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UMass/Boston 

News & Views

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Vol. 2 No. 8 • March 1, 1984



More than 200 people jammed the Faculty Club Lounge to hear Dr. Robert Coles at the first in the Distinguished Lecture series celebrating UMass/Boston's 20th Anniversary.



Dr. Robert Coles

Pulitzer Prize laureate Dr. Coles draws crowd at UMB Lecture

Pulitzer Prize winning Harvard Psychiatrist Robert Coles urged his colleagues and students in all the mental health disciplines to get back in touch with the simple truths of human behavior and to rely less on book theory during a guest lecture he gave recently at UMass/Boston.

Coles, 53, of Concord, research psychiatrist for Harvard University Health Services and Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Humanities at Harvard Medical School, came to visit and lecture at UMass/Boston for a week to help the state-funded university celebrate its 20th anniversary.

He is one of four distinguished educators in various disciplines invited to visit the Harbor Campus during the next two months to share their expertise with students, faculty and with the public at special open lectures.

UMass/Boston Provost Robert A. Greene welcomed Dr. Coles, author of more than 30 books and 700 articles and acclaimed particularly for a five-volume series he wrote on "Children of Crisis," two of which won him a Pulitzer Prize in 1973.

Greene cited Coles' visit as most appropriate because the Harvard educator-researcher-writer is a native Bostonian and began his celebrated work among poor children at about the same time UMass/Boston was being established to foster educational opportunities for adults often from the same disadvantaged backgrounds.

Dr. Coles spent three decades studying children of the poor, native Americans, Southerners, Appalachians, Chicanos, Blacks and the children of Northern Ireland, Brazil, Italy, Poland and South Africa.

He told his UMass/Boston audience of more than 200 that his experience taught him that mental health professionals cannot always accurately predict the reaction of children to upheaval in their lives merely through casual observation and clinical testing.

In his talk on "The Moral Life of Children," Coles cited the case of Ruby Bridges who, at the age of 6, was forced by a federal judge to be one of four black children to integrate two New Orleans elementary schools in the late 1950's.



Provost Robert Greene, left, with Dr. Robert Coles and Dr. Joan Liem, Chairperson of the Psychology Department.

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20th anniversary profiles

Alumni Director Don Costello recalls 20 years at growing UMB



UMass/Boston is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and Concord resident F. Donald Costello goes all the way back to the beginning days.

"It was a gamble for the students as well as us," says Costello, currently Director of Alumni Affairs at the area's only public university.

A Marine veteran and graduate of the University of Massachusetts '51, with an M.Ed. from Northeastern '64, Costello was a teacher/coach/guidance counselor with the Watertown school system from 1954 to 1964. Over the years at UMB, Costello has served as an Admissions Director, Director of Job Placement and Director of Alumni.

In twelve years in admissions, Costello estimates that he had reviewed over 100,000 applications and interviewed 30,000 candidates.

In the beginning, under the direction

of the UMass/Amherst Dean of Admissions, Dr. William Tunis, Costello worked out of his garage until 100 Arlington Street was chosen as the site for the new school. (About 60 sites were considered, including the Watertown Arsenal, the site of the new Westin Hotel in Copley Square and the North Station area.) He was also based at the UMass/Amherst campus working with Dean Tunis and the Amherst Admissions staff in the recruitment process of enrolling 1000 students for the Fall/September 1965 semester.

Costello says: "Amherst was tremendous, we could not have accomplished the impossible without them."

An important beginning step, according to Costello, was to develop strong relationships with local high school guidance counselors which he did

on his visits to all the area schools. Between March and August 1965, 2300 applications were processed and 1244 students were admitted. For Costello and the rest of the UMass/Boston faculty and small staff, work days were often 12 to 14 hours long.

"It was a super experience, exciting, but at times chaotic. The carpenters were still renovating when the students came in. It (100 Arlington St.) did not look like a university at all. In September of '65, I was able to hire students to work part-time with me. I had an excellent cadre of students. They became my assistants. They were intelligent and sharp. They carried the ball," he said.

The 1244 students who started at UMass in 1965 chose from 35 liberal arts courses and 12 majors. Tuition was \$200 per year. Over the years an increasing percentage of incoming students have been transfers who, Costello finds, are often UMass/Boston's best students.

"At that time, we had more transfer students than any other school in Boston," he said.

"UMass/Boston is vindicated by the outstanding product it turns out. I am completely sold on the product—the kind of graduate—UMB turns out." (Two of Costello's sons are students at UMass/Boston.) Costello feels that this is the result of the exceptional faculty UMass/Boston has had over the years: "Our faculty papers compare with any school."

Costello sees UMass/Boston's not-always positive public image improving in the near future. "Attrition is high, but there are things we do that no other school in the area does. We are the only 4-year public institution of higher education in the city that serves the people of Boston. That's a super service for the community. We give a chance to the student who needs a chance but is motivated. Many of our outstanding students are not necessarily the ones with secondary school high marks and high SAT's.

"We're only 20 years young and we've made tremendous strides in those 20 years. The image will come. And it is good among those who know us. Our challenge is to let more people know about us, to spread the story of UMass/Boston's greatness. We have to be patient, it will happen."

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

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Nuclear freeze leader Forsberg speaks at UMB on March 6

Randall Forsberg, a leader of the national nuclear freeze movement, will give a free public lecture on Tuesday, March 6 at UMass/Boston as part of its Distinguished Lecture Series celebrating the University's 20th anniversary.

Ms. Forsberg, director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies in Brookline, will appear at 3:30 p.m. in the Faculty Club, 11th floor, Healey Library on the Harbor Campus.

The title of the lecture is "Confining the Military to Defense as a Route to Disarmament."

She will be on campus March 6, 8 and 9.

In 1983, Ms. Forsberg was awarded a five-year MacArthur Foundation Fellowship "in recognition of her accomplishments in Defense Studies and Arms Control."

She received her B.A. in English from Barnard in 1965. From 1968 to 1974 she worked at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden. For 18 months she was in charge of editing and publication distribution.

She received Green, Warburg and MIT fellowships and spent a year as a visiting fellow at the Harvard Program for Science and International Affairs.

In January, 1980 Ms. Forsberg founded the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies, which she directs. It is supported by foundation grants, subscriptions and honoraria.



Julie Ahern of the Student Activities Office displays a bumper sticker being distributed free to students and faculty at the Harbor Campus as part of the 20th Anniversary Celebration. Did you get yours yet?

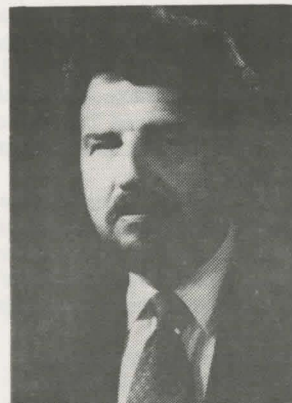
chancellor's corner

by Robert A. Corrigan

I was very pleased at the large numbers of faculty, students and staff who turned out for the lecture by Dr. Robert Coles. Such gatherings are at the heart of the academic enterprise. The next event in the Distinguished Professor Lecture Series promises equal attraction. During the week of March 5th, Ms. Randall Forsberg, an expert in the technical aspects of defense and disarmament, will visit the University to speak and meet with classes and other interested groups. Her public lecture on March 6th is entitled "Confining the Military to Defense as a Route to Disarmament."

As we proceed through the Spring semester, the University's 20th Anniversary Celebration is gathering momentum. The Anniversary Committee, now headed by Professor Walter Weibrecht of the Chemistry Department, has been busy planning a stimulating series of events. Let me take this opportunity to invite you to a number of "holds" on your calendar.

Several people who played key roles in the early years of the University will be feted this Spring. The April 9th meeting of the University Faculties will be followed by a reception for Frank Broderick, the campus' Chancellor from 1968 to 1972. UMass/Boston's first Chancellor, John Ryan (now president of Indiana University), will join us for a



reunion on April 26th-27th. Professor Paul Gagnon, founding Dean of the Faculty, will be honored at Commencement.

One of the highlights for entertainment will be an on-campus concert by Dizzy Gillespie, co-hosted by the Music Department, Black Studies Department and American Civilization program, on March 30th.

On the academic side, events will range from a series of symposia on the Boston Harbor Islands, culminating in a boat tour, to a conference on Neighborhood Involvement in City Hall sponsored by CPCS and an ILT conference on Community & School Development.

Celebrations will end with a splash during Commencement Weekend.

Famed novelist James Baldwin to speak at UMass/Boston

World-famed author James Baldwin will appear at UMass/Boston on Wednesday, March 7 to discuss "Black Authors and Their Contribution to the Arts and Literature."

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan will introduce Baldwin at the 3 p.m. discussion in the 020 Lounge at the Harbor Campus. The public is invited.

Baldwin's appearance is a belated celebration of the University's Black History Month Committee. Originally he was scheduled for mid-February.

Baldwin was raised in poverty in New York City's Harlem. Photographer Richard Avedon and black painter Beaufort Delaney were early influences on his career as was Richard Wright, author of the novel *Native Son*.

Go Tell It To The Mountain was Baldwin's first novel. It won international acclaim. In the 30 subsequent years he has written novels, short stories, essays and papers.

In 1948, Baldwin settled in France and now makes his home there. He makes frequent visits to America,



James Baldwin

however, and is serving as Five College professor of literature, based in Hampshire College for the 1983-84 Academic Year. He is currently teaching a class in civil rights at UMass/Amherst.

Briefly . . .

The University's annual Minority Career Fair was an unqualified success. Hosted by Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Charles Desmond, the general information session attracted companies such as IBM, New England Telephone, Hewlett Packard, Gillette and Houghton-Mifflin, to name a few.

Bonnie Meehan of Career Services ran the event and spoke with employers and students. Gene Brown of IBM was very impressed and Hewlett Packard's Joe Millington commented on the intelligent questions he was asked.

The Fair helped strengthen the University's ties with the business community. The University-wide Career Day is slated for April 25.

Charlie Boland of Computing Services sends word that children of University employees are eligible to apply for a \$500 scholarship program from First Municipal Leasing Corp.

UMass/Boston conducts business with First Municipal, which is based in Colorado and offers twenty \$500 scholarships to qualified applicants, who must register before April 1.

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan has been named to the Board of Directors of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, financial watchdog of the City of Boston. George M. Lovejoy, Jr., President of Meredith and Grew, Inc., is chairman.

Dr. Murray Frank appeared at the State Legislature's Joint Committee on Human Services and Elder Affairs in support of legislation to ensure the right to adequate psychiatric and general medical care for low-income Massachusetts citizens.

Paul Tucker, Associate Professor in the Art Department, has received an \$18,500 grant from the Florence Gould Foundation of New York City to support research on the French artist Claude Monet. Professor Tucker also has been invited to chair a workshop on "French Art in the 1890's" at the 1985 meeting of the College Art Association.

Photographs by the Art Department's Lorie Novak, lecturer, and Melissa Shook, Assistant Professor, are included in an invitation exhibition of work by photographers teaching in the Massachusetts University system. The exhibit is at Southeastern Massachusetts University. Professor Shook also served as a state-wide photography judge for the recent 1984 *Boston Globe* Scholastic Achievement Awards.

A new exhibit has opened on the fourth floor of the Healey Library featuring artifacts excavated at Fort Independence on Castle Island in South Boston.

In conjunction with this display is one case of artifacts from a house site in Quincy by graduate students in the Historical Archaeology MA program under the direction of Dr. Suzanne Spencer-Wood in the Anthropology Dept.

The exhibit is open to the public until March 11.

Four UMass/Boston alumni, all CPCs graduates, served on Mayor Raymond Flynn's Transition Task Force: Elaine Wilson, '77, Executive Director of the North End Community Health Center, was on the Health Task Force; Veronica Smith, '83, Director, Allston Senior Center, on the Elder Affairs Task Force; Georgette Trappiel Watson, '70, Ass't Director, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Network of the Justice Resource Institute, on the Public Safety Task Force, and Kristin McCormack, '83, of the Dorchester Task Force. on the Task Force on Economic Development. Kristin, an MBA candidate at BU, was asked to join Mayor Flynn's Budget Office.

Dr. Frances Portnoy, Professor in the School of Nursing, has had her paper accepted for presentation at the Nursing Research Day on March 24 at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. The paper is entitled "A Study

of Health Care Needs and Health Care Services for the Elderly." . . . Laura Glover, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, recently was appointed to the Masconomet Regional High School Committee.

Dr. Leon Zaborowski, Director of the UMB Educational Telecommunication Program, received an excellent response at his latest venture, a "Strength and Conditioning" video teleconference at the Clark Athletic Center on February 25. Well over 100 participants were in attendance with nearly half that number from the Boston Public Schools.

The program was part of the National University Teleconference Network and originated at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln.

Professor John Dickinson of the Sociology Department is currently accepting applications for the directorship of the Freiburg Program for 1985-86. Candidates must be tenured members of the UMass faculty with doctorate, fluency in German and experience in graduate and undergraduate advising. Interested persons are invited to submit their *curriculum vitae* to Professor John Dickinson, Department of Sociology, Building 010. Additional information is available from Jean Shepard, International Programs Office, Herter Hall, UMass Amherst. Applications must be received by March 10, 1984.

Get in touch with human truths, rely less on theories, urges Coles

• continued from page 1

"Ruby went alone to the school she integrated and I watched her go into the school and leave it every day heckled by up to 70 people threatening to kill her. I wondered how long she, or anyone, could take this," recalled Dr. Coles.

"One day Ruby's teacher saw the little girl stop by a window and move her lips and the teacher asked her what she had said to the mob," he continued.

"Ruby told the teacher she had not said anything to her hecklers . . . but that she had prayed for them, a prayer she said in the morning, again in the afternoon and evening before she went to bed, that God had to forgive them because they didn't know what they were doing," Coles recounted.

He said he felt suspicious and skeptical of Ruby's praying for her tormentors and tried to shift her attention more to the feelings of anger he was sure she must have. He said he felt "small" when the little girl told him that, yes she felt anger, but, despite it, she wanted to pray for those outside the school.

Coles urged his colleagues to spend more time finding out "how people really lived" and to "stop seeing everyone's life through your own experience" . . . or "trying to explain everything and anything through theory."

By the book, Coles pondered, it would be interesting to see how Ruby's kind of actions, or perhaps even those of John of the Cross or Joan of Arc, would pick up in a Rorschach test or on questionnaires in a mental health clinic. "The results would probably indicate they needed treatment," he chuckled.

We can learn from the experience of Ruby and her family, Coles said.

"We must look at what makes for goodness in people . . . not the goodness that can be tested clinically but the kind that is in life . . . the kind that shows up in the clutch, in circumstances dictated by luck, chance and fate," said Coles.

"A federal judge gave Ruby the chance of her life. Out of her praying, came Ruby . . . now age 30 . . . the first in her family to go to college, a skeptical, thoughtful and tough Ruby . . . but a Ruby who survived."