

Reporter

The University of Michigan-Dearborn

October 12, 2009

Undergrad enrollment increases 2.6 percent

Undergraduate enrollment is up 2.6 percent year-over-year, with a total of 6,959 students versus 6,778 last year. That equates to 181 undergraduate students more than the 2008/2009 academic year.

Total enrollment is up by 73 students, or just under one percent, with 8,642 students compared to 8,569 last year. This is the largest number of students enrolled at the university in the past six years.

"Despite the difficult economic environment, we're continuing to increase our enrollment at UM-Dearborn," said Stanley E. Henderson, vice chancellor for enrollment management and student life. "More importantly, we're seeing sustainable growth that demonstrates that higher education is being valued as a way to create better futures for people in our community."

For the third year in a row, freshmen enrollment is over 900 students, totaling 922 for the fall term. It's the second largest freshman class since 1979. And for the fourth year in a row there are more than 700 transfer students from other colleges and universities - a total of 729, which equates to 24 more than last year or an increase of three percent.

"What is also interesting to note is that total credit hours are up this fall," added Henderson. "Essentially that means that students are investing more time in their education by taking more classes."

Total graduate student enrollment is down six percent, from 1791 last year to 1683 this academic year. The primary factor for the decline is that so many businesses have stopped offering their employees matching tuition reimbursement programs.

"This fall's entering students continue to reflect the campus's high quality standards," Henderson said. "ACT scores and high school GPAs for first time freshmen entering this term are the highest ever recorded."

College of Business earns high honors

UM-Dearborn's College of Business has been recognized as an outstanding business school by The Princeton Review in the 2010 edition of its book, "The Best 301 Business Schools."

"Our faculty members are very passionate about what they do," said Kim Schatzel, dean of the College of Business. "This designation reaffirms that the College of Business and its faculty are providing the highest quality learning environment and curricula to its students, as well as responding to the needs of our region's employers."

"Our MBA program has long been recognized for its rigor, relevance, and accessibility to business professionals. I am pleased that the program is extending its visibility and well-deserved reputation," she said.

"The Best 301 Business Schools: 2010 Edition" evaluates schools on academics, student life and admissions, plus ratings for academics, selectivity and career placement services. The book does not rank the business schools on a single hierarchical list from one to 301, or name one business school as best overall. Schools are chosen based on The Princeton Review's evaluation of the school's academic programs and offerings, as well as the company's review of institutional data collected from the schools.

Pluralism in Malaysia



Claude Jacobs, associate professor of anthropology, and William McNeece, lecturer in sociology, traveled to Malaysia last week to participate in an international conference on interreligious dialogue. While there, they mounted an exhibition called "World Religions in Metropolitan Detroit," which showcased photos from UM-Dearborn's Pluralism Project, including the image above of a Mandaean "Baptism ritual" called Al-Masbatta before a wedding. It was taken by McNeece in Kensington Metro Park. For the full story, see page 2.

Business leaders give back, connect to campus

The College of Business has launched a unique program to reconnect successful alumni to the university. It's called the "Executive in Residence for the Day" and brings high-profile leaders back on campus to meet with faculty and staff members and lecture in classes with students.

So far four successful entrepreneurs, including three alumni, have participated in the program: David Ebner, founder and principal of Wireless Toyz Inc.; Mike Surmanian, founder of Diagnostic Consulting Network; Robert Murray, founder of Empower Financials; and Thomas Bloom, CFO, Office of the Comptroller of Currency for the federal government and interim director of TARP, at the time of its formation.

Other campus visits are scheduled throughout the year, with the next one set for Oct. 16 when Pat Hartmann, a noted philanthropist, will visit with students, faculty and staff members.

"We're excited about having successful business leaders bring a wealth of knowledge and practical experience to our faculty, staff and students," said Kim Schatzel, dean of the College of Business. "We're finding great interest from our alumni and other business leaders in participating in this program because so many want to re-connect with the campus and share their success stories as a way of giving back."

Two alumni, Surmanian and Murray, visited campus on the same day, Sept. 11, and both found the opportunity to be beneficial.

"The day was inspiring," said Surmanian. "It was great to be invited back to meet with



Bob Murray (left) and Mike Surmanian

the people who are the forefront of business education. We did offer to be contacted one-on-one if we can help."

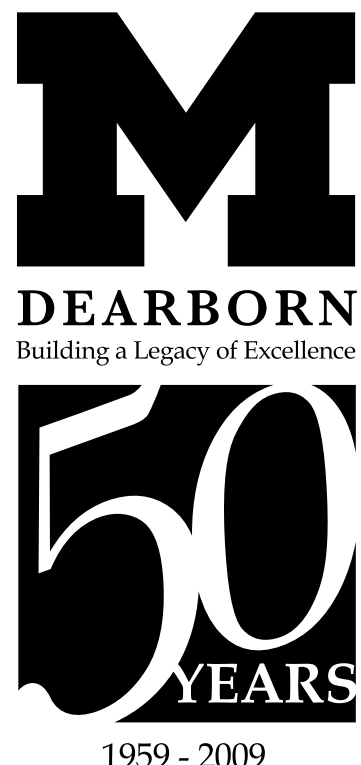
Murray added, "It was fun to see the school want to talk to us, as employers, about what you need as a business, in terms of students and what they need to be learning. I found that to be inspiring as well."

Both said the university's focus on experiential learning was key to their success.

"It was the reason I chose to come here," said Murray. "I had applied to other business schools in Ann Arbor and elsewhere, but when I found out about the internship opportunities I thought being able to graduate with real-world experience on my resume was an important reason to come here." He added, "I graduated in '75 and there was a recession going on, but I had three job offers when I graduated and I have no doubt that the internship was a big reason for why I was able to get job offers in a down economy."

Surmanian summed up the visit by saying, "This was a fantastic day--all that it was billed up to be. I had fond memories here and it was great to come back to campus."

Photo by Rachel Shomsky



Pluralism Project visits Malaysian conference

Claude Jacobs, associate professor of anthropology, and William McNeece, lecturer in sociology, participated in an international conference on interreligious dialogue Oct. 6-11 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In addition to reading papers, Jacobs and McNeece displayed photographs from UM-Dearborn's Pluralism Project and played samples of recordings from the Marquian Library's Digital Music Archive.

Jacobs, who serves as director of the Pluralism Project, and McNeece, who serves as director of photography for the project, received support through the Fulbright Program for participating in the conference and mounting the exhibition, "World Religions in Metropolitan Detroit."

"This was a follow-up to a grant received by the Center for the Study of Religion and Society during the 2009 fall term that brought Father Michael Chua, a Fulbright Interfaith Action Scholar from Malaysia, to the campus," said Jacobs. "Father Chua's work focuses on race, religion and politics in Malaysia. Impressed by the work he saw in the center and by the relationship between the center and the community, Father Chua invited us to participate in the Kuala Lumpur conference as a part of his own Fulbright grant."

The exhibition, "World Religions in Metropolitan Detroit," consisted of 50 panels of photographs and text that represent the ongoing research of the Pluralism Project, showcasing the diversity of Metropolitan Detroit's religious landscape: Islamic mosques, Native American spirituality, Baha'i gathering places, Mandaeen mandi, Sikh gurdwaras, Jewish synagogues, Christian churches, and Hindu, Jain and Buddhist temples. Other panels provided brief histories and descriptions of the religions. The recordings from the music archive were of hymns, chants and recitation that complement the Pluralism Project's photographs.

"The exhibition and music archive were originally designed to encourage dialogue and foster a greater sense of community among the residents of southeastern Michigan," Jacobs said. "They now served that purpose in Malaysia."

Campus sustainability

When the average North American sits down to eat, each ingredient has typically traveled at least 1,500 miles from farm to plate. On Oct. 19, UM-Dearborn will host "50 Mile Meal and a Movie" at 4 p.m. in the auditorium of the Environmental Interpretive Center.

The event will include a strolling dinner with food grown within a 50-mile radius of the campus and a screening of "King Corn," the first in a week-long series of films focused on a sustainable food supply. Cost to attend is \$15 for faculty and staff and \$10 for students. Donations also will be accepted, with proceeds benefiting the campus's Sustainable Seeds Micro-Loan Fund.

The Sustainable Film Festival runs all week, with the full schedule of film titles and times available online at <http://eventcalendar.umd.umich.edu/calendar/index.php3>.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, UM-Dearborn will host an array of activities for Campus Sustainability 2009. A full schedule of those events are available on the campus calendar at <http://eventcalendar.umd.umich.edu/calendar/index.php3>.

'We are strong women'



In the photo above, Prof. Lora Lempert accepts her award from the Sociologists for Women in Society alongside her granddaughter, Esther. "I ended my remarks with a mantra that Esther and I use when she's complaining about something being too hard or too scary: 'We can do hard things because we are' and Esther yells: 'strong women!'" Lempert said. "It brought the house down!"

Prof. Lora Lempert honored for her activism on behalf of women

Lora Bex Lempert, professor of sociology, has been honored with the 2009 Feminist Activism Award by the Sociologists for Women in Society.

Lempert, who received the award during a ceremony in San Francisco on Aug. 8, was recognized for consistently using sociology to better the lives of women, particularly through advocacy and outreach efforts. She will travel as a guest lecturer to two applicant colleges/universities this year as a part of the award process.

Lempert joined UM-Dearborn in 1994 as an assistant professor of sociology, and was promoted to associate professor in 1998; she became a full professor in 2003. She served five years on the campus's "Agenda for Women" committee and was director of the Women's Studies program for two years. She teaches courses in sociology and women's studies, marriage and family problems, family violence, and criminal justice. Lempert also is an executive committee member of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender on the Ann Arbor campus.

In 2001, Lempert was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to the Sociology Department and Women and Gender Studies program of the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. At the request of UWC and the American Consulate in Cape Town, her year-long appointment was extended by six months.

During her service as director of the UM-Dearborn Women's Studies program, a certificate program was established and an overall framework developed that led to significant growth of the program. She also created an internship program that provided students with opportunities to analyze social problems as they provide direct service in sites such as shelters for abused women, Head Start programs for children, victim advocacy units in prosecutor's offices, adolescent transitional housing and other programs.

In 2000, when Lempert won UM-Dearborn's Distinguished Teaching Award, she was described by a nominator as "a transformative teacher, waking students up to

gender, racial, and social class inequalities, and helping them to understand the interactions between all three." Four of her course syllabi have been published by the teaching resources unit of the American Sociological Association.

In her family violence class, Lempert modified the national Clothesline Project to bring student research on domestic violence and grassroots activism together on campus. Every Fall Semester students create t-shirts that memorialize the violence experienced by individual women and display them in public spaces.

In 2003, Lempert received two major awards for her leadership, scholarship and service on behalf of women: the Sarah Goddard Power Award from the University of Michigan Academic Women's Caucus and UM-Dearborn's Susan B. Anthony Award, which is given annually to a member of the UM-Dearborn community "who exemplifies the dedication, fortitude and involvement of Susan B. Anthony," a leader in the women's suffrage movement.

In 2006, the American Association of University Women's Legal Advocacy Fund honored UM-Dearborn faculty and students teaching in a local prison with the group's Progress in Equity Award. Directed by Lempert, the program brought college-level courses into the Scott Correctional Facility for Women in Plymouth, which closed in May. Several of the students in that program are now enrolled at UM-Dearborn. This year, with the close of the Scott Facility, UM-Dearborn has collaborated with Eastern Michigan University to continue offering courses to incarcerated women at Women's Huron Valley in Ypsilanti.

In addition to her teaching and research, Lempert publishes extensively on domestic violence, prison pedagogy, and issues related to gender and racial equality. She has served on the editorial board of the journal *Gender and Society* and is on the board the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, and she reviews for the feminist journal *Signs*.

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Publication calendar

The next issue of the *Reporter* will be published on October 26. News items must be delivered to the Office of University Relations, 1040 Administration Building, at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Jennifer Thelen, editor
(jasroka@umd.umich.edu)

The University of Michigan-Dearborn,
4901 Evergreen, Dearborn, MI 48128-2406.

The University of Michigan-Dearborn does not necessarily endorse the views of speakers at events listed in the *Reporter*.

Mardigian Library News

Network and relax in faculty lounge

The Faculty Lounge, located in Room 1208 of the Mardigian Library, is a place for faculty members to meet and network with colleagues. The lounge offers Wireless Internet access, a microwave, comfortable seating areas, complimentary coffee, tea or hot chocolate, and copies of *The New York Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for reading in the lounge. Pieces of glass art from the university's glass collection enhance the atmosphere of the lounge.

Faculty members must use his or her Mcard to enter the lounge. To have an Mcard activated for this purpose, visit the Office of Public Safety and Environmental Health and talk to Sandra Sumerton.

Give the gift of knowledge

The Mardigian Library has a new, special digital bookplate to acknowledge and thank individuals who give a donation of \$50 or more to the library during the 2009-10 academic year, the university's 50th anniversary. Donations will go to the library's Collection of Excellence fund, which is used to purchase books, videos, e-books and more. For more information, contact Sue Flannery at sasbury@umd.umich.edu, or call 593-5236. View the bookplate at: <http://library.umd.umich.edu/eBookplates/50th-gift.html>

Library will hold two faculty workshops

The Library Research Center at the Mardigian Library will hold two more workshops for faculty members during the fall term.

The first workshop, titled "The Information Literacy Story," will take place at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3

Tuesday, November 3 at 11:00 a.m. The session will explore what librarians can do to help advance students' critical thinking skills as it relates to information, technology and scholarly materials.

The second workshop, titled "Seven Magnificent Advanced Research Techniques," will take place at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 1 p.m. The session will explore seven techniques that make people better researchers no matter what research tool they are using. Subject searching, search limiters and combining searches will be covered.

Both sessions will be held in Room 1212 of the library and run for 40 minutes each. Those who wish to participate should RSVP to Teague Orbylch at 593-5562 or mtorblyc@umd.umich.edu. Participants are welcome to bring a lunch or a snack.

Julia Daniel joins Library staff

Julia Daniel, systems librarian, joined the Mardigian Library staff in early July. She brings a wealth of experience in the areas of user interface needs and requirements, usability testing, digital asset management, emerging technologies, supervision and training, and leading interdepartmental collaborative teams.

Daniel is actively involved in the American Society of Information Science and Technology and the Society of American Archivists. She has served on the board of the Wayne State University Alumni Association and is past president of the Wayne State University Library and Information Science Alumni Association. She teaches courses in archival studies, Web site design and technology at Wayne State University's School of Library and Information Science, and enjoys working with librarians-in-training.

Daniel formerly worked at the General Motors Media Archive, the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute and the Ford Motor Company Global Product Marketing Knowledge Center. She earned a bachelor's degree in both German literature and the humanities, and a master's degree in library and information science, at Wayne State University.

Streaming videos now available

Streaming video for classroom or individual use is now available through a new collection on the Mardigian Library Web site. This collection includes more than 20 Web sites and databases with subjects ranging from science, politics and news to interviews, historical footage, the arts and more. It contains links to full episodes of series from public television, such as "NOVA," "The American Experience," "Frontline" and "Tavis Smiley." Video footage from the Library of Congress and NASA also are included, along with material from subscription databases such as Films on Demand.

New resources at the library

E-Books

The \$800 Million Pill: The Truth Behind the Cost of New Drugs by Merrill Goozner.

In this e-book, Goozner explores the world of pharmaceutical development, examining drug companies' claims that the high cost of prescription medication is due primarily to the costs of development and testing. Contrary to these claims, however, Goozner concludes that often consumers are financing astronomical profits for the drug industry not only through

the price of the medications themselves, but also in the form of tax-payer funded scientific research that contributes to the development of nearly all drugs. He argues that the dedication of scientists in government and academic settings leads to the basic innovations necessary for new drug development.

Divining Victory: Airpower in the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah War by William M. Arkin.

The author looks at the effectiveness of massive air strikes employed by Israel in their attempt to stop rocket attacks by Hezbollah and to weaken its basic organizational structure. While Hezbollah claims that its ability to survive the attacks has made it stronger than ever politically, the Israeli government also claims victory, arguing that Hezbollah's military capabilities have been set back and that the strength of the Israeli military response provides a deterrent for further attacks. The evidence for each of these competing narratives is examined.

Database updates

Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970 is a collection of 660,000 historical maps of approximately 12,000 American cities and towns. The maps are scaled at 50 feet per inch and show street blocks and building numbers in use at the time they were drawn. Comparing maps of the same city or town over time allows users to see the growth and development of a city or town and provides information useful for local history, genealogy, urban planning, sociology, environmental studies, etc.

Film Index International indexes more than 125,000 films from more than 170 countries. A synopsis, director, cast and crew are provided for each film, along with a list of references discussing that particular film. Information on individual performers, film makers, and other persons involved in the industry also are included, along with a list of journal references. New content is added twice a year, and the database can be searched by keyword, title, year, director, cast and credits, character, country, synopsis, and awards.

Periodicals Index Online provides indexing for more than 18 million articles published in 5,500 different periodicals going back as far as 1665. Every periodical is indexed from the first issue through the most recent, and 37 different subject areas in the humanities and social sciences and more than 40 different languages are covered. Indexing for between 300 and 500 new journals (containing more than a million articles) is added each year.

Mission

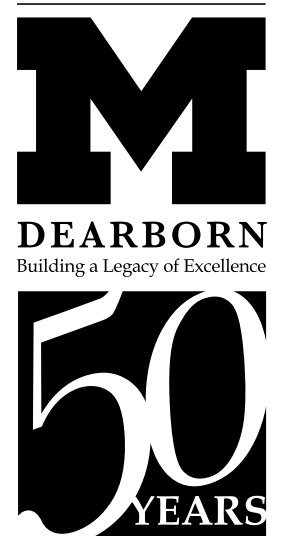
The University of Michigan-Dearborn is an interactive, student-centered institution committed to excellence in teaching and learning.

We offer undergraduate, graduate, and professional education to a diverse, highly motivated, and talented student body. Our programs are responsive to the changing needs of society; relevant to the goals of our students and community partners; rich in opportunities for independent and collaborative study, research, and practical application; and reflective of the traditions of excellence, innovation, and leadership that distinguish the University of Michigan.

We accomplish this mission by:

- Providing a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences;
- Providing the knowledge and skills essential for career and personal success;
- Integrating teaching, research and service in ways that enhance the learning experience;
- Promoting internships and cooperative education;
- Providing a dynamic environment where innovation, openness, and creativity are fostered;
- Using advanced technologies to meet changing educational needs and establish links with the global community; and
- Forging partnerships with business, industry, educational institutions, and government agencies.

We strive to be the institution of choice in southeastern Michigan for individuals and organizations that value accessibility, flexibility, affordability, diversity, and preeminence in education.



1959 - 2009

Henderson honored for community service

Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Life Stanley E. Henderson received the "Community Friendship Award" from the Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan during its 22nd annual Unity Banquet on Oct. 4 in Dearborn.

Henderson was honored for his work on campus, in particular his leadership in helping Muslim students integrate into the university's community.



Henderson

"Stan Henderson has taken a leadership role in ensuring that our campus is both diverse and welcoming to students from all backgrounds and religions," said Chancellor Daniel Little. "We take great pride in providing a diverse campus community,

bringing cultures, ideas and people together to create an exciting and engaging experience."

Addressing racial and ethnic issues is one of five goals of UM-Dearborn's Metropolitan Impact initiative. Through ongoing university programs such as "Difficult Dialogues" and "A Conversation on Race: Voices of a New Generation," students are encouraged to participate in a safe and open environment for discussions and explorations that lead to greater understanding.

"I'm honored to be receiving this recognition and accept it on behalf of everyone on campus, especially our students," Henderson said. "UM-Dearborn is a community of higher education, not just an institution. This is a place that expects that all are welcome, that all will contribute and make a difference. One of the joys of being here is how much we learn from the cultures and faiths of our students."

News Brief

Davy discusses new book

Kate Davy, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, will give a slide presentation about her new book, *Lady Dicks and Lesbian Brothers: Staging the Unimaginable at the WOW Café Theatre*, on Thursday, Oct. 22 as part of the Women's and Gender Studies Seminar Series.

The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 3 p.m. in Room 1500 of the Social Sciences Building. A reception will follow the presentation. Davy will discuss the legacy of New York City's WOW (Women's One World) Café Theatre to both avant-garde theatre performance and feminist history.

Landmark study examines Arab Detroit after 9/11

Despite racial profiling and discrimination after the terrorist attacks on 9/11, Arab Americans express pride in being American at rates as high as the general population, according to a landmark study conducted by UM-Dearborn and U-M's Institute of Social Research.



Stockton

Ronald Stockton, professor of political science at UM-Dearborn, says it is the most comprehensive study ever done of an Arab American community. It involved in-depth interviews with a representative sample of 1,016 Arab Americans and Chaldeans taken from the three-county area of southeast Michigan, as well as a sample of 508 people from the general population for comparison purposes.

The study is showcased in the new book, *Citizenship and Crisis: Arab Detroit After 9/11*, written by Stockton and a research team of six other U-M scholars, including Sally Howell, who joined the UM-Dearborn faculty as assistant professor of history this fall. (Other authors are Wayne Baker, Amaney Jamal, Ann Lin, Andrew Shryock and Mark Tessler.)

In the book, Stockton examines the dilemmas of citizenship after the attacks of 9/11. He is particularly interested in equal protection under the law, and the foreign policy attitudes of Arab Americans.

"On most abstract civil liberties issues, Arab Americans and the general public have fairly

similar views," explains Stockton, who formerly led the Center for Arab American Studies. "But when Arab Americans are treated as an enemy element or are put collectively at risk, they are far less likely than other Americans to sanction harsh treatment or the loss of liberty."

Most Arab Americans are willing to make sacrifices for the protection of the country, Stockton says, but most also feel that they have been singled out or called upon to make disproportionate sacrifices. They are torn between a desire to protect society from future attacks and a fear that their own communities will be targeted.

"It is in the interaction between this willingness to share sacrifice and the fear of being singled out that we find the most revealing and interesting patterns," he said.

In studying foreign policy attitudes, Stockton found that Arab Americans form their views as other Americans do: Republicans are different from Democrats, the young different from the old. Yet Arab Americans are distinctive in that many retain affection and concern for homelands that are, or are perceived to be, in conflict with the United States. This puts them unfairly at potential risk.

"Arab-Americans exist on both sides of the hyphen," Stockton says. "They are American and they are Arab. And yet, as some say, they are not entirely American but neither are they entirely Arab."

They are allowed to function as citizens with the

constitutionally guaranteed rights to vote, protest and object to U.S. policies, but only as long as their behavior is not seen as the expression of a collective Arab or Muslim identity hostile to the U.S.

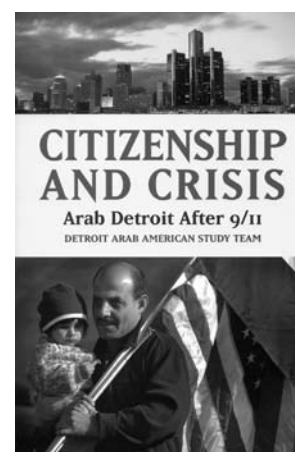
"Arab Americans cover the whole gamut of expression," Stockton notes. "Some support U.S. policies and some oppose; some are outspoken and some are reluctant to speak; some are confident, and some think they are under siege for their views."

But there is one issue upon which Arab Americans agree, the issue of Palestine. "This is a consensus issue," says Stockton. "Every Arab American with an opinion, regardless of age, religion, income or any other characteristic, feels there should be a Palestinian state."

The post-9/11 crisis challenged American society in diverse ways, according to Stockton, but "it challenged Arab Americans by making their political views central to the way others view them both as members of American society and as potential threats to it."

The landmark survey behind *Citizenship and Crisis: Arab Detroit After 9/11* was funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and contributions from UM-Dearborn and U-M Ann Arbor.

Twenty community groups worked as partners with the research team to develop the questionnaire and encourage the project.



Prof. Smith's new book explores obesity among the poor

Obesity costs taxpayers billions of dollars each year in reduced labor productivity and increased medical expenses associated with Medicare and Medicaid, leading policy makers to seek ways to reduce obesity prevalence.



Smith

"Since obesity is more prevalent among the poor than non-poor, some argue that public assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called the Food Stamp Program) and National School Lunch Program contribute to weight gain and should be drastically revised or eliminated," says UM-Dearborn economics Prof. Patricia Smith.

But eliminating or cashing out food assistance programs will do little to reduce obesity among poor Americans, according to Smith.

"I've found there's no consistent evidence that either cash or food assistance contributes to weight gain among children and men," she says.

Smith used a multidisciplinary approach to explore the elevated risk of obesity among the poor in her new book, *Obesity among Poor Americans: Is Public Assistance the Problem?* published this summer by Vanderbilt University Press.

What Smith's research has found is that use of food stamps is consistently associated with higher weight among women, but it's

not clear why.

"Food stamps may enable women to buy more calories or the once-a-month distribution schedule may lead to disordered eating patterns, tempting women to feast on calorie-dense comfort foods when benefits arrive at the beginning of the month and then fasting at the end of the month when benefits have run out," Smith explains.

However, food stamps' contribution to obesity among the poor is minor, accounting for only about 5 percent of the cases of obesity among poor Americans, according to Smith.

"The association could also arise because obesity tends to lower women's labor market outcomes and reduces their chance of marriage, making them more likely to be poor and eligible for public assistance," she says.

Smith also finds compelling evidence that poverty contributes to weight gain by limiting the poor to neighborhoods with reduced access to nutritious lower calorie foods, fewer facilities for physical activity and greater exposure to stressors such as crime and pollution.

In addition, childhood abuse, family violence and disability can increase both the risks of poverty and obesity, according to Smith.

"The relationship between obesity and public assistance is complex and can't be explained as merely the result of assistance causing weight gain," she

says. "Thus, eliminating or cashing out food assistance programs will not effectively address the problem of obesity among the poor, but will increase their hardships."

Smith recommends increasing the frequency of food assistance distribution, expanding nutrition education programs, developing policies to increase access to nutritious foods in low income areas, and improving the nutrition environment in public schools.

"Understanding the reasons why the poor in general and the welfare-reliant in particular are more likely to be obese will help us design more effective policies to reduce obesity's high public and private costs," Smith says.

Kudos

Mark DeCamp, associate professor of chemistry, was a panelist at the Chemistry Olympiad Round Table at the 238th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC. The event celebrated the 25th anniversary of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad program. DeCamp later accepted a certificate honoring 25 years of the ACS Detroit section's participation in the Olympiad. UM-Dearborn has hosted the Chemistry Olympiad program for high school students in southeast Michigan annually since its inception. DeCamp has been organizing the event on behalf of the Detroit section since 1999.

(If you know of accomplishments by UM-Dearborn faculty and staff members that should be included in this column, please send information to jasroka@umd.umich.edu)

