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The UMass/Boston Friday Report

Volume 1, Number 13
March 13, 1992

News and information about and for the
Community from the Chancellor's office

Four at UMB Receive Half Of President's Mini-Grants

University President **E.K. Fretwell** has awarded grants to four faculty members through the "Conversations Across the Disciplines" program. Sixteen proposals were presented, and eight grants in all were handed out, including two each to professors at the medical school and the Amherst campus. Those at UMB winning the \$2,000 grants are: **Peter N. Kiang**, Graduate College of Education, who will work with faculty from Amherst, Lowell and our own campus to develop a resource guide in Asian-American studies; **Joan C. Tonn**, College of Management, who will plan a conference on "Invisible Diversity: Gay Men, Lesbians and Bisexuals in the Workplace" with Amherst and Lowell; **Carole C. Upshur**, CPCS, who will create a research consortium on state care for the chronically disabled with Amherst and the medical school; and **Ann Withorn**, CPCS, who is collaborating with Amherst, Dartmouth and Lowell to form a system-wide base for the new Women in Politics and Government Program that is coming to the campus from Boston College. Fretwell hopes the grants will promote interdisciplinary discussion of academic or administrative topics within and among the five campuses.

Management Faculty and The Bulgarian Connection

Dean **Daniel Shimshak** and colleagues **Ellen Greenberg** and **Gunther S. Boroschek** of the College of Management spent 10 days in January in Bulgaria at the invitation of that country's National Academic Foundation to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a graduate business school. The UMass/Boston professors are members of an international consortium of Bulgarian and American educators working to launch an MBA program in Sofia, the nation's capital city. While in Bulgaria, the three management professors also delivered lectures at the University of National and World Economics and the Bulgarian Academy of Medicine.

The consortium has drafted a proposal for the creation of an International College of Graduate Business Studies (ICGBS), which has received

support from a number of Bulgarian groups, including the National Academic Foundation of Bulgaria, The Saint Cyril and St. Methodius International Foundation, and the Bulgarian Academy of Science. ICGBS is being designed to offer a sequence of courses leading to the degrees of Master of Sciences in Management (M.S.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

A major component of the consortium's program is faculty development for both Americans and Bulgarians. This would involve team-teaching and exchanges of faculty. Notes Greenberg, "Democracy is new for these people. An American-style MBA program has everyone's blessing. Bulgarians look to America as a model. There is a need for market reform and American-style business procedures." According to Shimshak, changes in the past two years have prompted Central and Eastern European societies to radically alter their economic and social systems, paving the way for transformation from command economics to a variety of market-based economic reforms. These changes will require new educational systems with an increased responsiveness to the new economic environment.

News from All Over...

Corine W. Byrd, director of the Office of Student Financial Management, reports that the University has arranged to provide students with \$21.8 million in financial aid, or 56% of the \$38.6 million requested. Unmet need totals \$16.8 million, or 44% of the amount sought. The decline in available resources for students has made her office even busier than usual. Telephone calls for assistance (as many as 5,000 in a week) and "walk-in traffic" have been at record levels. During the first six weeks of the fall semester, walk-ins peaked above 200 students per day. According to Byrd, while the number of financial applicants increased by 21% over the previous year and the number of students receiving aid went up by 9%, the average aid package decreased in

value by 3%. • Last October's Gerontology Institute conference on the causes and consequences of poverty among older women will be broadcast at 2 p.m. March 22nd on Boston cable channels 3 and 8, and at 7 p.m. March 16th and 23rd on channel 22. • On February 29th, *The New York Times* published an editorial, "China's Somewhat Capitalist Road," based in part on an article written by political science professor **Kathleen Hartford** that appeared in the winter edition of **World Policy Journal**. Hartford's article is titled "Reform or Retrofitting? The Chinese Economy Since Tiananmen."

The office of Enrollment Services reports that it successfully tested a new on-line registration system during a six-day period in mid-January. Some 1670 students who had registered for spring classes during the previous month were able to make changes in their schedules by using 12 computer terminals set up in the McCormack Gym. The average transaction time was less than five minutes. The on-line system, which would eliminate an add/drop day at the Clark Athletic Center, will become operational once resources are available to fund it.

The 1991 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees Campaign held during the fall raised almost \$15,000 from the campus community. **Harold Horton**, Trotter Institute, was the chair of the campaign, and **Muriel Ridley**, Trotter Institute, served as co-chair. The following were COMEC building representatives: **Panit Satyasai**, Healey Library; **Vin Cristiani**, Wheatley Hall; **Miguel Alvarez**, Quinn Administration Building and the Clark Athletic Center; **Len Konarski** and **Albis Mejia**, McCormack Hall; **Henry Mariani**, Science Center; and **Phyllis Wesley**, CPCS. Logistical support was provided by **Sue Baker**, Trotter Institute; **Hector Perez**, Enrollment Services; **Rich Mahoney**, Mailroom; **Becky Hsu**, Human Resources; and **Jim Ball**, Copy Center.

Two students have won David Knapp Scholarships in Political Science for the spring semester. They are Eva Breitfus-Brook (first place), who plans to graduate in 1993, and Mary E. Hahnen (second place), who will receive her degree later this year. • Director **Richard F. Delaney** and Assistant Director **Jack Wiggin** of the Urban Harbors Institute were among a group of marine and coastal experts from the U.S. who were invited to participate in a series of

international seminars titled "Marine Environmental Protection." The seminars were held by the Massachusetts Maritime Academy during the cruise of its training ship in the Mediterranean last month. • Research on the competitiveness of U.S. multinational corporations by **Lawrence G. Franko**, College of Management, is highlighted in the current issue of *Fortune* magazine in an article titled "How American Industry Stacks Up."

Commonwealth Professor **Ernest Lynton** and **Zelda Gamson**, director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education, will be participants in sessions at a national conference held next month in Chicago by the American Association for Higher Education. • An article by **Sumer Aggarwal**, College of Management, recently published in the *Journal of General Management* and titled "Rewarding Top Managers for Company's Success," has now appeared in *Permanente Educatie Manager*, a Dutch publication.

Spring Enrollment Picture

The total headcount for the campus shows that we have enrolled 11,496 students for the spring term, which represents a drop of 2.6% over spring of 1991. As **Jennifer Wilton**, Office of Policy Research and Planning, points out, this is somewhat of an improvement when compared to what happened last fall, when enrollment dropped 7% between 1990 and 1991. The good news is that new undergraduate enrollment stands at 1053, up 20% over the figures for spring 1991. The figure also is higher than for any previous spring except 1987.

What this all means, according to Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney**, is that though the pace of the enrollment slide has slackened, the University must continue efforts to attract more students from the Boston area. "As state support drops," she says, "we are forced to concentrate more and more on implementing ways to bring students to the campus to cover the dramatic loss in funding. Every full-time undergraduate represents about \$3600 in income, so another 1% drop in our enrollment would represent a revenue loss of more than \$360,000. We also must continue efforts to find the resources to provide adequate financial aid."