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The UMass/Boston Friday Report

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News and information about and for the
University Community from the Chancellor's Office

New Center Brings Together Programs Addressing Coastal, Ocean Environmental Problems

Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney** announced today that on the recommendation of Provost **Fuad Safwat** the University has formed a new center designed to link together many existing programs and departments to help the institution address the environmental problems of our coasts, harbors and oceans. The new enterprise is called the Harbor and Coastal Center for Environmental Sciences, Policy, Management, and Education at the University of Massachusetts Boston. According to the Chancellor, "It will build upon our current strengths in environmental sciences and management, and provide a home for the University's many public outreach activities and programs related to coastal and ocean environments."

She added that "it is my hope this center will provide an effective focus for a wide range of University-based activities, including education programs for the community, cooperative projects with government agencies, various groups and business organizations, and collaborative efforts with other campuses in the University system." The Chancellor noted that the University has long been involved in the study of the environmental problems of the coastal zone and the ocean. University faculty have pursued marine scientific research since the 1970s, their work buttressed by the Environmental Sciences Program and the Biology Department, whose faculty have played significant roles in cleaning up Boston Harbor. In 1989, the University established the Urban Harbors Institute to study harbor and coastal management issues and to act as a resource for public and private organizations. "During the last five years," Penney said, "the University has produced an increasing number of graduates at the Ph.D. and M.S levels in coastal environmental sciences, and these graduates have moved into research, management and policy positions in both the public and private sectors." The Office of Graduate Studies and Research will administer the new center.

Members of the University Community are reminded that the keynote address at the Convocation Ceremony at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 16th, in Lipke Auditorium, will be delivered by Michael Hooker, the new president of the University of Massachusetts system. President Hooker's address is titled "The Emerging Role of the Urban University." That afternoon, at 4 p.m. in Wheatley Auditorium, Provost Safwat will lead a discussion by faculty members on the University's role as an urban institution. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to attend both events.

State, JFK Library and University To Inaugurate Columbia Point Pier

A ribbon cutting ceremony the morning of Monday, September 14th, will celebrate the opening of a new \$558,000 T-shaped pier at Columbia Point next to the Kennedy Library. Built under the supervision of the state's Department of Environmental Management and to be run by the University with the cooperation of the library, the pier will serve as a docking facility for UMB research vessels and for boats carrying

visitors to Columbia Point and the JFK Library and Museum. According to Associate Chancellor **Donald Babcock**, the University's capacity for conducting environmental research "will be substantially increased because of the new pier." He noted that the Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences will use it to berth the 25-foot research boat *Neritic*, which is currently tied up at the UMB's smaller Fox Point dock. Two other research vessels chartered by the program, *Argo Maine* and *RV Asterias*, also will dock at the new pier. In addition, the pier will provide additional berthing space for *Envirolab III*, which is used by the University's Harbor Explorations program to introduce school and college students to coastal environmental issues. Expected to attend the 11 a.m. ceremony are Senate President **William Bulger**, Mayor **Raymond L. Flynn**; President **Hooker**, Senator **Edward M. Kennedy**, Chancellor **Penney** and **Peter C. Webber**, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management.

Archaeological Team Finds More Evidence Of Native American Culture on Cape Cod

A team of archaeologists from UMB has been working over the summer on Cape Cod and continues to turn up new evidence of native American culture at its dig. According to **Stephen Mrozowski**, director of the historical archaeology program, the materials uncovered are not as remarkable as the corn fields and stone tools which the team discovered a year ago. However, he said they are nonetheless helpful in framing an historical snapshot of the dig, a 50-acre tract on the Cape's southern shore that researchers now believe was first settled 2,500 to 3,000 years ago.

Said Mrozowski: "All of our findings are contributing to a deeper appreciation of native American history and culture, and in particular, to a deeper understanding of this site." Several long wooden posts are among the latest important items uncovered by the team, which has spent the summer months sifting through sand and soil. According to Mrozowski, "These posts are the largest we've ever found on a site in New England. They were probably used in some ritualistic event, and some may even have been totem poles, or served as watchtowers." Mrozowski said that the Native Americans associated with the site belonged to the Nauset Tribe. Several 19th century Native American tribes customarily used wooden posts for burial ceremonies in which the deceased was placed on a raised platform. The body was kept on the platform until the flesh rotted and fell off. The bones then were buried. In examining some of the poles, Mrozowski and his colleagues found small "tree houses" attached to them. He believes that they served as lookout towers. He also is of the opinion that a European-made pistol and pieces of metal pipe that were uncovered date back to the time of King Philip's War (1675-76). The UMB archaeological team plans to excavate the site for another year. Charred corn kernels and other items the team has unearthed are now being tested to determine more precisely their age, and could provide information on how long ago the site was settled.

Tomorrow (Saturday), the Clark Athletic Center plays host to a series of athletic and entertainment events from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. involving employees from local businesses and their families who are raising money for The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In recent years, the "Sports Challenge to Cure CF" has contributed more than \$60,000 to the foundation.

•Please send your news items to the Chancellor's Office for the Friday Report•