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University of Massachusetts at Boston

the Spectator

Vol. II, No. 1

Sept. 21, 1978

PRESIDENT'S INITIAL ADDRESS TO TRUSTEES

University President David C. Knapp, in his initial official address to the Board of Trustees, said, "Those of us with University-wide responsibilities--be we administrators or trustees--should by the nature of things, be concerned principally with the policies and processes which affect general university well-being. All must be aware, however, that to be accountable we need to understand what is taking place throughout the system."

He then added: "We should be careful about substituting our judgment for that of those on campus, and we will most surely exercise this caution of the campuses conduct their affairs with care and attention and bring creativity and imagination to them."

Dr. Knapp, the former provost of Cornell University who became the 18th president of UMass on Sept. 1, said, "This is a university of great strength and even greater potential. I am confident that all of us who have responsibility for its well-being can work together toward common goals, can provide the people of the Commonwealth with an academic enterprise, with a university, in which they can and will take genuine pride."

The 50-year-old educator noted that no state has contributed more than Massachusetts "to the intellectual growth and development of the nation. I pledge myself to work with you, the faculty, the staff, the students, and the people of the Commonwealth, in a mutual endeavor which will place the University of Massachusetts at the center of this tradition."

He assured the Trustees "that on every campus, in a variety of disciplines and fields of study, you have faculty containing scholars of the highest quality."

INAUGURATION SET FOR OCTOBER 29

Citing conversations with UMass faculty and administrators, Dr. Knapp noted that they appreciate, "to a far greater degree than I have known elsewhere, that we have entered a new era of higher education, that change and vitality remain possible in a steady-state world but only through difficult choices and the painful process of reallocating resources."

The president, who already has visited the Amherst campus, said he will make similar visits during the next several weeks to the Boston and Worcester campuses. "In addition, I plan to visit each campus regularly throughout the year and hope to meet with as many groups as possible." He already has concluded from initial talks with faculty and administrators that "there is a sizable agenda to address if we are to capitalize on the university's strengths." Here he acknowledged the leadership which Interim President Franklin Patterson had given the university since last January "in such matters as graduate education, planning on the Boston campus and internal operation."

Regarding the individual campuses, he said that each "is a distinct entity, each with its own mission and each with its own mode of operation. To the fullest extent possible, decision making should reside on the campus, for it is there that knowledge and sensitivity to immediate academic and operating needs is centered. In summary, we need to continue to strive for an appropriate mix of unity and autonomy which accords with contemporary problems and needs."

Dr. Knapp is to be formally inaugurated as president of the university in a noon-time ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 29 in Boston's Faneuil Hall.

MUST SUBMISSION OF VOUCHERS/INVOICES

All are reminded that travel vouchers and invoices of any kind, covering the period July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978 (FY78), must be submitted to the Accounting Office by Sept. 25, 1978. A spokesman says that any travel vouchers and/or invoices submitted after that date cannot be paid.

If you have any questions, please contact the Accounting Office, ext. 2526.

OLD TOOTHBRUSHES WANTED

Any old toothbrushes no longer required by their users are "urgently needed" by the Anthropology Dept. Toothbrushes of any vintage and condition will be welcomed by Kristy Lee, Bldg. 2, 4th floor, room 434.

ORCHESTRA NEEDS VOLUNTEER MUSICIANS

Talented musicians among the UMB community who have always wanted to perform in a symphony orchestra should contact Prof. Robert Prins, Music Dept. Auditions for membership in the UMass-Boston Symphony Orchestra will be held starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19 and Thursday, Sept. 21, Bldg. 020, 2nd floor, room 404.

INITIAL PARTICIPATION IN NSE PROGRAM

UMB students are participating for the first time during the 1978-79 academic year in the National Student Exchange Program (NSE). Under the auspices of the NSE pact, eight UMB students are studying now at out-of-state institutions and 23 students from other colleges and universities are attending classes on the Harbor campus. The visiting students represent such institutions as: North Carolina State, Bowling Green State, Illinois State, Rutgers, Moorhead State and the universities of Georgia, Oregon, Delaware, North Iowa, Wisconsin and Idaho.

The NSE is a consortium of 40 state-supported colleges and universities which provides students an exchange opportunity for up to one academic year to an institution of higher learning in another area of the U.S. The program is designed further to provide these students with options for educational travel and study through a simplified admissions process.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM INTEGRATED

The Telephone Services Dept. says the Downtown Center telephone system was integrated with the Harbor Campus system this summer. This means, according to Auxiliary Services' Director Forrest Speck, that all offices on the Boston campus now can be reached from off-campus by dialing 287-1900. During the academic year, the switchboard will process calls to and from all university offices from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

PROF VISITS MEXICO

Prof. James E. Blackwell, Sociology Dept., participated this summer in the Visiting Distinguished Lecturer Series at the University of Mexico in Mexico City. His lecture on "Technology and Alienation in Industrialized Nations" was sponsored by the Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas of the University of Mexico.

INSTITUTE IN VAIL, COLORADO

Debra M. Amidon, director of Special Student Support Services, attended an institute for Chief Student Affairs Officers in Vail, COL, in mid-summer. The trip was funded by the Carnegie Corporation and the Institute was cosponsored by the American Council on Education and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Ms. Amidon's recent publication, The Legislative Spectrum -- a practical government relations guide for higher education administrators -- was distributed for use during the Institute.

UMB GRAD ASSIGNED TO ITALIAN COMMAND

Lt. Cmdr. Julia Donovan of Somerville, MA, a 1970 UMass-Boston graduate, has been assigned as a physician to the Naval Region Medical Center, Naples, Italy. Following graduation from Georgetown University's Medical School, Dr. Donovan accepted a U.S. Navy commission and fulfilled her internship at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and her residency in gynecology and obstetrics at the same institution.

During her years at UMB, Dr. Donovan was under the tutelage of the Chemistry Dept. whose staff, particularly Profs. Ernest Becker and J.P. Anselme, assisted her in scientific studies and inspired her to pursue a career in medicine.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

During the past few years a modest amount of resources from the Research Trust Fund has been set aside for Faculty Development Grants awarded in April for projects to be carried out during the summer or during the following academic year. Due to expanded Research Trust Fund resources for this year, according to Dr. Primo Vanicelli, senior associate provost, it may be possible for a greater variety of projects to be considered for funding. Thus a new set of guidelines have been developed.

1. Awards may be made for projects which contribute to research, or for other professional activities.
2. All requests will have to be reviewed by the Faculty Development Committee.
3. Instead of the traditional single deadline in the spring for submission of the proposals, there will be an opportunity for faculty to submit their proposals throughout the academic year. The first submission deadline will be Oct. 1, 1978 (and notification of awards will be made within two or three weeks). Urgent requests may be considered earlier than the announced deadline.
4. Eligibility: all full-time faculty and part-time faculty with a minimum of six consecutive semesters of service at UMB are eligible to apply.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please call Provost's Office, ext. 2330, 2331 and request a copy of the guidelines.

PHYSICIST AT INDIA INSTITUTE

Prof. D.V.G.L.N. Rao, chairman of the Physics Dept., was in Bangalore, India, Sept. 4-9 to attend an international conference on Raman Spectroscopy. He presented a talk on "Stimulated Raman Scattering in Nematic Liquid Crystals" at the conference which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the discovery by C.V. Raman of the effect that bears his name.

Prof. Rao is involved with the study of nonlinear optical properties of liquid crystals at UMB and is recognized for his work on self-focusing, stimulated Raman and Brillouin scattering in liquid crystals.

NEH SUMMER STIPENDS

The deadline for the National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) 1979 Summer Stipends program is Oct. 16, 1978, according to Dr. Primo Vanicelli, senior associate provost. Three members of the faculty or staff working in the humanities can be nominated from UMB for the stipends which total \$2,500 each and cover two consecutive months in full-time study or research.

The work proposed may pertain to the applicants' special expertise, or it may be in some other area of interest that will enable them to improve their understanding and to increase their competence in their own field. The proposed project may be one that can be completed during the stipend period, or it may be part of a longer-range project.

Application materials and additional information about the NEH Summer Stipend awards and institutional nomination processes are available from academic deans.

URBAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

Dennis Roach, communications specialist for the Suffolk County Cooperative Extension Service -- in cooperation with the university and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, says the university community should be aware of a new urban agricultural program called "GREENSTOCK."

The program, according to Roach who is located in the Downtown Center, will help any resident of Suffolk County produce more nutritious food in a small space, preserve and store vegetables for the winter, and select and prepare a more nutritious diet.

A Garden Hot-Line and a weekly newsletter entitled Greenflash is available to any gardener by calling 482-9258.

NOVEL PRISON PROGRAM

Kit Bryant, director of the Higher Education Prison Program, says CPCS will be coordinating an exciting new program with Norfolk Prison beginning this month. The adult-learning program is designed to train long-term and life inmates to tutor other prisoners in basic skills, GED, etc.

It is being funded by the Bibbet Schiller Spiegel bequest to UMB for the development of educational programs in prisons.

"Education is the best provision for old age."

-- Aristotle

CORE CURRICULUM SEMINARS

A series of seminars, panel discussions and workshops are to be held this fall to implement the new core curriculum of the College of Arts and Sciences. The highlight of this endeavor will be some 15 "Ford Foundation Seminars" (funded by the Ford Foundation) which will bring to the Harbor Campus a number of distinguished administrators and faculty members from other institutions as consultants who will share their knowledge and experiences in this area with the university. Dr. Robert H. Spaethling of the German Dept., director of the seminars, says they are intended to help "with the development of the new core courses and to gain a better perspective on curriculum reform and general education, skills development and the student as learner. . ."

The initial seminar, held on Sept. 18, discussed the topic, "facing a New Core Curriculum" and the featured speakers included: Dean Edgar Beckham of Wesleyan University and Ms. Regina Kyle of the Association of American Colleges (ACC). It was scheduled, as will be most of the seminars, on Monday from 2:30-4 p.m. (free period) in the Small Science Auditorium. The next seminar, an exception to the schedule, will feature Dr. Philip Morrison, MIT Institute Professor, at 2:30-4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 27, in the Small Science Auditorium.

Prof. Spaethling says a firm schedule will be available shortly and the participants will include among others: Profs. John Lockhead, UMA, Daniel Fader, U/Michigan, Charles Muscatine, U/California-Berkley, Theodore Rabb, Princeton, Alice Schaefer, Wellesley, William Perry, Harvard, and Jack Canfield, Institute for Wholistic Education, Amherst.

In addition to a so-called "guaranteed group" of some 30 faculty members who have pledged to participate in all the seminars, all other faculty members and students are also urged to participate in core curriculum discussions, says Prof. Spaethling.

Chancellor Claire Van Ummersen notes that the project addresses a question that is of immediate concern to most liberal arts colleges: how faculty trained in traditional disciplines and one that expects a particular kind of student, adjusts to the curricular modifications that respond to modified expectations of students and to student bodies deficient in skills essential to the elementary performance of introductory college-level courses.

The Core Curriculum Committee has set a deadline of Dec. 1, 1978 for courses proposed for the fall of 1979.

RESEARCH & GRANT NEWS

The Office of Grant & Contract Administration announces the following schedule of programs and their deadlines for applicants: Student Science Training Program - Sept. 22
NEA Work-Experience Internship Program - Sept. 22
ACLS Fellowships - Sept. 30
Mental Health Services Manpower Div. - Oct. 1
Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship Oct. 1.
Woodrow Wilson Fellowships - Oct. 1
Local Course Improvement for Undergraduate Science Education (NSF) - Oct. 3
Pre-College Teacher Division in Science Program Oct. 15
Summer Stipend Program (NEH) - Oct 16
Fellowship for Independent Studies - Oct. 30
Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad - Nov. 1
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Abroad - Nov. 1
Regional Research Conferences in Mathematical Sciences (NSF) - Nov. 15
Comprehensive Assistance to Undergraduate Science Education - Dec. 4
Direct requests for further information to Dolores Miller or Carl Finn, ext. 2301.

NEW INSURANCE RATES NOW EFFECTIVE

With the passage of the fiscal '79 General Appropriation Act, the Group Insurance Commission has made the long expected changes in the state's contribution toward the total monthly premiums for group life and health insurance plans. These changes provide that the state's share is to be increased by several steps to 90%, effective Jan. 1, 1979. The resulting decrease in the monthly premium cost for university employees was implemented for the premium due Sept. 1, 1978, and was deducted from employees' paychecks on Aug. 4, 1978.

Queries should be directed to the Personnel Office, ext. 2270.

STATE HOUSING APPOINTMENT

Tom Kelley, director of the Dorchester Field Office of the Community Service Dept., has been appointed a member of the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency Advisory Committee by Gov. Michael Dukakis.

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.