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4-6-1983

### News & Views - Vol. 01, No. 04 - April 6, 1983

University of Massachusetts Boston

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#### Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "News & Views - Vol. 01, No. 04 - April 6, 1983" (1983). *1983-1991, News & Views*. 4.

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# news + views

Vol. 1 No. 4 • April 6, 1988

## UMass/Boston hosts European politicians



Two leading European political figures visited the UMass/Boston Harbor Campus in recent weeks—Northern Ireland's John Hume and Yugoslavia's Budimir Loncar.

His excellence, the Ambassador of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Loncar was escorted by Dr. Richard Freeland, Dean of Arts and Science, and was greeted by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan.

Ambassador Loncar addressed a group of students, faculty and fellows from the East European Research Center on "Yugoslav-American Relations."

John Hume is the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in Northern Ireland, a member of the European Parliament and, in the eyes of many informed observers, the most astute politician in either part of Ireland.

The UMass/Boston appearance was one of the centerpieces of Hume's visit, which also included a stop at the famed Clover Club dinner at Harvard University.

Hume spoke at the second of three highly-successful lectures on Northern Ireland conducted by Pdraig O'Malley in cooperation with the Center for Policy Studies and the Irish Studies Program.

Left to right: CAS Dean Richard M. Freeland; Dr. Rasu Florescu, director of the East European Research Center; Hon. Budimir Loncar, Yugoslavian Ambassador to the United States; Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan; Dr. Anny Newman, Russian Dept., and Dr. Richard H. Powers, History Dept.



Left to right: John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in Northern Ireland; Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, and Hon. Robert H. Quinn, chairman, UMass Board of Trustees.

## *profile*

Wary of what she labels "Anonymous Education," a professor of art history, mid-way in her teaching career, came to the fledgling campus of UMass/Boston nearly 10 years ago to get in touch with real flesh-and-blood students.

She liked what she saw . . . eager young people, many of them working their way through college, "grateful to be here with a seriousness of purpose that never goes away."

She stayed, making her home in Charlestown.

Today, Dr. Ruth Butler, scholar of the sculptor Rodin, art historian, lecturer and author, is, in turn, one of the best-liked teachers at UMass/Boston.

Nowhere is this admiration more evident than among the freshmen and sophomores in the school's Honors Program started four years ago at the Harbor Campus.

The Honors Program, which she directs, is very special to Dr. Butler. It allows young people, never more than 60 freshmen and sophomores who are interested in superior academic achievement to get off to a good start at the non-residential campus where finding peers of like motivation can be difficult.

But she thinks the university generally has made a real commitment to student identity. "I know all my students by name. The core curriculum design here demands small classes. It is a luxury worth fighting for," she said.

As contrast, she revealed the University of Maryland, her last teaching post before coming to Boston in 1973, was much too big for her tastes.

"There were 200 students in a class. I had lots of graduate student assistants. In four years I taught literally thousands of young people and I didn't know any of their names," she complained.

"I didn't care about the students. How could I? There was no way I could know that many people."

Butler claims her experience indicates students at UMass/Boston are different from those at many other schools.

How so?

"They all want to be educated," she said. "Almost everywhere else you go you find students who are blasé and bold. They seem to feel they should be served. Our students as a group are never like that. I think they get a wonderful education here and I think they know it."

The Honors Program she directs came about when it was realized that education generally was putting a lot

## Butler brings personal touch to Honors Program students



Dr. Ruth Butler, director of the UMass/Boston Honors Program

of money into helping people with problems, "people who needed to do remedial work, special studies, or who grew up in homes where English was not spoken," she said.

"Some people thought we should make an investment in those who do not have difficulties and who have excelled as students if we were to have a true across-the-board student population," Dr. Butler explained.

Except for being a separate program, sort of a college within a

college, the Honors Program does not have a big budget.

"It's a modest program. We just try to carve ourselves out a piece of the pie by rearranging the pieces," Butler chuckled.

And it is not an elitist program. Butler said the students entering the Honors Program literally select themselves. "It's not the chosen . . . the judged . . . we don't do that. We merely give a student the opportunity to work harder. Not too

many students will say 'yes' to that."

The offer to challenge themselves academically is not given to everyone entering, however. Letters telling about the program are sent only to high school graduates with excellent records and high achievement test scores (SAT's).

***Dr. Butler thinks the university generally has made a real commitment to student identity. "I know all my students by name. The core curriculum design here demands small classes. It is a luxury worth fighting for."***

Older students with excellent potential who are entering college after several years have lapsed since high school graduation, are unearthed by a search of English Placement Exams.

"This way we get people with a mix of experience," said Butler.

Besides friendship and intellectual stimulation, how does

being in an Honors Program help a student?

Dr. Butler replied, "We have special courses for them. We don't even call them by regular names, freshman English is Honors English. . . there is no grammar, there is no remedial work at all. We assume students are already writers. So there is an intellectual content in Honors English that you would not expect in a freshman English class. They jump right in and are doing writing and critical work."

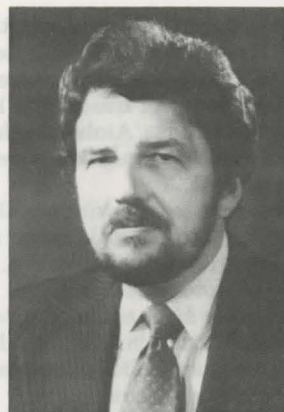
The classes are smaller, no more than 15 students, compared to a normal college class at UMass/Boston of 25.

And, most important, the Honors Program gets those who have gone through it and completed two more years with the general student population, in line for acceptance to good graduate and professional schools.

"We get our students in line for scholarships to top schools. We give them a lot of tips about how to prepare for this and we keep good files on them so that they can get a recommendation when they need them," Dr. Butler said.

*(Editor's Note: Dr. Butler is spending the spring semester as Mellon Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and settled in that area in January. She'll be back in September.)*

## *chancellor's corner*



by Robert A. Corrigan

It was with regret that I recently disapproved the University Assembly's action recommending a variable free period. Everyone on campus, I think, is in agreement that some form of free period—offering a common time for meetings of recognized student organizations, governance bodies, and varied social and programmatic activities—would help to enhance the quality of campus life.

Unfortunately, a less than ideal reality has intruded itself. It is now a virtual certainty that we will be moving out of the Huntington Avenue campus this summer. That move will make it very difficult—even *without* a free period—to schedule enough classes on the Harbor and Park Square campuses to meet the academic needs of our student body.

Trying to factor a free period into the schedule would not only aggravate the crowding, but undoubtedly would necessitate drastic shiftings in student hourly schedules for the Fall and result in serious disruptions of their work and family routines.

I hope that, as we face the difficult readjustments to come with the move out of Huntington Avenue, faculty, staff and students alike will turn their energies toward the task of creating alternative opportunities for increased social and intellectual interaction on campus. I am at present pursuing some initiatives in this direction, and I welcome further suggestions.

I will use this column next issue to suggest some fruitful lines of approach.

## Survey provides profile of UMass/Boston student body

The average UMass/Boston student is older and female, while 15.9 percent are minority, according to the latest figures compiled by William P. Fenstemacher, director of Institutional Planning at the Harbor Campus.

Highlights of the profile on UMass/Boston students include:

- 44% of the students are 25 years or older; 56% are 17-24 years of age.

- At the 25-plus level, 55% are women, 45% men, similar to other urban campuses nationally. The entire student population is 53% women, 47% men.

- The minority percentage shows 9.1% Black American, 3.3%

Hispanic, 3.1% Asian or Pacific Islander and 0.4% American Indian.

- Approximately 6% of the students are veterans. Eleven percent of the 714 veterans are women.

- 35.9% live in the inner suburbs within a 10-mile radius of downtown Boston.

- 25.8% live in the outer suburbs, between 10-20 miles from downtown Boston.

Consistent with the aims of UMass/Boston, virtually all students come from homes in the Greater Boston Metro area, a distribution which has remained approximately the same for the past six years.

## Briefly . . .

One of the most recent additions to the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees is the Honorable John T. Sweeney of Reading, a 1956 alumnus of UMass/Amherst who received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1981.

Judge Sweeney is with the Office of Hearings and Appeals under the Social Security Administration. He served previously as chief legal officer for the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. He earned his law degree from Suffolk University.

In 1980 the American Bar Association awarded Judge Sweeney its Superior Achievement Award. He was a football player at UMass/Amherst. Judge Sweeney is active in Reading civic affairs.

Dr. Bettina Harrison of the Biology Department has contributed photo and electron micrographs to the new permanent exhibit entitled "Cells" at the Boston Museum of Science.

April 15 is the deadline for nominations for 1984 Honorary Degrees. Nominations should be submitted to the Governance Office, Building 020, Room 617.

Dr. John Papageorgiou, Professor and Chairman of the Management Sciences Department, will serve on the Program Committee for the 1985 Joint Annual Conference of the Institute of Management Sciences and the Operations Research Society of America.

It will be held at the Sheraton-Boston. Other committee members hail from Harvard, MIT, Bell Labs and Arthur D. Little.

Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs Charles Desmond is batting 1.000. He's 2-0 with the tender gender, his second daughter being born March 22, the same day Ann Berrada (Career Services) gave birth to a baby boy. Congratulations to all!

The Theatre Arts Department will hold its spring semester production of *Tartuffe* beginning Friday, April 22, at 8 p.m. Subsequent evening performances will be held April 23, 29 and 30. There are matinee performances at 2:30 p.m. on April 27-28 and on May 1.

All performances are at the Building 020 Theatre. Reserved seating can be arranged by calling 929-7720.

Dolores Miller, Office of Grant and Contract Administration, will be spending a month vacationing in Japan. She will be visiting her daughter, Mary Ellen, who is studying at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, on a one-year fellowship from the Japanese Ministry of Higher Education. Her fellowship includes a month to travel and Dolores is joining her for this "chance of a lifetime." Besides studies in language, culture, and history, Mary Ellen is playing 1st Clarinet in Hokkaido Symphony. She was on the staff of Midge Silvio before moving to Belchertown to continue her studies at UMass-Amherst.

"Boston's Best Kept Secret," an exhibition of artworks, artifacts and displays by the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, will be on display at the Arlington Street Gallery of the UMass/Boston Downtown Center at Park Square from April 6 to 13. Gallery hours are 10 am to 7 pm weekdays. An opening reception will be held on April 11 from 4-7:00 pm.

The exhibit will also be displayed at the Harbor Gallery, Harbor Campus from April 19 to May 6.

## Front and center: DAKA's crew steps out of the kitchen



The DAKA crew provides the culinary service at a variety of UMass/Boston functions. Left to right: Mary Ann Geyer, Sheila Richardson, Marie Hier, Kevin Hayes, Bill Vetter, Christine Ryan, and Mary Stafford.

### News & Views

*News & Views* is a bi-weekly publication of the UMass/Boston Office of Public Information. News items should be addressed to:  
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We're interested in everything that happens on the Harbor, Park Square, and Huntington Ave. campuses. Please keep us informed.