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UMass/Boston 

**News &
Views**

*Newsletter of the
Office of Public Information*

Vol. 3 No. 9 • March 22, 1985

Briefly . . .

UMass/Boston's Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan was named by Boston School Committee President John Nucci to a search committee for a new superintendent of schools to replace departing Robert R. Spillane. The panels include Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn and state Education Comr. John Lawson. Chairman is School Committee Vice President Shirley Owens-Hicks.

Chancellor Corrigan was interviewed by Channel 2's Christopher Lydon on his views of the importance of the search.

Two years after renaming the Red Line's Columbia Station to JFK-UMass, the MBTA is considering yet another possible name change. Neighborhood groups favor the old name. Interested parties are asked to express opinions before March 28 at 722-3301.

Associate Dean John J. Conlon recently published essays on the novel of Michel Butor, Gustave Flaubert and Emile Zola in *Critical Survey of Long Fiction: Foreign Language Series*, a five-volume series produced by Salem Press.

Professor Robert A. Dentler of UMass/Boston's Dept. of Sociology spoke on "The Baby Boom and the Sociological Imagination" recently in the Faculty Lounge. It was the third in the 1984-85 Distinguished Lecture Series sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. Professor Dentler discussed the success and failures of the sociological imagination to identify and interpret great social trends.

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UMB's Padraig O'Malley honored for *Uncivil Wars: Ireland Today*



Padraig O'Malley, a senior associate at the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs at UMass/Boston, was awarded the prestigious Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize in ceremonies at Chatham House, London.

The prize goes to the writer whose work has contributed most to Anglo-Irish understanding.

O'Malley, 42, won the \$2,200 award for his best-selling book "The Uncivil Wars: Ireland Today," published in the United States in 1983 by Houghton Mifflin. The prize is awarded annually to the writer of any nationality whose work contributes most to peace and understanding in Ireland, to closer ties between the peoples of Britain and Ireland, or to closer cooperation between the partners in the European Economic Community.

O'Malley is a Lecturer in the Irish Studies Program at UMass/Boston and is Editor of the *New England Journal of Public Policy*, published by the McCormack Institute.

In addition to his research, teaching and writing on the conflict in Northern Ireland, O'Malley also has organized several major conferences, bringing together representatives of the parties and governments of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain, as well as a number of journalists, social scientists and economists.

O'Malley was educated at University College, Dublin, and Tufts University. He currently is writing a book on the 1981 hunger strikes in Ireland.

The Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize is

"Peace and reconciliation in Ireland are things we must not just aspire to, we must work for them with the same intensity and determination with which the men of violence ply their deadly trade."

— Padraig O'Malley

administered by the National Book League (London). The panel of judges established in 1976 includes Graham Greene, Seamus Heaney, Marie Cruise O'Brien, Thomas Pakenham, Maurice Schumann of the French Academy and Georges Sion of the Royal Academy of Literature in Brussels.

Lady Jane Ewart-Biggs describes the memorial award as "dedicated to all those who have died violently . . . both the well-known public men and the ordinary people whose lives have been sacrificed and whose families have been left to mourn."

"I look forward to the day when we won't need to award a Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize," said O'Malley, "although at the moment and given the recent tragic events, the hope may be forlorn. Peace and reconciliation in Ireland are things we must not just aspire to, we must work for them with the same intensity and determination with which the men of violence ply their deadly trade."

profile

ILT's Dr. Jean MacCormack talks about the learning process

"Teaching is for people who like to learn, those who want to use what they learn," said Dr. Jean MacCormack, Acting Director of the Institute of Learning and Teaching (ILT) at UMass/Boston.

MacCormack, of Beverly, practices her theory. Despite earning a doctorate in education, MacCormack continues studies in art and world culture, just in the interest of learning.

Recently she spent a month in China both for pleasure and to observe the Sino education system, the art and the culture of that ancient society.

"I was awed by the self-discipline of the students. Children from 10-12 years old practiced a certain lesson over and over for example, to learn the skill of observance and reproducing a drawing in the traditional manner," said MacCormack.

The educator points out that most American youngsters want instant skills, success, and gratification. If not, they lose interest in the lesson or project.

"The skill of writing falls into that area here. Youngsters don't want to draft, re-draft and polish their papers to develop a process of getting the ideas out of their head and onto the paper so others can understand," continued MacCormack, who earned her doctorate at UMass/Amherst.

She bemoans the number of books churned out by authors and publishers, some within a week of a major news event. It supports many students belief in a quick write. She says, however, that many teachers don't encourage drafting and rewriting; they're too busy to read several drafts of a student's paper for concept and then grammar.

The Institute for Learning and Teaching, begun in 1970, develops models of curriculum for both university students in undergraduate and graduate programs and develops models of inservice education to improve the equality of education, teaching styles and learning processes for urban educators.

The undergraduate teacher preparation programs center around a core curriculum at the College of Arts and Sciences. It introduces potential teachers to the basic elements of liberal arts and sciences and by giving emphasis to expository writing, critical thinking and mathematical reasoning to help students develop a broad base of awareness.

"Under a new state law, elementary education undergraduates must earn 24-28 credits in a subject outside of education—math, English literature—to demonstrate the undergraduates skill in



Dr. Jean MacCormack

learning a special subject and to meet requirement of proficiency in writing," said MacCormack, author of several research papers including strategy guide for school systems for education in peace and justice.

UMass undergraduates in the ILT program provide tutorial assistance to public schools teachers, providing one-to-one training with students.

"In the Boston Public School compact, we're paired with Districts 5 and 6, South Boston and Roxbury. We provide instructional and administrative

support, curriculum planning and staff development throughout the whole school system," said MacCormack.

"Again, the lack of writing ability in elementary and secondary school students is a major concern in education today. We approach teaching the writing process by having teachers go through the same tradition used in school systems now. Then we explore new methods. And we encourage teachers to exchange details of techniques they've evolved in their classroom. For example, how do you get kids interested in reading and writing reports on such classics as *Silas Marner* and *The Scarlet Letter*?, asked MacCormack, whose undergraduate major was English Literature.

"I was a double major in English Literature and Fine Arts. I took special education courses. But I maintain an avid interest in those two areas," said MacCormack, who reads at least one book a week.

"Reading for pleasure is such a great experience, we'd like every child to experience. But until we can make reading in the classroom more stimulating for every student; there'll only be a few who pick up a book voluntarily," said MacCormack.

The acting director and in-service experienced teachers agree it helps students if books are a part of their home environment.

"Children learn by role models. Parents need to take some responsibility for their children's education. I watched my parents read and would pretend I was reading too. My father read me the *Travels of Marco Polo*. And I was hooked not only on reading, but also on travels. Both interests have not only been fun but also great learning experiences," said MacCormack.

WUMB's Tom Callahan cited for his 'Celtic Twilight' radio program

WUMB-FM's Assistant General Manager Tom Callahan has recently received two awards in recognition of his contributions to Irish Culture and Heritage through his work with WUMB's weekly Irish program, "Celtic Twilight." One award was a Resolution from the Boston City Council, and signed by Council President Joseph Tierney. The other was a Citation from the House of Representatives signed by Speaker George Keverian. The House Citation was offered by State Representatives Marie Howe of Somerville and Charles Doyle of West Roxbury.



Tom Callahan

Shirley Chisholm speaks her mind at UMB lecture

Both the Democratic and Republican parties "will be in total disarray" by the time the 1988 Presidential election rolls around, predicted former U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm in a speech at UMass/Boston.

Chisholm, the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first to try for a Presidential nomination, spoke of "racial polarization in American politics" and lashed out at President Reagan in a fiery, provocative one-hour talk presented under the auspices of the University's Institute for the Study of Black Culture in its Distinguished Lecturers and Artist Series.



Shirley Chisholm

Highlights:

• "The Democratic party made two major misconceptions in the Presidential election: one, it over-emphasized the so-called Gender Gap and, two, it emphasized the registration of black voters as the key to the South. Meanwhile, the Republicans used Civil Rights tactics to enroll white voters from the hills and backwoods. . .

"I toured the Southern states and talked to many of the women. They told me they were suffering under Ronald Reagan, but they'd vote for him because he was going to stop Communism in this country. I know that's ridiculous, but we in the Northeast don't understand the feeling in the South.

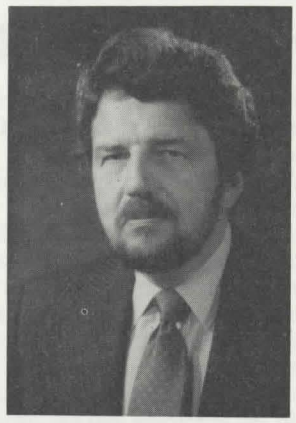
• "We are retrogressing again, just as we were under President Richard Nixon. . . silent Jimmy Carter was too decent and too good to be President. . . Ronald Reagan is doing to this country exactly what he did as Governor of California. . . You'll recall he told America 'You ain't seen nothing yet' . . . and I'm afraid he's right about that.

chancellor's column

Last year in this column, I emphasized UMass/Boston's mission to serve the graduate education needs of the citizens of Eastern Massachusetts. I would like to continue this focus by sharing with you my thoughts on the foundation upon which graduate education rests—scholarly research. In January, 1985, the Office of Graduate Studies and Research established a Research Council composed of faculty from all academic units. The Research Council will deliberate issues related to increases in research support and productivity and will make recommendations for policy initiatives. It is anticipated that campus-wide coordination of research support will enhance the entire scholarly atmosphere of UMass/Boston.

It is the recognized task of the University not only to convey the existing body of knowledge, but also to contribute to the generation of new knowledge. Our success in graduate development and our ability to promote significant research are interrelated goals. We cannot have the high-quality graduate programs that we seek without fostering an environment that encourages and values research activity. Similarly, we shall not challenge our fine faculty to pursue their full research potential without high-quality graduate students. Accordingly, graduate education and research go hand-in-hand toward the creation of a University in the fullest sense.

We should acknowledge and applaud the efforts made by our faculty to date. From all segments of the University, faculty members are recognized locally, nationally, and internationally as scholars of the first order. Our faculty research programs have attracted support from public and private sources. The Ford Foundation, National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, and the Department of Education are a few of the many agencies that have invested in



the research of UMass/Boston faculty. Likewise our faculty have received fellowship awards in recognition of their scholarship—from the Fulbright Program, Guggenheim Foundation, and the National Academy of Sciences, to name a few.

We are proud of our faculty, but research is hard work, and grant writing can be tedious and offers no guarantees. Last year we transferred the Grants and Contracts Administration Office to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. This move was intended to be more than symbolic, so that Graduate Studies and Research may be functionally linked. Our next goal is to explore the feasibility of a research grants development operation. However, that goal requires additional resources and we need to add significantly to the Research Trust Fund to establish capability in the area of grants development.

While the University builds toward better support of research activity, the entire community should recognize the critical role of faculty research to our very definition as a university. In turn, let us try to translate this recognition to support for scholarly research as a paramount concern.

• "The conservatives capitalized on American fears that the fabric of society is in disarray.

• "The church now has become a central force in the backhills of this country. Two religious groups in particular shifted to the Republican party because of its conservative leanings. . . Evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics. These people usually are Democrats. Whether or not this is permanent remains to be seen.

• "The Roman Catholics make up 28 percent of the electorate, the largest single group. The abortion issue more than any other will have an effect on national politics for years to come. The (Catholic) Bishops all over the country are into politics like nobody's business. People listen to the bishops and priests more than politicians.

• "Nobody could have beaten Ronald Reagan. The national state of mind is confused, complicated and in a complex state. . . In 1988, both political parties will be in total disarray. There will be struggles on every level. The Democrats should have elected a Southerner to head the party, somebody like Governor James Hart of North Carolina, a moderate. This Northeast liberal thing is going nowhere."

Future participants in the Institute's lecture series include Professor John Hope Franklin, author of *From Slavery to Freedom* on Thursday, March 28, and Dr. Andrew Brimmer, an expert on the position of blacks in the American economy, on Thursday, April 11.

Richard Stomberg's plants garner awards from Boston to Minneapolis

As soon as he stepped off the plane in Minneapolis, Richard Stomberg of Cambridge, the UMass/Boston Greenhouse Supervisor, was interviewed by the Minneapolis Tribune.

Subsequently, three Minneapolis-St. Paul television stations and various radio stations conducted interviews with Stomberg during his 10-day stay for the Minneapolis Home and Garden Show.

Zero-degree temperatures were offset by the warm reception of thousands who came to see Stomberg and his award-winning carnivorous plant exhibit. Judges at the 1984 New England Spring Flower Show at the Bayside Exposition Center gave the UMass/Boston exhibit one of their highest honors—a silver bowl awarded by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in the Educational Category, as well as several other trophies and commendations.

Stomberg's exhibit captured the Trustees Emeriti, awarded for innovation and unique concept; the Chicago Horticultural Society Medal for expertise and knowledge; a commendation from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for maintenance of the exhibit during the nine-day show and the Bulkey Medal from the Garden Club of America.

Stomberg, with help from the UMass/Boston Biology faculty and staff, had a new exhibit around a water theme at the recent Boston Flower Show at the Expo Center.

For the 1985 exhibit, Stomberg



Richard Stomberg

demonstrated watering techniques for garden, greenhouse and home, including recent ideas in irrigation, outside water-saving techniques and basic horticultural information about watering plants.

Those who missed last year's Flower Show can still see Stomberg's collection of carnivores snap their jaws over tiny pieces of liver and beef, or digest flies in the greenhouse at the Harbor Campus. The famous plants sat out last week's show.

UMass/Boston hosts annual 'Kids, Parents, and Educators' conference

UMass/Boston hosted the sixth annual Conference for Kids, Parents and Educators in the Large Science Auditorium on Saturday, March 16.

The event, which attracted some 300-500, was co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Massachusetts Association for Advancing Individual Potential.

Sessions for parents and educators

included parenting gifted children, creativity and a panel discussion: "Gifted and Talented Programs: How They Work."

UMass/Boston's Critical and Creative Thinking Program has had a close relationship with MA/AIP and its graduates have had an influence on enriching the programs in elementary and secondary schools.

Laura Blackburne speaks at CPCS

Laura Blackburne, Executive Director of the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution based in New York City, appeared recently at the Park Plaza Hotel under sponsorship of UMass/Boston's College of Public and Community Service (CPCS).

Ms. Blackburne spoke on mediating disputes in which race or religion is an issue. She is Legal Counsel for the NAACP in the state of New York.



Briefly...

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Roast politician and corned beef and cabbage were on the menu of Senate President William M. Bulger's annual St. Patrick's Day bash broadcast "live" for the third straight year by UMass/Boston's WUMB-FM (91.9) last Sunday, March 17.

The broadcast emanated from the Bayside Club on East Eighth St., South Boston

Major political leaders, including national figures, were on hand along with the flower of Massachusetts' politics and leading jurists.

D. Leo Monahan, UMass/Boston's Director of Public Information, anchored the broadcast, which will be replayed on Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Patricia A. (Pat) Monteith, General Manager of WUMB-FM and Assistant General Manager Thomas D. Callahan produced the program, which has proved very popular with area listeners in recent years.

Born: To secretary Barbara Velardi and her husband Bob, a first daughter, Lauren Marie, 6 lbs., 3 oz. She's with Vice-Chancellor C. Thomas Baxter's office... To Paula Titus, wife of Athletic Director Charlie Titus, a first son, Andre James, 7 lbs., 5 oz... Engaged: Grace Muscarella, former UMass/Boston Director of Student Financial Management, now with the College Board, to Michael Bartini, her opposite number in the College Board's Philadelphia office.

Corine Dubois, current director of Student Financial Management, appeared, along with Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan and students, on a Channel 2 program discussing President Reagan's proposed cuts in student aid.

Kudos are in order for our sports teams. AD-Basketball Coach Charlie Titus took his Beacons to the ECAC Division 3 final at Trinity College, Hartford, Ct., after a thrilling semifinal victory over Wesleyan at Clark Athletic Center... Meanwhile, the UMass/Boston women's track team, down to a dozen runners and without ailing top performer Genesia Eddins, captured the ECAC Division 3 championship with 107 points to Tufts' 103.25. Murtonda Durant won two events, the 50-yd. dash and the 200-meter and anchored the winning 1600 meter relay team.