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# The UMass/Boston Friday Report

News and information about and for  
the Community from the Chancellor's Office

October 18, 1991

**Significant Archaeological Find** Digging in the sands of Cape Code's southern shore, a team of archeologists from UMass/Boston has uncovered what its leader says is the first ever physical evidence of early Native American farming in New England. According to **Stephen Mrozowski**, assistant professor of anthropology and director of the University's New England Historical Archaeology Program, the discovery made over the summer is "unprecedented and significant" because it represents the first time that an actual field -- consisting of what appear to be more than 40 individual corn hills -- has been unearthed for study. Says Professor Mrozowski:

"Until now the only evidence we have had that the Indians of New England practiced agriculture has been historical accounts written by early explorers and settlers of the region. Old corn hills have been found in Massachusetts from time to time, but we have never been sure if they were the result of Native American or English agricultural efforts. This is the first time we have found corn hills in an archeological context that we can date with a fair degree of certainty. The items we found match historical accounts that the Indians grew corn and beans in this particular section of the Cape. The initial discovery and the research we now are undertaking will give us the first opportunity to look at how Native Americans treated their environment. It will also allow us to look for the first time in detail at Native American agricultural practices. I believe the discovery of the site and what it contains to be unprecedented and significant."

Dating of the site was facilitated, Professor Mrozowski says, when excavation efforts also brought to light items identified as early 17th Century European manufactured goods similar to those carried by English explorers. These include glass trade beads, pipes for smoking, fabric and ceramics. Professor Mrozowski says that this winter he and his team of graduate students will analyze material taken from a small portion of the site at their UMass/Boston laboratory. With the assistance of **Lawrence Kaplan**, professor of biology at the University, they will sift through the material for further clues.

**Computer Conference** The University helped put on an international conference held earlier this week at Boston's Park Plaza Hotel that was devoted to examining and discussing advances in the art and technology involved with various aspects of computer controlled printing. The conference, organized under the auspices of the department of mathematics and computer science at UMass/Boston and the Computer Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, included 24 speakers from China, Israel, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. They covered subjects ranging from new techniques for color printing to aspects of how humans perceive letters. Speakers represented such academic and corporate organizations as Stanford University, Hewlett-Packard Company, Academia Sinica, Beijing University, Keio University,

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## The Friday Report Cont'd

the Royal Academy of Art, the Basel School of Design, and the University of Rochester. Chair of the conference, called the Second International Workshop in Raster Image Processing and Digital Typography, was UMass/Boston Professor Robert Morris.

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**\$3.5 Millions in Grants** The Graduate College of Education has been given federal, state and private grants that over five years will total \$3.5 million to address the growing problem of a lack of employment opportunities for special needs students. Approximately 17%, or 144,000, of the 844,000 public school students in Massachusetts are defined as special needs students, disabled in some manner because of physical handicaps, mental retardation or various learning problems. Nationally, almost 70% of men and women with disabilities are not employed, but research shows that two-thirds of this group would work if given the opportunity. Those who do not find jobs must depend on either their families or society for support during their lifetimes.

**William E. Kiernan** is principal investigator for the grants. He is an adjunct professor at the Graduate College of Education and director of the Training and Research Institute for People with Disabilities at Children's Hospital in Boston. The project is a joint one between the University and Children's Hospital. Professor Kiernan says that the efforts of the project staff will be focused on identifying a range of support networks available to special needs students coming from culturally diverse backgrounds and geographically diverse communities. According to Professor Kiernan:

"The funds will underwrite the development of a model project that will greatly enhance the ability of students with special needs to move from school to work by using nontraditional, naturally occurring support resources in the community and workplace. These resources include family, friends, co-workers and a variety of different support services available to all employees in industry. Ultimately, we hope that these special needs students will be able to make their way through the world of work in the same fashion that all of us do, or try to do."

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**Enviro-Lab III Arrives** Tuesday, October 15th, marked the first sailing from the UMass/Boston dock of Enviro-Lab III, the new 65-foot craft that will be used by teachers and students to conduct basic environmental experiments under the University's Harbor Explorations program. A group of students from South Boston High School spent more than two hours performing a variety of experiments as the boat plowed the waters of Boston Harbor. The \$400,000 fiberglass craft is owned by Project Oceanology, a non-profit education corporation of which UMass/Boston is the largest member among 27 collaborating schools and colleges. Project Oceanology, a marine science institute in Groton, Connecticut, is a co-sponsor of Harbor Explorations. Since 1985, more than 600 teachers and over 7,000 students from schools and colleges in New England have come to the University to increase their understanding of the coastal environment and enhance their appreciation of science. The collaborative program is operated under the aegis of the Institute for Learning and Teaching staff, including **Jack Crowley, Mike Borek and Mickey Weiss.**