

# THE MASSACHUSETTS DAILY COLLEGIAN

HIGH: 50 LOW: 35

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

## Study: increase in interracial marriages

BY NANCY PIERCE  
COLLEGIAN STAFF

The commonality of interracial marriage is increasing, according to a study done by the Pew Research Center, which showed 15 percent of all just-married couples in the U.S. in 2010 consist of partners of different racial or ethnic identity.

The study, "The Rise of Inter-marriage," was written and researched by Wendy Wang, research associate at the Social and Demographic Trends project at Pew Research Center. The data was collected largely by analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey in 2008-2010 and public surveys conducted by Pew.

The percentage of interracial marriages in 2010 was about 15 percent, more than double the 1980 statistic of 6.7 percent, according to the summary of the study by Wang.

The study found that in 2010, Asians were the most likely to marry outside of their identified ethnicity at 28 percent, while 26 percent of Hispanics, 17 percent of African-Americans and nine percent of Caucasians married outside their racial identity.

"The research we've done points to a combination of increase in Asian and Hispanic immigrants in recent decades and changing public attitudes," said Wang about the reason for increased intermarriages.

Wang spoke about the poll they conducted which concluded that nearly two out of three Americans were accepting of a family member marrying outside of their identified race.

When comparing the attitudes toward Americans now to the past, Wang cited a poll conducted in 1986 finding that only one in three Americans viewed it as acceptable.

Wang said the research found among newly-wed couples in 2008-2010 indicated that whites who married an Asian spouse were more likely to be college educated than whites who married within their racial identity.

Wang said the research found that Asians in general have a somewhat higher educational level than the other groups. Among newly-wed Asians, 53 percent had a college degree, compared to 23 percent of white newly-wed couples and 10 percent African-American couples.

UMass sophomore and chemical engineering major Stephanie Butler is currently in an interracial relationship with her boyfriend Chuck Haggerty.

Butler identifies herself as half Filipino and half Irish-American. She said her boyfriend identifies as white. They've been together for around three weeks, but were good friends prior to their relationship.

Although Butler and Haggerty identify as an interracial couple, Butler noted she has not noticed any cultural differences resulting from their disparate ethnicities. In fact, Butler said she noticed more similarities.

"We really don't even see the difference," she said.

Butler said her boyfriend's dad is married to a Chinese woman so they are actually able to relate on a cultural level with certain things. She gave the example of enjoying the same type of food. She said her boyfriend enjoys when her mom serves him Filipino food.

Haggerty and Butler appreciate the same foods, but also have the same sense of humor and hobbies, said Butler.

Butler said she has not received any negativity toward her relationship with Haggerty.

"I know a lot of interracial marriages and they seem to be working just fine, like my parents for example," said Butler.

The Pew study concluded that 43 percent of people surveyed believe that intermarriage is good for society. Butler said that society should spend less time categorizing people based on their perceived race.

"No one should feel like they shouldn't be with someone because they're a different race," said Butler.

Butler said she thinks the concept of race is diminishing.

"I think different cultures appreciate their own background but it's becoming less and less discriminatory," she said.

"Not tolerance or blindness to race, but we don't have to be like 'oh, that's an Asian woman or that's a white person' ... everyone's the same in my eyes."

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FACEBOOK

Sophomore Stephanie Butler is in an interracial relationship with her boyfriend Chuck Haggerty.

## Sky-high honors



MARIA UMINSKI/COLLEGIAN

Construction is currently underway on the new Commonwealth Honors College building, which will eventually house CHC students at the University.

Construction is underway for the new \$186.5 million Commonwealth Honors College Honors Dorm and Classroom Complex currently being built next to the Recreation Center.

Commonwealth Honors College Priscilla Clarkson said that the project is funded by bonds, meaning the university borrows money with a bond and pays off the cost of the dorm by renting the dorm rooms out to students. There has also been money independently raised through donors.

Some students like sophomore Meredith DuShane believe that UMass should be building housing complexes for everybody, not just for CHC students.

"There is not enough housing for everybody,"

said UMass sophomore Meredith Dushane. "[UMass should] use the money for larger housing complexes that will house everybody."

Commonwealth College Junior Kerry McDonough, however, believes the addition of a Commonwealth College Complex will help UMass shed its party school image and attract top students.

"When I was in high school, UMass was considered a second tier school," she said. "But now my brother and his friends are excited about the new Commonwealth College Complex. Top students want to come to UMass."

— Brianna Corcoran, Collegian Staff

## Officers sue UMPD, University over audio surveillance in station

BY ALYSSA CREAMER AND DAN GLAUN  
COLLEGIAN STAFF

As University of Massachusetts Police Chief Johnny Whitehead prepares to leave his position at the University by February's end, a class action lawsuit has been filed against him, the University and the UMPD by officers within the UMPD. The lawsuit was prompted after the discovery of audio surveillance equipment that was recording on-duty officers from a number of the police station's ceilings at all hours.

Mark Schlosser, a UMass police officer, on behalf of other members of the UMPD has filed a class action lawsuit against the University, UMass President Robert Caret, the UMass Board of Trustees, the UMPD, Whitehead, Deputy Police Chief Patrick Archbald, and former Police Chief Barbara O'Connor, alleging that undisclosed placements of audio-recording security cameras within the new police station have violated his civil rights and others' under both state and federal law.

The lawsuit, filed on Feb. 3 in Hampshire Superior Court on behalf of Schlosser and other UMPD patrolmen, accuses UMass and UMPD administrators of the "surreptitious placement" of at least 13 cameras which had been intercepting audio since UMPD moved into its new building in March 2011.

The lawsuit states that while there was a sign in the building's booking area warning of audio and video recording, officers were allegedly not informed of audio surveillance devices that were in operation throughout the department, particularly in areas of the department they had never known to have surveillance equipment installed before.

Submitted by attorneys Thomas A. Kenefick and Mary H. Patryn, the lawsuit alleges several violations involving both Massachusetts General Laws and the United States Constitution.

The lawsuit asserts that the recording devices violated plaintiff rights under the Massachusetts Wiretap Act, the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article XII of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights. It also alleges the installation of these recording devices without consent constitutes an invasion of privacy, citing Mass. Gen. Law chapter 214 section 1B and the U.S. Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment.

The lawsuit asks that the court prevent further audio surveillance, declare the operation of the audio devices a violation of the plaintiffs' civil rights and privacy, and award monetary damages to the plaintiffs.

"The audio devices were extremely sensitive and ... one device, placed outside a restroom, could actually pick-up conversation and sound occurring inside the restroom," states the lawsuit.

Schlosser said he and other officers had "private conversations of a personal nature" within range of audio interception, according to the lawsuit.

See LAWSUIT on page 4

## College degrees less attainable for students from lower-income families, study shows

BY SARAH HARDY  
COLLEGIAN STAFF

When University of Massachusetts senior political science major Reanne Malesky was applying to college, she knew money would be a large determining factor in where she chose to pursue a degree.

"I got into [the University of Connecticut] and I got into [UMass], but neither school offered me significant financial aid packages," said Malesky, whose top college choice was UConn. "Community college was appealing because I could go for two years and save a ton of money."

Students are increasingly faced with the problem of how to pay for a college education, according to a recent study by researchers at the University of Michigan, which found that there is a gap in college completion between upper and lower income students.

Students who come from families in the highest income quartile are twice as likely to graduate from college as those in the bottom quartile, according to the study, which also showed a higher college entry and graduation rate for students from higher income families.

Instead of beginning their college education at a four-year university, some students, like Malesky, are choosing to attend community college for two years, before transferring to a four-year university in order to save money.

Malesky grew up in Merrimac before moving to Haverhill in her senior year of high school.

Malesky said college was important in Merrimac, where the estimated median household income is \$71,676 — higher than the average for the state. Approximately 30 percent of Merrimac residents have earned an associate's or bachelor's degree, according to town data.

Malesky said there was a lot of pressure for students to go directly to college after high school.

"When everyone got their acceptance letters it was like, 'Oh, what college are you going to?' There wasn't a lot of talk of people working after high school. The idea of working after high school was shunned," Malesky said. "I got negative responses to going to community college. I had a lot of teachers question whether that was a good decision."

Although Malesky felt she was academically prepared for college, affording it, she said, was another story. She couldn't afford to take the SAT preparation classes that most of her friends took.

"I remember a lot of [my friends] were shocked that I wasn't [taking] them. I also only took the test once because it cost money. I didn't even buy an SAT prep book because that was expensive," she said.

Despite having less debt, paying for college hasn't been an easy road for Malesky. She considers her family in the lower-middle income bracket, which she said puts her in an awkward financial situation.

Her family cannot afford to help pay for her college education, but her parents earn too much for her

to get enough federal financial aid money to pay for school, she said. And, she noted, she is not eligible for a Pell Grant to help pay for her education.

In order to meet the needs of students who are academically eligible to attend college, UMass President Robert Caret announced earlier this month that UMass will be spending a record \$158 million of its own funds on student financial aid beginning this year.

Malesky attended Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill for two years to get her associate's degree. She then transferred to UMass where she was guaranteed admission and financial aid after graduating from Northern Essex with a 3.62 grade-point average.

Attending a community college for two years, she noted, relieved her of part of the financial burden of paying for school. She now works part-time at The Sub and Pizza in Amherst and has received grants and federal loans to pay for living and school expenses.

"I'm paying for college 100 percent on my own," said Malesky. "I receive some grocery money every now and then, but there's no parental support. All my loans are in my name."

"Financially, I don't regret [going to community college]," Malesky continued. "I'm only graduating with \$25,000 in debt for two degrees — an associate's and a bachelor's. I look around and see people with much more debt."

The increase in financial aid pro-

vided by the UMass system is in response to an increase in student debt. Last year, UMass spent \$133 million on financial aid.

Caret, the UMass president, also called for the state to provide 50 percent of general education funding, an increase of 5 percent, according to the release.

A financial study by UMass also found that 98 percent of all undergraduate, in-state UMass students have financial need and 62 percent of in-state UMass students are currently receiving need-based aid, according to the release.

And the study also found that average student debt at the University has jumped over the past five years, from \$15,000 to \$25,944, respectively.

Despite Caret's efforts to increase financial aid through grants and loans to students, Malesky said that UMass cut her grant money for the 2011-2012 academic year, which forced her to take out loans to cover the cost of school.

Malesky's father earned about \$2,000 more last year, which increased her expected family contribution for paying her tuition and fees, she said. She was moved into a different financial aid bracket and her grant from UMass was cut by \$7,500.

Malesky said she attempted to appeal this decision, but her appeal was not accepted, and she took out a loan in order to make up the difference.

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### ARTS & LIVING

#### Spring Concert lineup announced

UPC announced the highly anticipated lineup on Tuesday night: J. Cole, Third Eye Blind and Big K.R.I.T. will be performing on April 15 at the Mullins Center.

### SPORTS

#### Minutewomen win on Senior Night

The Massachusetts women's basketball team recorded its first set of back-to-back wins since the middle of December in its final home game of the season.

### OPINION/EDITORIAL

Columnist Billy Rainsford outlines the effects that the University's solicitation policy has on student groups and on the campus community as a whole.

### DailyCollegian.com

Defeating Xavier for the first time in six years, UMass was able to move right back into the mix of things near the top of the A-10.