

In the Past 4 months...

The UMass Labor Extension Program Has Provided Trainings On These Topics...

- **Advanced Stewards and Officers training**
IBEW Local 1857
- **Internal Organizing**
SEIU 509
- **Introduction to Workers Rights**
Massachusetts Coalition on Adult Education
- **Mobilizing the Members**
VSEA
- **Planning and Organizational Development**
VSEA
- **Stewards Training**
SEIU 509, AFSCME 1067, UAW 2322, IBPO 390, Roofers 248, AFSCME 1596
- **Taller Anti-Opresión/Fighting Oppression**
(In Spanish)
MassCOSH Workers Center
- **"The Boss Can't Do That, Can He?"**
Training of Trainers on Workers Rights
Boston SABES
Southeast Mass SABES

To Contact the UMass Labor Extension Program:

■ **UMASS AMHERST LABOR EXTENSION PROGRAM**
Labor Center, Gordon Hall
418 N. Pleasant St.
Amherst, MA 01002-1735
Dale Melcher: 413-545-6166
Fax: 413-545-0110
email: dmelcher@lrrc.umass.edu

■ **UMASS DARTMOUTH LABOR EXTENSION PROGRAM**
Dubin Labor Education Center
285 Old Westport Road
North Dartmouth, MA 02747
Kim Wilson: 508-999-8781
Fax: 508-999-9168
email: kwilson@umassd.edu

■ **UMASS BOSTON LABOR EXTENSION PROGRAM**
CPCS Labor Resource Center
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125-3393
Tess Ewing: 617-287-7352
email: tess.ewing@umb.edu

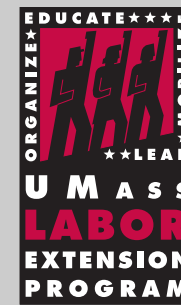
■ **UMASS LOWELL LABOR EXTENSION PROGRAM**
1 University Ave.
Lowell, MA 01854
Susan Winning: 978-934-3127
Fax: 978-934-4033
email: susan_winning@uml.edu



- **Treasurers and Officers Training**
Mass Nurses Association
- **Unions and How They Work**
Immigrant Workers Center Collaborative
- **Women and Unions**
Intro to Women's Studies Class
- **Race and the Elections with Bill Fletcher**
UMass Dartmouth Community
- **Impact of the Bianco immigration raid on families**
UConn Stamford

Goodbye to Mike Prokosch

Labor Extension is saying a regretful good-bye to Mike Prokosch, who is leaving us due to funding cut-back at UMass Lowell. Mike has been part of the Labor Extension Program since 2002. He will be sorely missed—but he will continue doing labor education as a consultant and friend of the labor extension program. He can be reached at 617-282-3783 or mikeprokosch@verizon.net.



Labor Extension Bulletin

A Publication of the University of Massachusetts Labor Extension Program
UMASS AMHERST ■ UMASS BOSTON ■ UMASS DARTMOUTH ■ UMASS LOWELL

VOLUME 11 ■ NUMBER 1 ■ WINTER 2009

An Interview with Bob Haynes on Confronting Racism

Bob, during the campaign you were very passionate taking Rich Trumka's message about confronting racism to the Massachusetts labor movement. How effective was that message in getting union members to support Obama?

I know it was effective because white working class, union voters supported Barack in overwhelming numbers. Above all else, this was a campaign about conversations—on the phones, at the doors, and with family and friends. The notion that older, white labor leaders would tackle racism head-on gave many members the guts to talk about it with their families, co-workers and friends.

What response did you get?

There was very little push-back. By putting racism out there and telling the truth about where those beliefs should rank on the list of reasons for formulating your opinions and casting your vote, we got people to think. People were grateful that someone talked about racism directly, instead of in euphemisms. And the overwhelming praise Richard Trumka has received far outweighed any pushback. In fact, people of all colors and walks of life applauded this message. People who haven't always



agreed with me made a point to reach out to me and thank me for taking on the subject. People knew how much was at stake, and I think they were relieved that someone spoke of the taboo thing we all feared. Just like Richard Trumka inspired me, I think it gave people locally the courage to address racism when they encountered it.

How can we continue this conversation?

As Richard Trumka says, unions are the most integrated, most democratic organizations in our country. We call perfect strangers brother and sister. We've clearly not eradicated racism, but we now know that you can't deal with a problem unless you talk about it. Racism was a small part of our larger message about justice in this

election, and we're prepared to address it every time it stands between us and our pursuit of justice, any time it hinders our ideals from becoming our reality.

LEP would like to work with your union to continue this conversation. Please contact the coordinator nearest you.

Hopes and Challenges in the New Year

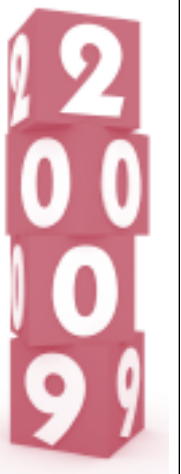
Since the last issue of the *Bulletin*, two momentous changes have taken place in this country that will profoundly affect the lives of working people for the next several years:

- Barack Obama was elected, and we can hope for passage of EFCA, health care reform, and other pro-worker bills.
- Our economy has gone into a tailspin, and business elites will use the recession precisely as a reason not to pass those bills.

How can we to make the most of the opportunities afforded us by the new administration, and minimize the damage of the economic crisis?

1. We need to stay mobilized, to keep on pushing for the kind of change that we voted for. And that "we" must include the entire coalition that put Obama in office: not just labor but people of color, youth, and progressives. We'll have to support each other's issues when the rubber meets the road and feel-good slogans about "change" get turned into actual programs and bills.
2. We need to understand what caused the crisis so we can push for solutions that really will work.

Progressive groups around the country are developing workshops and tools to explain the crisis. (See *the Resource Corner*). We at Labor Extension want to work with you and set up training sessions for your union or organization. We can also set up workshops on mobilizing, coalition-building, fighting racism and other relevant issues.



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Around THE STATE

Continuous Bargaining: A Union Response to Workplace Change Charley Richardson, UMass Lowell Labor Extension Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-9:00 pm

Cost: TBA

Location: UMass Amherst Labor Center, Gordon Hall, 418 N. Pleasant St., Amherst.

Contact: Dale Melcher, 413-545-6166

In this challenging economic crisis it is even more important that we develop tools to respond to changes management is making in the workplace and the work process. Continuous bargaining is a response that takes on management plans, inserts a collective voice into the process of change and makes union-building an ongoing activity. This program is the first in a three-part Winter/Spring series on current issues facing union leaders and activists. For a complete list contact the UMass Amherst Labor Extension Program.

Discussion on the Economy with Robert Kuttner March 10th, 2008, 6 to 9pm

Cost: Free

Location: UMass Lowell South Campus O'Leary 222

Contact: Susan Winning 978-934-3127

Robert Kuttner is an American journalist, writer, and economist. He is the co-founder and current co-editor of The American Prospect, as well as one of five co-founders of the Economic Policy Institute.

WILD in the Winter East

Theme: Health Care

Saturday, March 7

Time, Location and Cost: TBA

Contact: Emily Hardt, WILD, (617-426-0520 or Tess Ewing 617-287-7352)

WILD in the Winter West

Saturday, March 14, 8:30-2

Cost: TBA

Location: UMass Amherst Labor Center, Gordon Hall, 418 N. Pleasant St., Amherst.

Contact: Emily Hardt, WILD, 617-426-0520 or Dale Melcher 413-545-6166

WILD in the Winter (both East and West) are half-day programs that offer women activists and leaders from labor and community-based worker organizations the opportunity to come together for workshops, discussion and networking.

Organizers' Roundtable

Second Tuesday of every month, 9:30-11:30 am

Cost: Free

Location: IBEW Local 103

Contact: Bill Corley, 617-436-3710

Roundtable discussions on topics of interest to union organizers

The Economy and You: Economic Literacy for a New Generation of Union Leaders

Dates: 6 Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30pm: Mar. 10, 24, 31; and April 14, 21 & 28

Location: UMass Boston. Call for room information

Cost: \$50 for series of 6 classes.

Cosponsors: Labor Resource Center and Labor Extension Program

Are prices going up but your paycheck isn't? What is happening to jobs, including yours? Is the economy in a recession, and if so, why and what can we do about it? This class will explain economics in a fun, interactive, participatory manner. Taught by UMass Economics Professor and long-time unionist and labor educator Marlene Kim. For information, contact Tess Ewing, 617-287-7352.

S P O T L I G H T



We have at our fingertips, on the keyboard, a fabulous resource for understanding and learning how to speak to others about economics.

Through the bimonthly magazine, and website, we can find popularly written, plain language economics writings to use in our union work. *Dollars and Sense* began in 1974 and has put out 260 issues. As their

website states: we're still working as a collective to meet the need for "left perspectives on current economic affairs". The magazine has extensive ongoing coverage of the economic crisis including stories like "The Myth of the \$73.00 Auto Worker" and "The Real Audacity of Hope" which is about the sit in at Republic Windows and Doors. Many insightful books are distributed by *Dollars and Sense*, including the well known *The Wealth Inequity Reader*. *Dollars and Sense* has a helpful blog located at: <http://www.dollarsandsense.org/blog/>. To see their entire website, just delete the /blog/ at the end of this address. We strongly encourage you to subscribe to the magazine to support this excellent organization. Be sure to look out for the annual labor issue!



Now Available
Changing the
Future of Work:
A Workers' Approach

A curriculum for workers organizing for power to shape workplace change

Changes in the nature of work—new technologies, work restructuring, more temp work, outsourcing—are growing without much advice or consent from working people. This curriculum helps workers find the best places to win short-term struggles and build long-term power. This curriculum was developed by the coordinators of the University of Massachusetts Labor Extension Program.

Thanks to our supporters in the Massachusetts Legislature, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and University of Massachusetts President Jack Wilson. For more information or to schedule a workshop, contact Susan Winning, 978-934-3127.

Program Notes

■ UMASS AMHERST

This fall the Amherst program, in conjunction with the Hampshire Franklin and Pioneer Valley CLCs, once again offered a five-session Basic Stewards Training program for members from six different locals. The program also worked with the staff of VSEA (Vermont State Employees Association) on organizational development and planning and member mobilization. We taught an undergraduate course on Women and Work and continued to do interviews and develop curriculum for several Future of Work projects. We served on the boards of WILD and the Labor Management Workplace Education Project, continue work with our two area labor councils, and participated in planning for the 2009 Northeast Regional Summer School for Union Women. We will be teaching Labor Ed in January for the UMass Amherst Union Leadership and Administration program and next semester for the residential masters program.

■ UMASS BOSTON

The UMass Boston Labor Resource Center is happy to welcome a new member onto its staff: Adam Thomas, our new Administrative Coordinator. Adam comes to us with extensive experience in the labor movement, including a stint as Boston Executive Council President of the Association of Flight Attendants-AFA. We count ourselves lucky to have him on board. In other news, the LRC hosted 2 book-release events this fall. The first, which was co-sponsored by the Labor Guild, was for Bob Schwartz on the publication of the new revised 5th edition of his classic *Your Rights on the Job*. The second event featured Bill Fletcher speaking about his new book *Solidarity Divided*. Both events were great successes, pulling together students and faculty from on campus as well as activists from unions and the community.

■ UMASS DARTMOUTH

The winter presents opportunities to build on our ongoing work at UMass Dartmouth Labor Extension. The multi-year project of building a coalition of unions and community groups to impact local economic development work continues. We have met with Ed Lambert, former mayor of Fall River and the director of the Urban Initiative, and look forward to meeting representatives of MassINC to discuss expanding our work. If you want to learn more about this effort, you can read it online at: <http://southeasternpeoplefirst.blogspot.com/>. In the spring, UMass Dartmouth Labor Extension's primary projects will be: planning a spring conference about creating and sustaining good jobs in the context of an economic crisis, offering a partially online class about the future of work, through the UMD Sociology department, and continuing with the Fair Wage project with the Attorney General's office. We are also beginning a theater project with the New Bedford Zeiterian Theater to bring performers to a union group for a performance and discussion leading to a photography project for union members.

■ UMASS LOWELL

Budget cuts have impacted our program, with Mike Prokosch's job eliminated just before the Christmas holidays. UMass Lowell hosted a series of guest speakers during the fall, beginning with Bill Fletcher Jr., who spoke to a standing room only crowd of students, staff and faculty, labor and community members on Race and Presidential Politics. Bob Schwartz led the first of two sessions on Mid-term Bargaining, looking at the legal questions; with Nancy Lessin leading a session applying the continuous bargaining model to a health and safety case study. We ended the fall with a forum on the economy with Mark Brenner of Labor Notes, attended by an enthusiastic group at the North Shore CLC. Excerpts of Bill's speech and articles on economy and other issues can be found at UML Labor ext. website at: <http://www.uml.edu/laborextension/>

The Resource Corner

WORKSHOPS AND RESOURCES ON THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

The Center for Popular Economics is developing a workshop on the financial crisis and its economists are leading discussions on the financial crisis, with some for labor audiences. Phone 413-545-0743, email programs@populareconomics.org, website <http://www.populareconomics.org/>.

Mike Prokosch is finishing a workshop on the bank bailouts, the auto non-bailouts, and how we can get a worker-friendly economy. He can be reached at 617-282-3783 or mikeprokosch@verizon.net.

Mark Brenner and the *Labor Notes* newspaper has developed a workshop (both a short 1 hour and longer version) that addresses the mortgage meltdown, puts the current crisis in broader perspective, and discusses the bailout plan(s) and some alternatives, ending with what is coming. Contact Mark Brenner at mark@labornotes.org.

United for a Fair Economy, a non-profit organization that develops popular economics education is developing a workshop on the economic crisis, transforming economic statistics into learning experiences that will enable folks to connect with their own experiences and lead to action. Visit the Economics Education page at: http://www.faireconomy.org/issues/growing_divide/economics_education or email Steve Schnapp at: sschnapp@faireconomy.org.

