new appointments in areas critical to our future, especially in the areas of health (national and global), informatics, cancer research, and in the humanities. We also had the appointment of Professor Connie Chan as Acting Dean for the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies and the recruitment of a permanent dean for the College of Education and Human Development, Michael Gamel-McCormick, PhD.

Additionally, we established a new program for undergraduate research at the university, with the support of over $700,000 dollars. A faculty committee chaired by Professor William Hagar is supervising the program, under the leadership of Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Zong-Guo Xia. Professor Kamal Bawa of the Biology Department brought great honor to the university in being named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in being the recipient of the Gunnarus Award, the world’s first major international award for sustainability research, for his work in the conservation of biological diversity.
World Travels: The Life of a Philosopher Post-Retirement (Con’t from page 2)

i.e. whether we can be deluded that we feel sad, or are in pain. In addition, a two-day workshop was arranged at the center, where philosophers and psychologists from around the country responded to various ideas in her book, *On Delusion* (2011). “The openness of the Macquarie empirical scientists to my often very ignorant questions and impractically theoretical concerns made this a wonderful opportunity for cross-disciplinary exchange,” says Professor Radden.

Professor Radden’s research is international in other respects. Since retiring she has served as a guest editor for an issue of the *International Journal of Feminist Bioethics* devoted to topics in psychiatry; co-written a chapter with a Hungarian philosopher (currently residing in Copenhagen) for the *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychiatry*; submitted a grant application to the Rockefeller Foundation for a Residency at the Bellagio Centre in Italy along with a Turkish-Canadian philosopher and a British forensic psychiatrist; written an encyclopedia entry on suffering in *Wiley-Blackwell’s International Encyclopedia of Ethics*; and an online article in *Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine*.

Her future plans include applying for a Fulbright to Beijing, China, in order to work with her treasured friend Hengda Yang, with whom she co-taught at UMass Boston when he was a visiting scholar of the Confucius Institute. When she is not working, she likes to travel, garden, and visit her grandchild Lucian.