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University of Massachusetts at Boston

# the Spectator

Vol. II, No. 5

January 29, 1979

## VCAA STEAMER RESIGNS

Dr. Robert Steamer has resigned as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, effective immediately.

The position will not be filled at least at this time, with Chancellor Van Ummersen assuming the responsibilities of the office.

In a memo (Jan. 18) to the UMB faculty, President Knapp stated: "After discussions with the Steering Committee of the Assembly and the Deans of the Colleges, Chancellor Van Ummersen recommended that the Vice Chancellorship be left vacant for the time being and she assume the responsibilities and functions of that office. I concurred in the recommendation as did the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees".

President Knapp believed it "inadvisable to conduct a search for an acting Vice Chancellor at this time" because of the ongoing search for a Chancellor "who will necessarily need to review the organizational structure and staffing of the campus administration once he or she has been selected". Such a search he stated, "could divert the time, energies and attention of the campus from the important intensive planning and budget activities now underway".

In a Jan. 5 memo to UMB Faculty and Staff, Chancellor Van Ummersen cited Dr. Steamer's five year administrative service as Dean of College II and then as Provost and Vice Chancellor. "The University owes Dr. Steamer its gratitude for his long and dedicated services. I personally owe him thanks for many kindnesses he has extended to me, and I am sure this is true of many others. His desire to return to his primary career as teacher-scholar is understandable, and we are fortunate that he will remain our colleague in pursuing that work."

## PROF. MacCOMBIE DIES

A scholarship fund is being planned in memory of Prof. John MacCombie, 46 who died suddenly of a heart seizure in Paris, January 9. He was Professor in Charge of UMB's University Year in France Program.

The campus will hold a memorial service Feb. 6th at 3:00 in the 010 auditorium.

The widely respected French scholar and author, musician and composer, was a member of the original UMB faculty when the university opened in 1965. He had previously taught for six years at UMass/Amherst, Phillips Exeter Academy, and was a Teaching Assistant at Yale University.

At UMB he was a former Chairman of the French Department and until he became Professor in Charge of the Program in Paris he was Director of the University Year in France Program.

Professor MacCombie received his bachelor's degree in French Literature at Yale and also earned his doctorate there.

His book "The Prince and the Genie" published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 1972 was widely acclaimed on his analysis of the impact of poet Paul Claudel's works on Arthur Rimbaud.

MacCombie's love for music inspired the founding of the South End Chamber Series in 1972 whose performing artists included UMB faculty and students as well as visiting national and international artists.

A former piano student of Germaine Surville and Nadine Desouches in Paris, Prof. MacCombie was the composer of the "Pieces Pour Enfants" which he performed at recitals in Boston and throughout New England.

STEAMER ADDENDA

NEW UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Dr. Robert Steamer has been invited to participate in Britain's renowned Wilton Park Conference. The Conferences (this will be the 206th) were established to develop closer understanding and co-operation among the countries of the West. They offer those influencing opinion in their own countries an opportunity to exchange views on political economic and social questions of common interest.

The subject of the Conference is "The media, public opinion, and the decision making process in government."

Dr. Steamer's essay on "Contemporary Supreme Court Directions in Civil Liberties" has just been published in The Making of American Foreign and Domestic Policy. The book is an analysis of governmental policy-making by America's leading political scientists.

COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH

Prof. Philip Hart, General Center, CPCS, has three communications research projects in various stages of development. He was a research consultant on the just completed Corporation for Public Broadcasting study, A Formula for Change, on minorities in public broadcasting. The study which received national media attention, describes the performance of public broadcasting in relation to minorities as being "seriously deficient."

Prof. Hart is also a research consultant to a "State of the Territory," telecommunications research study in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Prof. Hart, Prof. James Blackwell, Sociology, CAS, and Dr. Robert Sharpley, Solomon Fuller Institute, Cambridge, have been requested by CBS's Office of Social Research to submit proposals to conduct a four-part study of entertainment and news programming on commercial television. The first part, already submitted, will focus on "Television, Ethnicity, and Reality."

Prof. Hart will be teaching a course on "Television and Society" during the Spring semester.

ACCREDITATION MEMBER

Debbie Sherman, Center Director of Essential Skills, recently served as a member of the NEASC accreditation team for the University of Maine/Augusta.

University Report, a new monthly publication primarily for the faculty and staff of the University's three campuses, is being published by the President's Office.

In its first issue President Knapp defined its purpose: "In the past four months, as I have visited campuses and talked with faculty and staff members, I have become increasingly convinced of the need for a publication which can provide the University community with timely and accurate information about the Board of Trustees, the Offices of University Administration, and the other campuses."

University Report will include summary accounts of all actions of the Board of Trustees. Also, it will report on other activities of University-wide interest, both in the Offices of University Administration and on the campuses.

NEW UMASS TRUSTEE

Atty. Michael F. Donlan of West Roxbury is the newest member of the University's Board of Trustees. He was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Trustee Robert J. Spiller, who resigned.

Trustee Donlan is a 1960 graduate of Holy Cross College, with a B.S. degree in Economics. Following service in the U.S. Navy, he attended Harvard Law School, graduating in 1966.

RETURNING STUDENT SEMINARS

Older, adult students who want to return to college to continue their education or advance their career are taking advantage of a special service being offered free by UMass/Boston.

Returning student information on admission procedures, career planning, management of the student's time, and selection of the appropriate school is being provided in two, one-hour seminars every Tuesday -- 12 Noon at the Downtown Center, Room 419; and 6:00 p.m. at the Harbor Campus, Room 308 of the Administration Building.

These sessions are open to any student who wishes information on returning to any college or university, not UMass/Boston alone.

For further information call Ms. Jeanne Union in the Admissions Office.

The two principal higher education issues facing Congress as it begins its 96th session are whether to fully finance the Middle Income Student Assistance Act, (MISAA) and to extend the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965.

Both houses of the 95th Congress passed the MISAA by large margins in October as an alternative to tuition tax credits.

Education committees of the House and Senate will be scheduling hearings during the next several months on the HEA. The law, which was updated in 1976 authorizes such programs as Basic and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, National Direct Student Loans, foreign language and area-studies centers, among many others.

"Improvements in student-aid-programs are our first priority," a spokesman for the American Council on Education told HEW officials. The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that Washington-based higher education groups called for the establishment of federal grants to urban universities, an increase in federal assistance to developing institutions, and a "more unified focus" by the federal government on meeting the needs of non-traditional college students.

Tuition tax credits still have some strong supporters on Capitol Hill who are expected to push once more for tax relief for families making tuition payments, according to the Chronicle.

Some supporters of extending student aid to middle-income students have said they are afraid tax credits could get a boost if the Carter Administration, Congress, and educators fail to agree on how much money is needed to finance expanded aid for students from middle-income families.

'MINORITY STUDENT ACCESS'

Prof. James Blackwell, Sociology, presented an abstract on "Access of Minority Students to Professional Schools: Pre-and-Post-Bakke Trends and Policies" at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science this month at Houston.

"Today's average college freshman is a political moderate who favors legalized abortion and homosexual rights, but also believes in ending preferred admission for disadvantaged classmates," according to a nationwide survey.

The survey of 187,603 new freshmen at 383 colleges and universities was conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles and the American Council on Education. It was the 13th annual look at college freshmen.

Here is what the freshmen think about current issues:

-Support for busing to achieve integration increased over last year -- 40.6 to 41.5%.

-There was a 1% increase (up to 56.7%) in the number of students advocating legalized abortions.

-Support for outlawing homosexuality dropped from 48.6 to 46.3%.

-There was 65.4% agreement that "there is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals."

-35.5% advocated preferential treatment of disadvantaged students in college admissions. That figure was down from 44% in 1970.

-Business courses are now more interesting to students than teaching careers.

"Perhaps most striking is the continuing influx of women into career fields ... traditionally dominated by men," the report stated.

'MORAL VALUES AND TV'

Hubert Jessup -- producer of the "The Baxter's" a weekly public affairs situation comedy now seen on WCVB-TV (Channel 5) and about to be produced nationally by Norman ("All in the Family") Lear -- is teaching a course on "Moral Values and Television" Wednesdays 7-9:45 p.m.

Jessup's course, part of the four-nights-a-week (Monday - Thursday) Extended Day Program, includes a critical examination of the "unseen" moral and religious dimensions, and impact, of prime time TV situation comedies and dramas; and comparisons with such religious TV programs as Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, etc.

## CANCELLATION REPORTS

In the event of bad weather conditions the following radio-TV stations will offer the latest reports on the cancellation of classes: WBCN; WBZ; WEEI; WHDH; WJDA; WITS; WRKO; WBZ-TV (Ch. 4); WCVB-TV (Ch. 5) and WNAC-TV (Ch. 7).

## LANDMARK DECREE

Dr. Carole Upshur of CPCS along with others recently completed work on a plan for deinstitutionalization of Northampton State Hospital which became part of the Final Consent Decree in the Federal Court suit Brewster v. Dukakis.

The Decree represents a landmark since it is the first case in the country to both establish the right to treatment in the least restrictive setting and to compel the state to provide community-based alternatives which are spelled out in detail. Dr. Upshur's role included drafting a \$6 million comprehensive case management and non-residential service model.

Dr. Upshur also authored a report published in October entitled the "Final Report of the Massachusetts Respite Care Policy Development Project." This report represents the results of a statewide needs assessment on respite care for the developmentally disabled and gives policy recommendations and proposed regulations for state agencies.

## CONLON ESSAYS

John Conlon, TCP Director, recently had the following essays published: "Surprising Influence: George Sand and the Victorians," a review essay published in The Arnoldian (Annapolis, MD); "Three Letters of Walter Pater," Notes and Queries (Oxford).

These letters are part of the D.S. MacColl Collection at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

## INDIAN NOVELLA

"Wink of Eternity", a novella on the plight of the North American Indians, by Prof. John Martin, English, is being published in February by Applewood Press, Cambridge.

Prof. Marvin, a Newton resident, was born in Colorado in 1923. He served as a Marine Corpsman during W.W. II. Returning, he studied at the University of Denver where he received his B.A. in 1948 and his M.A. the following year. He began teaching at John Hopkins University and later taught at Marshall College, Idaho State College, and the University of Notre Dame.

He is the former editor of Faulkner Studies which is now the Modern Literature Review. A companion piece to "Wink of Eternity" was published in the Hudson Review.

## DR. ROSS NAMED TO APA

Dr. Barbara Ross, Psychology, had been elected for a three-year term as the Representative for Division 26 (History of Psychology) to the Council -- the American Psychological Association's governing body for approximately 50,000 members. She also will serve as monitor to the Publications and Communications Board of APA.

## THE SPECTATOR

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