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**UMass/Boston** 

# News & Views

*Newsletter of the  
Office of Public Information*

Vol. 3 No. 7 • February 8, 1985

## UMass/Boston dedicates Wheatley Hall

Numbers may replace names as identity elsewhere, but UMass/Boston is reversing that trend.

On February 1, the University renamed Building 010 on the Harbor Campus in honor of Phillis Wheatley who, brought to Boston as a slave in the 1760s, became the first black and second woman writer published in America.

This is the first building of public higher education in Massachusetts named for a black woman.

"Wheatley rose above the restraints imposed by slavery and 18th Century society both by achieving a high level of education and by making her own contribution as a poet to the corpus of humane letters," said Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan.

Wheatley was only seven when she was kidnapped from her parents in Africa (probably Senegal, say researchers). At a Boston slave auction she was purchased "for a trifle" because she was slender and a sickly child, by the respected Wheatley family.

Phillis displayed a bright mind and was often found trying to write her letters with charcoal on the wall. Impressed, Mrs. Wheatley arranged for Phillis' schooling. Within 16 months, Phillis could read fluently. At age 13, Phillis started writing poetry; by 20 her volume of 39 works "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral" was published. The 1793 volume made her famous in England and America.

Wheatley's contributions to letters and history make the dedication of a building of higher learning a natural.

A seminar on the life, works and

## UMass/Boston co-sponsors major forum on Northern Ireland

UMass/Boston co-sponsored the largest single assemblage of politicians and officials directly involved with Northern Ireland to come together since The Troubles began 15 years ago.

The three-day event was held in Warrenton, Va. and was organized by Padraig O'Malley of UMass/Boston's McCormack Institute. Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan was in attendance.

The committee for an Irish Forum and the McCormack Institute combined to bring together some 65 political figures, representatives from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain.

"It was a highly successful event," said O'Malley. "All concerned political parties were represented up to ministerial rank."

The event drew national media coverage, including an article in Newsweek magazine. The major thrust, however, was not for publicity, but to open lines of communication among disputing parties.

Among the officials who participated were Justice Minister Michael Noonan and Labor Minister Ruari Quinn from the Republic of Ireland; John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party; Unionist Party deputy leader Harold McCusker; Seamus Mallon and Austin Currie of the SDLP; Irish Labor Senator Mary Robinson; Independent Fianna Fail Deputy and former Minister of Justice Des O'Malley and the first appearance at such a meeting by a three-man delegation from Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party.

The sessions, all off the record, were held at Airlie House near Warrenton, Va. The conclave raised considerable conjecture in Ireland that it was involved with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a charge quickly denied by O'Malley, an Irish-born senior associate at the McCormack Institute and author of a recent best-selling book on the Irish situation.

O'Malley, wit that he is, said if the CIA wanted to chip in with some expense money, well maybe they'd consider it.

Co-chairman of the conference was Catherine Shannon, director of Irish



**Padraig O'Malley**

Studies and professor of history at Westfield State College.

Assessing the three days of discussion, O'Malley noted:

"It was an opportunity for all the participants to look each other in the eye. Lots of signals were given. Now it is up to the parties in the North to go home and figure out what they meant. It is ultimately up to the parties involved to take action themselves."

A senior British official noted: "The conference was principally useful in enabling the parties, a number of whom hadn't met before and hadn't perhaps heard other people's positions set out in the raw before, to get a closer understanding and a more accurate perception of other points of view."

In addition to UMass/Boston's McCormack Institute and the Committee for an Irish Forum, a number of individuals and organizations contributed financial support to the conference.

contributions made by Phillis Wheatley followed the dedication. Participants included: Dr. William Robinson, a Wheatley expert from Rhode Island College; Dr. Houston Baker, a literary critic; Ms. M.A. Richmond, of California, and Dr. Mary Helen Washington, of UMass/Boston, acting as moderator.

The Wheatley Building dedication launched UMass/Boston's recognition of Black History month.

*Profiles  
of the  
University's  
Trustees  
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# The Trustees of the University of Massachusetts: profiles of diversity



University trustees posed for this photo during a recent meeting at 250 Stuart St., Seated, E. Paul Robsham, Chairman Robert H. Quinn, Frederick S. (Barney) Troy. Standing, left to right: Student Adrian Gomes, III, Boston campus; student James Keller, Amherst campus; Judge John T. Sweeney; Thalís Zervas; Andrew C. Knowles; Stanton L. Kurzman, and James F. Carlin. Missing were Nancy J. Caruso and Thomas P. Costin, Jr.

*Since we are in one of the most competitive academic areas of the world, News & Views thought it appropriate to offer background material on the 12 University trustees, chaired by Hon. Robert H. Quinn, Milton attorney, former Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives (1967-69) and Attorney General of the Commonwealth (1969-75).*

The trustees:

**James F. Carlin** of Natick is founder, Executive and/or Director of several companies in diverse fields, including insurance, real estate, data processing and banking. He was Commissioner of Commerce of the Commonwealth, 1979-81, Secretary of Transportation/Chairman, Mass. Bay Transit Authority, 1981-83.

**Nancy J. Caruso** of Boston, Professor of Cooperative Education at Northeastern University, is a member of many community organizations, including the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

**Thomas P. Costin, Jr.**, Postmaster in Lynn, was in the U.S. Marines, 1944-46, before serving as a city councillor and mayor in Lynn. He has a multitude of business interests on the North Shore and currently is holding a second term as President of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States.

**Adrian Gomes III** of Milton is the student trustee from the Boston campus. He is enrolled in the College of Public and Community Service.

**James H. Keller** of Newton is the student trustee from Amherst. He is majoring in Economics at the College of Arts and Sciences. Keller spent one semester at the London School of Economics.

**Andrew C. Knowles** of Bolton serves as Corporate Vice President, Prime Computer, Inc. He served in the U.S. Air Force, 1957-60, has been associated with RCA Corp., Digital Equipment Corp. and Lexidata Corp.

**Stanton L. (Stan) Kurzman** of Newton is President, Garden City Travel Services, Inc. He is Vice President, American Associates of Ben Gurion University of the Negev and is active with the Shriners Burn Institute. Kurzman, 54, is one of four Jewish members of the 50-person board of trustees of the Catholic Charitable Bureau.

**Robert H. Quinn**, Chairman, a Dorchester native now living in Milton, was graduated magna cum laude from Boston College, 1952, and from Harvard Law School in 1955. He is active in

several public interest and cultural associations.

**E. Paul Robsham**, President of Robsham Industries, Inc., lives in Wayland. He attended Calvin Coolidge College and Boston College Graduate School. He served in the U.S. Army, 1952-54, and has been the recipient of many honors, including those from the Knights of Columbus and the Greater Framingham Jewish Federation.

**Hon. John T. Sweeney** is a Federal Judge. He lives in Reading, where he has served in many functions of town government. He was Secretary to Governor Endicott Peabody, 1962-64. He was the recipient of the University of Massachusetts Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award. Judge Sweeney played football at UMass/Amherst.

**Frederick S. Troy**, was Professor of English at UMass/Amherst, 1931-55. He was graduated from Massachusetts State College in 1931; took an M.A. from Amherst, 1936, and studied at Harvard and Oxford. He is the senior trustee, having served since 1963. During World War II, "Barney" Troy served in the Merchant Marine.

**Thalia P. Zervas**, the newest trustee, took a B.A. from Radcliffe College in 1954. She was Admissions Interviewer at Radcliffe, served as Art Editor for a publishing company and was in advertising and promotion at a San Francisco radio station. She lives in Milton.



Highly-successful travel entrepreneur, trustee Stan Kurzman, center, is flanked by Chairman Robert H. Quinn, left, and trustee Frederick C. (Barney) Troy at recent meeting.



## Former Trustee Chair Joseph P. Healey, 1916-1985

The University of Massachusetts lost a great friend, benefactor and advisor when attorney Joseph P. Healey died on January 12 after a lengthy illness. He was 69 years old.

Mr. Healey was a member of the UMass board of trustees for 22 years (1959-1981) and served as its chairman when the decision was made to place the newly-formed UMass/Boston campus in Dorchester, next to Boston College High School, which Healey attended as a lad.

The 350,000-volume library on the Harbor Campus was named in Mr. Healey's honor.

Mr. Healey was an educator, banking leader and, in the early days of President John F. Kennedy's political career, JFK's confidant and speech writer. He also wrote speeches for President Harry S. Truman.

A member of the Boston College Law School faculty from 1947 to 1961, Mr. Healey was graduated from Harvard College, Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School. His legal career included a term as general counsel for Boston Edison Co.

Mr. Healey joined BayBank/Middlesex as president in 1963 and became chairman of the board two years later. He retired from the bank in 1980.

In 1957 and 1958, he was chairman of the Massachusetts Tax Commission and had served as Massachusetts commissioner of corporations.

At the time of his death, Mr. Healey was a member of the board of directors of the Boston Edison Co., a trustee of the Lahey Clinic Foundation, board



The late Joseph P. Healey, left, is shown with Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan and a painting of Mr. Healey unveiled in the library on the Harbor Campus. Mr. Healey died January 12.

chairman of Refrigerated Food Express and counsel to a Somerville law firm. He also was a former trustee of Stadium Realty Trust, which built Sullivan Stadium, home of the New England Patriots.

A moment of silence in respect for the memory of Mr. Healey was held at the

Board of Trustees meeting chaired by Hon. Robert H. Quinn on January 16.

Mr. Quinn extolled the many contributions made by Mr. Healey during his 22 years of service—11 as chairman.

A special memorial service in honor of Mr. Healey will be held in February at the Harbor Campus.

## B r i e f l y . . .

The UMass/Boston community was saddened by the sudden death of Mathew J. (Bob) Murray, a functionary at the Faculty Club dining room since 1980. Bob, a Savin Hill resident, died in his sleep on January 16. He was 74 years old.

"He was a gentleman's gentleman," said Bill Cutler of the Daka Food Service. "Bob always had a nice smile and a good word for everybody."

Murray was well known in the restaurant business. He was a maitre d', 1957-70, at famed Warmuth's Restaurant in downtown Boston. He'd also worked at the Coach Grille.

Baltimore Orioles pitcher Mike Flanagan received the Frederick S. Troy Alumni Award in absentia. The left-hander from Manchester, N.H. and UMass/Amherst, 1975, severed his Achilles tendon in a pickup basketball game a few days previous and underwent

extensive surgery. Also honored was internationally-known writer Paul Theroux, UMass/Amherst, 1963.

The dinner at the Copley Plaza honored "Barney" Troy, retired UMass/Amherst English professor and longtime University trustee.

UMass/Boston graduates continue to reap honors. Maris Nichols, an English major in 1982 from Pittsfield, was one of five from Massachusetts to receive a \$20,000 award called Fellowships for Creative Writers. The purpose is to enable "published writers of exceptional talent" to set aside time for writing, research or travel.

The National Endowment for the Arts awarded a total of \$2 million to 100 writers in 30 states.

Meanwhile, Georgette Trappiel Watson of Roxbury, a CPCS graduate in 1979, received a service award at the

Martin Luther King annual breakfast. She heads the "Drop A Dime" program which encourages people in neighborhoods to call with information on drugs.

Dr. Murray Frank sends word: "From time to time I receive requests for volunteers to serve on the Boards of Directors of social agencies in the community. I would like to transmit this information on a regular basis to those who may be interested in exploring these opportunities." Frank can be reached at 7274, McCormack Institute.

Dr. James E. Blackwell, Professor of Sociology, was recently elected to membership in the prestigious Sociological Research Association, the sociological equivalent of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Blackwell's second, revised edition of *The Black Community: Diversity and Unity*, was recently published by Harper & Row, Inc.



## Criminology teleconference is a big success at Harbor Campus



Federal District Court Judge Shane Devine, right, examines agenda with Associate Chancellor Donald Babcock, center, and Director Leon Zaborowski at Criminology Teleconference held recently at the Harbor Campus.

Many top jurists and law-enforcement figures in New England attended the recent Criminology Teleconference at the Harbor Campus. Snow and frigid climes kept the anticipated attendance below the anticipated 100.

Among those in attendance were U.S. Attorney William F. Weld and aide Mark L. Wolf, U.S. District Court Judge A. David Mazzone, Hon. Levin H. Campbell, CH. J, U.S. District Magistrate Joyce London Alexander and, from Concord, N.H., Hon. Shane Devine.

Associate Chancellor Donald D. Babcock delivered a welcome from Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan. Preliminary remarks were also made by

Dr. Leon Zaborowski, Director, Educational Telecommunications, and Robert Parris of the U.S. Probation Department.

The closed-circuit seminar originated in Washington, D.C. and discussed the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 and the Criminal Fine Enforcement Act of 1984. Seminar Chairman was Hon. Robert R. Merhige, Jr., U.S. District Judge, Richmond, Va.

There were 29 cities involved in the teleconference, coast to coast.

Next venture of UMass/Boston telecommunications, informs Dr. Zaborowski, will involve some 6,000 runners in a variety of sites and will originate from Boston, specifically WGBH-TV, Channel 2, in March.

## Professor Hart aids FAA in the reconstruction of "Miss Ames"

UMass/Boston Professor Philip Hart provided technical assistance to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the construction of a model of the "Miss Ames", a Hummingbird bi-plane which belonged to Hart's great-uncle, early black aviator Herman Banning.

The "Miss Ames" was on display at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry with the opening of the Black

Wings traveling exhibit. The "Miss Ames" is also on display at the FAA's Regional Headquarters in Chicago for their Black History Month exhibit, beginning February 1.

Dr. Hart recently was elected to the Board of Commissioners of the Boston Black Achievers. Professor Hart's wife Tanya, a Boston TV personality, was the keynote speaker at the awards banquet.

## Ramsey Lewis to play at Wheatley Hall celebration

Multi-talented pianist-composer Ramsey Lewis will be heard in concert at UMass/Boston on Friday, February 8 at 8 p.m. in the Large Science Auditorium. Admission is \$10.00.

Mr. Lewis' appearance is in celebration of the dedication of Phillis Wheatley Hall at the Harbor Campus. This is the first public building of higher learning in Massachusetts named in honor of a black woman.

Lewis' music is a distinctive blend of pop, jazz R & B, gospel and Latin styles. His technique is more reflective of his interest in classical music than anything else.



"I have never considered myself a jazz musician or a classical musician," says Ramsey. "I just want to be a good piano player. Actually, it was only by chance that I got into jazz."

Mr. Lewis' beginnings of his classical music training started at age four. He studied for the next seven years with Chicago neighborhood teacher Ernestine Bruce. She recommended he enroll at the prestigious Chicago Musician College, where his abilities blossomed under the tutelage of the late Dorothy Mendelsohn.

While pursuing classical studies, Lewis also played several times a week for an emotionally-charged gospel church choir. At 15, he joined his first jazz group, a dance band called the Cleffs. Four years later the band dissolved, but the rhythm section---Ramsey, bassist Eldee Young and drummer Red Holt---became the Ramsey Lewis trio.

Since that time, Ramsey Lewis has appeared in a variety of settings, including performances with symphony orchestras and in solo concerts.

"But basically I, by and large, and forever will be ---a piano player," he says.