



Anna Howard Shaw Center

NEWSLETTER

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FIESTA Y ENCUENTRO CON YOLANDA

The Anna Howard Shaw Center Honors
Rev. Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz

Zina Jacque, Laurel Scott, Marie Tulin, contributors

Rev. Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz receives the Shaw Award

On November 1, members of the Hispanic Church community, Methodist representatives, Boston University School of Theology community members, and friends of the Shaw Center gathered together to honor the Reverend Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz as the fifth recipient of the Anna Howard Shaw Award. The award, established in 1990, is given in recognition of one who embodies "those values expressed in the life of Anna Howard Shaw: courage born out of Christian faith, dedication to increased opportunities for women, devotion to social justice,

Anna Howard Shaw Award winner Rev. Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz graciously accepts her award on behalf of the legacy of strong women who have gone before.



persistence in difficult circumstances, service for the common good, and a vision of a better world."

Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz was born in Cuba and completed most of her formal education there. She holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and the Arts, a Bachelor in Divinity, and a Master in Library Sciences. Ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church, Yolanda has served in pastorates in Cuba; in Miami, Florida; in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; and in Bethesda, Maryland. She currently serves as an Associate General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race.

The Shaw Center honored Rev. Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz for her years of service and strong commitment to social justice. Yolanda has worked extensively with women, children, and elderly people, taught Sunday school, composed music, organized community projects, and published articles in church journals. She has been active in several committees at the annual conference level, including the Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee, the Conference Committee on Hispanic Ministry, and the Conference Reconciling Task Force, and has served as chair of the Baltimore-Washington

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FROM THE DIRECTOR *Margaret S. Wiborg*

As I write this article, the search process for my successor has begun. The immense energy I have put into this place has begun to be directed elsewhere—to family, to other interests I have not had time to pursue. When I came to the position as Director of the Anna Howard Shaw Center, I never imagined that I would continue in the position for eighteen years. As I wrote the Shaw portion of the School's report to the Associated Theological Schools accrediting team, I was amazed at what we have done in just the last ten years. Possibilities are unlimited when you get a bunch of good women together—students in the School, the Advisory Board, members of various committees, members of the research team. I am immensely grateful for all that energy and all those people over the years who made possible all that we have done.

I have been advised to practice the spiritual discipline of letting go this year. Because I am also Acting Dean of Students this semester while Dean Newsome is on sabbatical, I have had less

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Conference Council of Ministries. At the general church level, Yolanda has served in the General Council of Ministries, the National Committee for Hispanic Ministry, and the Northeastern Jurisdiction Multi-Ethnic Center. In 1995 she organized the first national inter-ethnic dialogue sponsored by the General Commission on Religion and Race.

Let the Fiesta Begin

The celebration began with a multilingual worship service in Marsh Chapel. A diverse congregation from all over the United States and beyond gathered for this unique service. The opening prayer, Scripture readings, and hymns were all voiced in various languages, emphasizing Yolanda's commitment to inter-ethnic dialogue and worship. The Reverend Aida Irizarry Fernández, District Superintendent of the Metropolitan Boston North District in the New England Conference (and Boston University School of Theology and School of Social Work class of '89), preached a moving sermon entitled "Letters from the Saints." She envisioned letters of reflection and encouragement written to Yolanda from Biblical and historical "saints."

Panel Discussion

"From where will we get the next generation of leaders for the Church?" "How will we train these leaders?" "What are the skills and talents these women and men will need to lead?" These are just a few of the questions that the distinguished panel of presenters posed and answered for those of us gathered to address the topic, "Facing the Challenge of the Church and the Hispanic Community." Each of the panelists, Dr. Efraín Agosto, Dr. Eldín Villafañe, and the Rev. Wanda Martinez, challenged listeners to stand up, speak up, and show up in the quest for the hearts and minds of the next generation of leaders in the Hispanic Church.

As we listened to their words, however, what struck us was the wisdom of their truth not only for the Hispanic

Celebrating with Yolanda were fellow AHS Award winners Margaret S. Wiborg (1998) and C. Faith Richardson (1990).



Church, but for the universal church. Dr. Agosto, Professor of New Testament Studies and Church History at Hartford Seminary, spoke of the church as the "hothouse," as the source of the next generation of leaders and as the primary place where these leaders-in-training are being nurtured and strengthened. He challenged seminary leaders to be inventive regarding new ways to partner with the church. In so doing, he suggested, seminaries will move to a more vital role in identifying and encouraging people who are ready for the opportunity to advance from the hothouse to seminaries where they will further grow and develop.

Following quickly on Dr. Agosto's words, Dr. Villafañe, Professor of Christian Ethics at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, rose and carried the challenge even higher. His appeal to seminaries was to accept the call to reach out to the place where the next generation is growing up and is being formed—the church—and share with the church the responsibility of nurturing these leaders through the exchange of power, partnerships, pesos, and

prayer. Very practically, Villafañe urged both the church and the seminary to find ways to develop real and tangible relationships, recruit from one another faithfully, share resources, develop and retain respect for the gifts of the other, offer relevant curriculum, and work together to return those who have begun in the church and grown in the seminary back to their communities so that the community will benefit from their seminary education.

Summing up this powerful panel, the Reverend Wanda Martinez of the United Church of Christ described the place where "the rubber grips the road," the real life of the church. As a pastor and educator, Rev. Martinez spoke about the ability and the necessity of the church to work with people of different ethnic and racial backgrounds in fruitful and powerful ways. From her own background she proposed that current leaders in the church must model for up-and-coming leaders the following attributes: the willingness and the patience to bridge differences by worshipping together, working together, even sharing a building together, and



At the worship service, Rev. Aida Irizarry Fernández delivers her sermon, "Letters from the Saints."



*Fiesta y Encuentro con Yolanda
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appreciating one another's differences just as the Word of God tells us to appreciate the differences in the members of the body of Christ.

Reflections: The Hope of the Savior

Although the panelists spoke about methods of nurturing and growing the next generation of leaders for the Hispanic Church, what they brought to light represents good ground rules for each part of the church. There is a song that we sing in the African American Church. The first line begins, "Oh, the world is hungry for the living bread, lift the Savior up for all to see." The panelists lifted up the hope of the Savior, through the propagation of the next generation of leaders. They held up the hope of the Savior, the living bread, in a way that each of us could see our role in building the leadership of the church. Though they spoke about developing leaders for their community, their words bring hope and power for all communities. Let us, through their wisdom, see new ways of lifting up the Savior, that all who are hungry may be fed.

Reflections: The Challenges of a Multicultural Church

The Reverend Wanda Martinez spoke movingly about the fruits of collaboration between churches of different cultures. Rev. Martinez is an associate pastor for Christian education and youth at the Iglesia Hispana Unida de Cristo in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her small Hispanic congregation shares a building with a relatively affluent, mostly white congregation. The negotiations between the two congregations were cautious; language and cultural barriers required attentive listening and thoughtful conversation. It became clear that the members of the original congregation needed assurance that "their" beautiful church building would be treated with the same love and respect they poured into it. When Rev. Martinez and her congregation understood this and said to the

From the Director continued from page 1 time to reflect on what that means than I had planned. This summer I did begin to clean out files and continue the process of gathering materials to be archived—a time for remembering, being grateful, and letting go. I have realized that letting go does not require caring less or enjoying less. It does require letting those who will continue be more involved in making the long-term decisions. It requires recognizing when something is especially good and taking the time to appreciate it. This year I have really appreciated the exquisite meal from the Philippines that Nizzi Digan prepared for the fall women's retreat; I was delighted by Becca Clark's idea of offering plant cuttings to new students (Shaw plants are everywhere!); I was moved by the prayers offered in many native tongues at the Advisory Board retreat; and I am grateful for the ways that so many have offered their talents to enable the Yolanda event. My list could fill the newsletter. Letting go requires reminding myself that Director of the Shaw Center is not my

name and that those responsibilities are only a part of who I am. It means being grateful. It means looking forward, too—to what I will be doing, to leaving things in place for the next director, and to a real anticipation of who might take my place with all those new, creative ideas and energy yet to be expended. I am continuing to discover what it means, and I solicit your prayers and your advice as I make that transition that many students make each year to life after Boston University School of Theology. ♦

The search for a new Shaw Center Director has just begun. The successful candidate will direct the center and its related programs, conduct research, maintain resources, provide fundraising, work with the advisory board, advise and direct students to the appropriate resources and mentors, and teach courses in the field. The position requires an M.A. or equivalent in Theology/Women's Studies and four to six years of related experience. Applications should be sent to Dean John Berthrong at the School of Theology. ♦

original church board, "We will take care of your church as if it were ours," the main obstacle was removed and the process was well on its way.

Reverend Martinez emphasized that the work did not end there, however. Sharing space always involves attention to details and there are occasional slip-ups. Little problems need to be addressed quickly. However, when the two churches share worship, which happens on different occasions, the cultural, linguistic, and theological differences are a gift—not only to God but to all who worship together. We were fortunate enough to hear this story, and to meet a gifted and devoted pastor, and we add our prayers and thanks that work like this is done.

The Banquet is Prepared

The fiesta concluded with a warm and wonderful reception dinner and award ceremony in the B.U. Photonics Building. Friends, colleagues, and relatives of Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz gathered on



the ninth floor, against the twinkling backdrop of the Boston skyline. Seated around a beautiful harvest centerpiece, dinner guests feasted on traditional South American/Caribbean fare of *yucca* (cassava), *plantanos* (plantains), *arroz con frijoles* (rice and beans), cutlets of chicken and pork loin, and flan.

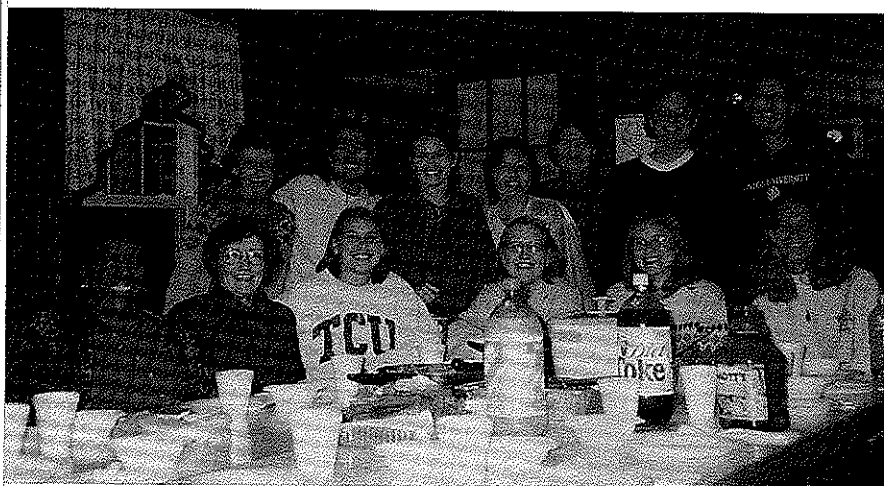
In addition to those who gathered earlier in the day for the worship and discussion, Brazilian members of a choir

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ALL-WOMEN RETREAT

Rebecca Clark



A joyous group of thirteen women gathered together for the All-Women Retreat this September. They enjoyed great food, great fellowship, and a time for personal renewal.

By the end of the second week in September, I was definitely ready for a break. Half expecting a surface-level, touchy-feely retreat, I piled into a car with some women I barely knew and rode out to the YMCA camp in Worcester, MA. Right away I was put to work chopping onions with a butter knife—not what I had in mind as a cathartic experience, but I certainly got in “a good cry!” We joined in celebration over an enormous Filipino feast, generously prepared by Nizzi Santos Digan, a returning retreat participant. Immediately all thirteen of us were engaged in conversation and hearty laughter, a welcomed change.

After dinner we congregated around the fireplace, and Tiffany Steinwert introduced the theme for the weekend, “Growing.” Each woman contemplated her current environment, and then in groups we discussed what we needed to grow. I found, having recently become the caretaker of all of the plants in the Shaw Center (and there are many), that for me growing involved gentle pruning, watering, and sunlight, and I remembered these steps as I thought about how plants grow and how I might grow. Each woman, however, interpreted growth in her own way, and as we moved from contemplation and discussion into plain conversation, we began to grow together as a group.

Women placed their sacred objects on the table in the center of the circle. Magazines, school books, “the Keeper,” statues, and other items were scattered around a bowl of mixed seeds, representing our combined efforts for growth. As we talked about the items on the altar, I found that each woman in the room had a very different idea of what spiritual growth meant to her. Coming from a slightly less diverse background, I was fascinated to see and hear some of the things that these women brought to their spirituality. I saw then that there was a place for me within this group, and by extension, within the Boston University School of Theology community, not because we were all the same, but because we were all willing to lift each other up, regardless



(Above) Women at the retreat made prayer bundles to take home, using the seeds that had served as a symbol of renewal and growth and wrapping them in pieces of the altar fabric.

of—or in celebration of—our differences.

Then, of course, we had chocolate, because no gathering of women would be complete without chocolate. And bedtime stories. And we talked about all those things that girls talk about. It was like a huge sleepover, and as I huddled, fully clothed, beneath the thin blanket I had brought, I felt warmed despite the chill.

Saturday morning Margaret Wiborg sent us all out for a time of silence. I walked along the beach, and watched my fellow women sit in silence on benches or stare into reflections on the pond. I can't even describe the power of those couple of hours, but I enjoyed a solitude and a peace that I had not known since I came to the busy world of Boston.

Then we let our creativity flourish, molding clay and talking about our creations, now drying in the sun that finally managed to pierce some of the cold. Some women laughed, some cried, and some sat in silence as we each explained what our new sculpture represented. Not only did we have this time of creativity and enjoyment, but we each had something to take with us, to remind us of what we had experienced in the time we spent together. My sculpture was a statue of a woman—an attempt to represent the woman described in Revelation 12—and she now sits on my bookshelf, the red clay still changing tone as it dries. Along with the prayer bundle I made at the closing worship, she serves as a reminder of my experiences, of the refreshing growth that began when I let myself retreat from the stresses of everyday life, and of the way I was touched by these unfamiliar, new women whom I can now call friends. ♦

(Below) Retreat participants gather their clay sculptures, souvenirs of the weekend together.



NEW FACES AT THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Ikue Satomura is a first-year student in the Master of Theological Studies program, who has come to the United States for the first time from Hiroshima, Japan. She has great musical skill, which includes singing in Marsh Chapel with the Seminary Singers and playing the piano. Before coming to Boston University School of Theology, Ikue used her musical gifts as an associate professor of music education at Hiroshima University. Upon completion of her degree, she wants to return to her home country and serve as a professor or a spiritual care worker. Ikue describes Japan as a very traditional country, but one that changes "at a high speed" in response to the shifts in politics, cultures, values, and generational concerns. Coming from this traditional environment on the brink of change, Ikue seeks a calm and quiet life in the midst of her studies. She expressed surprise at the fast-paced life in the city of Boston. When asked what she thought of Boston University School of Theology, Ikue replied that she found it "very busy!"

LaTrelle Easterling is a first-year Master of Divinity student who has recently moved to Boston from Colorado Springs. Originally from Indianapolis, LaTrelle has entered ministry as a second career; she practiced criminal and civil law for ten years before feeling called to be a pastor. LaTrelle has served as an Associate Pastor at Payne Chapel in Colorado Springs, and hopes to further her studies in theology in addition to continuing to fulfill her calling to pastoral ministry. She says that she loves to laugh and have fun, and she devotes her time to her husband, her children, and her passion for social activism, justice, and diversity. With any remaining time, she enjoys reading—of the non-textbook variety. New to the Boston area, LaTrelle says that she appreciates the culture and diversity of activities available. When asked about Boston University School of Theology in particular, she said: "My classmates are phenomenal. The breadth and depth of experience and viewpoints is refreshing." ♦

*Fiesta y Encuentro con Yolanda
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from Christ United Methodist Church in Malden, Massachusetts, and two of Yolanda's friends from Peru joined the celebration, adding their special rhythm and spice to the program. Among those presenting the Reverend Pupo-Ortiz's life story and appreciation were her colleagues, the Reverend James Taylor of the General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church, and the Reverend C. Anthony Hunt of the Multi-Ethnic Center of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

In accepting her award, Rev. Pupo-Ortiz thanked the Anna Howard Shaw Center and expressed her surprise at being chosen for the honor. She accepted the award on behalf of the many people to whom she had ministered and her colleagues who had worked with her over the years. She also paid tribute to the legacy of great women, both in the Bible and in her own life, who prepared the way for her to minister. ♦

THIS YEAR'S STAFF AT THE ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER

Karen L. Rucks, M.Div. '01

Karen is a first-year Th.D. candidate. Her field of interest is Systematic Theology with a minor in Ethics. Prior to enrolling as a full-time M.Div. student, Karen was the Assistant Equal Employment Opportunity Administrator for the Department of Mental Retardation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She has also earned an M.A. from Hartford Seminary and her B.S. from Temple University.

Karen is a contributor to a manual developed by the Women's Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. on developing ministries for single mothers. She also co-produced the video, "Single-parenthood: Beyond the Stigma." The intent of this video is to dispel the myths of single parents. Karen also helped to develop the curriculum, "Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself," a

twelve-week, self-esteem building program involving both teenagers and their parent or parent figure.

Karen is a native of Springfield, MA. She is the youngest of five children of Elaine B. Rucks and the late Lucas M. Rucks. Karen is a mentor for a teenage girl and serves on several boards and committees in the Springfield area. She volunteers as an Associate Minister at Alden Baptist Church in Springfield, MA, and she is scheduled to be ordained as a Baptist clergy early this spring. Karen's role in the Shaw Center is to plan and organize the events such as the Fiesta y Encuentro con Yolanda. Her next project will be the Women and the Word event this spring.

Rebecca J. Clark

Rebecca Clark is a first-year M.Div. student, on track for ordination in the United Methodist Church. Raised in

northeastern Vermont for most of her life, Rebecca returned to the state of her birth for her undergraduate years, attending Elmira College in Elmira, NY, where she majored in Philosophy and Religion. She was honored to give the valedictory address at her commencement this past June, and caught a quick breath before her wedding to Benjamin on July 7.

Becca's work experiences include three years as a Resident Assistant at Elmira College, and many summers spent in arts and crafts at various camps—including Covenant Hills Christian Camp in Vermont. She enjoys using her work in service-oriented fields. Becca hopes that her career in ministry will provide an opportunity to teach tolerance and promote inter-denominational and interfaith dialogue.

While in the Shaw Center, Becca focuses her attention on the AHSC Newsletter, and assists with tasks around the office. She is also the caregiver and surrogate mother to the plants scattered around the room. ♦



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Thanks to Steve Pentek, Archives Coordinator at B.C.'s Mugar Library, for presenting the center with this photograph of Anna during her time here at the School.

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THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE STH WOMEN

Dr. **Claire Wolfeich** enjoyed participating in a conference on Spiritual Leadership hosted by the United Methodist Church in August. The conference brought together seminary professors, denominational leaders, conference staff, and local pastors. Bishop Susan Hassinger helped to lead the event. Dr. Wolfeich writes, "It was a

great affirmation of the importance of spiritual formation in the life of the church." On another note, Claire is happy to announce the publication of her book, *American Catholics Through the Twentieth Century: Spirituality, Lay Experience, and Public Life*. The book just came off the presses, published by Crossroad. It takes a fresh look at our



understandings of spirituality, particularly in light of the everyday challenges of work, politics, and family.

Dr. **Carrie Doehring** is pleased to announce two recent publications: "Strategies for teaching about pastoral care: Implications for theological education in a new millennium," co-authored with Edouard Fontenot, in *The Journal of Pastoral Theology*, vol. 11 (June 2001), pages 12-23; and "Self forgiveness and abortion: Resolving losses," co-authored with Emily Geoghegan, in *The Challenge of Forgiveness*, ed. Augustine Meyer and Peter van Katwyk (Ottawa, Canada: Novalis, 2001).

Dr. **Linda Clark** announces the publication of a project that she created along with Joanne Swenson and Mark Starum, "How We Seek God Together: Exploring Worship Style." This collaborative effort includes a book and videotape, and presents the findings of in-depth studies in three local congregations in an attempt to demonstrate the

diverse styles of worship present within today's churches.

Dr. **Dana Robert** would like to announce two forthcoming publications, "Gospel Bearers, Gender Barriers: Missionary Women in the Twentieth Century" (*Orbis*, Spring 2002), and "The Influence of American Missionary Women on the World Back Home," in *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* (Winter 2002). Dr. Robert also recently delivered a paper entitled "The First Globalization: The Internationalization of the Protestant Missionary Movement Between the World Wars." This was a keynote paper at the conference "Interpreting Contemporary Christianity: Global Processes and Local Identities," at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, July 3-7, 2001.

The Reverend Dr. **June Goudey**, former Shaw Scholar, sends word that her book, *The Feast of Our Lives: Re-Imagining Communion*, will be published by Pilgrim Press. ♦

LOOKING AHEAD

Women and the Word 2002

It's time to start thinking about Women and the Word 2002! This year's conference will take place on March 13 and 14. The leadership team will consist of the Rev. Dr. Eunjoo Kim, homiletics professor from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado; Rev. Dr. Joretta Marshall, pastoral care professor and the academic dean at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; and Rev. Dr. Lynn Westfield, Christian education professor at Drew Theological Seminary.

Save the date now, and look for our mailing concerning registration for this event. If you would like to request more information, check with the Anna Howard Shaw Center, which will carry continuing updates and registration possibilities as the event approaches. ♦

Prophecy Daughters!

Now you can proudly wear your connection with the Anna Howard Shaw Center and all the ideals for which Anna stood, on your sleeve! Purchase an Anna Howard Shaw Center short-sleeved t-shirt (\$10), long-sleeved t-shirt (\$15), or sweatshirt (\$30).

The t-shirts are white with teal writing, and the sweatshirt is gray with teal writing. If you wish to receive your items by mail, please add \$4 to the total for up to three items.

The front of the shirts carry the Shaw Center logo on the left, near the heart, and on the back is written in English, Spanish, and Korean, the verse from Acts 2:17 "Your daughters shall prophesy."



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The Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University School of Theology seeks to support women in ministry through the center's research, education, support, and advocacy. If you would like to learn more about the Anna Howard Shaw Center, please fill out this form and return it to the address below. Thank you for supporting women in ministry!

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POSITION OPENING

The Center for the Study of Religion and Psychology at the Danielsen Institute, Boston University

The Board of Governors of the Danielsen Institute met on May 10, 2001, and approved a proposal to establish a center for research. Subsequently, on July 10, 2001, the Board of Trustees of Boston University also approved the initiative.

The mission of the new center at the Danielsen Institute, beyond direct clinical care and training, is to support new interdisciplinary research. The Center for the Study of Religion and Psychology will fulfill this mission by promoting collaborative research within Boston University and the Danielsen Institute as well as with other universities and organizations that focus on the intersection between the disciplines of religion and psychology.

The approved proposal for the research center outlines the qualifications and job description for a director of the center. Primary responsibilities will include establishing a research program for the center; establishing relationships with other scholars, agencies, and universities conducting research in this area; and developing funding sources for the activities of the center.

We send this announcement to friends and associates of the institute who receive our newsletter. If you have any recommendations for the development of the center or if you know of potential candidates for the center's position of director, please contact Dean Hammer, the program coordinator (617-353-9679, DeanHammer@aol.com). ♦

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