M. Shahid Alam, professor of economics at Northeastern, authored a piece on the election of Barack Obama and the impact his race had on the election for a Nov. 18 Palestine Chronicle article.

Paul Harrington, associate professor of law, policy and society, presented his research on Rhode Island's economy on Nov. 7 at a gathering of more than 100 Rhode Island business leaders, academic and local officials. He said that Rhode Island needs better-educated workers to avoid more job losses.


William Kirtz, associate professor of journalism, wrote about the Nieman Fellows program's 70th anniversary for poynter.org.

A study by John Kwoka, the Neal Finnegan Chair in economics, and Evgenia Shumikina was featured in Nov. 7 Atlanta Journal Constitution about the possibility that airline mergers may inflict more harm on consumers than previously had been measured.

Milda Richardson, lecturer in architecture, led a bus tour of Massachusetts sites designed by Henry Hobson Richardson and the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted on Nov. 16.


Mehdi Tahoori, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, was featured in a Nov. 5 UPI article for contributing to research focused on schizophrenia, major depression and cancer. Researchers say they have created an algorithm that can identify genes and proteins most likely to cause such complex diseases.

Barry Bluestone, dean of the School of Social Science, Urban Affairs and Public Policy, was quoted in a Nov. 19 Boston Globe article about the auto industry in Massachusetts and what would happen to the auto industry in Mass. if General Motors, Chrysler and, and Chrysler all went bankrupt. "If what we have in Massachusetts was typical of the auto industry, we'd be insane to spend a dime," he said. "But if you're in Ohio or Michigan, the fear is real. This is a really Midwest bailout."

Stephen Burgard, associate professor and director of the School of Journalism, appeared on Fox 25 News at 10 on Nov. 19 to talk about the possible closing of the Out of Town News Agency in Harvard Square, and what it says about the decline of print news.

Ted Clark, executive director of the Center for Family Business, appeared on WBZ-AM in Nov. 19 to talk about how family businesses are dealing with the current economic situation. Clark said that most family businesses have prepared for this crisis and will make it through just fine.

Elizabeth Crouley, a professor of architecture at Northeastern, was featured in a Nov. 7 New York Times article about root cellars and food preservation. She said that at one time, "just about every house had special facilities for preserving food."

James Fox, the Lipman Family Professor of criminal justice, was quoted a Nov. 18 San Jose Mercury News article about steps companies can take to avoid violence in the workplace. "You can't predict it, but certainly companies can do a much better job of dealing with employees who they are terminating for whatever reason," Fox said.

Tony Gao, assistant professor of marketing at Northeastern, was quoted in a Nov. 14 Miami Herald article about the return of layaway programs at retail stores. "Layaway plans are all about delaying gratification," he said. "I think that's good for consumers because excess borrowing caused a lot of today's financial problems."

Phil He, associate professor of criminal justice, spoke with The Boston Globe for a Nov. 13 article about the E-Mail Alert System. The system allows police to notify subscribers of suspicious or dangerous happenings, sometimes moments after an event. He said that the systems mean "police are not in the difficult situation of having to check out false alarms immediately."

Richard Katula, a professor of communication studies at Northeastern, was quoted in Nov. 14 Yakima Herald-Republic article about the importance of respect in a democracy. "The whole idea behind parliamentary procedure is to eliminate the personal side of the debate and to emphasize the content of the debate," he said.

Jack Levin, the Brudnick Distinguished Professor of sociology and anthropology, was quoted in this Nov. 10 Providence Journal article about the recession's impact on crime. "Potentially it's bleak. It's impossible to make the prediction because we don't know how serious this recession will be or where the budget cuts will be," said Levin.

Maria Stein, director of career services, talked with the Boston Herald for a Nov. 8 story on the rise in the national unemployment rate and how employers are reacting. "I think they're kind of hedging," she said. "They're trying to see what's going to happen with the economy."

Andrew Sun, professor of economics, was featured in a Nov. 8 New York Times story about the impact the economy is having on the job market. "The trends will be known out of the labor market at record levels," he said.

Amaro named ‘alum of year’

Apparantly she did better than expected.

Hortensia Amaro, Distinguished Professor of health science and director of the Institute on Urban Health Research, was honored with a 2008 Alumnus of the Year Award by her California high school. "This award is particularly meaningful to me because of my mixed experiences going through the school system," said Amaro, who emigrated from Cuba to the United States while in the fourth grade. "I was probably not one of the students that teachers predicted would do well. It's telling of our educational system and how it doesn't often recognize potential in certain groups of students."

Along with two other recipients, Amaro, who graduated from Venice High School in 1969, received the award from the Venice High School Alumni Association at a dinner Nov. 1. The award cited her 20 years of work in epidemiology, and her work on substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, mental illness and violence. "I hope my award reminds policy makers and educators that students who are not the prototypical achievers still deserve the structured experiences that will help them gain the skills necessary to fulfill their dreams," said Amaro. "We lose a lot of talent in our youth because we don't always provide the environment that supports them getting a quality education. In the end, if they don't become productive members of society, we all pay."

In stark contrast to the lack of diversity in the Venice schools in the 1960s, Latino students account for about 80 percent of Venice High School's population today, said Amaro. The school has many students who struggle to speak English, have limited education and lack literacy in their native language.

"We need to think more strategically to develop policies that integrate those students and families into U.S. society and help them to adjust and learn how to access resources that our society offers," said Amaro.

Amaro’s work has focused largely on developing and testing prevention and treatment approaches for Latina and African American women and their families.

"My experiences as an immigrant have informed my values and commitment to do work that serves society in some small way," said Amaro.

— Jason Kornwitz