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# news + **views**

Vol. 1 No. 3 • March 23, 1983

## Provost Greene lauds UMB's PubEd work

Robert A. Greene, Provost and Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs at UMass/Boston, is a teacher first, last and always, even after more than 10 years in university administration.

"I'm an English professor," he says of himself. "My whole view is that I'm not a professional administrator and I don't intend to be one all the rest of my life."

That view is one of the reasons Greene shares the determination of many other teachers who want to upgrade a public education system that has been accused of breeding pandemic ignorance of even the basic skills of literacy and mathematics among America's young people.

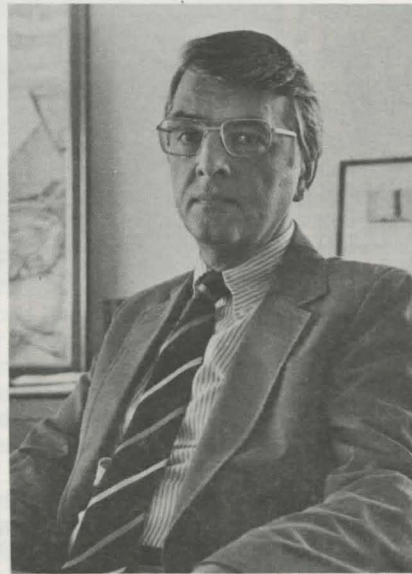
Interviewed recently about a new course for Boston public school teachers on "The Teaching of Technical Writing," being taught at UMass/Boston by Dr. Mary E. Gainer of the English Department, Greene expressed the University's dedication to doing more of this type service.

"The University wants to get more and more involved with the public schools, especially the high schools," he said. "We want to provide more services for teachers who are actually teaching in the schools."

Greene said the nation's concern regarding a crisis in the teaching of mathematics and science has overshadowed a similar crisis in the teaching of language.

"Generally speaking, everyone knows the disastrous situation of young people unable to use the language... but people are less concerned about writing because that doesn't put rockets in the air," he said. "It's dramatic but the deficiencies in science have been more dramatized."

The Provost said the University does a great deal of work with high



Provost Robert A. Greene

***"The University wants to get more and more involved with the public schools, especially the high schools. We want to provide more services for teachers who are actually teaching in the schools."***

schools in Boston through its Institute for Learning and Teaching (ILT).

"The teachers in this program who are working in the schools are very important to us," he said.

"When integration of schools began in Boston with Judge W. Arthur Garrity, Jr., there was a

pairing of universities with specific districts in Boston. This university was paired with District 6 which covers 14 schools including South Boston High School," he explained.

"However, when we took over Boston State College last year, we also took over its pairing with District 5 which is the most difficult of all districts. It contains 17 schools including both Dorchester High School and the Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Roxbury."

Greene said the ILT runs the programs for these pairings. "It's our major operation in working with the schools."

The UMass/Boston Provost is especially qualified to assess the needs and accomplishments of programs to upgrade what and how knowledge is communicated to Boston school children.

He was born and raised in Dorchester. His education started at St. Mark's Elementary School there, followed by graduation from Boston College High School and a B.A. with honors in English Literature from Boston College in 1953.

Greene received his Master's degree from Boston College in 1954 and a Doctorate in English Literature from Harvard University in 1961.

He was a teaching fellow, first at Boston College and then at Harvard, while studying for his M.A. and Ph.D.

In 1962 he joined the teaching faculty of University College, University of Toronto, Canada, as an assistant professor. Later he served as professor and, in 1972, was named Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science where he remained until joining the administration at UMass/Boston in 1980.

Greene, his wife, Mary, and the youngest of their four children, Priscilla, 16, live in Cambridge.



## profile

It took many generations and multitudes of inconsiderate users to befoul the waters of Boston Harbor. They won't be cleaned up overnight, according to Dr. Joseph J. Cooney, director of UMass/Boston's first Ph.D. Environmental Science Program.

There is just so much society can expect from scientists and technological skills, Cooney cautioned.

"Just because we put a man on the moon doesn't mean we can deal with a place like Boston Harbor in a way that satisfies all the potential users," said the noted microbiologist who recently arrived from the University of Maryland where he was head of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, Maryland for six years.

There is a solution, though.

"Somewhere between the extreme opinions that the harbor is all good or all bad, lies a real world position that recognizes we can't eliminate everything from the harbor and society can't continue to do just anything it wants with it," Cooney said.

He devoutly believes Boston Harbor, in fact all waterways in heavily-populated areas, where systems of checks and balances are in place, can safely tolerate a "variety of uses from industry, transportation, waste disposal, recreation, fishing and all of the things that have a rightful claim to it."

It's too much too soon, however, for Cooney, whose work is being eyed hopefully by agencies interested in harbor pollution, to talk about solid plans or programs to unsully the waters.

"I'm still unpacking my boxes," he said good naturedly.

Cooney has a friendly, approachable manner and a sense of humor to warm the hearts of Boston's Irish population. He talked with enthusiasm about moving his family to Boston (he's looking for a house on or near a waterfront in communities from Hingham to Duxbury or west to Medfield) and about why his new job excites him.

His professional specialty is microbiological interactions with heavy metals and the microbial degradation of hydrocarbons.

He translates, "Basically, I figure out how bugs are working on water."

The bugs (microbes) are in water, the soil and the air.

"In particular, I deal with how those microbes react with heavy metals, many of which are toxic;

## Dr. Cooney prepares for long look at harbor pollution



Dr. Joseph J. Cooney

with hydrocarbons which means oil spills, and with how microbes detoxify some of those things and how they make others more toxic," Cooney said.

That's what pollution is all about. The presence of such basic research and the Environmental Science doctoral program at UMass/Boston may give Boston the key it has been missing in the search to clean up its harbor.

Cooney, father of four, has published 55 papers on his research results. They appeared in national and international scientific journals.

In microbiology, he is widely known throughout the world and has received many honors for his academic and professional excellence.

In 1973, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. He was president of the Ohio branch of the American Society of Microbiology from 1971 to 1973.

Dr. Cooney's work in Boston will be a continuation of the work he was doing in Maryland.

He said the program set up here was too exciting to pass up. Among the attractions he included:

- "A living lab at your doorstep."

(Noted for his ability to attract grant

money, Cooney sees this as a money-saving advantage.)

- "The quality of the faculty here and their excitement for the new program."

- "The rich research resources of the local scientific community."

Dr. Cooney plans to build a faculty that can attack the questions of water quality in the harbor. In filling the the first four positions, concentration will be on the different aspects of toxic pollutants in the harbor.

In all, he expects to have eight faculty members in the Environmental Science program itself, plus the help of between 25 and 30 faculty members of other departments including biology, chemistry, mathematics, anthropology, physics and the College of Management.

"And, I think we will have more students applying than we can handle," said Cooney of the initial interest in the program.

With only one mention publicly so far, the prospect of getting into the Environmental Science Doctoral program at UMass/Boston has elicited 160 inquiries. Plans are to take no more than 40 students this year.



# Briefly . . .

UMass/Boston's radio station, WUMB-FM (91.9) scored a coup by broadcasting Senate President William M. Bulger's traditional St. Patrick's Day luncheon at The Bayside Club, South Boston.

WUMB's General Manager Patricia (Pat) Monteith made arrangements for the first-ever broadcast live of what is the area's top political event. State and national figures were on hand to hear Senator Bulger's quick-witted barbs on Sunday morning, March 13.

Events at the corned-beef-and-cabbage luncheon made for a merry program. The two-hour show was repeated, via tape, on St. Patrick's Day.

World-famed composer Henry Brant of Santa Barbara, California, included UMass/Boston on his agenda in a week-long festival in his honor held on the Harbor Campus and Harvard University, MIT, Tufts University, the New England Conservatory and the Boston Conservatory. The schedule ran March 7-11.

Brant, 69, is a colorful and inventive composer who usually conducts wearing a railroad cap. He held an open rehearsal in the 020 Theater and the following day lectured on "Space in Music" and held a performance of Divinity for brass quintet and harpsicord on the Harbor Campus.

Critic Richard Dyer wrote a lengthy review on Brant in *The Boston Globe*.

Athletic Director Charles Titus and David L. Stockton, Executive Director of Health Services, will be in the forefront when Health Works 1983 is held at Clark Athletic Center on Sunday, April 17, from 1-5 p.m.

The University is participating in the joint venture with TV's Channel 5, WHDH radio and the Shawmut Bank. A variety of events will be involved over all portions of Clark Center.

The basic idea of Health Works is to screen the public for glaucoma, diabetes, sickle cell anemia and the like.

Currently underway at the Joseph P. Healey Library is an exhibition of the Dorchester Pottery Works, 1895-1979. The exhibit runs through April 8.

The history and work of the Dorchester Pottery is shown. In 1895 the Pottery started to manufacture stoneware on what is now Victory Road in Dorchester.

The Pottery Works had declined in recent years, but continued in production until 1980 when it finally was destroyed by fire, leaving only the chimney of the kiln still standing.

Although for most of its existence Dorchester Pottery principally produced industrial ware of various kinds, especially acid-resistant containers and jugs for whiskey and molasses, it is known to most collectors for its decorative glazed tableware, some of which is on display.

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan can be heard on WUMB-FM (91.9) every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. The Chancellor hosts "From the Source," a call-in radio talk show featuring government and community leaders from across the Commonwealth.

On the maternity beat: Kiki Fetfatsidis (Personnel) had a baby girl; Edmund Beard, chairman of the Political Science department, and his wife Gina Rossano had a baby boy, and, ahem, your editor Steve Moniak and his wife Donna had a baby girl.

## chancellor's corner



by Dr. Robert A. Corrigan

Beginning in the fall of academic year 1983-1984, the campus will undertake a year-long series of events in celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the legislation creating the University of Massachusetts at Boston. To some long-lived neighboring institutions, 20 years of life might seem to leave this University still in its infancy, but we may be justly proud, I think, of the rapid development of UMass/Boston through two decades marked by increasingly problematic economic conditions.

At the age of 20, as we emerge from consolidation with Boston State College, this University really has come of age.

The celebration will begin with observance of the 10th anniversary of the October, 1973 opening of the College of Public and Community Service, and it will end on June 17, the date of the legislative enactment of the University.

Some particular points of focus will be the commissioning of a written history of the University and the 15th reunion of the first graduating class, the Class of 1969.

The Assembly has recently appointed an Executive Program Coordinating Committee, charged with overseeing the first phase of planning for this series of events. Committee members presently include Donald Costello, Director of Alumni Affairs; Dolores Miller, Office of Grant and Contract Administration; George Goodwin, CAS faculty; Quentin Chavous, CPCS faculty; and MariAnn Samaha, Student Trustee ('82-'83). Anyone interested in working on planning or contributing ideas should get in touch with a member of the committee as soon as possible.

### News & Views

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We're interested in everything that happens on the Harbor, Park Square, and Huntington Ave. campuses. Please keep us informed.



## Coach Harris named to TV 5 “Good Sport Hall of Fame”

Alfreda Harris, UMass/Boston's women's basketball coach and a nationally-known figure, was named the first winner of Channel 5 TV's "Good Sport Hall of Fame."

The public service campaign was instigated to promote sportsmanship. Alfreda Harris certainly fills that role.

In her three seasons of varsity coaching at UMass/Boston, her teams have compiled an outstanding record of 37-11. Previously, she coached at Roxbury Community College where her teams had an overall 86-13 record and captured four regional championships.

Harris was named National Junior College Athletic Associations (NJCAA) Coach of the Year twice, 1978-79 and 1979-80.

The most recent UMass/Boston season was one of her most successful, a 13-5 record and national

rankings in Division III. The team was No. 1 seed in the Massachusetts Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women championships.

In addition, two members of the team, Jennifer Allen and Nadine Jones, were voted to the New England All-Star team.

Born and raised in Roxbury, Harris attended Girls High School, Roxbury Community College and New Hampshire College. She is currently director of the Shelburne Recreation Center, Roxbury.

"The Channel 5 promotion is good because we hear many negative things about sports—accepting bribes, not receiving an education. But my girls at Roxbury Community all graduated and at UMass/Boston they are all working toward degrees. Studies come first," said Harris.

Channel 5's promotion will be a year-long affair.



Alfreda Harris

## Stomberg's greenhouse work blossoms at Flower Show



Richard Stomberg

Richard Stomberg, the resident greenhouse technician at the UMass/Boston Harbor Campus for the past four years, can be credited with the open space atmosphere and lush vegetation in the community's surroundings.

Stomberg received recognition for his talents when, for the first time in the 18-year history of the University, the Biology Department presented an exhibition at the world-famous New England Flower Show. The University's exhibit, produced by Stomberg, won a gold medal for overall excellence and finished second overall—behind Wellesley—in the Education Division.

The Flower Show, sponsored by the Boston Horticultural Society, was held last week at the new exposition hall at the Bayside Mall-Columbia Point.

Stomberg's knowledge of the complex field was gathered from the University where he earned a degree in plant science. He holds the position of technical specialist for the Biology department's classified staff.

Among his duties are the responsibility of the animal room where live specimens are housed for laboratory work and the overall

supervision of the three greenhouses maintained by the school.

The beautification of the school surroundings is an added bonus to the campus that compliments his mission. He supplies students and faculty members with live plants and animals for work and studies in experimental sessions. Stomberg is assisted by three work-study students who apply practical work experience to their studies.

The work takes Stomberg throughout New England to visit other institutions of higher education for collecting and trading cuttings and information with their respective biology departments.

An avid horticulturist, Stomberg is an active member of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, an organization which supplies the school with seeds and specimens on a biannual basis.

The lion's share of the plant specialist's collection is devoted to tropical and economical plants which are nurtured in the first and largest greenhouse on campus. The second greenhouse holds research plants and seedlings while the third facility houses carnivorous, succulent and herb plants.