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2-24-1986

News & Views - Vol. 04, No. 10 - February 24, 1986

University of Massachusetts Boston

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Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "News & Views - Vol. 04, No. 10 - February 24, 1986" (1986).
1983-1991, News & Views. 50.
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News & Views

Newsletter of the
Office of Public Information

Vol. 4 No. 10 • February 24, 1986

Dr. Frances Daly Fergusson named president of Vassar College



Dr. Frances Daly Fergusson

Dr. Frances Daly Fergusson, former Assistant Chancellor at UMass/Boston, has been named the ninth president of Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

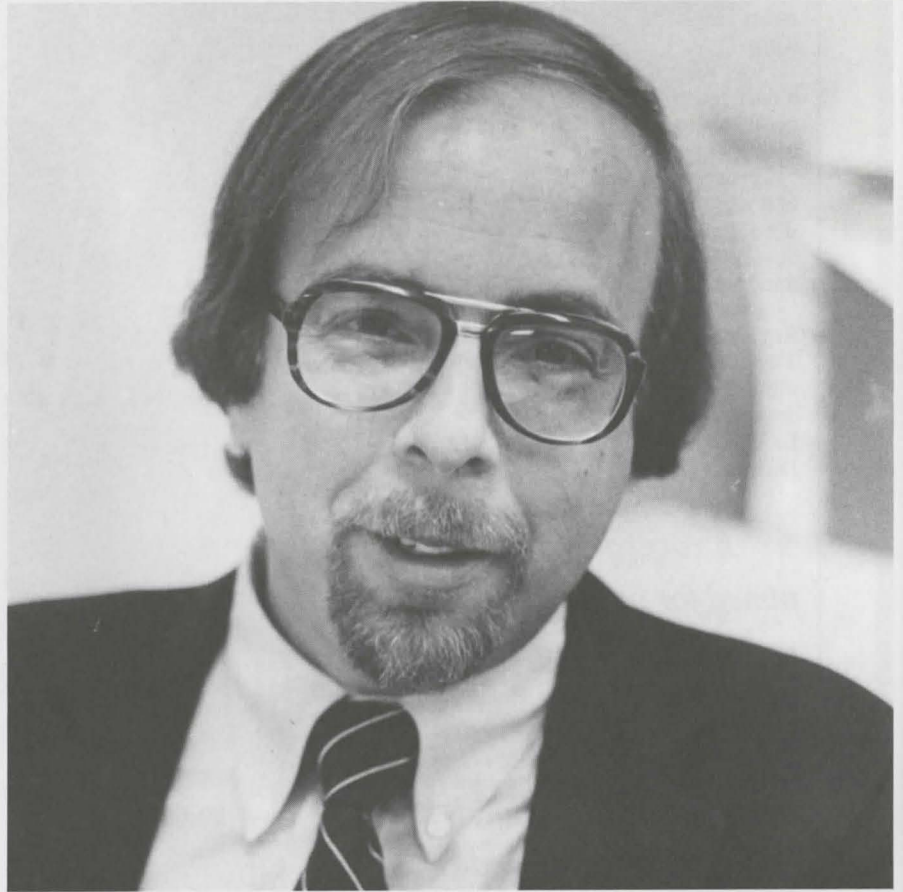
Dr. Fergusson is the third woman to head Vassar in its 125-year history. She will take over on July 1, replacing Virginia B. Smith, who has been Vassar's President since 1977.

Dr. Fergusson grew up in South Boston and Hyde Park. She is a graduate

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UMB. 2-56

CPCS's Dr. Gary Siperstein awarded grant for study of learning disabled



Dr. Gary N. Siperstein

Dr. Gary N. Siperstein of UMass/Boston has been awarded over \$500,000 for a three-year study for the National Institute of Child Health and Development.

This is Dr. Siperstein's second three-year award from the NICHD. The total of the two exceeds \$900,000.

Dr. Siperstein is Director of The Human Services Center at UMass/Boston's College of Public and Community Service. He is a resident of Marblehead.

In his research, Dr. Siperstein and his team are determining how the social acceptability of mentally retarded children among non-retarded and retarded peers is affected in laboratory and natural situations by their own characteristics, those of their non-retarded peers and other variables.

The goal of the research is to see if such factors can impede or reverse the stigmatization of mentally retarded children and help mainstream them into society.

Dr. Siperstein's studies show teachers treat kids with learning disabilities differently than those without them.

"They draw attention to the learning disabled child. They act negatively to them. They stigmatize the child in the eyes of other children," said Dr. Siperstein.

"Children use teachers as role models and the children who are on the receiving end of the negative behavior of a teacher set up a self-fulfilling prophecy... 'If I am expected to fail, I'll fail.' Then the roles get set and he or she can't break it," he said.

Briefly...

Nominations for the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Scholarship, established in 1977, close on Monday, April 7, 1986 according to Robert A. Greene, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost.

One or two faculty members will be selected and will receive prizes of \$500 at Convocation in September. Full and part-time faculty members are eligible.

□

Commencement Exercises have been shifted to Saturday, May 31, 1986 for a variety of reasons, according to Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan. It had been slated for the next day.

□

Yale University Press has recently published *Reclaiming a Conversation: The Ideal of the Educated Woman*, by

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UMB celebrates the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

An overflow, enthusiastic audience in Wheatley Auditorium greeted Martin Luther King III, son of the slain civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. King was the focus of a multimedia celebration of the life and contributions of his father to promote awareness of Dr. King's legacy.

Proceedings were filmed for inclusion in a national documentary, produced by the January 20th Project, to record the observance of the holiday in five selected nationwide sites.

On the platform with King were the Rev. Michael Haynes, pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church, Roxbury, where the Rev. Dr. King preached during his days in Boston, and State Senator Royal L. Bolling, Sr. of the Second Suffolk District.

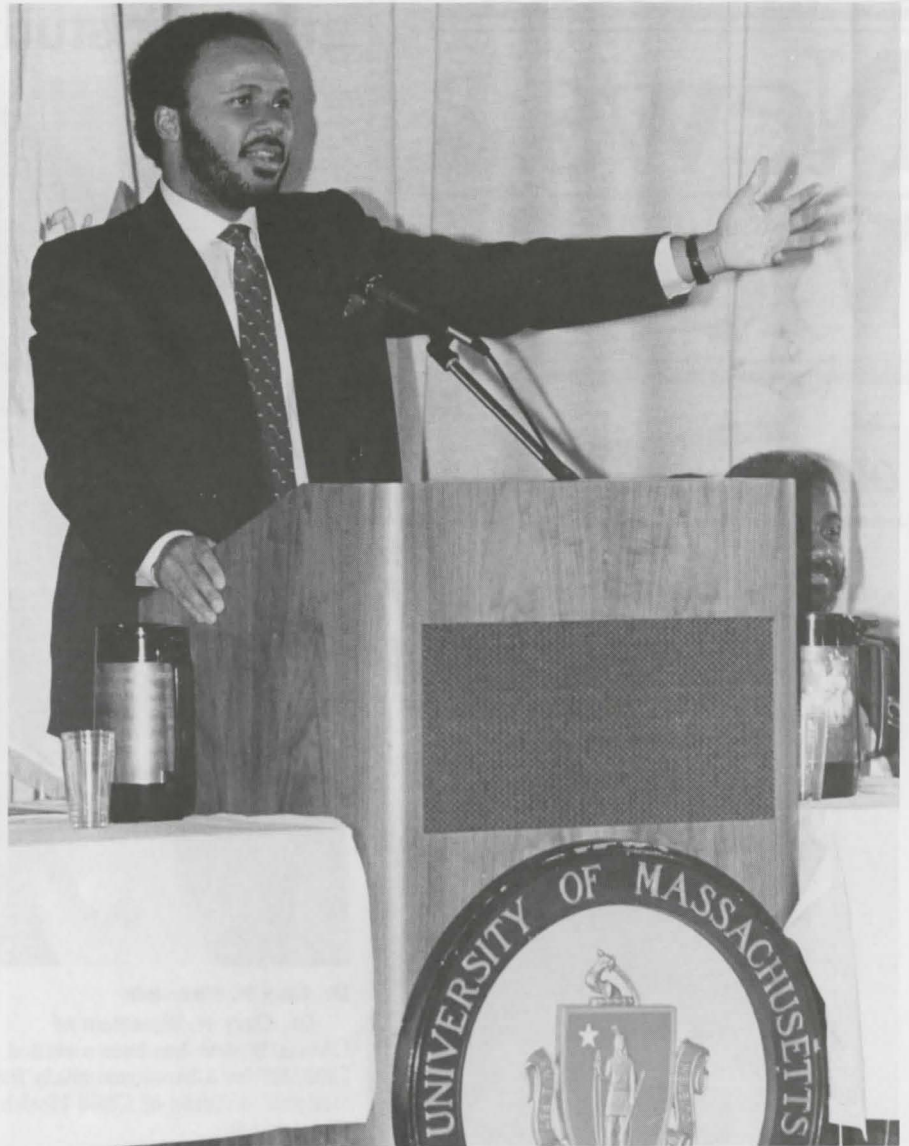
Proceedings were filmed for inclusion in a national documentary, produced by the January 20th Project, to record the observance of the holiday in five selected nationwide sites.

Also appearing were the winners of an essay contest from the Farragut School and Jeremiah Burke High School. The students delivering essay presentations were David Janiver, fifth grade, Farragut School, and Raquel Ironf, a tenth grader from the Jeremiah Burke. Music was provided by the UMass/Boston Inspirational Gospel Choir, directed by Evonne Hill-Sheppard of the College of Public and Community Service.

Much of the success of the program was attributed to extraordinary student involvement. Mark Jarret Chavous and John Murray were the Program Coordinators.

Remarks were delivered by Dr. Wornie Reed, Director of the Institute for the Study of Black Culture; Senator Bolling, Rev. Haynes and Rev. Sarah Small of the campus ministry program. Charles Desmond, Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, made welcoming remarks.

The program was supported by the Student Senate/Cultural Events; Black Student Center; Institute for the Study of Black Culture; John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, Office of the Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, College of Public and Community Service and the Campus Ministry.

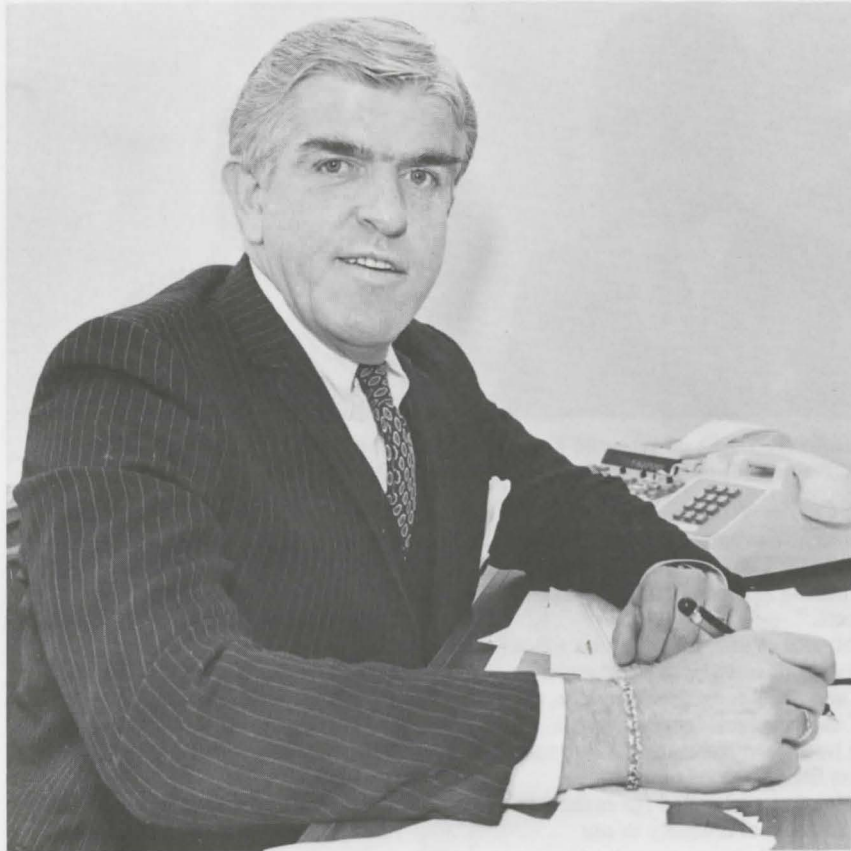


Martin Luther King III, son of the slain civil rights leader, addresses an overflow audience at Wheatley Auditorium.



Martin Luther King III, center, joined by, left to right: State Senator Royal L. Bolling, Sr.; Evonne Hill-Sheppard of UMass/Boston; Mr. King; Rev. Michael Haynes, 12th Baptist Church, Roxbury; and UMass/Boston Vice Chancellor Charles Desmond.

Gerard O'Connor appointed Budget Director by Vice-Chancellor Baxter



Gerard E. O'Connor

Gerard E. O'Connor of Dorchester has been appointed Budget Director of UMass/Boston, announced C. Thomas Baxter, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.

O'Connor, 41, joins the University after 15 years experience in administrative posts with the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Human Services. As Director of Management for the

Padraig O'Malley joins US delegation observing Filipino presidential race

Padraig O'Malley of UMass/Boston's John W. McCormack Institute, was one of a 40-person delegation sent to observe the Presidential election in the Philippines.

O'Malley was delegated by the National Democratic and Republican Institute for International Affairs, an organization funded by the Congress of the United States to promote democracy.

O'Malley was selected because of his longstanding efforts toward peace in Northern Ireland and the reputation he earned there as an even-handed observer.

He is the author of *The Uncivil Wars: Ireland Today* (1983), which was co-winner of the Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize for Anglo-Irish understanding.

O'Malley, as Senior Fellow in the McCormack Institute, is also editor of the *New England Journal of Public Policy*, a McCormack Institute publication.



Padraig O'Malley

Department of Mental Health, he handled a budget of over \$400 million, including seven state hospitals and six state schools.

O'Connor will provide input into and coordinate the budgets of both academic and administrative departments.

Major input will include long-range budget planning to meet the future needs in programs and personnel at the University.

O'Connor is active in a variety of civic and philanthropic organizations including Chairman, Board of Directors, Boys & Girls Club; American Association of Hospital Administrators; Knights of Columbus, and board member of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans.

Mr. O'Connor is also this year's recipient of the Outstanding Leadership Award in Racial Harmony and Affirmative Action, presented at the Renoir Exhibit by the Massachusetts Association of Mental Health.

O'Connor and his wife Patricia, a paralegal, have a son Sean and a daughter, Tara.

O'Connor is an avid sportsman. He skis both downhill and cross-country and sails off Cape Cod with his wife and children. He jogs several times a week in his Dorchester neighborhood.

Prof. Phillip Clay of MIT speaks on housing issues at UMB lecture

MIT Professor Phillip Clay recently highlighted a forum at UMass/Boston's Healey Library. The William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture sponsored the event to examine issues in housing that were raised in a recently-released monograph, *The Emerging Black Community of Boston*.

Dr. Clay presented an overview of his findings that are reported in the volume along with a discussion of policy implications.

Ricardo Millet of the City of Boston's Community Planning and Development Agency presented Mayor Raymond Flynn's Administration policies and programs in housing.

William Jones, Director of the Codman Square Housing Development Corp., reacted to the presentations and discussed issues in housing development.

News & Views is a bi-weekly publication of the UMass/Boston Office of Public Information. News items should be addressed to: Office of Public Information, Third Floor, Administration Building, Harbor Campus, Boston, MA 02125.

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Education the focus of series on WUMB-FM

WUMB-FM will focus on education in a special month-long series in March, according to General Manager Pat Monteith, who will host a five-part series entitled "Improving the Quality of Education."

Among her guests will be:

- March 3: Dr. John Zoino of Randolph and Dr. Robert Petorkin of Cambridge, School Superintendents, and Boston Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rudolph Crew.
- March 10: Local high school teachers.
- March 17: The parents point of view.
- March 24: Muriel Cohen, Education Writer of the Boston Globe, and Dr. Maurice Eash, Director for the Institute of Learning and Teaching.
- March 31: Kenneth Pauly of the Museum of Science, Prudence Goodall of the Randolph Horizons Program and Edward Foley of the A.P.P.L.E. program at Milton Academy.

Dr. Fergusson appointed Vassar College president

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of Wellesley College and earned a doctorate in art history at Harvard University.

In 1982, she left the Harbor Campus and went to Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa. to become provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. Fergusson, 41, was an unanimous choice from a large field of candidates.

"Her academic credentials and experience place her among the nation's leading educators," said Mary Draper Janney, chairman of the Vassar board of trustees and chairman of the search committee.

"She is committed to the liberal arts and a person who values the faculty-student relationship as central to the educational enterprise in an undergraduate college," Mrs. Janney told the *New York Times*.

"Fran" Fergusson, as she was affectionately known here, was graduated from Wellesley in 1965. After doctoral work at Harvard, she taught at Newton College of the Sacred Heart and was Director of the Division of Humanities.

She served as assistant to Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan at UMass/Boston, 1980-1982.

Harvard's Dr. Charles Willie leads off affirmative action lecture series



Dr. Charles V. Willie of Harvard University, right, with Dr. Wornie Reed, Director of UMass/Boston's Institute for the Study of Black Culture.

Dr. Charles V. Willie, professor of education and urban studies at Harvard University, spoke at UMass/Boston on "Affirmative Action: Problems and Prospects."

Professor Willie, an expert on school desegregation, has written numerous books and articles on the education of blacks and on black families. In his lecture he argued for comparative studies to assess the effects of racial discrimination and called for racial, ethnic and sexual diversity in our institutions and in our everyday lives.

Dr. Willie said that comparative

studies have generally shown the degree to which corrective efforts—affirmative action—are required. In his prescription for social progress, all societal groups would be participants, thus enriching the whole country.

Dr. Willie's lecture was the first in a series of lectures on affirmative action. The series is sponsored by The William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture.

The next speaker in the series will be James Farmer, founder of the Congress of Race Equality (CORE), on March 5th.

Briefly . . .

• continued from page 1

Jane Roland Martin, a UMass/Boston Philosophy professor from Auburndale.

The book fills a void in the study of educational philosophy and the history of educational ideas. Dr. Martin constructs a conversation among great thinkers of the past such as Plato and Rousseau and draws her own "ideal" regarding educational philosophy.

□

Channel 7 News featured UMass/Boston in a recent three-part series entitled "Who Is Teaching Our Children?"

Interviewed were Dr. Maurice Eash, Director of the Institute for Learning and Teaching; Phys. Ed. Professor Jim Loscutoff, coaching basketball; Professor Carol Nectow of the Study Skills Center and Professor Jean Phelan, Teaching of Mathematics.

□

A recent book in the McGill-Queens Studies in the History of Ideas, Stephen H. Daniel's *John Toland: His Methods, Manners and Mind* (McGill-Queens University Press, 1985) credits "the research of four authors", among them

Prof. Robert R. Evans, a member of the UMass/Boston Theatre Arts Dept.

"John Toland's Pantheism: A Revolutionary Ideology and Enlightenment Philosophy" organizes Toland's thought around the theme of pantheism as primarily an ideology of political history.

Especially good in placing Toland's work within the political developments of his day, Evans' work indicates how political history and philosophizing about the cosmos united Toland's writings.

□

Prof. Peter Ott, German Dept., sends word the position of Resident Director of the Freiburg/Baden-Wurttemberg Program for 1987-88 is now open.

Candidates must be tenured members of the UMass/Boston faculty with doctorate, fluent in German and experienced in graduate and undergraduate advising.

Interested persons are invited to submit their curriculum vitae to Prof. Ott, German Dept., McCormack Hall. Additional information is available from Fred Van Derbeck, International Programs Office, Amherst Campus. Deadline for applications is March 14, 1986.

□