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The UMass/Boston Friday Report #10

News and information about and for
the Community from the Chancellor's Office February 7th , 1992

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University To Sign Agreement With Japanese Institution --

An agreement linking UMass/Boston with Chukyo University in Japan will be signed on the campus on Wednesday, February 19th. The pact will encourage faculty and student exchanges over the next several years and set in motion other cooperative programs aimed at sharing language, culture and research. According to **Terry Mortimer**, associate provost for the Division of Continuing Education and Extended Day program, the agreement establishes a "sister school" relationship between the two institutions. "It is indicative of UMass/Boston's commitment to fostering within its students a deeper understanding of the emerging global interdependence of the world we live in," she says. Signing the agreement will be President **Iwao Matsuda** of Chukyo University and Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney**. In addition to developing a program so that faculty at both UMass/Boston and Chukyo University can serve as guest lecturers at each other's schools, the agreement establishes a framework for the two universities to achieve several academic objectives. These include: Allowing graduate students at each school to serve as teaching assistants at the other institution; • Developing seminars at both universities that will focus on the dynamics of international trade; • Sharing research information and developing cooperative research projects; • And exchanging strategies and information on teaching and other issues.

Chukyo University enrolls 11,500 students on two campuses. The campus in Nagoya, an industrial center located between Tokyo and Osaka, has approximately 8,000 students. It has undergraduate schools of law, literature, economics, business administration, and commercial science as well as several graduate schools. About 3,500 students attend the smaller campus in Toyota City, which houses a vast athletics complex and is home to undergraduate and graduate programs in physical education and sociology, as well as an undergraduate school of computer sciences. Although the first group of UMass/Boston exchange students will not take classes at Chukyo until the summer of 1993, the spirit of the agreement will be observed this spring. In April, one student currently enrolled in UMass/Boston's Graduate Teaching Program in English as a Second Language will go to Chukyo and spend the summer teaching English language courses.

Each summer since 1990, groups of 35 to 40 Chukyo University students have come to UMass/Boston to take courses in three-week-long sessions presented by the University's Division of Continuing Education. These students, the majority of them freshmen and sophomores, study English writing and speaking, and learn about the culture and history of the Boston area. Classes are held five mornings each week and afternoons are spent exploring various aspects of local culture and history, and taking field trips to such sites as the Old North Church in Boston and Nantucket.

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The Friday Report Cont'd

Urban Scholars Hold Conference on Teen Issues -- Boston teenagers will assemble on Thursday, February 13th, to discuss such topics as sexuality, violence, racism, the plight of the homeless, self esteem, the news media, Christopher Columbus, and police brutality during a conference titled *Today's Questions, Tomorrow's Answers* at the World Trade Center in Boston. The conference, which will feature as its luncheon speaker Boston schools superintendent **Lois Harrison-Jones**, is being organized by students of UMass/Boston's highly acclaimed Urban Scholars Program. This is the fourth year that Urban Scholars students have arranged for their peers a discussion about important issues as part of their studies on the campus. Attending the conference will be approximately 250 students from South Boston, Dorchester and J. E. Burke high schools as well as students from public and private middle schools in the East Zone. Registration for the conference starts at 8:15 a.m. and will be followed by opening ceremonies and a drama production by Urban Scholars students. Beginning at 9:45 a.m., students will attend at least two of the many workshops held during the morning session.

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Campus Notes -- Biology Professor **Kamal Bawa** has been involved in gaining a three-year grant of \$270,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for research in India. Bawa initiated the original concept paper for an entity in India called TERI. He will direct the project -- a collaboration between the University and TERI -- that will help analyze problems of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in various regions of India. • Physics professor **D.V.G.L.N. Rao** has been awarded a contract for \$38,000 from Battelle, Columbus Division, to pursue research on nonlinear optical effects in polymers and organic materials. He received about \$80,000 from the same agency last year. His research is being carried out at the campus' laser laboratory and the U.S. Army Research Laboratories at Natick. The funds support three graduate students: Amherst Ph.D. candidates **Francisco Aranda** and **Tony Chen**, and **Rafael Millan-Gabet**, who is working on his master's thesis. Rao notes that in addition to their stipends, the three have an opportunity to work in Natick with state-of-the-art equipment, such as high power short pulse lasers and accessories -- instruments not available at the University. • About 100 scientists from throughout the campus gathered on January 30th to discuss ways of enhancing scientific literacy among UMass/Boston students. The dialog was propelled by presentations from several guest speakers. They included Philip and Phylis Morrison, who are nationally known for their work in popularizing science. It is hoped that this one-day retreat will help promote working groups that will come up with the outlines of a science requirement for undergraduates. • UMass/Boston's hockey team, the Beacons, is currently ranked seventh in the nation in Division III, which is composed of 59 teams across the country. In the national rankings, the Beacons now are ahead of such hockey powerhouses as Bowdoin, Colby and Middlebury. • Must reading for members of the search committee looking for a new president of the University system has been professor **Richard Hogarty's** article in the *New England Journal of Public Policy* titled "Searching for a UMass President: Transitions and Leaderships, 1970-1991." **Miren Uriarte**, director of the Gaston Institute, is a search committee member.