

## Jim Green publishes a winner!



Professor Green reading from his new book.

Labor Studies Professor **Jim Green**'s newly published work, *Death in the Haymarket*, has received universal praise. It is a spell-binding page-turner that takes the reader through the years leading up to the Haymarket riot of May 1886 and the subsequent trial and execution of four prominent labor leaders of the day.

While relating events over one hundred years old, the book is eerily current in its exploration of the impacts that newly arrived immigrant workers had on the then young US labor movement, as well as the reaction of the corporate and government forces to that movement. Sound familiar?

Be sure to get a copy of the book at your locally owned book store. If you're a Labor Studies alumnae, join the **Alums' Network** and get your copy—*signed by the author*—for free! (See below for details.)

### Join the Labor Studies Alums' Network

Graduates of the CPCS Labor Studies program formed the **Alum's Network** in order to support the program, keep in touch, and continue learning about labor issues. The Alum's Network sponsored a book signing party to honor Jim Green to celebrate his newly released book. And, the Alum's Network is looking forward to more events in the next school year, including a "Labor Career Night" and a discussion of "Hot Labor Topics."

**Please join us!** Dues are only \$35/year and include a free autographed copy of Jim Green's new book, *Death in the Haymarket*. To join the Alum's Network, call Wally Soper at 617-287-7426 or email the LABORRESOURCECENTER@UMB.EDU.

#### Keep your eyes peeled for these LRC Events in the Fall

- ◆ **Labor Studies Open House**  
September 6, 5-7 pm at CPCS  
*Join us for food and conversation!*
- ◆ **LRC Advisory Board Meeting**  
October 17, 5:30-7:30 pm
- ◆ **Labor Studies Alums' Network**  
*Labor Career Night*  
*Hot Topics in Labor* with Jeff Crosby  
(dates for both events to be determined)
- ◆ **Conference on Labor & Technology**  
January 2007, at UMass Boston

## Presenting the 2006 Labor Studies Graduates



*From left:*  
**Steve Melia, Todd Williamson, Christy Tarantino, Judith Coughlin, Alice Kessler, Terry McLarney (faculty), Susan Moir (LRC Director), Tess Ewing (staff), Bill Bumpus, and Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez.**

*Graduates missing from photo:*  
**Tom McIntyre**

# Congratulations!

### Labor Resource Center

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THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE  
**Labor Resource Center**

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## Nancy Mills speaks at "Future of Work" Symposium

In honor of the UMB Chancellor's Inauguration in April, the LRC and CPCS hosted a symposium titled *The Future of Work: The Labor Movement's Role in Workforce Development* which featured **Nancy Mills**, Executive Director of the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute. Ms. Mills spoke of the role of labor, public education, and tax dollars in workforce development. "Our bottom line is that any job that is producing something of value for society is a job that should sustain a family," said Ms. Mills. "Work must pay enough to sustain a family."

Starting from this premise, Ms. Mills argued that the fundamental question about publicly funded workforce development programs is "How should the public dollars be spent?" Ms. Mills proposed that, first, these funds should be spent to help each industry's "good employers" — the ones who offer decent wages, health and retirement benefits, and career ladders — succeed. Next, she said, the funds should be spent to develop multiple-employer education and training programs through which workers receive "portable credentials," credentials that can be carried from one employer to another. Since the most portable credentials in the U.S. are academic credits (which require the learning to encompass problem solving and analytical skills, instead of being narrowly focused on an employer's or industry's needs), one of the most important contributions UMass Boston and CPCS can make, concluded Ms. Mills, is "to provide a way for working people to get academic and college degrees at the same time as they are getting skills for the global economy."

**Enid Eckstein**, vice-president of 1199 SEIU

### Announcing LRC's new Website!

*It's beautiful! It's informative! It's...*

[WWW.CPCS.UMB.EDU/LRC](http://WWW.CPCS.UMB.EDU/LRC)

Our new website is loaded with information about ...

- ◆ Labor Studies degrees, certificates, and courses;
- ◆ Labor Extension Program workshops;
- ◆ Future of Work research projects and papers;
- ◆ and Labor Resource Center events.

**Coming soon on-line!**



Presenters at the Future of Work Symposium: ( from left ) Enid Eckstein, Nancy Mills, Susan Moir. Photo by Harry Brett.

United Healthcare Workers East and discussant at the symposium, described just such a workforce development program. 1199 SEIU works to develop education and training partnerships with employers through collective bargaining to meet both the employer's and employees' needs. These employer-funded programs link worker education to career pathways in order to ensure that current employees have both the opportunities and skills to advance their careers while staying with the same employer. Ms. Eckstein stressed that successful programs allow workers to be equal participants in the development of the program, and ensure that education funds are used to benefit all workers.

The problem, however, is that these efforts are haphazard. Ms. Mills pointed out that the United States "is the only industrialized, modern country that *doesn't* think about how its going to develop the skills and talents of its workers in a systematic way. Instead we've left it up to the employers." And it's not working.

"The university is a place for activists to come and think together in dialogue," concluded **Susan Moir**, LRC director and moderator of the event. "Let's get together next year to continue this conversation."

**You missed this exciting symposium?!**

**Don't fret. Go to [WWW.CPCS.UMB.EDU/LRC](http://WWW.CPCS.UMB.EDU/LRC), and watch it on-line!**

## Celebrating Labor Arts

By Susan Eisenberg, Faculty

What we do for work leaves its imprint on our bodies as well as our dreams. Each occupation has its own jargon, sense of humor, and vantage point on the world. Labor arts draws on the unique experience of each working life so that we can shape the complex harmonics of our collective voice. The Labor Studies program encourages students to give creative expression to the rich histories they bring to CPCS.

In *Values at Work*, a new course offered Spring '06, students read and discussed a wide range of literature about work, and tried their hand at writing in different genres. The semester culminated with a public reading of the students' works, to an enthusiastic response. **Ralph Dowling**, a CPCS student and a firefighter with 24 years at the Boston Fire Department, 14 years on the Boston Firefighters E-Board and current Recording Secretary of Local 718, read "Firehouse Kitchen Stories."

**Editor's note:** *Values at Work* will be offered again in Spring '07. In Fall '07, Ms. Eisenberg will also offer a two-semester capstone course on reading/writing memoir, as well as *Ambitious and Dangerous Writing*, about short forms for publication. All are great opportunities for students to write about their experiences in the labor movement.

## Firehouse Kitchen Stories

by Ralph Dowling © 2006

Hello Ma, I did my first week in the firehouse. The fellows are older than me, they all call me "the kid." They say, Let the kid clean up today, or Hey you, kid, make sure all the equipment is ready to go. The captain is a nice man. He told me that he was twenty-three years old, also, when he started his career in the fire service. He's almost ready to retire now. Most of the men I've been working with have been here over twenty years.

The first night I worked, I cooked a nice meal for everyone working. They all complained that the meat was not cooked right, the potatoes were cold, and the milk was warm. For all the complaining they did, there was nothing left when we cleaned up.

The first call we went to I gave the wrong address. Instead of 13 Tennis Road I told the driver 14 Tennis Road, I must have been nervous. It turned out ok. The man at 13 was waving at us when we pulled up in front, but I had to listen to all the needling the rest of the night. I feel like a janitor around here. All day long they have me cleaning and washing everything in sight. If I wash the fire engine one more time the red paint is going to come off. I think the members here aren't comfortable with me being so young and new on the job.

I made some points the other night, Ma. We got a call for a medical assist on Washington Street. When we pulled up there was a large crowd standing around and someone was yelling. The captain went over to investigate. He turned to me and said, Hey, kid, come with me. When we walked over to the crowd there was a young man on the ground bleeding badly, he had been stabbed. I called over the rest of the men by the engine and called for our medical bag. I started to check for vitals. He had none. I told the captain to radio the update and notify the paramedics that we will be starting CPR.

Ma, I saved that kid's life that night. The paramedics came by the firehouse later that night and told me that he was alive. It wasn't 'til the next morning at the kitchen table that the captain said, Hey, kid, nice job last night. I don't know, Ma, these guys are hard to please. And you know what they told me the next day I came to work? Why don't you wash the fire engine today.

## Labor Researchers' Corner: The Future of Work Paper Series

The LRC is proud to announce its **Future of Work Paper Series**. The first two papers in the series are being published as we write this newsletter.

The first paper, by Labor Studies student **Judy Coughlin** (class of 2006), explores the efforts of four unions to save quality health care and quality jobs at the Quincy Medical Center during the late 1990's.

The second paper, *Sharing the Costs, Reaping the Benefits: Paid Family and Medical Leave in Massachusetts*, is by Professors **Randy Albelda** and **Alan Clayton-Matthews**. They examine the cost-effectiveness of paid family and medical leave programs, and project the impacts of State Senate President Travaglini's recently proposed leave insurance program on Massachusetts' workers and businesses.

Both these papers will be available to read or download on the LRC's new website: [WWW.CPCS.UMB.EDU/LRC](http://WWW.CPCS.UMB.EDU/LRC).

## Union Administration Certificate offered at CPCS

The Labor Studies Program offered a new course for CPCS students, and union leaders and staff this spring. The **Union Administration Certificate** brought together students on five Saturdays to explore a diverse palate of labor topics, including dispute resolution, treasurer's training, unions and technology, and supervision.

The students' response to the course was overwhelmingly positive. **Mike Foster**, AFSCME DC 93, wrote about the course: "This is the one course that a new officer and steward should not skip!"

The Labor Studies Program plans to offer the course again during the spring semester of 2008. For more information, please visit the LRC's new website: [WWW.CPCS.UMB.EDU/LRC](http://WWW.CPCS.UMB.EDU/LRC) and click on "Labor Studies."

## CPCS Labor Studies students connect at Labor Notes Conference

By Lydia Grinnell, Labor Studies Student

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 2006, Labor Studies students **Bill Bumpus** and **Lydia Grinnell** attended the *Labor Notes Conference* in Dearborn, Michigan as part of a project with the **Labor Resource Center**. Bumpus and Grinnell went to the conference to meet and network with the *L.N.* staff as part of Bumpus' capstone project to put the entire *Labor Notes*, as well as *the Labor Page*, archives online. The conference, held bi-annually by *Labor Notes* and attended by over 900 labor activists from around the globe, had as its theme "building solidarity from below."



Bill Bumpus and Lydia Grinnell at the *Labor Notes* Conference

Over the weekend, conferees got a boost of energy from speakers, workshops, a talent show, and trade sector meetings, where they shared stories, built connections, and developed strategies and action plans. Reconnecting the struggle of workers everywhere, unionists brought the terms "sister" and "brother" back home to the movement as they embraced their fellow union family.

On Saturday evening, speakers addressed the need to restore democracy within the AFL-CIO and highlighted the steps that need to be taken in order to get back on track. These included: organizing the unorganized; stop supporting the Democratic Party and start supporting each other for election by forming a Labor Party; fighting for card check recognition and management neutrality; fighting against sexism in the trades; training more organizers; building solidarity across racial and ethnic lines; supporting the current struggle for Immigrant rights; and

keep fighting the boss!

A standing ovation and cheers of solidarity roared in the banquet hall as Virginia Bouvet, a Delegate of the *Buenos Aires Subway Unit of the Transport*, called on conferees to support Immigrant workers' rights. She reminded the attendees that the US labor movement *would not exist* without immigrants, and promised that they are willing and ready to fight for their rights, with—or without—us. It seemed clear by the crowds' response that they accepted

the call and would bring the message home to their union members.

In her keynote speech at the end of the weekend, Nancy Wohlforth—*Secretary-Treasurer, OPEIU, AFL-CIO Executive Council; Co-convenor, U.S. Labor Against the War; Co-President, Pride at Work*—reminded Labor activists and officials alike of a reality that we all need to recognize: "If the union leadership doesn't start to look like the union membership, then it will be the end of trade unionism."

Conferees left the weekend with new tools, friendships, and hope that not only is the struggle for workers' rights far from over, but by joining together there is a positive future ahead. As we learned over the weekend—and will continue to learn during the years ahead—"building solidarity from below" can only start by *putting the people back into the movement*.

## Labor Extension goes to Tokyo

**Tess Ewing**, the LRC's Labor Extension Coordinator, spent the first week of March in Tokyo, working with union women who want to design union skills training programs for their members. Tess was one of four U.S. women labor educators who traveled to Tokyo twice, under a grant from the Center for Global Partnership, to meet with women unionists and their academic allies from all over Japan.

Labor education and training in Japan has traditionally followed a top-down lecture style. The purpose of the project was to help Japanese women unionists design participatory, interactive workshops on organizing, communications, and women's empowerment for their members. The U.S. labor educators' first trip was in July 2005, when they presented workshops on popular education techniques. The second trip allowed Tess and the other U.S. educators to see the fruits of their labor: "It has been extremely gratifying to me, as an educator, to watch these women use the techniques I showed them in July to actually design and lead their own workshops now," said Tess.

The project achieved more than its planned goals, however. "This project has been a tremendous learning experience for me," says Tess. "Japanese workers are facing

many of the same problems we are, such as job loss to low-wage countries, privatization, and an increase in low-paying contingent work. It has been fascinating to learn about their responses to these forces."

## The LRC in the Community

◆ In February, the LRC hosted over 200 members of **SEIU Local 615** at their Stewards' Assembly held in the UMass Boston Campus Center. Sen. John Kerry was the guest speaker.

◆ Over the spring, the LRC hosted **Community Labor United's** first Civic Leadership Networking Institute. Twenty-five community, labor, faith-based and political leaders attended seven 3-hour sessions where they examined historical changes in our local economy, explored city and state financing and development; and conducted a power analysis and exploration of where we are going from here.

◆ On June 8, **Prof. Randy Albelda**, the primary author of the LRC's research report, *Sharing the Costs, Reaping the Benefits: Paid Family and Medical Leave in Massachusetts*, testified on the report's findings before a joint hearing of the House and Senate's Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and Committee on Children & Families.