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views

Vol. 1 No. 10 • August 12, 1983

UMB staffers party at Chancellor's picnic



Chancellor Robert Corrigan's annual picnic on the Harbor Campus was, as usual, one of the highlights of the summer. At left, Alumni Director Don Costello officiated at the volleyball game. At right, Chancellor Corrigan and Student Trustee Paul Reeves take a break from the action.



Dr. Patricia L. Wilkie

Wilkie appointed acting dean of College of Management

Dr. Patricia L. Wilkie has been appointed acting Dean of UMass/Boston's College of Management, it was announced by Dr. Robert A. Greene, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost.

Dr. Wilkie succeeds Dr. Houston G. (Tex) Elam, who recently became Deputy Chancellor at the 176,000-student City University of New York.

"Professor Wilkie's leadership will be invaluable to the College during an important transitional period in its history," said Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan. "Provost Greene and I look forward with pleasure to working with her in the months ahead."

Dr. Wilkie has been a member of the UMass/Boston faculty since 1973. She has served most recently as

Associate Professor of Management and Director of the Master of Business Administration degree program.

A native of Detroit, Dr. Wilkie received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Wayne State University. From 1976-79 she served as Director of General Education in the College of Management. In 1979 she was appointed Associate Dean.

News & Views is being published monthly during the summer. The next issue will be published in September.

profile

Cambodian refugee becomes an Urban Scholar at UMB

The Urban Scholars Program, spearheaded by Vice Chancellor Charles Desmond, had a good reception on the Harbor Campus. The special, 10-week pilot project attracted Boston high school students who have potential to strive for high academic performance.

One of the most interesting of the Urban Scholars was Chamnang Phat, a Cambodian refugee. He is 19 years old, but in his pin-striped, three-piece suit, he could be taken for age 25 or 30.

The business suit, worn on special occasions or when any of the three jobs he holds may require it, helps Phat (pronounced Pat) bridge the huge gaps created in his childhood by Communist intrusion into his native land.

The suit seems to mirror his concept of the young American male on his way to the top of a profession and Phat is in a hurry to accomplish this . . . not just for himself, he said, but for the family left to his care as the eldest child when his father, Heng Phat, "died from no food" eight years ago.

Phat's family includes his mother, Sokheang Prou, 45, two sisters and one brother, all younger than himself.

They have been in the United States 19 months, helped here by the American Fund for Czechoslovakia Relief, an international organization that relocates refugees from Czechoslovakia, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

"I'm so happy to be here," Phat said, speaking exceptional, if still a little halting, English after completing his Sophomore year at South Boston High School.

"I am happy to be in America because my country, Cambodia, is Communist and a lot of people die there. My father died there and, I believe I cannot live in that country because I have nothing there, no education, no food, no clothes, nothing at all besides just to die."

Phat said he had completed the equivalent of an elementary education when the Communists began to take over everything in Cambodia and, by killing those who lived in the countryside, drove people by the thousands into the teeming city of Batpambang where the Phat family lived.

This was followed, Chamnang said, by forced herding of the city populace out into the rural areas where they were made to plant rice. "But there



Chamnang Phat

was no food for us," he said. "My father died in 1975 and my mother is still ill because she had no food for so long. Her body, the joints and the nerves, won't work so my mother can't walk very well."

The Phats escaped with many other Cambodians to Thailand three years ago where they lived in a refugee camp for a year. Later they were sent to Indonesia and remained in another camp for "three months and 13 days," according to Chamnang, "until we got clearance and came here by plane, landing in San Francisco on November 13, 1981."

Once here and settled in an apartment in Brighton, Chamnang dove into learning everything he could about his adopted country and how to speak its language.

"I had lost six years of education when I was not able to go to school at all. And, all the education I had before seemed as if it had left me," he said.

"There was no school for us in Cambodia during the time of the Cmer Rouge and, with the Vietnamese take-over, there is still fighting and still no school," according to Phat.

In the refugee camps, he learned from workers how to speak a few single English words such as "boy, girl and market." Then he was able to pick up some phrases like "I know the girl!" or "I go to the market."

"But when I arrived here, I didn't have any idea how to really speak English and I really wanted to learn. I

am the oldest one and I have to take care of my family," he said.

At South Boston High School, Chamnang's study course was arranged around English as a second language to improve his knowledge of English and to help him catch up on all the other essential subjects his war-torn past had deprived him of learning.

The first year (entering when the academic year was half over) Phat said, "I got C in some subjects, and B's and an A, I think. But this year I got all A's in all subjects."

While his interest involves mathematics, especially geometry, and history, Phat said he needs a good command of English for everything he wants to do.

He has been helped greatly by his teachers at South Boston High School and also by his fellow students. He works on the school newspaper, *The Galaxie*, and uses a tape recorder on his assignment to interview fellow classmates who are chosen to be "students of the month" so that he can take all the time he needs to look up words in a dictionary that goes everywhere with him.

Phat says he uses television to help him with his English also. "I sit down and listen carefully. Then I pick up my dictionary and translate it. I learn this way also what is going on. Now I understand most of the words they say."

Phat said he thought he would like to direct his education toward becoming a nurse or a doctor. "I like to help people, to take care of them," he said, describing an incident last summer when he helped carry a man with a broken leg down the side of a mountain in New Hampshire. Working for a Boston community agency, ABCD, at the time, Phat was on a two-day camping trip with inner-city children when the man, who owned the ranch where they were staying, fell.

"But, I don't know about the future. I just have to keep going," said Phat, "keep learning."

This summer he is on leave from ABCD because he was accepted by the Urban Scholars Program (USP) at UMass/Boston. This summer the new program is stressing computer technology and its impact on life. Students receive a stipend of \$750 while they attend classes.

Phat also had to temporarily give up his job as a file clerk at Metcalf and Eddy, a Boston engineering firm, to attend the study program. "I told my boss I wanted to go to school and he wrote me a letter of recommendation. So did my teacher," said Phat.

Phat still has his third job. On weekends you'll find him working the salad bar at a Japanese restaurant, Latacatar, in Harvard Square, Cambridge.

Briefly . . .

Dixie Goswami has been appointed Visiting Associate Professor of English beginning in September. Professor Goswami is Director of Middlebury College's Breadloaf School of English; consultant to the University of North Carolina/Charlotte for two writing programs; and consultant to New York's WNET-TV for a documentary series on the teaching of writing. She was the topic of a recent *New York Times* article.

At UMB, Ms. Goswami will offer graduate and undergraduate seminars on "Writing in the Workplace." At present there is a track within the M.A. for a specialty in composition and composition theory. With Ms. Goswami's aid, says English chair Mary Anne Ferguson, a separate M.A. and a Center for Writing will be developed.

Director of Admissions Ron Ancrum, a professional pianist, has composed his first album, *Quintessence*. Ancrum's wife is Pam Cross, the TV 5 news reporter.

Professor George Goodwin is chairman of the 20th Committee for the University. Between October, 1983 and June 17, 1984, numerous events will take place on campus celebrating our 20th Year Anniversary. Much more on this later.

Mrs. Sara Kelley gave a workshop at the National Conference of the National Coalition for Campus Child Care (NCCCC) at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Ill. Sara is well known throughout Massachusetts and New England. Now her national reputation is growing. The workshop was designed to address management issues for child care program directors.

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan was appointed to the Boston Harbor Water Quality Committee by Governor Michael S. Dukakis. Former Governor Francis W. Sargent is coordinator of the program designed to clean up Boston Harbor over a period of 10-15 years . . . Chancellor Corrigan also was named a trustee of the Thompson Island Education Center.

chancellor's corner

by Robert A. Corrigan

This coming fall, we will experience for the first time the full physical impact of the consolidation of UMass/Boston with Boston State College. We are currently preparing for a complicated set of moves, beginning this month, to accommodate on the Harbor and Park Square campuses the programs now located at Huntington Avenue.

The FY'84 supplemental budget, recently signed by the Governor, provides for a substantial special appropriation to support the costs specifically associated with the move. This money will allow the University to pay for contracted moving costs, to lease temporary partitions, and to make minor modifications to existing space in order to accommodate the programs, students and staff from Huntington Avenue.

Although you may have heard discussion of the possibility we might use some of these funds to lease temporary buildings this fall, such use will not be possible, partly because of the shortness of time between the passing of the budget and the beginning of classes.

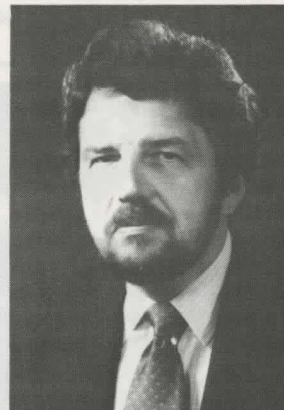
Some of the specifics of the current plan for the move are as follows: Through temporary partitioning, the Nursing Clinic and approximately twelve temporary offices will be located on the second floor of the former Science Library; the third floor space will accommodate approximately 80 offices, which will house most of our Education programs, the Department of Geography and Earth Science, temporary faculty in Math and some staff members from the Computing Center.

Births: To Ann Withorn, a daughter, Gwynne; to Marsha Gordon, a son, Lorenzo; to Miren Uriarte, a son, Pablo.

Weddings: Becky Lam of Personnel to Domenic Hsu; Marybeth O'Keefe of Politics Dept. to John Imbruglia; Susan Sprague, Alumni Office, to Carl Finn, Grants & Contracts.

'83 Graduates from UMass/Boston included Rosanne Donahue of the Provost's office, magna cum laude; Susan Sprague of Alumni and Paula Shea of Auxiliary Services.

Mary Kintz of Community Services retired on July 22 . . . Regina Lafkowski of the office of Planning and Institutional Relations made a recent trip to Europe and had an audience with Pope John Paul II. Regina is very active in Polish-American activities.



A second part of the moving plan provides for the relocation of several programs already on the Harbor Campus into the 010 Lounge, first and second floors. Again through use of temporary partitions, clusters will be created for Publications, Point Press and several other units.

Finally, the plan calls for the location at 250 Stuart Street of the executive offices of Continuing Education, part of the Education program, expanded facilities for the Child Care Center to accommodate children formerly enrolled at Huntington Avenue, and the Criminal Justice Program, along with other minor changes.

Throughout the remainder of the summer and in the weeks immediately following the opening of classes, Associate Chancellor Donald Babcock and Assistant Chancellor Emily McDermott will be sending out updates and organizing informational sessions for faculty and staff, in order to minimize confusion and disruption of academic activity. They will be pleased to entertain questions and suggestions.

UMass/Boston's Gerontology Program was featured on a late-July WBZ-TV telecast about aging. Dr. Scott A. Bass directs the gerontology program. Four hours of taping took place at UM/B.

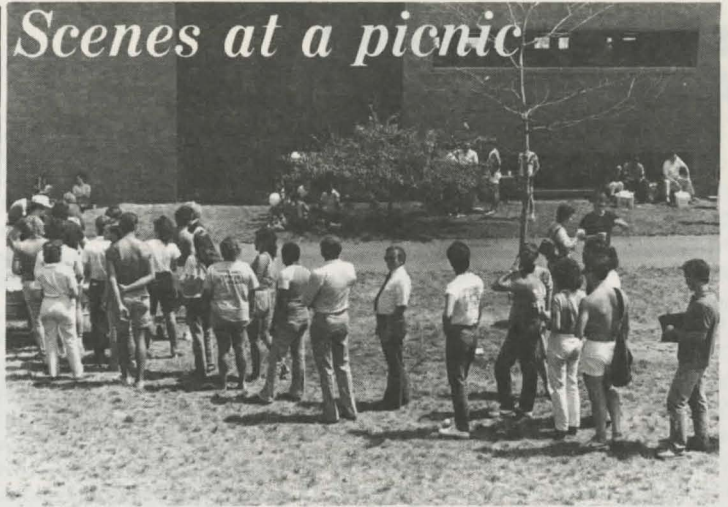
News & Views

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How many picnic-goers can you identify? We'll give you a couple of clues: the clown is Stephanie Gibson of Accounting and everybody's got Maria Gerardell's number in the telephone room. The rest? You're on your own.

Scenes at a picnic



Photos
by
M. Leo
Tierney

