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News & Views

Newsletter of the
Office of Public Information

Briefly...

More kudos for Mary R. Barrett, Associate Director of Athletics, who was elected to the prestigious Executive Council of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) at its convention in New Orleans, attended by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan and Athletic Director Charlie Titus.

Ms. Barrett's election to the 44-member council came atop her recent election as president of the 243-member Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

The NCAA convention was attended by representatives from 1,700 colleges and universities.

The Executive Council is charged with the establishment and direction of policy for the NCAA. Ms. Barrett will represent colleges and universities within New England, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and the District of Columbia.

This marks only the second time in the NCAA's 80-year history that a female athletic administrator has served on the Executive Council.

Ms. Barrett, incidentally, was recently profiled in the *Boston Herald*.

□

Kudos, too, to Bette Davis, Director of the International Exchange, who finished as the ninth woman, first masters woman, in the Boston Peace Marathon in 3:12:07. UMass/Boston colleague Hans Van Willigen finished in 3:03 among 1,200 entrants.

Over the semester break, Bette ran a 10K (6.2 mile) race in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and was the first foreign and second woman finisher overall, losing to a Jamaican girl. Geoff Smith, winner of the Boston Marathon the past two years, was the male winner.

As the first foreign female finisher, Ms. Davis won a free trip for two back to Jamaica for next year's Marathon Week.

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Dr. Philip Hart of CPCS busy with TV documentary, museum exhibit



Dr. Philip Hart of CPCS

UMass/Boston Professor Philip S. Hart is the stemwinder behind the Black Wings exhibition opened recently at Boston's Museum of Science.

Dr. Hart also is co-producing a documentary for WGBH-TV, which will premiere at the Museum of Science in April while the Black Wings exhibit is there.

"Black Wings—The American Black in Aviation" tells the relatively unknown yet intriguing story of black experiences in aviation—from Eugene Bullard's service in France in World War I to the black astronauts assigned to the Space Shuttle.

The topic became of special interest to Dr. Hart since his great uncle, J. Herman Banning, was the first black and 1324th person to get his flying license from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Banning was the first black pilot to fly transcontinental from Los Angeles to New York.

It was largely through Hart's research that started as a labor of family pride when he was a youngster in Denver and has continued into his adult life as a key academic pursuit, that J. Herman Banning and other black flyers gained long-due recognition.

A book *Black Wings* has been published by the prestigious Smithsonian Institute, which also opened an exhibit on black aviators in 1982. Touring exhibits

have appeared in Los Angeles and elsewhere across the nation.

The TV documentary also will premiere at the California Museum of Afro-American History and Culture in Los Angeles as well as at Smithsonian's Air Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Museum of Science exhibit will continue through April 27, 1986.

Dr. Hart provided technical assistance to the Federal Aviation Administration in the construction of a model of the "Miss Ames", a Hummingbird bi-plane which belonged to his great-uncle. The "Miss Ames" was on display at the FAA's Regional Headquarters in Chicago for a Black History Month exhibit a year ago.

It is partly through Dr. Hart's research, started as a teenager in Denver, that the pioneering aviation exploits of Banning and many others have been brought to public attention.

Dr. Hart's background was in communication. Since joining the UMass/Boston faculty in 1973, he has been involved in a number of community programs. Just recently he was promoted to full professor of sociology at the College of Public and Community Service.

He has a chapter entitled "A Changing Racial Mosaic" in the publication "The State of Black Boston" sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Black Culture.

Professor Eleanor Wachs serves as official folklorist of UMass/Boston

Students at UMass/Boston's Harbor Campus tell of a professor there who limits his class to 24 students. They quote him as saying "the room has only enough air for 25".

Midwestern and West coast college students tell the same story about a professor on each of their campuses.

Any truth to the tale? None that any researchers can pinpoint. But students swear they know someone who knows someone who was the 26th enrollee and was barred from the class for lack of air.

"It's a campus folklore," says Professor Eleanor Wachs, assistant professor of English and official Folklorist for UMass/Boston. "The story can travel across the country. No one knows why or how, but the same story surfaces on other campuses."

Folklore is a body of traditional belief, custom and expression, handed down largely by word of mouth and circulated chiefly outside the traditional means of communication and instruction, i.e. newspapers, television, books, classrooms.

Every group bonded together by common interests and purposes, whether educated or uneducated, rural or urban, possess a body of traditions which may be called its folklore. Into these traditions enter many elements: individual, popular and even "literary", but all are absorbed and assimilated through repetition and variation into a pattern that has value and continuity for the group as a whole, according to professor Wachs.



Professor Eleanor Wachs

"We've traditionally associated folklore with rural environments. But the tradition was carried with those who moved from rural to urban areas for jobs. It has passed on to the next generation in non-rural areas," explained Wachs, a resident of Quincy.

Wachs says within the last few years, the urban population has developed its own folklore. Who hasn't heard about baby alligators flushed down the drain grown to man-size and residing in the sewers?

"Again, no one knows how that story, or the one about the clown in a van trying to entice children away with him,

got started. Most urban folklore does center around a crime and a victim," said Wachs, author of *The World of Victims: Folk Narrative from New York City*.

She says these narratives about how someone was mugged or raped or had his house burglarized follow a recognized folklore formula: the kind of crime, characters, time/location, the confrontation, dialogue and resolution. Often the tale has the "victim" outwitting the criminal.

"These tales tend to focus on and expose the attitudes and fears of society. For example, the positive or negative attitude of the police toward the victim or society's belief it must defend itself," she says.

The retelling of urban tales have their value in offering solutions to handling situations most city folk fear.

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UMB police seek first-in-nation accreditation

UMass/Boston's police hope to become the first-in-the-nation academic force to be sanctioned by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, according to Director James J. Lovett.

Assessors will arrive at the Harbor Campus on February 17 and will be available to hear comments from the general public concerning compliance with standards essential for nationwide accreditation.

The public information session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18 in the Faculty Club, 11th floor, Healey Library.

"Our department must comply with over 700 applicable standards in order to gain accredited status," said Director Lovett. "The on-site assessments follows a self-assessment ordered by the Virginia-based agency."

According to Lovett, the self-assessment phase took nearly two years. It involved active participation from all department personnel.

"We are pioneering a contemporary effort to enhance police professionalism," said Lovett. "We are the first college or university law enforcement agency in the nation to undergo on-site assessment. Our officers will achieve well-deserved recognition and increased career growth potential."

The Accreditation Program Manager for the UMass/Boston Police is Detective/Sergeant Philip M. O'Donnell.

The on-site assessment will be performed by law enforcement practitioners from out-of-state agencies.

Accreditation is for five years, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with standards.

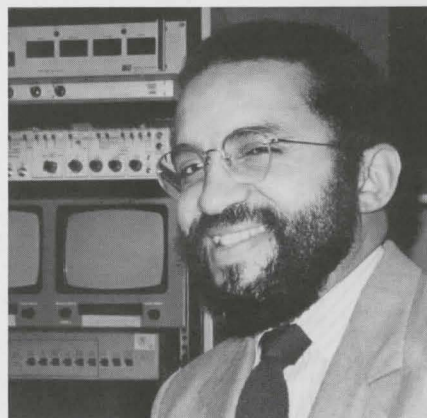
Paul Deare appointed Director of the Center for Communications at UMB

Paul Deare of Boston, has been named Director of the Center for Communications Media at UMass/Boston.

Deare has a broad background in academics as well as in broadcasting. He has taught and lectured at UMass/Boston, City College of New York, Mills College and San Jose State in California and at Harvard University Extension College.

He is a member of the Board of Directors at MIT's Communications Consortium, was co-founder/vice president of the Boston Black Media Coalition and is president/emeritus of the Say Brother Community Advisory Board, WGBH Educational Foundation, Boston. He also serves as treasurer of the Boston Film and Video Foundation.

Since 1983 he has served as Director of the Public Institutional Network (PIN) in Boston. He also is on the Board of



Paul Deare

Directors of the Advent School.

Deare has studied at Howard University, Columbia, and Boston University, where he expects soon to complete doctoral studies in Educational Telecommunications.

John Whittaker named assistant Vice-Chancellor



John (Jack) Whittaker

John Whittaker of Scituate has been named Assistant Vice Chancellor for Resource Management at UMass/Boston, it was announced by Provost Robert A. Greene.

Whittaker will oversee the Academic Affairs budget. For seven years he worked on the campus budget.

A graduate of Northeastern University, Whittaker received his MBA from Babson College in 1978. He currently is working towards a doctoral degree.

Whittaker's wife Joan is a special needs teacher in the Scituate school system. Daughter Debby is a freshman at UMass/Boston, while daughters Beth and Allyson are students at Scituate High School.

Whittaker served as a captain in the U.S. Army, assigned to the Combat Surveillance School and the 187th Infantry Brigade. Prior to coming to UMass/Boston, he served as a budget analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank.

He has been active in civic events. He served recently as a member of the Scituate School Redistricting Committee and as a member of the Scituate High School Principal Search Committee.

Briefly . . .

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The University will miss Mrs. Katherine (Kay) Shea, longtime Coordinator of Veterans Affairs, who retired recently after 12 "very memorable years" at UMass/Boston.

"It was a great experience and I think I worked with the best of all groups on campus—the veterans," said Mrs. Shea, a Dorchester resident whose husband retired after 36 years with the City of Boston.

Vice-Chancellor Charles F. Desmond hosted a retirement party for Mrs. Shea at the Faculty Club.

Fenn's friends gather to say farewell



Outgoing Director of the John F. Kennedy Library, Dan Fenn, left, chatted with Chancellor and Mrs. Robert A. Corrigan at a jam-packed farewell function held recently at the JFK Library. Many friends, associates and family of Fenn's filled the reception rooms. Fenn served the Library through its early days since its dedication in October, 1979.

(Photo by Leslie Sheehan)

UMass/Boston Alumni Association elects new officers for 1986



Newly-elected Alumni Association Board of Directors Executive Committee, left to right; John Rooney, '73, Treasurer; Linda Manning, '75, Chairperson; Sarah Freedland, '78, Secretary; Sherry Thomas, '72, President; and Anna Hogan, '75, Vice-President.

Sherry Thomas, Director of Student Information, is the new president of the UMass/Boston Alumni Association. She was graduated in 1972 and has been employed at the University since that time.

The new Executive Committee members include John Rooney, '73, Treasurer; outgoing president Linda Manning, '75, Chairperson; Sarah Freedland, '78, Secretary, and Anna Hogan, '75, Vice-President.

□

Provost Robert A. Greene reminds all that the deadline for the fourth annual Healey and Public Service Grants is February 28. Some \$41,000 will be available to UMass/Boston.

Manning of Brighton served as President, 1983-85 after a term as Vice-President. She is a staff nurse at Mt. Auburn Hospital, Cambridge.

President Thomas has been an Alumni Board member since 1982.

Secretary Freedland is a registered nurse and served with the U.S. Army in World War II. She has been an Alumni Board member since 1979 and served as Secretary since 1980.

Treasurer John Rooney, Jr. was a UMass/Boston police officer for 10 years. He's now a policeman in Scituate. He has been an Alumni Board member since 1977.

Vice-President Hogan is a Development Officer at the Patriots' Trail Girl Scout Council in Boston. She has been a board member since 1982.

Dean Jennings named to committee; appoints new CPCS program director



Evonne Hill-Shepard, newly-appointed Director of Community Service Programs at CPCS, poses with CPCS Dean James Jennings, himself recently named to the Committee on the Status of Black Americans.

Dean James Jennings of the College of Public and Community Service has been named to a three-year term on the Committee on the Status of Black Americans.

Dr. Jennings has been appointed a member of the Panel on Political Participation and Administration of Justice by Executive Director David A. Goslin of the Washington, D.C.-based National Research Council.

A Cambridge resident, Dr. Jennings came to UMass/Boston in February, 1983. He had been a professor of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University.

Dean Jennings was graduated cum laude from Hunter College, New York City, in 1971 and received M.A., M. Phil. and PhD degrees from Columbia University. He was a Ford Foundation Fellow, 1971-1976 and in 1978 was awarded "Administrator of the Year" honors by Long Island University.

Jennings has taught at Long Island University, The State University of New York-Albany, Cornell University and Boston College.

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Evonne Hill-Shepard of Hyde Park has been appointed Director of the new Community Service Program at UMass/Boston's College of Public and Community Service, it was announced by Dean James Jennings.

Through the Community Service program, teams of CPCS students under faculty supervision work with Boston-area community service.

Ms. Hill-Shepard also is responsible for coordinating some special events at the Downtown Campus.

Previously, she had been Associate Director for Senator Paul Tsongas and had been cited as the first black woman to hold professional staff positions in the offices of two United States Senators from Massachusetts, having worked previously for Senator Edward Brooke. She was the lone staff person carried through the senatorial transition.

Ms. Hill-Shepard serves on the College's Advisory Board. She is a United Way Volunteer, a member of the Black Communicators Network Group and most recently was appointed to the Board of the Tsongas/King Institute at the University of Lowell.

She founded and currently directs the CPCS Inspirational Gospel Ensemble, the first in the history of CPCS.

Continuing Ed to sponsor AIDS teleconference

UMass/Boston will originate a national video teleconference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) for students, faculty and staff of the nation's colleges and universities.

It will be held on Thursday, April 3, 1986 on the Harbor Campus, an offering of the National University Teleconference network. UMass/Boston's Division of Continuing Education is sponsoring the event.

The two-hour program, first of three to be presented from UMass/Boston, is entitled: "The National AIDS Forum: Separating Fact from Fiction."

Nationally-known experts from leading universities and medical schools will discuss these topics. The teleconference format allows participants at remote locations throughout the United States and Canada to interact with the panel of experts assembled in Boston.

Primary objective of the teleconference is to separate unsubstantiated and irrational rumors from the best information that epidemiologists, clinicians and public health officials have available.

Prof. Wachs on folklore

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But urban folklore isn't all crime. Wachs teaches a course entitled, "Introduction to American Folklore." It touches on children's folklore, urban legends, folklore about UMass, New England traditions and family folklore.

"Family folklore is a celebration of family. In a sense, it carries on legends of the family's heroes, misfits, successes and failures. It recalls important family events—parents courtships, births, deaths, moves, whatever has had an impact on the family," explained Wachs, who earned a Ph.D. in folklore at Indiana University.

Wachs assigns students to interview their parents and other family members for the story of their parents' courtship.

"In class, students orally describe the events of their parents meeting and marriage. Although the students come from varied socio-economic backgrounds, they're surprised to sense a similarity in family folklore," she said.

Professor Wachs considers folklore as an effective tool to aid in understanding differences and similarities of peoples and groups, thus leading to greater tolerance.

"Folklore is another way of looking at culture but not institutionalized culture... the culture of everyday people who pass their tales and traditions to subsequent generations," she said.