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UMass/Boston 

News & Views

Newsletter of the Office of Public Information

Distinguished Visiting Professor speaks about pollution control

"Mercury is the most deadly poison to the nervous system. When mercury is dissolved into lakes and rivers due to industrialization, the microorganisms in the water enrich the mercury content where large quantities of fish become contaminated," said Dr. John W. Wood, the third speaker in the Distinguished Visiting Professors series at UMass/Boston.

faculty members how rapidly the earth's natural resources have been contaminated by industrialization. He noted environmental scientists now are trying to clean up industrial pollution by using biological systems.

"The idea that we are what we eat is not too far from the truth," said Dr. Wood. "There are certain elements in the earth's crust which are required in order for the life cycle to continue."

Dr. Wood spent a week here recently and delivered an address as part of the University's 20th anniversary celebration.

A native Englishman who came to America in the 1960s, Dr. Wood was a Guggenheim Fellow at Oxford. In 1972, he was the first recipient of the gold medal awarded by the Synthetic Organic Chemistry Manufacturers for his work on the environmental chemistry of mercury.

He is founder of the Gray Freshwater Biological Institute of the University of Minnesota. The topic of his lecture was "New Biotechnology and Pollution Control."

Dr. Wood explained to students and



Distinguished Visiting Professor John W. Wood, center, is flanked by Provost Robert Greene, left, and Dr. Joseph Cooney of Environmental Science program. Dr. Wood lectures on "New Biotechnology and Pollution Control."

Briefly...

New York's Museum of Modern Art has purchased for its permanent collection a recent video work, "Viva Magritte" by UMass/Boston Art Dept. Associate Professor Ros Barron.

"Viva Magritte" will be exhibited opening May 7 through August. The show consists of 30 works by artists from the United States, Canada, Europe and Latin America.

In September the exhibition will travel to the West Coast for the National Video Festival at the American Film Institute. Later it will travel to several Australian museums.

WUMB-FM radio is offering American Heritage dictionaries to students, faculty and staff contributing \$50 or more to the station's Drive to Stay Alive. Houghton Mifflin donated the dictionaries. WUMB-FM recently concluded its on air segment of fund raising and received over \$20,000 from 800 listeners. Checks should be made out to UMass/Boston--WUMB and mailed attention GM Pat Monteith.

On Sunday, April 29 at 3 p.m., the University chorus and Chamber Singers will perform Mozart's Coronation Mass and other works in celebration of the University's 20th Anniversary. Professor Robert J. Prins of the Music Dept. will direct the chorus and orchestra.

The concert is free and open to the public.

A special reception and unveiling of a portrait of Dr. Francis Broderick, second Chancellor of UMass/Boston, was held recently in the Faculty Club.

Dr. Broderick, 60, succeeded Dr. John Ryan and served as Chancellor from 1969 through 1972.

Mark Aliapoulos of the Music Dept. conducted the Chamber Singers at a recent concert featuring madrigals from the 17th century, works by American composers, jazz and popular music.

Dr. Brian Thompson (French) sends word UMass/Boston will be hosting an international colloquium on the novels of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Francois Mauriac, April 27-28. Distinguished Mauriac scholars are coming from France, England, Scotland and Canada, as well as from local universities. The sessions are open to the general public. A knowledge of French is a prerequisite for two-thirds of the papers. Phone Dr. Thompson at 7650 or 497-0759.

UMass/Boston once again made a big hit at the recent New England Garden & Flower show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society held at Bayside Exposition Hall.

"We were awarded first prize in the education category along with a superior Commendation Certificate, and two more certificates," noted Richard Stomberg of the Biology Department's greenhouse, who was pictured in the Boston Globe and elsewhere.

UMass/Boston also won the Bulkley Cup of the Garden Club of America and the Chicago Horticultural Society Medal. Channel 7 did a short spot on Stomberg feeding the Venus Fly Trap.

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20th anniversary profiles

Prof. Weibrecht to oversee 20th Anniversary celebration at UMB



Dr. Walter Weibrecht

Associate Professor of Chemistry Walter Weibrecht seems the perfect person to be chosen by Chancellor Robert Corrigan to succeed Professor of Political Science George Goodwin, Jr. as head of the University's 20th Anniversary Celebration Coordinating Committee.

The replacement became necessary when Goodwin stepped aside to recuperate from a recent eye operation.

Weibrecht is not only a founding faculty member who takes great pride in the University, but also his experience as president and treasurer of the Board of Governors of the Faculty Club makes him an ideal and genial host for special events.

He knows the people from various departments who have been assigned to ready the plans for lectures, music and theater presentations, social galas and special academic programs to celebrate UMass/Boston's 20th birthday.

Indeed, Weibrecht is already involved in helping them plan and schedule events, meet their deadlines, and add that extra bit of zip necessary to make each and every effort something special.

He said he was pleased and honored to be asked to head up the 20th Anniversary Committee. "It is working out well. Even my teaching schedule this semester lends itself to committee work. It has me teaching Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, leaving me chunks of time on Monday and Friday."

Weibrecht sees the 20th anniversary as having very special meaning for everyone

associated with the University over the past two decades.

"We built this institution together," he said. "UMass/Boston did not develop in a vacuum. It also did not open its doors with a fixed set of programs and welcome a student body. Rather it grew organically with students proceeding from class to class as we developed.

"In general it is very gratifying to see the enormous amount of progress that has been made in the development from scratch of a university with a broad range of programs and majors in the very short span of 20 years," Weibrecht said.

He recalled the early days when the University was housed in 100 Arlington St. in downtown Boston. Physical conditions were hard, he said, but there was comradery and excitement among the faculty and staff which he described as "highly trained and enthusiastic."

Now that the University is coming of age with the establishment of many graduate programs and a general broadening of the range of offerings one continues to be proud of the accomplishments that are made," Weibrecht continued.

"But for me it is the building of a quality public university from the very beginning into an institution of which I am genuinely proud that I celebrate on this 20th anniversary. I am celebrating my colleagues and our students and what we have accomplished together . . . and the promise which we have for the future and the contribution that we can make to generations of students to come," he concluded.

Weibrecht was born in New York City and raised in Weehawken, N.J. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Penn.; his Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from Cornell U., Ithaca, N.Y. and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard in 1963-64.

He became Assistant Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at Michigan State U. in September 1964 and remained there until June, 1966. During the summer of 1965 he was Visiting Professor of Chemistry at Tufts University.

Weibrecht joined the chemistry faculty at UMass/Boston in September, 1966.

He was Visiting Professor of Chemistry at Indiana University during the summer of 1967.

He is a member of the American Chemical Society, the Association of Harvard Chemists, the Society of Sigma Xi and The Royal Chemical Society of Great Britain.

Theatre Arts Department presents five plays during coming weeks

The Theatre Arts Department will present five plays in repertory, April 18-29 at the Harbor Theatre.

The plays:

- *The Game is Played*, a novel by Jean Paul Satre adapted for the stage by Louis E. Roberts, co-directed by Drew Francis and Louis E. Roberts--April 18-19-21-28 at 8 p.m. and April 25-26 at 2:30 p.m.

- *Leaves From Hell* by Columbian playwright Enrique Buenaventura, translated by Louis E. Roberts, co-directed by Drew Francis and Louis E. Roberts--April 18 and 24 at 2:30 p.m., April 19 and 21 at 7 p.m., April 25-26-27

at 8 p.m.

- *Dark Pony* by David Mamet, directed by Alistair Allen, April 21 and 24 at 4 p.m. and April 25-26 at 2:30 p.m. and April 28 at 8 p.m.

- *The Informer* by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Helen Cullen, April 21 and 24 at 4:30 p.m., April 25-26-27 at 8 p.m.

- *Sand* by Murray Mednick, directed by Cheryl Wilmoth, April 21 and 24 at 3:30 p.m.

All performances are held in Theatre II of Building 020 and are free. Contact Susan L. McGinley, 929-7720.

Dizzy Gillespie blows up a storm at UMass/Boston performance



He joked, clowned, sang and even danced a bit when the music was particularly hot. He played the electric piano, congas and cowbell. And, of course, he played his upturned trumpet, his nose disappearing between his inflated cheeks as he blew on the horn. Both are trademarks of jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, who appeared here recently at the Large Science Auditorium.

Gillespie worked the crowd as a master showman, having fun with the audience and performing his distinctive musical blend of Latin, African and

American jazz sounds.

Gillespie's appearance kicked off a series of annual concerts by distinguished musicians planned for UMass/Boston by the committee: Bob Moore, Black Studies; Fred Danker, American Civilization; David Patterson, Music, and Chris Clifford, Student Affairs.

The duo of Music faculty Dianne Meyers-Spencer on keyboard and Richard Shilling on electric guitar played warmup and received appreciative applause.

Library director Grossmann to retire, join History Department

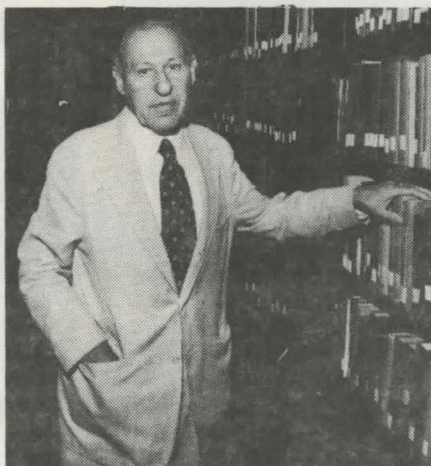
After seventeen years as UMass/Boston's Director of Libraries, Walter Grossmann is retiring from this post to return to full-time teaching in the History Department.

A long-time Belmont resident, Grossmann joined the young institution in its third year of existence as Library Director and presided over the enormous growth of the book collection, two moves to larger buildings and the expansion of one library and construction of a new one.

Immigrating to the U.S. after the Nazi occupation of Vienna, Austria, Grossmann received degrees from Yankton College, Harvard (Ph.D.) and Simmons College (M.A. Library Science). At Harvard he was head of book selection and also taught history.

Grossmann joined UMass/Boston in 1967 to build the book collection. The library—located in the old gas building at 250 Stuart St., the first site of the new university-owned 6,000 volumes. The current level is 400,000 volumes with 3700 subscriptions to current periodicals.

With the increase in titles and student



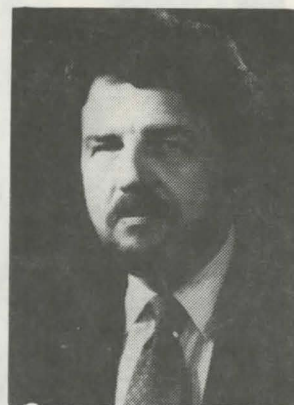
Walter Grossmann

enrollment, a move was necessitated in 1968 to the Armory of Boston's First Corps Cadets which worked well as a library facility until the University began to outgrow that space.

In the early 70's, planning for a Columbia Point building began.

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chancellor's corner



By Robert A. Corrigan

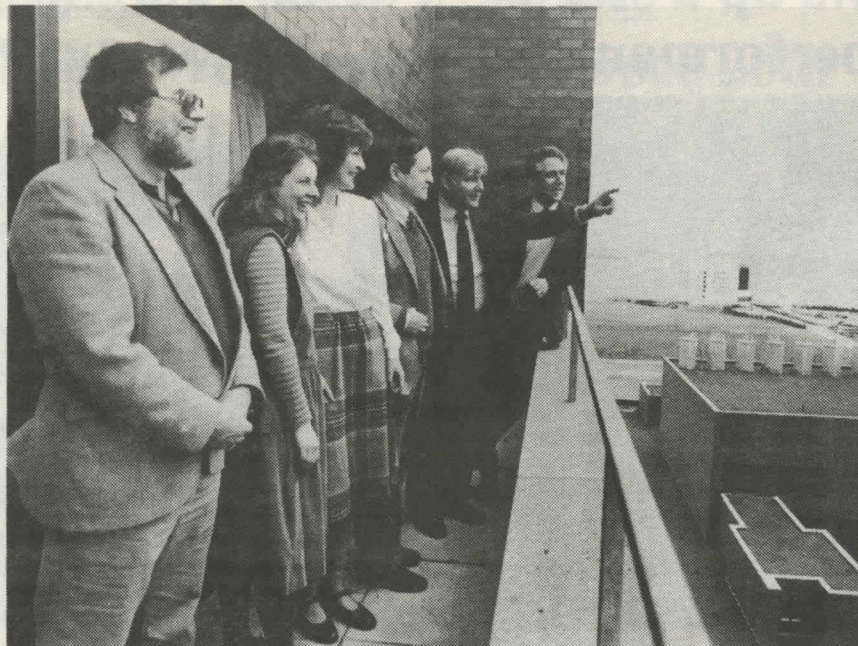
As we all know, UMass/Boston—the only truly urban public university in New England—serves a highly diverse student body. In the current political, economic and social climate, we may reasonably expect the financial pressures on our students to grow, both from continuing restriction of federal financial aid funds and from the increasing likelihood of substantial tuition increases over the next several years.

Let me share a few figures with you:

- The median age of our student body is currently 28 years; 36% of newly-enrolling undergraduate students are over 25.
- 80% of our students work 20 hours or more per week.
- 18% of our total student population is minority.
- 39% of those students who live with their parents have incomes as low as \$15,000. The median income for those who live independently is below \$4,000.
- This year, through all the grant & loan programs at our disposal, we have been able to meet only 55% of our students' determined financial need. The cumulative unmet need of students on this campus for academic year 1983-84 is \$10,918,545.

These figures help to indicate clearly how adversely our student population will be affected if the tuition increases now proposed in the State are implemented without dramatic increases in the amounts of State-based tuition waiver monies or other State aid programs.

It seems clear that a tuition increase will be enacted by the Board of Regents. What we must do is see to it that any increase is accompanied by a comparable increase in Financial Aid for UMass/Boston students.



Pointing to Boston Harbor Islands, Walter Weibrecht, Chairman of UMass/Boston's 20th Anniversary Committee, gathers with participants in Harbor Islands symposia. Left to right: Dr. Joseph Cooney, Environmental Science; Suzanne Gall, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands; Barbara Luedtke, Anthropology; Jeremy Hatch, Biology; Weibrecht; Nick Genes, Geography and Earth Science. The series got underway April 5 and runs through April 26, with a harbor island cruise including Lovell's Island on Saturday, April 28. Contact 523-6799, 929-7085. Dr. Luedtke's opening lecture drew a SRO audience.

Grossmann joins History Dept.

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Grossmann worked with distinguished architect Harry Weese of Chicago who was commissioned to design this new building. The excellent facility that resulted, the distinctive Joseph P. Healey Library, dominates the campus and makes clear that the library is the nexus of the UMass/Boston academic community.

Dr. Grossmann's reflections on the importance of libraries:

--"The historical memory of our race, its literary achievements, much of the knowledge that enables us to survive on this planet—all are contained in the collection on our shelves.

--We learn where we came from and who we are, and we may speculate on the direction we choose to take.

--The library is by the same token the house man has built, his house. He is at home in the library, welcomed, comforted, humored, at ease."

Grossmann who has taught part-time throughout his years as Director of Libraries is currently teaching "Works of the Great Historians" and will teach courses on 17th and 18th century European history.

Three of Grossmann's children and his daughter-in-law graduated from UMass/Boston.

To relax, Grossmann raises vegetables on his farm in western Massachusetts and enjoys movies and concerts.

Briefly . . .

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Dr. David A. Nellis of the Geography and Earth Science Dept. has recently arranged a loan of a number of excellent mineral specimens from the Harvard Mineralogical Museum. They are the basis of an exhibit currently on display in the second floor display case of the Science Building.

Condolences to the family and friends of Maureen A. (Coughlin) Dahill, 36, a part-time medical laboratory technician for Health Services who died unexpectedly on March 26. She had worked at UMass/Boston since July, 1982. The wife of Richard Dahill and mother of Maureen, Richard and Courtney, she will be sadly missed by her colleagues. Donations may be made in Maureen's memory to St. Brigid's School, 866 East Broadway, South Boston.

Mr. Francisco Altschul, a representative of the El Salvadorian DRF (Democratic Revolutionary Front) will speak here Wednesday, April 25, at 2:30 p.m. in the Student Lounge, Building II. Topic of his speech: "El Salvador's Elections: What Next?" Wine and cheese will be served.

Murray Frank, former Dean at CPCS, will receive the Beverly Ross Fliegel Public Service Award at the May 8 annual dinner of the Massachusetts Chapter, NASW, George Sherman Union at BU.



Joe Bloomstein, Material Manager, displays his UMass/Boston bumper sticker currently available to UMB students, faculty and staff. Joe commutes from Brockton each day.