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Vol. 1 Issue. 2 March 9, 1983

James Jennings appointed new dean of CPCS

James Jennings, Ph.D., a young man long on academic credentials and experience in the higher education of non-traditional students, has been named dean of the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) at UMass/Boston by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan and the Board of Trustees.

"I am delighted that UMass/Boston has been able to attract a dean of Dr. Jennings calibre," Corrigan said in announcing the appointment.

"I believe we have in him the leader that we need for this important college which provides such necessary service to the City of Boston."

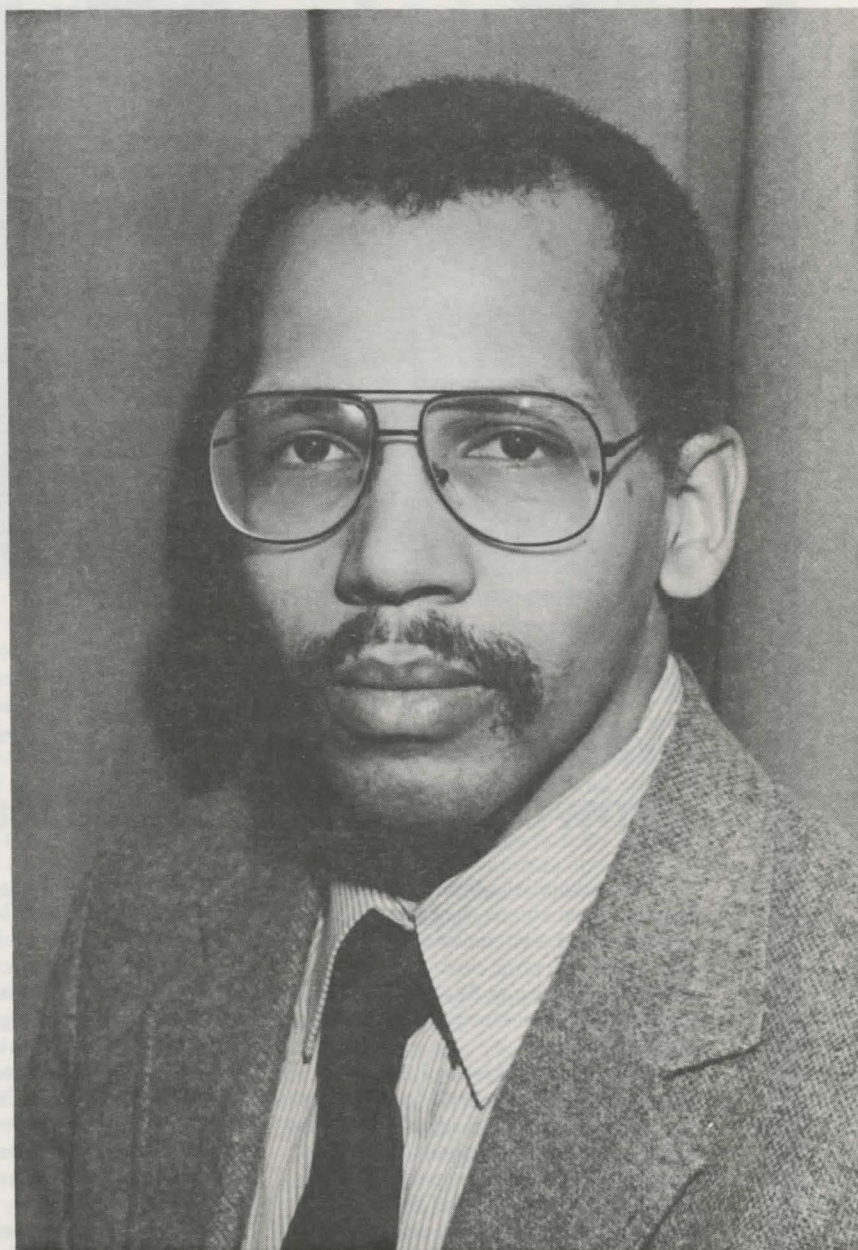
Jennings, 33, who came from four years of teaching American Government at Harvard University to head up CPCS, said he is enthusiastic about his new post.

He revealed that, while he has worked with both traditional and non-traditional students for the past 10 years, his excitement at being named dean at CPCS arises from the fact that the college "primarily focuses its efforts and services on non-traditional students."

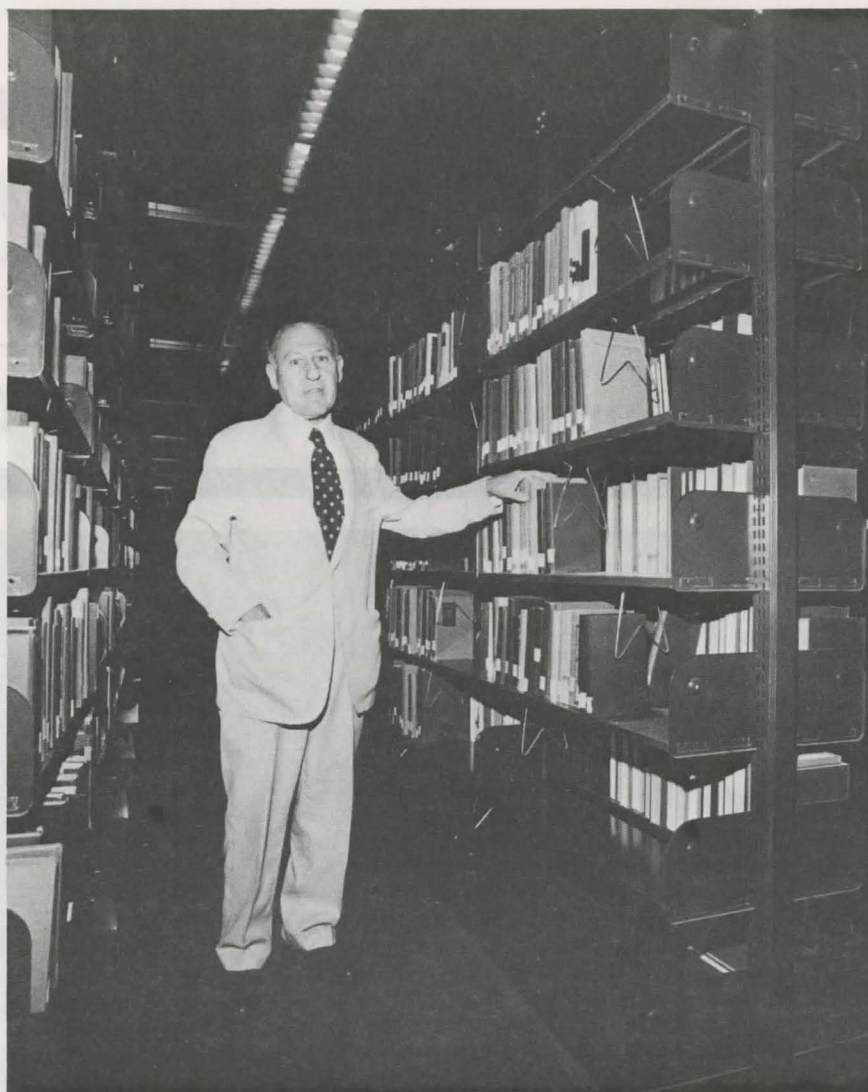
Jennings defined non-traditional students as being those who fall into a number of different categories including the older student, working students, minority students and those who want to be educated even as they support families.

He said the "very mission of CPCS" is to offer higher education to this kind of student.

"There are many, many more non-traditional students than traditional students out there, especially in the Boston area," Jennings stated. "And CPCS, although it is a very young institution (10 years), is in the forefront of this most important innovation in higher education."



James Jennings, dean of the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS)



Walter Grossmann, director of libraries at UMass/Boston.

profile

Walter Grossmann directs growth of UMB libraries

The Boston academic community houses more square footage of accumulated written knowledge than any other learning center in the world, according to Walter Grossmann, director of libraries at UMass/Boston.

Through the Boston Library Consortium of which UMass/Boston is a member, Grossmann figures that faculty, graduate students and some undergraduates have access to a minimum of 30 million library volumes to supplement classroom activities.

By the end of this academic year, Grossmann, a resident of Belmont, foresees the Boston campus libraries of UMass representing about

400,000 of these volumes. All of these books are available to everyone, faculty and students alike.

A quiet, introspective man by nature, Grossmann is, nevertheless, proud of the steady growth in both acquisition and reputation of the libraries under his control at UMass' Harbor Campus in Dorchester as well as from its intown facilities at 250 Stuart Street and at the former Boston State campus on Huntington Avenue.

This year everyone who uses the Joseph P. Healey Library at the Harbor Campus, for instance, will have access to three newly acquired computerized index services for bibliographic search, including the

prestigious New York Times Information Service (NYTIS).

According to Healey Library's public service office, the online computer search systems were prompted by reported growing demands for them and by the establishment of new graduate programs at UMass/Boston, especially the Environmental Science doctoral program.

The school's entire comprehensive bibliography collection is housed on the fourth floor of the Healey Library.

Grossmann said it was not easy to leave Harvard. "But most of us usually have only one chance in a lifetime to make a major change. Mine was the wonderful opportunity to build a library and to be part of making the history of a fine university."

Grossmann, whose wife, Maria, is a librarian for the Harvard Divinity School, came to UMass/Boston in 1966, a year after the school opened with a library collection of some 5500 volumes.

"I would have applied sooner but I didn't know the school existed till then," Grossmann, who also teaches a history class, said only partly in jest.

He loves the state-operated school and exhibits a genuine interest in keeping in constant touch with students' needs. He left a teaching and library post at Harvard to come to UMass/Boston.

The Viennese-born Grossmann said it was not easy to leave Harvard. "I had wonderful years there."

"But most of us have only one chance in a whole lifetime to make a major change. Mine was the wonderful opportunity to build a library and to be part of making the history of fine university," he added.

Grossmann's family obviously share his enthusiasm for UMass/Boston.

His son, John, of California, was in the first graduating class. His daughter-in-law, the former Maureen O'Leary, was also a graduate, along with Grossmann's two daughters, Mrs. Barbara Stone, of Evanston, Illinois, and Carol Grossmann, who is currently studying law at Western New England Law School.

Grossmann described student use of the the library facilities as "good" considering the fact that UMass/Boston is not a residential school and its students are also usually employed.

Jennings appointed new dean of CPCS

Jennings from page 1

"Higher education, all over the United States, increasingly is going to have to respond to the needs of these non-traditional students."

He cited studies showing that in the decade of the 80's the age group of students 17 to 19 years old will decline by one-sixth across the country.

"That's why schools like CPCS are so important," Jennings said. "The new kind of student in higher education is presently here . . . not only at CPCS but throughout the university. The average age for all students at UMass/Boston tends to be higher . . . my understanding is that it is 24 years."

Jennings, who lives in Cambridge with his wife, Lenora, son Taha 8, and daughter Taleah-Esperanza, 6, says he is so pleased with the built in diversity of CPCS's mission that he sees no possible shift in its goal to provide students with a good liberal arts orientation.

However, he does see the need for making an assessment of the possible integration of courses to take advantage of opportunities in new kinds of careers for CPCS students including those in computers and cable information services.

He also said he plans to look into the reasons CPCS has so few students from Boston's Latino population. "My experience is that, like others from non-traditional sectors, Latinos are interested in pursuing higher education."

"If they are not here in numbers that would at least make me comfortable, it is not so much a lack of interest but other things. So I'm looking at other possibilities," he said, "because the fact is we have very few Latino students in CPCS although we're located in a city with a growing Latin population."

Jennings, who says he is of Black-Puerto Rican ancestry, was born and educated in New York City.

He graduated from Jamaica High School in Queens and entered Hunter College at the age of 17. He received his B.A. there, majoring in political

chancellor's corner

UMB a leader in providing handicapped access to education.

by Dr. Robert A. Corrigan

A topic which is very much in the news today is the right of the handicapped student to access to higher education. As many institutions struggle to come into compliance with legislation in this area, I am pleased to see that the University of Massachusetts at Boston is truly in the vanguard in providing educational services to the handicapped. A recent full-page spread on one of our handicapped students in the *Boston Globe* is only one testimonial to our growing reputation in this regard.

There are currently approximately 120 handicapped students enrolled at UMass/Boston. These students are served by a Disabled Student Center which provides numerous support services, as well as by a faculty which is sensitive and sympathetic to these students' special needs. The Harbor Campus is totally accessible by wheelchair. Readers are available to read textbooks onto cassettes for blind students; deaf and mobility-impaired students may be provided with note-takers in class. A competitive wheelchair basketball team composed of students, alumni and community people is sponsored by the Disabled Student Center in cooperation with Athletics and is viewed as the first effort in the development of a small recreation program on campus for the handicapped.



The provision of services to handicapped students grows ever more sophisticated with the explosion of technology, and we are always adding to our store of equipment. The Disabled Student Office provides Braille typewriters and a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (through which deaf students may communicate with the University by telephone.) There is a Braille computer terminal with an audio output in the Computer Center. We are especially proud of our newest acquisition, a Kurzweil Reading Machine donated by Xerox. Located in the Braille Library, this computerized machine can convert any typewritten material into synthetic speech. Ours is one of only 300 currently in use in the world.

The UMass/Boston community strives hard to serve the needs of its handicapped colleagues, despite the actions of a small minority who steal the rods necessary for wheelchair-bound students to reach elevator push-buttons, park in handicapped parking spaces, smoke in the presence of those with respiratory problems or even attempt to obliterate the Braille symbols on campus elevators. I sincerely believe that these are the actions of the thoughtless, and will cease as the thoughtful remind their colleagues of the obligation we all have to make this campus open and available to all—despite their physical handicaps.

science and graduating cum laude.

Majoring in American Government, he was awarded an M.A. from Columbia University in 1972 and a Ph.D. from the same school in 1976.

He was a Ford Foundation Fellow during that period and from 1974 to 1978 he also served first as assistant director and then as director of the Higher Education Opportunity

Program at Long Island University where he received the university's "Administrator of the Year" award for his handling of the program, one of the largest of 73 similar programs in New York state.

Jennings teaching career includes Long Island University, the State University of New York-Albany, Cornell University, Boston College and Harvard University.

Briefly . . .

John Hume, leader of Ireland's Social Democratic and Labor Party, will speak at UMass/Boston on Tuesday, March 15 as part of a series of three lectures on Northern Ireland Today conducted by Padraig O'Malley.

The lecture series is hosted by UMass/Boston Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan and will be held on successive Tuesdays, March 8-15-22, in the lounge of the 020 Building at 5:00 PM. Reservations are requested at 929-7085.

Hume is regarded as the most astute politician in either part of Ireland. Recently he put forth new initiatives to the Irish government.

Topics of the lectures, in order, are The IRA (March 8); British Policy & Northern Ireland (March 15) and A United Ireland? (March 22)

Dr. Thomas N. Brown, eminent UMass/Boston historian will moderate the first two lectures.

The third, on March 22nd will be moderated by William V. Shannon, *Boston Globe* columnist, University Professor at Boston University and former United States Ambassador to Ireland from 1977 to 1981.

The series will be presented in cooperation with the center for Studies in Policy and the Public Interest and the Irish Studies Program at UMass/Boston.

Padraig O'Malley, born in Dublin, Ireland, is Senior Policy Analyst at the Center. He holds advanced degrees in economics from University College, Dublin, and Tufts University. His book *The Uncivil Wars: Ireland Today* will be published by Houghton Mifflin in fall, 1983.

Dr. Murray Frank of Urban Services has had a good response at showings of the documentary "Down the Project," a film about public housing in Boston, particularly that located at Columbia Point.

The film has played widely—mostly for organizations—and has been well received. Because of its important subject and high quality, it was recently shown at the Circle Cinema, Brookline.

Dr. Robert K. Shope of the philosophy Department has a new book via Princeton University Press, *The Analysis of Knowing: A Decade of Research*.

The book is the first complete survey and critical appraisal of the large body of research that has appeared during approximately the last decade concerning the analysis of knowing.



Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan and Dr. Robert Wood at the unveiling of UMass presidential portrait of Dr. Wood last summer.

Dr. Wood to leave UMB for Luce chair at Wesleyan

Robert C. Wood, former president of the University of Massachusetts and currently a professor of political science at UMass/Boston, is leaving to accept an endowed chair at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

"It's difficult to make the move, but it was a rare opportunity and I couldn't pass it up," said Dr. Wood, who served as UMass president from 1970 to 1977.

He will be Henry R. Luce Professor of Democratic Institutions and the Social Order—one of 12 chairs around the nation endowed by a foundation named for the late publisher of Time magazine and one of the founders of the Time, Inc. publishing conglomerate.

"I'll teach a regular assignment

of two courses a term," said Dr. Wood. "The chair will focus on the use and misuse of experts in public policy-making and the problems of accountability in government. The stipend is considerable—and there will be time for research."

Before his seven-year assignment as UMass president, Dr. Wood served as chairman of the MBTA from 1969-70 and also served briefly as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. He spent two years as superintendent of the Boston schools.

Dr. Wood has been at UMass/Boston for a year and a half. Previously he taught for many years at MIT and Harvard University.

He commences his Wesleyan assignment in June.

Dr. Joan C. Tonn, associate professor of management, is writing a biography of Mary Parker Follett (1933-1968), a pioneer in the community center movement and a promoter of vocational guidance and placement in schools.

Dr. Tonn was awarded a grant from the Radcliffe Research Support Program. The program supports research on women and social change, drawing on the resources of Radcliffe's Henry A. Murray Research Center and the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America.

News & Views

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