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News & Views

Newsletter of the Office of Public Information

Vol. 3 No. 4 November 30, 1984

UMass/Boston establishes Gerontology Institute

The Gerontology Institute at UMass/Boston was officially established at a reception held in Nurses' Hall at the State House.

Henceforth the Gerontology Certificate at UMass/Boston's College of Public and Community Service will be named after the elderly advocate Frank J. Manning, who was on hand for the ceremony.

The event was hosted by Gov. Michael Dukakis; Most Reverend Bernard F. Law, Archbishop of Boston; Senate President William M. Bulger, Speaker of the House Thomas W. McGee and UMass/Boston's Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan.

Initial legislation for the Gerontology Institute was introduced by Rep. Angelo R. Cataldo (D.-Revere) and Senator Chester G. Atkins (D.-Concord).

Other major public figures involved in the creation of the Institute included UMass President David C. Knapp; Gerard Indelicato, Special Assistant to the Governor for Educational Affairs; Sen. Gerard D'Amico, Chair, Senate Committee on Education; Sen. Jack H. Backman, Chair, Joint Committee on Human Services and Elder Affairs; Rep. Joseph A. DeNucci, Chair, Joint Committee on Human Services and Elder Affairs, and Rep. George Keeverian (D.-Everett).

The Gerontology Institute will complement CPCS's successful Gerontology Program and will involve older people in conducting applied research, shaping policy and disseminating information to the legislature, the government and the general public about issues that affect our growing elderly population.

Three from UMB to be honored as outstanding state employees

Three UMass/Boston representatives will be honored at the first annual dinner feting recipients of the Commonwealth Citation at the Park Plaza Hotel on December 11.

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan announced the recipients — Dr. Walter Grossmann of the History Dept., Rosanne Donahue of the Provost's Office and William Pollard of the Disabled Student Center.

The citations were awarded through the Massachusetts Performance Recognition Program, a new gubernatorial effort designed to reward outstanding achievement among state employees.

The process by which UMass/Boston's nominees were selected was twofold. Nominations were sought by President Knapp's office in September. Because the timeframe was abbreviated in this first year of the program, the Chancellor's Office forwarded the names of employees who had already been recognized for outstanding service through existing processes on campus.

Ms. Donahue and Mr. Pollard were honored earlier with Classified Staff Distinguished Service Awards and Dr. Grossmann, was presented the Chancellor's Medal for Outstanding service when he stepped down as librarian, a post he held since the University's inception.

"These awards," said Chancellor



Recipients of the Commonwealth Citation from UMass/Boston are, left to right: William Pollard of the Disabled Student Center, Rosanne Donahue of the Provost's Office and Dr. Walter Grossmann of the History Dept.

Corrigan, "are reflective of the high esteem in which our nominees' professional contributions are held by their colleagues. The entire campus joins in extending them the warmest congratulations."

Gov. Michael Dukakis and key legislative officials will participate in the dinner.

Dr. Meyer, Bursar Dunton selected for Professional Staff awards

Bursar Frank Dunton and Dr. Emily Meyer have been selected for Professional Staff Recognition Awards, it was announced by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan.



Bursar Frank Dunton and Dr. Emily Meyer

Dunton, a Rockport resident and avid sailor, has been Bursar since 1979. He was graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1964 and from Colby College with a BA in Economics in 1968.

During service as a captain in the U.S. Air Force (1970-73) he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, the Air Medal six times and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

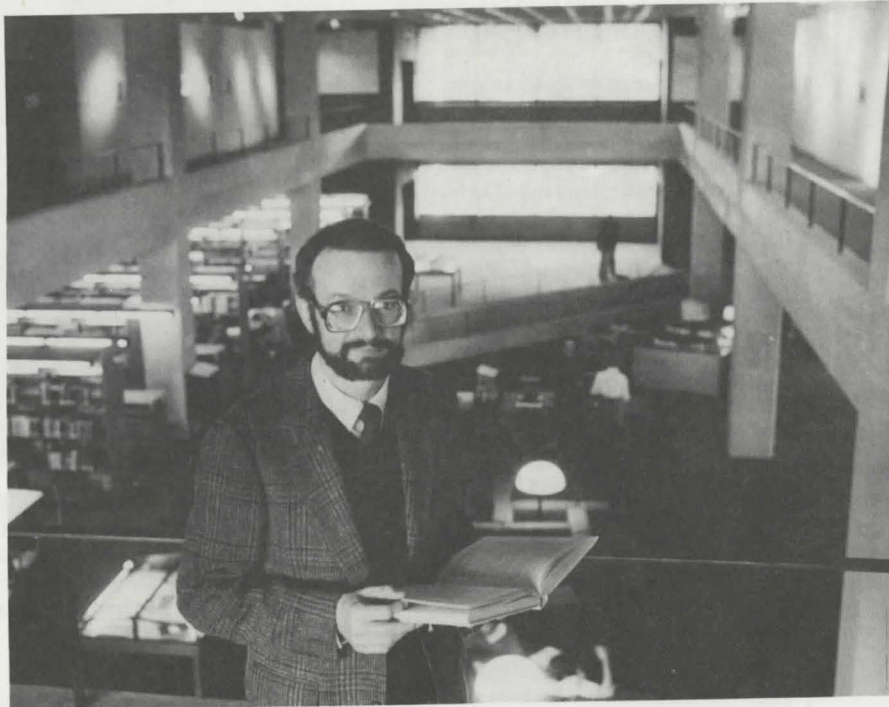
Dunton received his MBA from Suffolk Univ. in 1980. He has served on a number of committees at UMass/Boston and also in community projects in Rockport, where he lives with his wife and two children.

Dr. Meyer, a Newton resident, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Bryn Mawr College in 1960, obtained a M.A. in English from Columbia and later studied at University of Chicago and at Boston College, from where she obtained her Ph.D. in English in 1982.

Dr. Meyer is Director of the Writing Proficiency Program. She has been at UMass/Boston since 1970 and has taught a variety of courses.

profile

Dr. B. Donald Grose looks forward to directing UMB libraries



“Aging and shelf lives of 10 to 15 years for books published within the last quarter century are among the problems libraries share about collections.

Transferring literature from paper to microfilm doesn't seem to be the answer. Using a machine to read a good novel or piece of literature is not the same as cozying up with a book.”

Libraries are intimidating to anyone who doesn't know how to find what they need, quickly and easily, admits Dr. B. Donald Grose, new director of Libraries at UMass/Boston.

Grose wants to change that.

“I'd like to start a program to train students how to utilize the resources of the library and find what they need without getting lost and discouraged,” says Grose. He recently came to UMass/Boston from Indiana University/Purdue University at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he was director of the Helmke Library.

“It, too, is an urban campus, so I'm familiar with the kinds of students we have here — older students, commuting students. These students have several other things going in their lives — jobs, families. The commuters don't have the time to poke around the library and get lost. They need to get in, find their material, use it and go,” he continued.

Grose says he's impressed with the size and calibre of the UMass/Boston library, with its collection of close to a half-million books. At Helmke Library, Grose increased the collection from 170,000 volumes to 400,000.

“Here, there is a wonderful collection of humanities. We may need to grow in science and technology resources to keep up with the constantly-changing state of the art,” said Grose, whose academic background includes a Masters degree in both English and Library Science, and a Ph.D. in Theatre History from the

University of Missouri-Columbia.

The evolution from English to Library Science isn't unusual according to the director.

“Did you ever know an English major who didn't love books?” quips Grose, author of numerous articles and a book, “The Antiquarian Booktrade.”

Grose's avocation is to poke in old book stores looking for ancient tomes. His favorite authors include J.B. Priestly, an 18th Century English writer and E.B. White. Contemporary writer Ward Just is another favorite.

Theater, primarily 19th Century American theater from professional to community playhouses, is also Grose's forte.

“Theater was mass entertainment then. It also reflected the culture of the times — just as theater does, many times, today. Back in the 19th Century, melodrama was the popular style theater. It was highly ritualized, there was a set formula of behavior for every character whose role was identified by his costume and symbols. The actors' motives were clear cut; today, characters aren't,” explained Grose, whose book, “A Mirror to Life: A History of Western Theater,” co-authored with O.F. Kenworthy, will be published in December by Holt, Rhinehart and Winston.

Grose is settling into his office on the fourth floor of the library, slowly. The only books on his shelf are a dictionary and the purple UMass/Boston telephone directory.

“I have something like 5,000 books in transit from Fort Wayne,” he explained.

While he waits for his personal library, Grose is becoming acquainted with his professional library.

“Aging and shelf lives of 10 to 15 years for books published within the last quarter century are among the problems libraries share about collections. Transferring literature from paper to microfilm doesn't seem to be the answer. Using a machine to read a good novel or piece of literature is not the same as cozying up with a book.”

In addition to a training program for library use, Grose would like to schedule regular informal “talks” about books by members of the faculty, local and visiting authors. Small concerts in the library are also on his list.

“The library is a repository of culture . . . from all generations. What better way to put that into focus and make people feel comfortable here,” he said.

To help Grose meet students, and vice versa, the director will sit at the reference desk several times a week.

“We need to get to know each other. I want to know what they expect for a library . . . after all, it is their library,” said Grose.

UMB a leader in Veterans' Affairs

by Robert A. Corrigan
and Paul M. Wright

It was particularly appropriate that UMass/Boston participated in a recent dedication of a memorial to members of the Dorchester community who gave their lives in Vietnam, since UMass/Boston is in the forefront of institutions of higher education responding to the needs of Vietnam veterans.

Before we discuss the University's commitment to veterans' programs and issues, let us make an observation that others have made before, and that we should try to keep in mind when we talk about the war and its consequences.

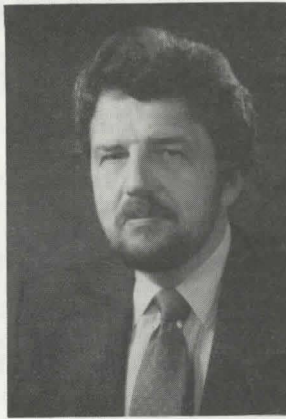
We in university life are trained to make distinctions, and we are trained to preserve and protect those distinctions during the heat of debate. That is part of the Western intellectual tradition that we try to pass on to our students.

Surely, we could all agree that there is a distinction to be made between issues surrounding our government's policies and conduct of the war in Vietnam and issues concerning the veterans of that war. Honest persons of intelligence and good will could disagree vehemently about the rightness of the war itself, yet they could be united in their support and concern for those individuals who had to serve in the war.

Regretably, this important distinction was not always preserved in years past on American campuses. Partisans who sincerely believed that the war was morally wrong were often unable to distinguish between that imperative and the imperative to treat their fellow citizens who had been caught up in the war with respect and dignity as human beings.

Fortunately, those times are behind us. Coolness has returned to our campuses, and we can now study and analyze the historically complex nature of the Vietnam War with our customary scholarly detachment. Moreover, and just as important, we can now deal with Vietnam veterans, not only equitably as we did with veterans of previous wars, but also as veterans with a special set of problems.

It may come as a surprise to the general public to learn that their urban public university—the University of Massachusetts at Boston—is a leader in these endeavors. We have this nation's single largest concentration of Vietnam-era veterans enrolled as students. In 1984, approximately one-tenth of our student body—something like 1,100 individuals—fall into that category. In years past, as much as 15 percent of our enrollment has been of Vietnam-era veterans.



Let us highlight some of our veterans programs. First, providing an umbrella for many of our veteran-related activities is the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences.

Chartered in 1982 and named in honor of a combat veteran of Vietnam who had been Coordinator of Veterans Affairs at the University until his death in 1981, this center was the first in the country to take up issues of the war and its ramifications.

The Joiner Center has a two-fold mission: (1) to address the social amnesia surrounding the Vietnam War, and (2) to provide academic and counseling services to veterans of that war. How does the University carry out that mission?

To address the larger social issues, we sponsor courses that help our students understand the manifold social, political, legal, and economic effects of war—especially the war in Indochina—on our nation's life. And, for our faculty and students as well as the public at large, we hold special lectures, conferences, and colloquia on these issues. For example, pre-eminent experts in the field of post-traumatic stress disorder—a common affliction of Vietnam veterans—have lectured on our campus. And we are planning a major conference on Agent Orange and its long-term effects.

Recognizing that Vietnam-era veterans come in disproportionate numbers from economically and educationally disadvantaged segments of our society, we offer a number of academic and counseling services to individual veterans. Our Veterans' Affairs Office helps students and prospective students determine eligibility and apply for benefits under the G.I. Bill, the Veterans Educational Assistance Program, Vocational Rehabilitation programs, and the Massachusetts-resident state college and university tuition waiver program. We administer tutorial assistance and work-study programs for those on the G.I. Bill. And we offer the Veterans Educational Training (VET) Program, which counsels and prepares veterans for college admissions and presents a GED diploma to those who did not complete high-school.

We are determined to insure that any willing veteran who comes to us gets the

best possible education that he—and in a few cases, she—is capable of receiving. And we want each person to feel that he belongs on our campus and will always have us as a resource for support and job placement after graduation. To assist that effort we are in the forefront in fostering a statewide, indeed nationwide, network of contacts and aid for veterans.

A symbolic as well as tangible indication of UMass/Boston's concern with issues surrounding the Vietnam War is our recent agreement in principal to acquire the uniquely valuable documentary archive assembled by WGBH for its award-winning television series on the war and its antecedents. We expect this to be a scholarly resource sufficient to make us one of the foremost centers in the country for study of war and peace.

This past June, UMass/Boston was the only institution of higher education represented at a hearing on extension of the Vietnam-era G.I. Bill. In testimony submitted to a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Paul Atwood, Coordinator of the Joiner Center, and Kevin Bowen, Director of our VET Program, argued that special problems of adjustment and reassimilation into the mainstream meant that Vietnam-era veterans needed longer than the statutory ten years to take advantage of their educational benefits. They asked that the deadline be extended—a request that the University wholeheartedly supports.

A wide consensus of opinion supports the idea that the G.I. Bill, from World War II, Korea, and the Vietnam era, returns far more to the nation in income and social benefits than it costs in tax dollars. It has been, simply put, a good program. And it is one we should consider extending to current servicemen and women, and recent veterans, who have been asked to put their lives on the line in places like Beirut and Grenada, but who are not covered by similar legislation.

We all recall the remarkable sense of national healing that was generated by dedication of the memorial in Washington, D.C., honoring those who died in the Vietnam War. UMass/Boston helped foster that sense of healing by taking the initiative several years ago in fundraising and lobbying for the construction of a suitable memorial.

Today, we are proud to be in the vanguard for dedication of another such memorial in Dorchester. UMass/Boston is pledged to continue as a haven and a resource for veterans in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Robert A. Corrigan is Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Paul M. Wright is a Fellow of the University's John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs.

Shirley Owens-Hicks appointed Advocacy Counselor at UMB

Shirley Owens-Hicks of Crossman St., Mattapan, has been named an Advocacy Counselor at UMass/Boston, it was announced by Vice-Chancellor Charles Desmond.

Ms. Owens-Hicks, a graduate of Boston University and Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, will serve in the Department of Special Educational Support Services.

Services will include assistance in the areas of housing, legal aid, employment,

affirmative action and general family matters.

Ms. Owens-Hicks is a member of the City of Boston School Committee, District Four, and currently serves as Vice President of the School Committee.

She has held a variety of titles with the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, among them President/Executive Director and Deputy Director of Administration.



Shirley Owens-Hicks

B r i e f l y . . .

UMass/Boston received \$32,500 of the \$212,112 in Joseph P. Healey and Public Service endowment funds awarded to 37 on the three University campuses. The grants fund a variety of research and public service projects.

Of the 25 Healey awards, nine were granted to the Boston campus. The fund was named by the Board of Trustees for the 11-year chairman of the board. It channels funds towards a range of research support items.

The Boston winners: Kenneth Campbell (\$5,000, Biology); Joseph Dyer (\$2,260, Music); Maryellen Kelley (\$5,000, Management); Kenneth Kleene (\$5,000, Biology); Vivien Schmidt (\$3,600, Management); Dan Simovici (\$3,200, Math); Paul Watanabe (\$1,740, Political Science); Fatemeh Zahedi (\$3,200, Management Sciences); Linea Zahr (\$3,500, Nursing).

Members of the Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus participated in a Forum on the Black Legislative Agenda hosted by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan.

Noted Chancellor Corrigan: "I am delighted that UMass/Boston can join in helping to identify the major issues for the Black Legislative Agenda."

The Forum was sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Black Culture under the aegis of UMass/Boston's Black Studies Department.

Betty Robinson, coordinator of the BLC, said: "The general aim of the Caucus is to develop a sense of political awareness among its constituents and to make the political and legislative process accountable."

Cambridge Rep. Saundra Graham, Chairperson of the Caucus, noted:

"The Black Caucus has always worked closely with the business community and social service agencies to make sure they are aware of the budgeting process, how to impact on it and how to get out of it what they need."

The Urban 13 Institutions met recently on the Harbor Campus and were addressed by Chancellor Robert Corrigan and Dr. William Fenstermacher, Director of Institutional Planning.

Participants from UMass/Boston also included Dr. Donald D. Babcock, Associate Chancellor; Dr. Robert A. Greene, Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Robert L. Carter, Associate Provost; Dr. Fuad M. Safwat, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and Planning Associate Prudence C. King.

On hand were officials from St. Louis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Chicago, New York City, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Tampa and Birmingham, Ala.



Kudos to Associate Athletic Director Mary Barrett of Malden, recently appointed President-Elect of the 238-member Eastern College Athletic Conference, largest in the United States.

Barrett was the first woman elected to the ECAC in 1979. She was elected Vice-President in 1982-83. After a one-year term as President-Elect, she will become President in 1985.

Mary came from Boston State College, where she managed 20 varsity teams.

The Dorchester Chapter, Vietnam Combat Veterans, will erect a Memorial to some 70 fallen comrades on UMass/Boston land adjacent to Morrissey Blvd., hard by the Savin Hill Yacht Club.

At a recent ceremony attended by Chancellor Robert Corrigan, an American flag was hoisted in the area and the ground was blessed after a brief parade from St. Williams Church.

The UMB Theatre Dept. presents *Turandot* by Carlo Gozzi at the Harbor Theatre Nov. 30, Dec. 1-7-8 at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 matinees on Dec. 2-5-6-9. Phone 929-7720 for additional information.

F. Donald (Don) Costello of UMass/Boston will be cited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges with a special certificate at the annual meeting on Dec. 6. Since 1965, Costello has chaired 22 visiting committees, including visits to international schools in Moscow, Russia and Belgrade, Yugoslavia as a member of the Overseas Committee for the Association.

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