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University of Massachusetts at Boston

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Vol. II, No. 13

May 30, 1979

Corrigan Appointed New Chancellor

BOSTON -- Trustees of the University of Massachusetts today (May 23) approved appointment of new Chancellors for the Boston and Amherst campuses.

Appointed Chancellor of UM/Boston was Robert A. Corrigan, who since 1974 has been Provost for Arts and Humanities at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Appointed Chancellor of UM/Amherst, the University's largest and oldest campus, was Henry Koffler. Dr. Koffler has since 1975 been Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Minnesota.

Today's appointments, recommended by President David C. Knapp, complete the transition of top leadership at the University's three campuses. Last month, Trustees appointed Robert E. Tranquada, M.D., as Chancellor of UMass/Worcester and Dean of the Medical School.

Corrigan, 44, a native of New London, Conn., graduated from Classical High School in Springfield, Mass., and received his B.A. degree from Brown University in 1957. He received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.

He was on the faculty of the University of Iowa from 1966 to 1973, when he became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. He became Provost for Arts and Humanities and professor of English and American Studies at Maryland in 1974.

From 1969-76 he was active in leadership of summer institutes on American Black Culture and Experience at Iowa, Missouri and Maryland.

UMB Receives Maximum Accreditation

Dr. Claire Van Ummersen, Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston announced last week that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges has voted to continue accreditation of the Boston campus for ten years.

The Association's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is responsible for surveying the personnel, facilities and curricula of New England colleges and universities and evaluating them in terms of their ability to fulfill their educational objectives.

UMB Accreditation Cont.

The ten-year accreditation for UMass/Boston is the maximum accreditation given by the regional evaluation commission.

Chancellor Van Ummersen indicated that ten-year accreditation was particularly noteworthy for the university in that it was received by UMass/Boston at the earliest opportunity under current regulations of the New England Accrediting Association. "We are pleased that an institution as young as UMass/Boston has been able to make such rapid progress in its short history," the Chancellor said. She added, "The ten-year accreditation is a confirmation of past accomplishments as well as a challenge to fulfill the goal set for us by the evaluating team - that is to become a great urban university."

Dr. Dorothy Peterson, Chairperson of the evaluation team, indicated that she was "gratified with the action of the commission and pleased that the University has been awarded the maximum accreditation possible." She expressed "confidence that the University will continue to grow and fulfill its objectives in the future."

In its official notification, the Commission commended the University of Massachusetts at Boston, "for the fine efforts it is making as an institution of higher education to achieve its objectives." Specifically, it pointed out the following strengths of the university: 1) its well qualified and well-credentialed faculty; 2) an excellent library; 3) good physical facilities; 4) a diversified, serious and loyal student body and; 5) a nationally recognized competency-based curriculum in the College of Public and Community Service.

The Commission encouraged the university to give special attention over the next two years to clarifying institutional missions and goals, strengthening administrative structures and assessing the market for graduate level, evening and continuing education programs.

In congratulating members of the UMass/Boston community on this strong vote of confidence by the accrediting committee, University of Massachusetts President David Knapp said, "Through this accreditation process, the evaluation team and commission has learned what we in the university already knew - that the university at Boston is a vibrant, healthy institution of learning. Its faculty is excellent, its students diverse, loyal and enthusiastic, and its physical plant and facilities a source of pride." In looking towards the future President Knapp said, "The next decade will not be an easy one for any college or university, but we are reassured by this continued accreditation for the maximum period that UMass/Boston will continue to be an institution of genuine excellence and of educational opportunity."

Student Trustee Nancy Cross, a Junior History Major from Somerville called the report, "a tremendous boost to the school." and said it would go far towards, "heightening pride among those presently attending the university and

UMB Accreditation Cont.

encouraging others to recognize UMass/Boston as a quality, urban university."

Walter Grossmann, the university's Director of Libraries termed the accreditation commission's favorable report on the library facilities "a recognition that our goal is to provide the UMass/Boston community with the finest library resources, books, periodicals and microforms possible and encourages us to continue the struggle for a strong university budget."

Commenting on the national prominence attributed to the College of Public and Community Service in the accreditation report, Dean Murray Frank said, "It is a joy to know that the hard work of many faculty and students has brought the curriculum to national attention in six short years. We dedicate ourselves to building upon this foundation for the future."

Primo Vannicelli, Senior Associate Provost said of the faculty "They are well qualified, and possess the credentials to teach . . . at any university in the country. They have chosen UMB because of their commitment to public higher education in an urban setting."

"One of the University's greatest assets is the highly diversified, commuter student body," commented Vice Chancellor Tubbs, it "includes men and women who are working parents, veterans, disabled persons, and minorities who share a broad range of interests, experiences and insights in pursuing their studies at the University."

UMB to Confer Five Honorary Degrees at Commencement

The first honorary degrees ever offered by UMass/Boston will be conferred at the eleventh annual commencement Sunday, June 3 on: Eduoard A. Stackpole, historian; advocate for the elderly Frank J. Manning; actress Ruth Gordon; metallurgist Cyril Stanley Smith; and architect Benjamin Thompson.

Eduoard A. Stackpole is historian of the Nantucket Historical Association. He was editor of the Nantucket Enquirer and Mirror, curator of Mystic Seaport where he established the first academic-museum course in Maritime history, and former President of the Nantucket Historical Association. He has authored numerous books including Smuggler's Luck, Nantucket Rebel and The Sea Hunter. His reputation as writer and historian is international.

Frank J. Manning has served as guest lecturer in the Human Growth and Development Center of the College of Public and Community Service at UMass/Boston and is currently President of the Legislative Council for Older Americans, Inc. and the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, Inc. He was founder of both of these organizations and has worked with civic, church and labor groups as legislative consultant. He is currently Chairman of the Advisory Board of Greater Boston Elderly Legal Service.

Ruth Gordon made her Broadway debut in "Peter Pan."

Honorary Degrees Cont.

She has appeared on stage, television and motion pictures. She won an academy award as Best Supporting Actress in 1968 for her role in "Rosemary's Baby." Her appearance in "Harold and Maude" in 1971 endeared her to millions. She has also authored several plays and screenplays.

Cyril Stanley Smith is professor Emeritus of Metallurgy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has contributed many publications in the history of metallurgy including A History of Metallography and Sources for the History of the Science of Steel. He has won numerous medals both here and abroad and is recognized for his observations on the role of metal in the aesthetic and decorative life of humankind from the earliest civilization to the present day.

Architect Benjamin Thompson will deliver the commencement address. He is presently President of Benjamin Thompson and Associates of Cambridge and formerly chairman of the department of Architecture at Harvard. He is known in the Boston area for his restoration work of Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market.

Mail Size Standards Take
Effect July 15

The U.S. Postal Service has announced that size standards for envelopes, postcards, and other pieces of mail will become effective July 15. A 7¢ surcharge for oversized and odd-shaped pieces of mail will also go into effect on that date.

After July 15, pieces will be nonmailable if they are less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, 5 inches long, or seven thousandths (.007) of an inch thick.

Subject to a 7¢ surcharge will be first-class mail of two ounces or less that exceed any of these dimensions: $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches high; $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick.

Also subject to the surcharge are odd-shaped pieces within the weight units noted above. The acceptable size ratio for such pieces is: the width must be at least 1.3 times the height and no greater than 2.5 times the height.

Further information is available from the mailroom.

Telephone Equipment
Inventory

Starting on the 11th of June, the New England Telephone Company will be conducting an inventory of all telephone equipment in place at the Harbor Campus. The inventory team will consist of two N.E.T. employees who will be wearing identification badges and will be accompanied by Ed Brannen of the University Telephone Office. Their purpose will be to find, count and mark every telephone instrument or other item of telephone equipment on the campus. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Publications Office

Please direct all communications requesting publications services to Don Reid, Advancement Office, who is serving as Director of Publications until further notice, ext. 2145.