

# Caucus of Women Legislators



ROOM 460 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS 02133 617 722 2266

4th Quarter 2009

## BU Dean Addresses Caucus on Health Care



As health care is on the forefront of many minds these

days, Dr. Karen Antman, Dean of the Boston University School of Medicine, addressed the Caucus on October 15<sup>th</sup> regarding issues currently facing medical professionals in the United States. Since 1848, the BU School of Medicine (BUSM) has helped change the standard of care in a variety of ways through their focus and expertise in urban and international health care.

Antman described the change of standard practices used by the World Health Organization (WHO) in treating pneumonia abroad. A BUSM study showed that when children in

Pakistan had access to necessary treatment for pneumonia by means of a community medication administrator, mortality rates decreased significantly. Children without this access were reliant on hospitals for treatment and had limited means and modes of transportation to get there, often many miles from their homes.

Also discussed was the lack of primary care physicians in the US. According to Antman, there are fewer MDs per 100,000 people than in most European countries, perhaps because the cost of medical school in the US is significantly higher than in many countries worldwide. Not only are new US doctors burdened with an average debt of \$120,000 from attending medical school, there is also a unique income disparity between primary care physicians and specialists in the US; since primary care physicians

earn approximately \$120,000 per year while specialists average \$700,000, many MDs choose to enter a specialty for financial reasons.

Many European countries, Antman stressed, do not encounter the issue of debt with recently graduated doctors because the tuition for medical school is either of minimal cost or free. After medical school, doctors are able to give back to the community with their training, helping improve overall health. Doctors in many European countries are also offered tuition forgiveness after they have served the community for a specified amount of time. All of these factors help to maintain steady numbers of primary care physicians in Europe as well as creating a cycle of schooling and service that benefits the country as a whole. It was Antman's opinion that similar processes in the US could have an equally positive effect.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**165 & Counting**  
**January 13th**

**Annual Meeting**  
**January 27th**

**MODR**  
**Public Collaboration**  
**Workshop**  
**February 9th**

**House Clerk Steven James**  
**Rules Forum**  
**February 24th**

### Inside this issue:

CO-CHAIRS MESSAGE	2
CAUCUS INTERNS	2
NCSL	3
CLARK ANNOUNCES	3
AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS	4
MASS NOW AWARD	5
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	5

## Task Force on Homelessness

Representative Kate Hogan (D-Stow) recently began work on a new Caucus Task Force on Homelessness in the



Commonwealth. In response to the 3,000 homeless families living in Massachusetts, Repre-

sentative Hogan has met with the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness (ICHH) as a first step to assist legislatively in eliminating homelessness across the state.

The ICHH was formed through a recommendation of the Special Commission Relative to Ending Homelessness in the

Commonwealth in its 2008 final report and is currently implementing a 10 year plan to eliminate homelessness. Representative Hogan hopes to collaborate in finding the root cause of homelessness for families and streamline assistance in providing housing.

## Caucus of Women Legislators

---

### A Message from the Co-Chairs



Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Somerville) and Representative Alice K. Wolf (D-Cambridge)

*Dear Colleagues, Staff and Friends,*

*As the calendar year of 2009 draws to a close, our current legislative session does not. Time for quiet contemplation of the challenges we have faced throughout the past year eludes us in the House and Senate, as our work continues unabated into the second half of the session.*

*Legislatively, 2010 promises continued activity as we expect to tackle comprehensive education reform, the restructuring of our CORI statutes and the intricacies of casino gambling. As a Caucus, we will continue to put effort in areas such as domestic violence and economic security for women. We also hope to have a little fun with our party for retired women legislators, Bringing Women to the Table, and other events that bring us together in a more relaxed and collegial way.*

*To all of you, and to all of our friends who have supported us during trying times, best wishes for a fruitful and hopeful new year.*

*Sincerely,  
Senator Patricia D. Jehlen and Representative Alice K. Wolf  
Co-Chairs, Women's Legislative Caucus*

## Caucus Interns Ahead of the Game



Juliet Schiff was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA and moved to Boston in 2005 to attend Emmanuel College. She graduated in 2008 with a degree in English Literature.

Always passionate about feminism and women's rights, Juliet spent a semester in the Fiji Islands where she studied the Women's Rights movement of the small island nation. During her time there, she worked with the non-governmental organization the Fiji Women's Rights Movement to lobby for changes in current archaic legisla-

tion to give women and children equal protection under the law.

An avid baseball fan since she was young, Juliet has been working at Fenway Park for the Boston Red Sox since 2007, managing over fifty employees and helping the Red Sox claim their second World Series title since the 86 year drought was ended in 2004.



Currently a junior at Northeastern University, Jolene Gildea is majoring in Political Science with a double minor in

History and International Relations. Former Governor Michael Dukakis' class on Public Policy and his assistance as her advisor sparked Jolene's keen interest in government on the state level.

Jolene also has a significant awareness of the education policies of the state with a focus on students with learning disabilities. She considers this to be an imperative issue and is encouraged by the legislature's efforts on education reform.

While working with the Caucus, Jolene has experienced first hand how legislators tackle the complicated issues affecting women across the Commonwealth. Upon graduation, she intends to continue further Public Policy studies in graduate school.

# Wolf and Fox at NCSL Conference



House Caucus Chair Representative Alice K. Wolf of the 25<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District attended the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Fall Forum in San

Diego. Representative Wolf was nominated to serve on the Human Services and Welfare Policy Committee by House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo.

At the conference, Representative Wolf voted on policies related to state and federal work in the areas of social services, income security, food and nutrition, and immigration. She also attended several noteworthy forums, one of which focused on using short term benefits to leverage the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Representative Gloria L. Fox of the 7<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District was also in attendance at the NCSL Conference, her first since accepting a nomination to the Executive Board of the Women’s Legislative

Network. The 15 member Executive Board, whose focus is the financial stability of women and chronic health, represents all female legislators in the country and is assisted by an advisory board comprised of one democrat and one republican representative from each state. The NCSL Fall Forum “New Opportunities-New Ideas” conference touched on three major topics: health and human services, budget and revenue, and education. With a primary focus on financial stability, Representative Fox hopes to create new legislative collaboration between the female legislators in Massachusetts and those across the nation.



There was no rest for Representative Fox who headed to the NCSL straight from the National Black Conference of State Legislators (NBCSL) in Florida which she attended as a member of the corporate round table. The NBCSL focused on policy resolutions that were up for reconsideration as well as health care and budget revenue.

AMONG THE ISSUES TACKLED WERE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF), INCOME SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

## Did you know?

Rhianna finally spoke out as a victim of domestic abuse. The singer put a message out to all women: don’t excuse it. “You start lying to yourself,” she admitted in an appearance on *Good Morning America*.

# CLARK ANNOUNCES FOR STATE SENATE



Caucus Treasurer Representative Katherine Clark has proven herself to be a tireless advocate for local issues representing the 32<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex District and now has declared her candidacy for the Middlesex & Essex State Senate seat being vacated by Senator Richard Tisei.

Active in the Caucus of Women Legislators and the Joint Committees on Education, Judiciary and Municipalities, Clark has become

well known for her thoughtful and effective approach both legislatively and personally.

Prior to her election as State Representative, Clark, a lawyer with an MPA from Harvard’s esteemed Kennedy School of Government, worked closely with Attorney General Martha Coakley while also serving as Chair of the Melrose School Committee during one of its most challenging times.

## Awards and Recognitions



The Boston University School of Law announced that the 2009 N. Neal Pike Prize goes to **Senate President Therese Murray** (D-Plymouth). The prize recognizes support for individuals with disabilities.



On October 24, **Senator Gale Candaras** (D-Wilbraham) and **Representative Ellen Story** (D-Amherst) were each named "NAMI Legislator of the Year" at the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Springfield.

Additionally, on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Mother-Woman's 10 Year Anniversary Celebration in Northampton, Representative Story was one of four Pioneer Valley women honored with the Mother-Woman Pillar Award for extraordinary accomplishment in improving the lives of women, mothers, children and families in the Pioneer Valley. Specifically, she was cited for championing women's issues during her political career.



**Senator Cynthia Stone Creem** (D-Newton) was presented with the MLAC Beacon of Justice Award in recognition of her outstanding legislative leadership in support of access to civil legal assistance for the state's most vulnerable residents.

In October, Senator Creem also received the MA Council on Aging Advocate of the Year Award in recognition of her lengthy legislative record on behalf of seniors facing heavy property-tax burdens.



**Representative Kate Hogan** (D-Stow) was named Co-Chair of the Elder Caucus with Representative Richard Ross. In addition, she has been named to the SuAsCo Steering Committee, an environmental stewardship group working in the watershed area of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord rivers.



**Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan** was one of the honored guests at the Perkins School Annual Recognition Day Ceremony for their time honored awards ceremony. Senator Flanagan, Education Secretary Paul Reville and two other individuals were granted awards as part of the school's end of the school year service. Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan received the Distinguished Service Award in the Field of Public Service.



The Massachusetts Recreation and Parks Association presented State **Representative Mary Grant** (D-Beverly) with its 2009 Legislator of the Year award for her dedication and advocacy on behalf of Parks and Recreation. Representative Grant received the award at the annual conference held at the DCU Center in Worcester on October 30, 2009. She was chosen for procuring state subsidy for the Miles McPherson Youth Center and for securing in a bond bill part of the money needed to renovate the historic Carriage House at Lynch Park.

State **Senator Harriette Chandler** and State Representative Vincent Pedone were recognized at the first annual Encore Awards hosted by the Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts. The honor of "Rising Star" recognizes those who have played a major role in the Hanover Theatre's success, and through that, the impact on the revitalization of downtown Worcester, since the Theatre opened in March 2008.



### *The Caucus would like to congratulate two members of Senator Jehlen's staff who recently tied the knot!*



Alayna Van Tassel of Natick, MA and Andrew Anderson of Middletown, RI were married on September 19, 2009 at the Albanian Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Natick. Following the ceremony, family and friends danced the night away at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Boston. After enjoying their honeymoon in Maui, the newlyweds returned to their home in Newton with their two cats, Ajax and Bella.

On September 26, 2009 A. Corin Parsons of Boulder, CO and Leoncio Teixeira de Freitas of Jauru, Brazil celebrated their wedding on a beautiful fall afternoon outside at Torbert McDonald Park in Medford. The couple is planning to honeymoon in Peru in the coming months. They currently live in Medford with their two guinea pigs, Juan Carlos and Pablo.



## CAUCUS OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS



### MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

#### CONTACT US:

Jessica Leitz  
617-722-2266  
jessica.leitz@state.ma.us

#### 2009 Co-Chairs

Senator Patricia D. Jehlen

Representative Alice K. Wolf

#### Treasurer

Representative Katherine Clark

#### Executive Director

Jessica Leitz

#### Members of House

Willie Mae Allen  
Cory Atkins  
Ruth B. Balsler  
Jennifer Benson  
Jennifer Callahan  
Linda Dean Campbell  
Christine E. Canavan  
Katherine Clark  
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera  
Geraldine Creedon  
Carolyn Dykema  
Lori Ehrlich  
Ann-Margaret Ferrante  
Linda Dorcena Fory  
Gloria L. Fox  
Colleen M. Garry  
Susan W. Gifford  
Anne M. Gobi  
Mary E. Grant  
Danielle Gregoire  
Patricia A. Haddad  
Lida E. Harkins  
Kate Hogan  
Kay Khan  
Barbara A. L'Italien  
Elizabeth A. Malia  
Sarah Peake  
Alice H. Peisch  
Elizabeth A. Poirier  
Karyn E. Polito  
Denise Provost  
Kathi-Anne Reinstein  
Pam Richardson  
Rosemary Sandlin  
Joyce A. Spiliotis  
Harriett L. Stanley  
Marie P. St. Fleur  
Ellen Story  
Martha M. Walz  
Alice K. Wolf

#### Members of Senate

Gale D. Candaras  
Harriette L. Chandler  
Sonia Chang-Diaz  
Cynthia Stone Creem  
Susan C. Fargo  
Jennifer L. Flanagan  
Patricia D. Jehlen  
Joan M. Menard  
Therese Murray  
Karen E. Spilka  
Susan C. Tucker  
Marian Walsh

THE CAUCUS OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS IS A BIPARTISAN, BICAMERAL GROUP OF FEMALE LEGISLATORS, THE MISSION OF WHICH IS TO ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC STATUS AND EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND TO ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER WOMEN IN ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

## Jehlen Legislator of the Year



On Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, **Senator Patricia D. Jehlen** accepted the 2009 Legislator of the Year award at the annual Mass. NOW conference. A long time advocate for women's rights, Senator Jehlen has been the lead Senate sponsor for several sessions on two pieces of labor rights legislation that are essential to ensuring women's equal standing in the work place. *An Act Relative to Paid Sick Days* will guarantee all Massachusetts workers seven earned paid sick days. Her further effort on *An Act Further Defining Comparable Work* strengthens the term "comparable work" to make sure that women are paid fairly in comparison to men for similar labor.

Mass. NOW's mission is to create true equality for women and girls in every facet of life. A fearless advocate for social justice, Senator Jehlen is an established force in pushing through policies and legislation that positively impact the lives of women and girls throughout the Commonwealth.

"Mass. NOW has been a great partner in advancing women's issues in the Commonwealth," said Senator Jehlen, "especially with Paid Sick Days, Comparable Work, and the economic security and care of our elders. As a result, I was honored to be chosen to be the Mass. NOW Legislator of the Year. I am hopeful that this legislative session will render many successes that benefit women and families."

Senator Jehlen is a Somerville Democrat representing the Second Middlesex District. She is the current Chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs.

## Caucus Board Forges Ahead

The Caucus Board of Directors and Executive Committee worked tirelessly in 2009 to guide the Caucus in a dynamic direction. Looking forward to 2010, the Caucus is ready to tackle the second half of the legislative session with the same enthusiasm.

Pictured clockwise from top left: Representative Kate Hogan, Representative Lida Harkins, Representative Katherine Clark, Representative Marty Walz, Senator Patricia Jehlen, Representative Alice Wolf, Representative Mary Grant.  
Missing: Senator Susan Fargo, Representative Patricia Haddad, Representative Elizabeth Poirier and Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante

