

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

1983-1991, News & Views

University Publications and Campus
Newsletters

12-2-1983

News & Views - Vol. 02, No. 04 - December 2, 1983

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_newsandviews




Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "News & Views - Vol. 02, No. 04 - December 2, 1983" (1983).
1983-1991, News & Views. 15.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_newsandviews/15

This University Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications and Campus Newsletters at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1983-1991, News & Views by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.

UMass/Boston 

News & Views

Newsletter of the Office of Public Information



Another view of the Harbor Campus taken by our intrepid photographer M. Leo Tierney.

Vol. 2 No. 4 • December 2, 1983

Briefly . . .

“The Peace Movement in Northern Ireland” was the topic of a lecture given by Steve McBride on November 28.

McBride is a leader of the Peace People, the movement founded by Nobel Laureates Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams. McBride came directly from Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he grew up and has lived most of his life.

He shared his ideas about current events in Northern Ireland and specifically the efforts of the Peace Movement. The lecture was followed by a discussion.

Dr. Edward Strickland, Associate Professor, Psychology, was recently named a Fellow in Research at the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American artists. He is working on a history of the Museum for its 15th anniversary to be held in 1985. Dr. Strickland is a frequent contributor of articles on art and art theory to local publications, including the *Boston Globe* and the *Bay State Banner*.

Dr. Ernest I. Becker (Chemistry) has been named to the Board of Directors of the Carleton W. Roberts Memorial Fund to serve high school students in South Carolina.

In the event of snow, no-school announcements will be broadcast on the following radio stations: WHDH-AM, WBZ-AM, WEEI-AM, WEZE-AM, WBCN-FM, WROR, and WRKO. Channel 5 (WCVB-TV) works in concert with the WHDH announcements via computer. Please do not phone the University for information.

• continued on page 4

College athletes denied education at most schools, says Dr. Edwards

If you're a football player at Penn State, a basketball player at Indiana or a scholarship athlete in any sport at Stanford, chances are you'll get a proper education. But not elsewhere—especially if you're black—said Dr. Harry Edwards in a speech recently at UMass/Boston.

Dr. Edwards, Associate Professor of Sociology at University of California, Berkeley, spoke of the “black dumb jock” and called it “an American sports tragedy.”

“Dumb jocks are not born—they are being systematically created,” said Dr. Edwards, who challenged the nation's educators to change that situation at the January NCAA convention.

“Over 65 percent of college athletes on scholarship never graduate,” he said. “And they have no basis on which to return after turning professional. A basketball player averaging \$243,000 or a National Football League performer averaging \$93,000 isn't going back to classes to listen to some \$13,000 associate professor tell him how to succeed in life.”

Dr. Edwards cited the situations at Penn State, Indiana and Stanford as “exceptional contrasts” to the average American college.

Dr. Edwards also pointed out:

- Only two percent of the athletes drafted will ever sign a pro contract. Just over 60 percent of these are back on the street within 3-4 years. According to the NFL, where blacks constitute 55 percent of the players, the average athlete plays only 4.5 years.

- Some 70-80 percent of the NFL players have no college degree.

- The graduation figures in the National Basketball Association, where

74 percent of the players are black, are “equally dim.”

- “All the blacks making a living in professional sports, major and minor, and including trainers, coaches and doctors, would number fewer than 2400.”

- Most black athletes pass through four years on college campuses “utterly unscathed by education.”

- Because of this, blacks in pro football and basketball display “no interest in books, museums, plays, the theatre,” and many of these, disenchanted, turn to drugs.

“Over 65 percent of college athletes on scholarship never graduate.”

— Dr. Harry Edwards

- “A 1982 survey of 17,000 high school students taken by the University of Michigan shows nine of 10 consume alcohol and seven of 10 have used marijuana at some level. . . so the colleges are taking people already addicted to drugs in many cases.”

- The NCAA must implement the so-called Rule 48, passed last January, that provides for a minimum SAT score of 700 and other standards that help student-athletes “to develop academically as well as athletically.”

Dr. Edwards appeared at UMass/Boston at the invitation of the Sociology and Athletic Departments. Dr. James Blackwell and Athletic Director Charlie Titus co-hosted the 90-minute talk.

20th anniversary profiles

Safwat sees many signs of success at the maturing UMass/Boston

UMass/Boston has emerged successful from 20 years of stretching and growing since it was created as Boston's first public institution of higher learning.

It has aged well and has taken a respected place in the Boston academic community according to Dr. Fuad M. Safwat, a member of the founding faculty at the University and recently named Provost for Graduate Studies and Research.

Safwat revealed that:

- Students from UMass/Boston now find easy access to graduate schools throughout the country.

- Comparatively speaking, a very large number of UMass/Boston students are accepted by medical schools, successfully complete their training and residency requirements, and take their place in the medical profession.

- The teaching and research background of UMass/Boston faculty members is steadily more impressive and attracting a good measure of government and private grant money for special projects.

- The number of graduate studies programs have grown to 23 and the University expects that eventually about 10 percent of the school's full-time students will be enrolled as Masters Degree candidates.

"The process of establishing a new university among some of the giants in the Boston area like Harvard, MIT, Brandeis, Boston University, Northeastern University and Boston College, was not very easy," says Safwat, who left a teaching post at Washington University in St. Louis to join the fledgling UMass/Boston faculty 20 years ago.

"But my sense is that this university has gained an incredible reputation. In the past four years especially, it has gained stature and recognition for what its students and faculty are accomplishing," he added.

"I think this university has matured to a level at which we can show its accomplishments clearly, but not matured enough that it will become a stagnant institution," Safwat offered from the perspective of hindsight.

"Thing's get changed here. You can count on that. They are moving forward. New developments are occurring all the time. This is the sign of a healthy, vital institution and an active faculty and administration."

Safwat, a biologist specializing in Botany, has held a number of administrative posts at UMass/Boston as well as teaching. He has served as Chairman of the Department of Biology



Dr. Fuad M. Safwat

in 1971 and 1981; Acting Director of Graduate Studies in 1975; Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 1976; Chairperson of the University Assembly Planning and Budget Committee and Asst. Provost for the Huntington Avenue campus during the merger of UMass/Boston with Boston State College. He is also interim Director of the University's Institute for Learning and Teaching.

Now a naturalized citizen, Safwat is one of only 200 Kurds living in this country. When he came to America in 1960, there were only 20 living here. "I guess we represent the smallest minority in the country," he likes to joke.

But that, and the fact that all of his schooling was publicly financed by the government of his native land, immediately cemented his attachment to UMass/Boston and its educational goals.

Born into the pastoral culture of the Kurds 62 years ago in Abril, Iraq, Safwat said the ancient city offered public schooling only through high school. There was no university there when he was growing up although there is one there now.

Safwat and his three brothers wanted to learn more.

So each, in turn, passed the required tests and were selected to go the University of Baghdad, where they earned their BA's.

"Everything was fully supported by scholarship," Safwat said. "Otherwise we could not have afforded it. It is one of the reasons why I have such a great feeling for public higher education, public education in general, because all of my education was supported by public scholarship."

From Baghdad, Safwat was selected by his government to come to the U.S.,

where he earned his MA and Ph.D. at Washington University in 1960 and 1962. He joined the faculty there and remained two years before coming to Boston.

"When the opportunity to come to Boston came up... to be part of something new... to work with an entirely different kind of student population who were older and coming to a university with a lot of background in the work place, perhaps the first in their families to go to a university... it was absolutely exciting to me," Safwat recalled.

"It was a marvelous opportunity to begin something new in a place where there had been little public higher education, and to meet new colleagues in various disciplines coming from all over the country, some having left tenured positions to come to this new enterprise... It was just fantastic," he said.

Beyond the establishment of the institution, which Safwat remembers as "learning taking place for more than 1000 very bright students in one place at 100 Arlington Street amid renovation going on and plaster all over the place," there are other highlights with which he measures the past 20 years.

One is the manner in which controversial issues are resolved. Safwat recalled a debate early on concerning the issue of liberal arts versus professional studies, and undergraduate versus graduate education. Both issues were handled in a democratic manner, he said, the university retaining its strong commitment to Arts and Sciences and balancing it with professional studies. Graduate training is moving toward becoming an essential part of the University, too, he said.

The graduate program at UMass/Boston has extremely good potential for growth in Safwat's judgement. "We have the quality of faculty and the diversity of fields and attractiveness of program to bring in additional qualified students."

Another highlight of the 20 years for Safwat was the University's merger with Boston State College. He was named Provost of the Huntington Avenue Campus for that merger and was in charge of its day-to-day operation during the transition and of the recent final move of all Boston State facilities to the Harbor and Downtown buildings of UMass/Boston.

"It was a major event in the school's history and made a lot of people aware of just how vulnerable a young public institution can be. We had little to do with the processes leading to the merger and, in addition, we were given the incredible challenge of accomplishing it in the very short period of four weeks," Safwat said.

"But," he added, "I think the University has come out of that whole

chancellor's corner

by Robert A. Corrigan

The University of Massachusetts at Boston is concerned to recognize academic excellence and to draw to itself students of high quality, and so has set aside a number of scholarships based on merit. This year's recipients of these scholarships were honored at a dinner on November 10, 1983. My remarks at this dinner are reprinted here as a reflection of our commitment to education of the highest quality.

It is a great pleasure for me this evening to meet and congratulate you—the 1983 recipients of Chancellor's Scholarships for Excellence, The John F. Kennedy Scholarship in Memory of John B. Crimmins, and the William M. Bulger Scholarship.

You are only twenty in number— young men and women—who were chosen for your achievement in scholarship, the arts, and community service. And you are accompanied by a larger group who share with you this evening's honors: parents, family, friends, husbands or wives perhaps, whose support and encouragement I suspect helped you to arrive at your current status. I congratulate them as well.

You have accomplished much, yet much more lies ahead of you. In many ways I envy you, because you have still before you the possibilities of discovery,

the potential for creativity, the chances for satisfaction that only a multifaceted university like ours can readily offer. It is exciting indeed through these scholarships to assist in the wedding of your considerable talents to the extensive resources of the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Not only will you have at your disposal an extensive curriculum and the considerable physical plant you see around you—the laboratories, studios, and classrooms, and the fine Healey Library in which we are assembled this evening—but also you will have available two other resources that I want to emphasize.

One is the great city of Boston itself, a resource that we often take for granted. By choosing to come to UMass/Boston, you have placed yourself in the center of one of our nation's, indeed the world's, cultural and intellectual capitals. Whether you study music or mathematics, political science or poetry, you will find in and around Boston offerings to match your appetite for knowledge and experience in your chosen field.

The other resource I want particularly to call to your attention is the superior faculty that we have assembled at this university. They are graduates of the best universities, here and abroad. Each has spent years mastering his or her special subject area. And I can testify from personal contact with all of them that they are enthusiastic about their teaching,



about conveying to others their arduously acquired knowledge and what is more, their love of learning itself.

I encourage you to seek them out, not only in the classrooms but in other settings as well. I urge you to become not only their students but in some sense their colleagues. Each of you has the potential to excel, as has every member of the University's faculty. They will recognize that and welcome it. Nothing is more mutually stimulating than the meeting of two minds and that dialogue upon some subject or problem of common interest. That satisfaction can be yours at UMass/Boston, and making that meeting of minds possible is one of the central reasons for any university's existence.

Let me conclude with two observations: the first is that this is a state university, supported for the most part with Massachusetts public funds. It is one of the several public institutions of higher education created and sustained by the Legislature and the Governor as places where any citizen with ability can have access to an education of the highest quality. We are obliged to maintain excellence at UMass/Boston; your selection as a scholarship recipient is part of our discharge of that obligation.

Finally, I have a vested interest in you. Your success will mean a great deal to me: it will mean that I have succeeded as an educator and that our university has succeeded in its mission. Over the next four years I hope to talk with each of you from time to time. I want to hear of your progress. And, in the years following your graduation, I hope to hear of your further achievements and to reflect that in some measure your success was made possible by one of these scholarships.

Let me conclude with an observation of Ralph Waldo Emerson that "colleges, in like manner, have their indispensable office—to teach elements. But they can only highly serve us when they aim not to drill, but to create: when they gather from far every ray of various genius to their hospitable halls, and by the concentrated fires, set the hearts of their youth on flame."

That is our aim.



John F. Kennedy Scholarship winner Frances M. Hayes (center) of South Boston was feted at a recent dinner hosted by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan (left) in the Faculty Lounge. Edward Martin of Senator Edward M. Kennedy's office, right, made a presentation. The JFK Scholarship is in memory of late South Bostonian John B. Crimmins, who was a close friend of President Kennedy. Some 20 winners of Chancellor's Scholarships for Excellence also were honored in the program.

UMB joins with 30 universities to present national teleconference



The satellite dish utilized for UMass/Boston teleconferences.

UMass/Boston hosted a video teleconference simultaneously at two sites in Massachusetts on November 15.

Inexpensive Justice was a five hour, live and interactive program that showed participants how to use the small claims court system to collect on bad debts without a lawyer.

The Boston teleconference was held in the Healey Library with technical and facilities support from the University's Center for Media Development. Local moderators were Associate Professor Herbert L. Lyken from UMB's College of Management, plus Judge Mary M. Brennen and First Assistant Clerk magistrate John Scalponetti, both from Charlestown District Court.

"By utilizing Boston and Northhampton, most Massachusetts residents did not have to travel more than 40 miles to participate," Dr. Leon Zaborowski noted. Dr. Zaborowski directs the Office of Telecommunications, the unit responsible for teleconferencing at UMass/Boston.

Participants also came from Rhode Island and New Hampshire. The 68 participants was the largest number among the 30 universities involved nationally.

The nationally transmitted component of the conference originated

from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Robert Spurrier, Jr., Professor of Political Science at OSU and noted expert on small claims court, presented the video segment which was transmitted via satellite.

Dr. Spurrier also took a number of questions directly from the Massachusetts sites during the interactive question and answer periods.

Teleconferencing is just now becoming available as a program delivery system for a broad spectrum of subject areas. In recent years, satellite transmitted video teleconferences were primarily a tool for corporate training and information exchange.

"National educational teleconference networks that provide programs for the general public are now just coming into existence," said Dr. Zaborowski. "We are part of the National University Teleconference Network, a consortium of 100 colleges and universities. NUTN has representatives in a majority of the states and the resources to move mobile units into under-represented areas as necessary."

"The most important consideration, though, is to be able to bring first rate resources to as large an audience as possible at a moderate price. In the end, it saves the participant time and travel costs as well."

Safwat sees a growing UMB

• continued from page 2

process in a much stronger position than it was before. And that is due largely to the faculty, the students, the staff and the administration all working for the

common goal. It was quite impressive and it speaks very highly of the skill of the leadership of this institution."

Safwat is married to the former Ruth Bennett, a neuro-biologist on the faculty of UMass/Boston. The couple lives in Cambridge.

Briefly . . .

• continued from page 1

Gov. Michael S. Dukakis has named Dr. Murray Frank, former Dean of CPCS, to a 40-person Human Resources Forum. Members will meet with the Governor and administration officials at the State House every other month.

Dr. Andre Singer, world-famed ethnographic film-maker, was at UMass/Boston on November 30 for a presentation of recent videotapes and films from British television series.

Dr. Singer is a well-known anthropologist who has produced an anthropological TV series in Great Britain, "Disappearing World." He is currently director/producer of a major new British TV series on social anthropology, "Natives," which will trace the life and work of important figures in the history of anthropology such as Margaret Mead, Bronislaw Malinowski, Franz Boas and Edward Evans-Pritchard.

The film screening of "The Mursi" and presentation by Dr. Singer took place in the Small Science Auditorium. Recent videotapes were screened the same day in the Anthropology Department.

UMass/Amherst's Office of Public Information has started a four page newsletter, *UMass 83*, to be published eight times a year.

News & Views is a bi-weekly publication of the UMass/Boston Office of Public Information. News items should be addressed to:

Office of Public Information
Third Floor, Administration Building
Harbor Campus

Director: D. Leo Monahan

Editor: Stephen Moniak

Assistant: Claire Gallagher

Staff Writers: Jean Cole Harris

Kathleen O'Malley

Garry Puddister

Michael Lynch

Staff Photographer: Leo Tierney

We're interested in everything that happens on the Harbor and Park Square campuses. Please keep us informed.