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News & Views

Newsletter of the Office
of Public Information

Baldwin urged people of all races and colors to accept their birthright. "It is a very simple one but it imposes a tremendous duty. The birthright is to love one another. That's quite enough to manage to do in a lifetime."



Nuclear freeze leader Randall Forsberg spoke at UMB as part of the Distinguished Lecturer Series celebrating the University's 20th Anniversary. Left to right: Provost Robert Greene, Randall Forsberg, and Dr. Tommy Lott. Story inside on page 3.

James Baldwin speaks out on American society at UMB lecture

James Baldwin, civil rights activist and renowned author who has used his extraordinary writing ability to stir the conscience of America for nearly 40 years, was at the UMass/Boston Harbor Campus recently, where he told a large audience he doesn't like what he sees in our society today.

The author of *Go Tell It On The Mountain*, *The Fire Next Time*, and *Going To Meet The Man*, as well as many other novels, essays, short stories and plays, showed UMass/Boston students and faculty that he can speak with the same incisive bite that he writes with.

Back in the United States from abroad, where he does much of his writing, Baldwin is teaching in western Massachusetts as Five College Professor of Literature and catching up on goings-ons in his native country, according to UMB Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, who introduced the celebrated author.

The future for Americans looks gloomy, Baldwin told his audience; indeed, the future of the entire Western free world is bleak if it doesn't cleanse itself of the racial hypocrisy upon which Baldwin said its governments are based.

Western civilization was built upon the myth of white supremacy and, in America, it has corrupted history "until this hour," said Baldwin.

"And it shows in every one of our institutions from the college to the White House. It has produced a country that honors money and mediocrity and a



World-famed author James Baldwin captivated an overflow UMass/Boston audience.

populace eating, buying and doing just about everything it is told to on television, even to what politicians to elect," said Baldwin.

He expressed concern about the American education system and described the ideal university as one that teaches about the universe and starts its students to ask questions so they can gain some sense of the world, their position in it, and their responsibility to society.

"The trouble with the ideal education is that it creates what no state and no society and no church has ever really wanted to see: an independent mind," he declared.

Baldwin decried money needed to feed the world's starving children being used to stockpile bombs and said we will not be able to end the danger of this if we get trapped in our history.

"Ignorance rules in this country as never before and ignorance is a very dangerous place for everybody," he said.

Baldwin compared what is happening in the U.S. to England, France and the rest of Europe, countries in which he has lived and worked, and countries, he said, that have maintained control over others through power. This power is ending, he said.

In 1948, Baldwin noted, when he first went to Paris, "the sun never set on the British Empire. Now the sun can't find it."

"The power of the Western world to control the minds of other people has been broken forever. Although it refuses to acknowledge it, their cities have been getting darker and so are their

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20th anniversary profiles

Dr. Van Ummersen takes on new leadership role for state Regents

Claire A. Van Ummersen, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the State Board of Regents, believes the newly-adopted higher standards for college admission she helped write will reverse the fad of high school students studying non-essential, sometimes frivolous, subjects added to their curriculum over the past two decades.

The new standards will prove to be helpful, not harmful, to high schoolers, she said, because the students will need to take responsibility for their own future. They will have to get back on the track of pursuing the basic skills they need to get into institutions of higher learning.

The new standards will be monitored over the next two to three years to see what effect they have, according to Van Ummersen, who is a former biology professor and Chancellor at UMass/Boston.

"I think over time the standards are going to help students because they will help shape the secondary curriculum," she said.

"I found students need structure badly and that's one thing the standards provide," she said. "They are saying to the student, 'these are the things that are important for you to concentrate on' and I think, for many students, that's what will happen... they will do those things in high school and they will come better prepared."

She expects the new standards will allow students to push for what they want and not just take it for granted they are getting the tools they need.

"I think it's just that the students didn't know," Van Ummersen said. "The new standards give them guidelines and, as a result, they will be better prepared."

Van Ummersen had been at UMass/Boston since 1968 before moving her base of operations to the State Board of Regents two years ago. A large part of her interests and her heart remained behind at the Harbor Campus.

While she now devotes her time and efforts to research and development of programs and standards to benefit all state colleges, she still interacts in an informal way with the Boston Campus, keeping up with what's going on, attending functions, and being supportive where she can.

Van Ummersen, a native of Medford, worked her way through Tufts University, where she earned her BS, MS and Ph.D. in biology. This has given her great empathy with those studying at UMass/Boston because she found those she taught to be usually working students who are "interesting and very motivated. I miss that in administration," she said.

"The motivation of UMass/Boston students is the reasonable, thoughtful kind gained from experience other than high school," she said. "I didn't see the kind of motivation that will go to any length to succeed, including cheating. You just don't see that there."

Van Ummersen taught in the Biology Department at UMass/Boston until 1974, when she became Associate Dean of College II before the separate college system was abandoned. She later was named Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and became Interim Chancellor of the University in 1978, serving 18 months in that position before the appointment of present Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan.

Her deep interest in both faculty and student matters brings a special dimension to her administrative work. It led her to spearhead graduate degree programs at UMass/Boston and enables her to understand the special accomplishments and purposes of the University.



Dr. Claire A. Van Ummersen

"One of the real strengths of UMass/Boston is that it recaptures for society many super-intelligent individuals who, for whatever reason, have dropped out of the education process," she said.

UMass/Boston makes it possible for them to come back and they are finally able to make a great contribution to the community, she declared, mentioning several students she knew who typified this "recapturing."

One of them is a young man who dropped out of Johns Hopkins University and went to work on the San Francisco docks.

"Later when he wanted to resume studying medicine, Hopkins wouldn't take him back," she said. "With a wife

and child, he was able to come to UMass/Boston to pick up his education; sailed through his medical boards; went to medical school, and is now doing his residency."

"This is a real strength UMass/Boston has," Van Ummersen declared. "It has not changed over time. It has always been a constant... the opportunity has been there and people have taken advantage of it. It is a real strength that has existed, does exist and, hopefully, will continue to exist for the citizens of the state."

Van Ummersen traced her experiences with UMass/Boston going back to its small beginnings in the old Boston Gas building on Arlington Street in downtown Boston. The University is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

"We were a cohesive group. It was very small and it was exciting," she said. "We were embarking on an adventure and I think the faculty shared in that enthusiasm."

"When I came to the University, there were four opportunities I had for taking on a position, and the thing that appealed most at UMass/Boston was that there was an opportunity for a young faculty member to be involved in curriculum development and in shaping of a department in a way that was not available at other institutions," Van Ummersen continued.

As Chancellor of the University, Van Ummersen said the thing that most concerned her was the development of graduate education. She and other administration and faculty members felt that without a graduate component, "it was becoming increasingly difficult for us to keep the good faculty we had and to attract first rate faculty to come with us."

"I also felt that we were the only public university in the largest urban area in the state and we were not providing those opportunities to students who could not travel to Amherst to get graduate education," she said.

There had been a virtual moratorium on the planning and development of graduate programs for UMass/Boston from about 1973, according to Van Ummersen "so it took convincing the president and trustees of the University that there was a role for Boston in graduate education."

As Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, she had been involved in the concerns of the campus about graduate programming, and as Chancellor, Van Ummersen chuckled, "my role was, perhaps, a little more forceful."

In 1979 the trustees voted to allow Boston to develop a graduate program. When she returned to the faculty, she was able to work on the development of the first graduate program, a Ph.D. program in Environmental Science.

Van Ummersen lives on Church St. in Winchester with her husband, Frank Van Ummersen III, a dentist, and their two children, Lynn, a sophomore at Dartmouth College and Scott, a junior at Winchester High School.

Randall Forsberg calls for world free of war at UMB lecture series

Randall Forsberg, author, nuclear freeze leader, founder and president of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies in Brookline, told a UMass/Boston audience that a halt in the building of nuclear weapons is just a start in her long-range plan to bring peace to the world.

Forsberg was invited to be a guest lecturer at the Harbor Campus for a week as part of the University's celebration of its 20th anniversary.

She was introduced to an audience of more than 200 in the Faculty Club of the Healey Library by UMass/Boston Provost Robert A. Greene who said Forsberg's 1980 four-page statement "The Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race," served as a manifesto for the nuclear freeze movement.

For more than two hours the 40-year-old disarmament tactician, who picked up a great deal of her weaponry knowledge while working at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute from 1968 through 1974, spelled out what that manifesto really is and what she hopes it will accomplish.

As implied by the title of her talk, "Limiting the Military to Defense as a Route to Disarmament," Forsberg said her intent is to end the threat of war by abolishing all arms, conventional as well as nuclear, that could be used for any military purpose except national defense.

"To get rid of the shadow that has hung over our lives since the end of World War II," she declared, "the insanity that is gripping modern society as a whole... we must get rid of nuclear weapons, not just stop the nuclear arms race."

"And, in order to do this, we must largely or entirely bring conventional warfare under control too," she stated, introducing weaponry figures that showed the largest number of nuclear warheads in the world today are not intercontinental weapons aimed at the USA and USSR but battlefield weapons that are everywhere conventional forces of the two super powers are stationed.

"There are estimated to be about 50,000 nuclear weapons in the U.S. and Soviet arsenals taken together," Forsberg said. Each country has 10,000 intercontinental nuclear warheads for a total of 20,000.

"Where are the other 30,000 nuclear warheads... the tactical battlefield nuclear weapons that are never mentioned, addressed and are considered not even to exist?" she asked, answering, "They are everywhere our conventional forces are... and their purpose is to pose a threat of escalation of conventional war to nuclear war."

So, the nuclear freeze movement, Forsberg revealed, is just the first step in raising the consciousness of people to be



Randall Forsberg, author and founder of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies.

willing to "once again consider listening to the question of whether or not we can end war."

"If human beings had enough sense and enough recognition of their own self-interest to be able not to go to war as the result of the threat of nuclear annihilation," she reasoned, "then somewhere in there is enough seed of rationality, self-interest and good sense to be able not to go to war because that is what we want."

Forsberg discussed how to cultivate that seed in a four-point agenda she hopes would disarm the world long enough to convince even a skeptic that true peace is attainable. The four points are:

- A bilateral nuclear freeze which she said actually represents "a very small change" in the "hair trigger" situation that exists now, but a step nonetheless needed to stop the nuclear arms race.
- Bilateral or multilateral non-intervention regimes by the big powers in the third world countries. By this, Forsberg said, she meant only direct intervention with big power troops as happened in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan, not economic and military aid like that going on now with client countries of either the U.S. or Soviet Union.
- A reduction by 50 percent of the conventional and nuclear forces of both East and West.
- Further reductions as dictated by the development of civil liberties and human rights in all countries, particularly the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries under its control.

"I expect this step is going to take at least as long as each of the other steps," Forsberg declared, "but I believe if you don't establish civil liberties and human rights in large measure throughout the world, you can't end war and you can't disarm."

Ultimately Forsberg sees her plan resulting in all countries maintaining conventional military forces only for the

purpose of defending themselves against attack and the U.N. having a small peacekeeping force to deal with governments headed by irrational leaders.

Stripping the supply of armaments in the world down to the level of national defense will take a long time, Forsberg conceded, but insists her plan is realistic.

"The steps do not involve any risk for anyone," she said, "no loss for anyone. It is not radical but very cautious, very slow because getting rid of the remaining acceptance of war and violence by human beings, who are well justified in their fear of it, cannot happen quickly."

However, she said, "If inhibitions against the use of force are internalized in populations so that they do not allow the legitimacy of any use of force except in defense against the use of force by someone else, then no politician will be able to take a population and twist it with words into supporting and participating in aggression or intervention or repression."

Jazz great Dizzie Gillespie plays at UMB

Jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie appeared at UMass/Boston on March 30 in the Large Science Auditorium. The program was sponsored by the Black Studies, American Civilization and Music Departments, as well as by the Student Activities Committee at UMass/Boston.

John Birks (Dizzy) Gillespie, 66, is a part of jazz history. He is noted for his upturned trumpet, accidentally invented in 1953 when his horn was knocked off a bandstand and stepped upon.

Gillespie co-founded be-bop in the 1940s and long has been known as an innovator who incorporated Afro-Cuban elements into American jazz.

Born in Chewaw, South Carolina on October 21, 1917, Gillespie has been associated with jazz greats since the 1930s when he moved to Philadelphia. In 1937 he went to London, England with The Cotton Club revue. "Then my career began to unfold," he once remarked.

Gillespie was close to the late Charlie (Yardbird) Parker, played in 1940 with the Cab Callaway Band and with many other jazz innovators. His idol was Roy Eldridge, a mainstay in Duke Ellington's bands.

Dizzy is no stranger to this area. On May 9, 1940 he married former chorus girl Lorraine Wills at Boston City Hall and spent his honeymoon at Revere Beach. He played with the late Arthur Fielder and the Boston Pops Orchestra and in 1980 was awarded an honorary degree at Tufts University.

"I've had a lot of honorary degrees, from the University of South Carolina, Rutgers and some place in Chicago," said the wise-cracking Gillespie.

Briefly . . .

Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, famed author of the *Pentagon Papers*, spoke at UMass/Boston March 28 on the subject of Vietnam.

The public lecture was co-sponsored by the Student Activities Committee (ROTC Club) and the William Joiner Center.

Dr. Tommy Lott is Academic Coordinator of the Joiner Center, whose activities are concerned with the issues of war and its effects on society. A particular focus is on the war in Vietnam.

The Keith Copeland Quartet will perform in the World Music Series on Monday, April 2 at 2:30 p.m. in the Lounge of Building Two. Internationally-known drummer Copeland brings an all-star group featuring pianist James Williams, saxophonist Bill Pierce and bassist John Lockwood. Copeland is currently an adjunct professor at Long Island University and a visiting lecturer and clinician at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

Dr. Mark Bertness, Brown University, will appear at a Biology Dept. seminar on April 13 entitled "Biotic Determinism in the Structure of Protected Marine Communities." The Seminar begins at 2:30, Room II-1209.

Wilfredo Chiesa of the Art Department was recently invited to exhibit his work in Puerto Rico by invitation of the Bank of Boston. It was part of the commemoration of the bank's 200th anniversary and the recent arrival of the bank to the island. Chiesa's paintings were at the Museo de Ponce.

Michael Milburn, Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department has received a \$28,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to support research on the nature of belief systems and ideological consistency.

The Italian Department at UMass/Boston is offering a three-week Study Holiday in Viareggio, Italy for June. It will include a course in Italian language and culture, a number of field trips to various central Italian cities and areas of cultural importance, including Rome, Milan, Pisa, Florence, and Siena. Accommodations are at the Collegio Colombo, a residence of the University of Pisa and a five minute stroll to the beach.

Four credits are available through the Summer Session. It is open to anyone over 17, including spouses, families, etc. For more information, contact Professors Bassanese or Carrara in the Italian Department.



Author James Baldwin, flanked by Mrs. Joyce Corrigan and Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan before recent address to a huge audience at the Harbor Campus.

James Baldwin speaks out

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countrysides," said Baldwin, referring to the large number of non-whites who were taken from their native countries to work in America and Europe.

Western economy, Baldwin continued, is based on dictating prices; this was true when his father grew cotton to help make the textile industry rich, instead of growing food for his family, and the same thing happens today in the Caribbean, said Baldwin, where people grow sugar cane, coffee or tobacco at dictated prices instead of food, which they instead buy canned from the Western world at prices dictated by the Western world.

He predicted that by the 21st century, in only 16 years, "the world will be very different," and social structures are undergoing a "tremendous metamorphosis" right now.

"The time has run out on our pretensions. Time is calling us on what we really believe," he said.

People are more important than

things, Baldwin concluded, urging people of all races and colors to accept their birthright. "It is a very simple one but it imposes a tremendous duty," he said. "The birthright is to love one another. That's quite enough to manage to do in a lifetime."

At a discussion following his talk, Baldwin responded to students' questions as to how they could contribute to easing world tensions and altering present social structures.

He told them to be aware of where they wanted to go in life. "You don't have to bow to the decree that there are separate societies, black and white, and that they have to remain that way," he said.

Baldwin concluded by handing the audience the fight for freedom left unfinished by the assassinated leaders of the 1960's, such as Martin Luther King. They were very important leaders, he said, but civil rights is a people's movement. "The fact that they are gone does not absolve us from continuing. Since they didn't stop, we have no right to stop either."

The Environmental Science Program's Spring Seminar Series continues. April 5: Paul D. Boehm, Battelle New England Research Laboratory: "Organic Geochemical Studies in Estuarine and Offshore Areas." April 12: Paul J. Boyle, The New England Aquarium: "Microbial Ecology of Marine Wood-boring Crustaceans"; April 19: Michael Christensen, UMass/Boston: "The Law of the Sea." Seminars are held Thursdays at 3:30 in Room 423, 2nd Floor, Building 020.

Running through April 15 is an exhibition by the History Department's class in Local Public History and assembled by students Deborah Shea and Stephen Nonack at the Archives Museum in the State House.

Ordinary People: Life in Boston, 1840-1860 uses documentary sources of the area, from account books and receipts to playbills and dinner menus to illustrate the features of daily life, in and out of the home.