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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

Horticulturalist Doherty To Present Exhibit On Jefferson's Gardens at New England Flower Show

University Horticulturalist Richard Doherty enjoys his plants and flowers, but his admiration for Thomas Jefferson is just as strong. Doherty has been constructing an exhibit for the New England Flower Show to honor the gardens Jefferson cultivated at his Monticello estate in Virginia. The flower show opens March 6 at Bayside Exposition Center in Dorchester. Doherty, who runs the greenhouse located on the top of the Science Center hopes that his exhibit will remind flower show visitors of the passion and creative energy the nation's third president brought to his own gardens. The University exhibit, titled "Thomas Jefferson's Garden Gate," holds added significance because April 13 marks the 250th anniversary of the statesman's birth.

When Doherty arrived at the University in 1990, he inherited a legacy of success at the flower show. The campus has entered exhibits in the show every year since 1984, and twice won first prize in the educational category. His 100-square-foot salute to the principal author of the Declaration of Independence will contain two beds of wildflowers, including such Jefferson favorites as mayapples and Virginia bluebells. There also will be a vegetable garden and two trees that are prominent on the grounds at Monticello -- a ginkgo and an halesia. "I'm regulating the temperature in the greenhouse so that these plants will grow quickly," Doherty says. "But I don't want them to grow too fast. The idea is to have them in bloom when the show begins. I've been looking forward to this for a long time." The exhibit also will feature a twin leaf plant that the American Horticultural Society in 1782 named the Jeffersonia. "He's the only president with a plant named after him," Doherty notes.

The horticulturalist's fascination with Jefferson began when he was a young boy, at about the same time he took an interest in trees, flowers and plants. He has read virtually every book on Jefferson, and several times presented lectures before horticultural and other groups on Jefferson's gardens. Inevitably, Doherty says, his lectures expand into a general discussion about Jefferson's ingenious mind and about his monumental contributions to the nation as president, vice-president, secretary of state and minister to France. Several days ago, Doherty visited the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants at Monticello to familiarize himself with the gardens he is honoring. In addition, Doherty has studied the 700-page diary Jefferson kept over a 40-year span to keep daily track of his flower and vegetable gardens, as well as the weather. As the diary suggests, Jefferson, who was fluent in seven languages, tended his gardens with the same vigor he expended on intellectual endeavors. "The greatest thing a man can do for his country is introduce a plant to its culture," Jefferson once remarked. Doherty agrees. "Jefferson liked to take chances," he says. "He enjoyed an experiment, and that's evident in his gardens. He was always trying to grow different plants. He considered his role as a statesman to be a necessary evil, something that got in the way of what he really wanted to do. When he was asked his occupation, he'd say he was a farmer."

Campus Notes -- Diane Paul (Political Science) took part in a panel February 12 at the annual meeting in Boston of the American Association for the Advancement

of Science. Paul covered the topic, "Social Controversies in Behavior Genetics," and her talk was part of a session on "Controversy Over Crime and Heredity: An Exploration." The panelists examined issues raised by cancellation of a conference on genetics and crime that was scheduled at the University of Maryland. Paul's talk discussed reasons why the "nature-nurture" debate has been so prolonged and bitter.

- **Mark A. Schlesinger** (College of Management/Assistant Chancellor) is one of three contributing editors of *Learning Through Problem Solving*, recently published by Pacific Crest Software, Inc.
- **Richard Hogarty** (CPCS) has written an article on "UMass Selects a New President: Elements of a Search Strategy" for the latest issue of the McCormack Institute's *New England Journal of Public Policy*.
- The National Center for French Language Song at the University is sponsoring a major festival of song throughout the Greater Boston area from until March 10. It is organized by **Brian Thompson** (French). Concerts are being held on the campus, at other area colleges and high schools, as well as at Boston's French Library, the Old South Meeting House, and the Lafayette and Meridien hotels.
- The University's Urban Scholars Program, which emphasizes math and science teaching for 7th and 8th graders, has received a two-year, \$30,000 GTE Focus grant. Only 15 such grants were awarded throughout the U. S.
- **David Terkla** (Economics), **Janet F. Smith** (Philosophy), and **Philip Hart** (CPCS) have received McCormack Institute 1993 faculty grants, which were designed to stimulate and support public policy research by faculty members. Hart will conduct research on "Creating Emerging Industries Centers in Urban Cores;" Smith will investigate "Property Rights in Human Tissue: Ethical and Policy Issues in the Conflict Between Individual Donors and Biomedical Researchers;" and Terkla will examine "The Location Decisions of Japanese Startups in the United States." The three professors have also been made faculty associates at the Institute.
- The University's Women of Color Caucus is holding its sixth annual Women of Color Day Celebration from to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 5, at the University Club. Guest speaker will be **Cheng Imm Tau**, chair of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence. A reception will follow.
- **Richard M. Coughlin** (Sociology) will participate in a roundtable discussion about teaching socio-economics during the Fifth International Conference on Socio-Economics in New York City later next month.

Rep. Frank To Assess First 50 Days of Clinton Administration at Campus Conference

Congressman **Barney Frank** will evaluate President Clinton's performance during the first 50 days of his administration at a McCormack Institute conference on Friday, March 5. His luncheon talk is part of the Institute's symposium on "The Job Ahead: Planned Growth in a Protected Environment." The conference's main thrust will be a discussion of land management policies and how community planners might achieve the proper balance between developmental and environmental concerns. Among the guest speakers are state transportation secretary **James Kerasiotes**, environmental secretary **Susan Tierney**, and mayors **Ray Flynn** of Boston, **James Sheets** of Quincy, and **Jordan Levy** of Worcester. Other speakers at the conference, which will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Healey Library's 11th floor, include Massport executive secretary **Alden Raine**, state representative **Mark Roosevelt**, and former Seattle mayor **Charles Royer**, currently director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Institute senior fellow **Ian Menzies** is the principal organizer of the event, which is co-sponsored by the New England Chapter of the American Planning Association and the non-profit 1,000 Friends of Massachusetts.