UMass Boston’s Thirteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon

On October 1, 2010, Provost Winston Langley welcomed approximately 80 guests to the Thirteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon. The event’s emcee was Ellie Kutz, a retired faculty member from the English Department who now works on campus in the IT Department. The luncheon featured guest speaker Linda Dittmar, a retired faculty member who recently received a Fulbright Fellowship to India.

The 2009 Faculty Career Development Award recipients, David Pruett of the Performing Arts Department and Eileen Stuart-Shor of the Nursing Department, described their accomplishments in the year since they received the award. Professor Pruett used his award funding to purchase a Middle Eastern instrument, an ’ud, which he played at the luncheon accompanied by several other musicians. Professor Stuart-Shor gave a presentation with pictures of her recent trip to Kenya for her "Kenya Heart and Sole*: The Afya Njema Project," showcasing one of her students who participated in the project, Mercy Kamau.

Provost Langley announced the two recipients of the 2010 Faculty Career Development Award: Susan Zup of the Psychology Department and Samuel Museus of the Leadership in Education.

Scholarly Work Finds New Life in ScholarWorks

BY ANDREW ELDER, OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The University Libraries are open to all retired faculty, offering a wide range of services around the clock. With the launch of ScholarWorks and SelectedWorks, the University Libraries now provide faculty with an online resource for storing and sharing scholarship with the campus community and with researchers around the world. These permanent and freely accessible online repos-

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 3
Department. Professor Zup said she plans to use the award for her research on 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. Professor Museus said he will use the award for his project “Multiracial Microaggressions: A Phenomenological Inquiry into the Mixed-Raced College Students’ Experiences with Subtle Forms of Prejudice and Discrimination.” The retired faculty who served on this year’s selection committee are Joel Blair, Joan Garity, and Herman Hemingway.

Retired faculty contributed $5,150 to this year’s fundraising appeal, an increase of almost 10 percent over last year’s contributions. The provost and the chancellor pledged an additional $5,000 in matching funds.

This year’s Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon will be held on Friday, October 7, 2011. We hope to see you there!

“When asked about the use of “sole” rather than “soul,” Professor Stuart-Shor responded that this was done to distinguish themselves and generate discussion. She chose “sole” because in addition to the “heart” (which can be the physical and metaphysical – including soul) their program includes exercise (sole of the foot) and nutrition (fish).

Susan Zup of the Psychology Department, one of the two recipients of the 2010 Faculty Career Development Award. Samuel Museus could not be present because of a teaching conflict.

UMass Boston’s Thirteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon (Con’t from page 1)

The Power of Theater on Continuing Connections

Professor Emerita Jean Humez, a retired faculty member from the Women’s Studies Department and current board member in UMass Boston’s Center for Gender, Security, and Human Rights, appreciates the level of involvement she still has with the university. She continues to keep in touch with former colleagues from her 35 years at the university, and she is available for mentorship to junior-level faculty.

An example of both her continued communication with her former department and her participation with the center is her encouragement of several faculty to attend the powerful play Ruined at Boston’s Huntington Theatre in February. Ruined is a Pulitzer-winning play by Lynn Nottage depicting a complicated rendition of the ways women have been affected negatively during the prolonged war in Congo. After viewing the play herself, Professor Emerita Humez felt compelled to bring it to the attention of several of her former colleagues and fellow center members with research and intellectual interests in human rights, especially those of women in conflict and post-conflict settings. As a Huntington Theatre subscriber, she was even able to offer her former colleagues discounted tickets.

According to Professor Emerita Humez, the ending of Ruined is particularly

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

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

Upcoming Events
May 12, 2011: Next Retired Faculty Council meeting
June 3, 2011: Commencement
October 7, 2011: Fourteenth 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.

Continued on page 3
Scholarly Work Finds New Life in ScholarWorks
(Con’t from page 1)

Stories will change how researchers approach and access the scholarly contributions of UMass Boston faculty members by making this research (including peer-reviewed articles and creative works) easier to navigate, search, and share.

The University Libraries are pleased to extend this opportunity to retired faculty to showcase, preserve, and make available your work, research, and other scholarly output. Including your research in ScholarWorks and SelectedWorks, which will be administered by the University Archives, is an easy and effective way of contributing to ongoing scholarly inquiries related to your areas of expertise – for generations to come.

Here is a recent example: In 2010, 31 articles were uploaded into a test version of ScholarWorks. Since that time, there have been more than 1,000 full-text downloads of these articles. For many of these works, it was the first time they had been available and searchable in an online environment. Another important function of ScholarWorks is that it indexes each submission to optimize finding you and your work via search engines like Google and Yahoo!

We invite you to work with the University Archives to create a page to showcase your work, research, and scholarship. All you need to do is send your most up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV), indicating which work or works you would like included, plus a photograph of yourself. We will set up your page and be in contact with you.

ScholarWorks and SelectedWorks are part of Digital Commons, the electronic publishing platform for the campus. They are two important venues for recognizing and celebrating the work of founding faculty and others who have made UMass Boston an award-winning research university.

For more information, or if you would like to submit the materials necessary for creating a SelectedWorks page to showcase your work, please contact a ScholarWorks administrator by calling 617.287.5944 or emailing library.uasc@umb.edu.

*SelectedWorks refers to an individual faculty member’s page, which usually includes a brief biography and links to a CV and/or articles.

The Power of Theater on Continuing Connections (Con’t from page 2)

controversial, as some of the negatively portrayed characters are redeemed in unexpected ways, and she is interested in the kind of discussions this dimension of the play provokes. She also mentioned that the play, although primarily a dramatization of the extraordinary violence against women that has been endemic in this war, presents a complex picture of the many forces at work—including economic, political, and historical factors. In addition, she says, the play itself is very impressive as a work of art and features inspiring actor portrayals.

Professor Humez’s encouragement of her colleagues to attend the play elicited some thought-provoking discussion of the relationship between art and material reality. Said one attendee: “The violence that women in the Congo experience is so horrific that it forces us to ask ourselves precisely what our attendance at a theatrical performance signifies and what we can hope to accomplish by doing so. In what ways does our knowing about the situation help to lessen the violence, or does our knowledge simply help us feel better about ourselves?”
We know that some of you are pursuing creative endeavors such as photography, painting, and writing poetry. Creativity, however, can emerge in many contexts and infuse even the most pedestrian situation with excitement and the surprise of discovery. So here is something I recently learned as a graduate student in the Critical and Creative Thinking program that I would love to share. This is a creative-thinking technique that allows you to use your “off-the-wall” ideas to find a real solution to a problem.

1. First, state the problem.
2. Next, brainstorm ideas on ways to solve that problem without any regard to whether these ideas are actually possible. Be as creative and crazy as possible.
3. Select one of the absurd ideas from your list. See if you can extract the principle from that idea. List the features and aspects of that idea.
4. Finally, use a technique called “imagineering,” where you extract the principle, or one of the features and aspects of that idea, and build it into a practical idea.

Using this technique allows you to be creative without the restraints of having to be realistic; the more off-the-wall your ideas, the better. This technique can be fun, because although we allow ourselves to go to the extreme of crazy ideas, we can find a way to use those same ideas for a practical solution.