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University of Massachusetts at Boston

# the Spectator

Vol. 1 No. 5

May 11, 1978

## COMMENCEMENT SET FOR JUNE 1

UMass-Boston will hold its 10th annual Commencement in the traditional setting of the Harbor Campus plaza at 2 p.m. on June 1.

At this time, some 1,156 students are to receive 1978 degrees based on the completion of work either in January, June or September.

The following is the breakdown of candidates for degrees this year:

January -- A&S: one MA, 140 BA's; CPCS 14 BA's; CPS 17 BA's. (Two students completed the requirements for both A&S and CPS.)

June and September -- A&S 19 MA's, 7 MS's, 822 BA's; CPCS 61 BA's; and CPS 75 BA's. (Three students are expected to complete all the requirements for both A&S and CPS.)

## O'SULLIVAN SWORN IN AS BOT MEMBER

CPS management student Jim O'Sullivan went to the State House last week to be sworn in as a member of the university's Board of Trustees. O'Sullivan, a South Boston resident, succeeds Judy Baker as the student trustee member on the Board.

## AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTORS

The Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award Committee now is evaluating nominees for an award as outstanding instructors at UMB. The panel, comprised of faculty and students, will select two of the nominees to receive distinguished teaching awards of \$500 each at Commencement exercises. The new award was established by chancellor Claire Van Ummersen.

## "THE DAY OF THE LANGUAGE"

The Spanish Dept.'s traditional celebration of "El dia de la lengua" ("The Day of the Language") -- scheduled on April 21\* to mark the anniversary of the death of Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616) -- has been described as a "great success" by Prof. James Ryan, chairman of the department.

"Thanks to the efforts of the department's Dr. Alan Francis; student Patricia Sweeney, president of the Spanish Club; and student Robert Di Pietro, the club's vice president, the day was very well celebrated," he said.

Prof. Pedro Lastra of SUNY-Stonybrook gave an informal talk to get the program underway, and later in the day Prof. Raimundo Lida of Harvard University delivered a formal lecture in Spanish entitled "Francisco Quevedo en sus Sueños: el predicador y sus mascarás" ("Francisco Quevedo in his Dreams: the preacher and his mask"). Although Prof. Lida's lecture didn't begin until 4 p.m., there were at least 70 people in the audience to hear him discuss the important 17th century Spanish writer.

Prof. Ryan says Prof. Lida's lecture attracted Spanish professors from Clark University, Simmons College, Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern University and Harvard.

"Their rapt attention and laughter at Prof. Lida's subtle humor and their prolonged applause afterwards testified to the excellence of his lecture," the chairman said.

According to Prof. Ryan, it was obvious that everyone departed with the belief that he had been present at a genuine "happening" in the Greater Boston community of Hispanics.

(\*Editors's Note: Cervantes died on April 23, but the date this year was on a Sunday rather than a convenient class day.)

## FACULTY GRANTS

Grants totalling some \$20,000 have been awarded to 23 UMass-Boston professors from the Faculty Development Committee, according to Primo Vanicelli, senior associate provost for Faculty Affairs.

Prof. Vanicelli says the grants will be used for a variety of purposes such as travel to India to do research on a religious project, travel to England to do research on architectural styles, and to study the Mayor's Reform Plan for the City of Boston.

Some 51 applications requesting a total \$85,000 had been filed with the Committee, but only \$20,000 had been available for disbursement, he said. The grants are generated from a research trust fund.

Those awarded Faculty Development grants this year are:

Profs. Naomi H. Bishop, Lawrence S. Green, R. Timothy Sieber, and Michiko Takaki of the Anthropology Dept.; Profs. Frances D. Fergusson and Robert Risse of the Art Dept.; Profs. John P. Ebersole, David Policansky, Michael Rex, Ruth E. Schmitter and Harland E. Sheerin of Biology; and Profs. Ann E. Berthoff, Alan Helms, and Linda C. Hunt of English.

Also Profs. J. Jefferson Cleveland and David Patterson of the Music Dept.; Prof. Edmund Beard of Politics; Prof. Joanne Punzo Waghorne of Religion; Profs. Susan Gore and Ellen Richards of Sociology (in tandem); Prof. Jean Humez of Women's Studies; Prof. Nancy Klinger of Human Growth and Development; Prof. Michael Stone of CPCS' Community Change and Housing and Prof. George W. Spiro of CPS' Management Program.

## HARVARD OKAYS NEW 'CORE' PLAN

The Harvard faculty has voted its approval of the first major restructuring of the university's undergraduate curriculum in three decades. The basic grounding in three broad areas: the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities, will be replaced by five areas: literature and the arts, history, social and philosophical analysis, science and mathematics, and foreign languages and culture. To graduate, students would be required to select seven to 10 courses from these areas, and also demonstrate competence in a foreign language, writing and mathematics.

## HISTORIAN UNCOVERS ORIGINAL CAPITOL DESIGN

A comprehensive article in the "Outlook" section of The Washington Post on Sunday, April 23, credited Prof. Bates Lowry of UMB's Art Dept. with uncovering the original design for the U.S. Capitol in the nation's capital. It was written by Wolf von Eckardt, the newspaper's specialist on architecture and cities, who described Prof. Lowry as "one of the country's foremost architectural historians, professor at the University of Massachusetts in Boston and president of the Dunlap Society."

According to von Eckardt's article, the Dunlap Society was recently created through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop teaching materials, notably microfilm cards, slides and fact sheets, designed to promote understanding and scholarship of American art in schools and universities. There is a dearth of such material, von Eckardt wrote, and he quoted Lowry as saying: "It is easier for a teacher to show students views of medieval churches in a remote part of Europe than to show them some of our country's most significant buildings."

While preparing a "visual biography" of the Capitol for the Dunlap Society, Lowry came across the original design for the building's central section in the Library of Congress. This design, von Eckardt wrote, "which George Washington and Thomas Jefferson enthusiastically approved, was different than the history books tell us. It also implied a somewhat different form of government, reflecting the Federalist view of an Imperial Presidency."

The design was the work of William Thornton, the first architect of the Capitol, but "it was inspired, it now appears, by Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the friend and protegee of Washington. Thornton's official design . . . reflected the views of the Federalist Party, which called for a strongly centralized federal government led by an all-powerful president. As the Federalist influence receded, particularly after Washington's death in 1799, the Capitol design was correspondingly modified - - 'republicanized,' one might say."

Von Eckardt quotes Prof. Lowry as speculating that the initial design remained hidden for six generations for two possible reasons: Key documents "have never been properly inventoried," and L'Enfant's architectural sketches disappeared when he was peremptorily dismissed in 1792 before the planning of the capital came to the point of building design.

#### WILKES NAMED TO ECONOMIC BOTANY SOCIETY

Prof. H. Garrison Wilkes Jr. of the Biology Dept. has been elected a member of the Council of the Society for Economic Botany. Formerly secretary to the Society for six years, Dr. Wilkes will serve a three-year term in his new post beginning in June.

The Society is scheduled to hold its 19th annual meeting next month at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. It's an international organization which was founded to promote and encourage scientific research on the past, present and future uses of plants.

Prof. Wilkes is considered a leading scholar in the study of the origin and evolution of maize (*Zea mays*). Recently he became an international spokesman advocating cataloging and preservation of the dwindling reserves of wild species and forms of domesticated plants.

#### SPAULDING TO THE RESCUE

Charles O. Spaulding, director of Physical Plant, received a spontaneous round of applause from fellow diners when he moved quickly to douse a minor fire in the Faculty Club last week.

When the oil cloth cover on the serving tables erupted in flames under several serving trays Spaulding rushed for a fire extinguisher before any one else left their seats, and shortly had the flames doused.

#### GAMST AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Chairman Frederick C. Gamst of the Anthropology Dept. has returned from the Fifth Annual Conference on Ethiopian Studies. It was held at the University of Chicago.

Prof. Gamst's paper, "Wayto Ways: Change from Hunting to Peasant Life," which was read at the opening session, will be published in the proceedings of the conference by the University of Illinois Press.

Another paper on Ethiopia, "Ueber die sogenannten 'Fruchtbarkeitsidole' der Fala-scha von Abessinien," written with UMB student Maximilian O. Baldia, has been accepted for publication by Die Zeitschrift für Ethnologie.

#### ENGLISH PROFS PRESENT PAPERS

Three members of the English Dept. presented papers at the annual meeting of the Northeast Modern Language Association held recently at SUNY-Albany. Prof. Thadious Davis spoke on "The Yoking of 'Abstract Contradictions': Clytie's Meaning in Absalom, Absalom"; Assistant Chancellor Joel Blair on "The Issue of the Comic in Dryden's Heroic Plays"; and Prof. Monica McAlpine on "Sir Gawain: An Adult Entertainment."

Prof. McAlpine also chaired the Chaucer section, and Prof. Davis was elected secretary of the Faulkner section.

#### FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Ronald Schreiber of the English Dept. has had his third and fourth collection of poems published. False Clues was published by Calamus Books of Ithaca, NY; and Against That Time by Alice James Books of Cambridge. Within the same binding of the latter work is a collection of poems entitled Contending With The Dark by Jeffrey Schwartz, an MA from UMass-Boston and the 1977 winner of the American Academy of Poets Prize at UMB.

Chairman Frederick C. Gamst of the Anthropology Dept. has just completed a manuscript entitled The Hoghead: An Industrial Ethnology of the Locomotive Engineer for Holt, Rinehart and Winston. The work is based upon several years of fieldwork and development of a new specialization in anthropology.

Prof. Gamst's work on The Qemant, an Ethiopian peasantry, is one of only three bodies of ethnographic source material used by author Keith Otterbein in the second edition of his Comparative Cultural Analysis: An Introduction to Anthropology.

Prof. James E. Blackwell of the Sociology Dept. is co-author of "Health Planning Priorities of Urban Blacks," a paper which is to be presented at the annual meeting of the APA in Paris later this month. His co-author is Dr. Robert Sharpley of Harvard.

Senior Vice Chancellor & Provost Robert J. Steamer is the author of four extensive articles in the 1978 World Topics Year Book: "Koreagate," "The Supreme Court," "Terrorism," and "Women's Liberation."

## FINAL CLASS DAY

The last day of classes for this semester is Thursday, May 11th. The Student Activities Committee will salute the occasion with an outdoor party behind the O10 Building from noon - 6 p.m.

From 2 - 4 p.m. the same day the faculty, staff and student body are invited to attend a party in honor of the foreign students at UMB in the lounge of the Faculty Library on the 11th floor of the Library. The event is being sponsored by the International Student Affairs Committee of the University Assembly.

Final examinations are scheduled to begin Wednesday, May 17.

## COMPUTING CENTER SCHEDULE

The Computing Center will be open 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, effective May 24. This schedule will remain in effect throughout the summer recess, according to Center Director Joe E. Crick.

## ORCHESTRA'S PERFORMANCE

The newly formed Orchestra of UMass-Boston presented its first concert under the direction of Prof. Robert Prins in the O10 Auditorium the evening of May 2. The program included the "Fingal's Cave Overture" by Mendelssohn, the Mozart "Flute Concerto No. 1," with Jane Henkel as soloist, and the "Second Symphony" by Beethoven. It was an ambitious program for the unveiling of the orchestra, but Prof. Prins was quoted as saying that he did not believe in tentative beginnings.

When plans were first announced to form the orchestra, they attracted great interest in the media because Prof. Prins said its membership would be comprised of musicians from both the student body and community volunteers. As it turned out, the orchestra in its fledgling stage is comprised of some 10 student musicians and 30 community representatives.

After the orchestra members gain added experience, music critics from the press will be invited to review their performance.

## NERM-8'S BOSTON SESSION (Continued)

As reported in the last issue of The Spectator, faculty and students in UMB's Chemistry Dept. are scheduled to play significant roles in the 8th North Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (NERM-8) set for Boston June 25 - 28.

The various UMB participants and their activities in this major conclave continue below:

Prof. D.A. Laufer: presiding official at one session of the organic chemistry and co-author of "The Complexation Chemistry of Cyclohexaammonium: 4-Biphenylcarboxylate and p-Methylcinnamate Anions" (with UMB Profs. R.I. Gelb and L.M. Schwartz and graduate students J.E. Markinac and C.T. Murray).

Prof. H. van Willigen will present a paper entitled "ENDOR on Radicals" with Profs. B. Kirste and H. Kurreck, colleagues at the Free University of Berlin.

Prof. L.J. Zompa, chairman of the Inorganic Chemistry Division, will be a presiding official at one session of inorganic chemistry, and co-author of the paper "The Structure and Electronic Spectrum of [Ni(9)ane] (NO<sub>3</sub>)Cl·H<sub>2</sub>O" with Profs. T.N. Margulis and J.S. Alper.

Former UMB students, who are now at other graduate schools, also will participate in NERM-8: Albert Robbat, '76, Pennsylvania State University; J.G. Shelnut, '75, University of New Hampshire; A.P. Stamegna, '76, UMA; and S. Mohavedi, '73, Boston College.

## CHEMISTRY STUDENT WINS DANFORTH

UMB student Mary Anne Carroll, set to receive a BA in Chemistry, has been awarded a Danforth Fellowship, one of only 50 nationwide, and a University Corporation for Atmospheric Research Fellowship. She will do research in Colorado this summer and then use the fellowships to pursue a Ph.D. in atmospheric chemistry for four years at MIT in Cambridge.

THE SPECTATOR is a University-wide newsletter designed to keep you informed about relevant activities on campus and to engender a sense of community among us. Deadline for copy is the first and third Tuesday of each month. Editorial contributions are welcome and should be forwarded to: Jim Ryan, director of Public Information, Campus Relations, ext. 2147.

