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## MEYER MEMBER OF TEAM ANALYZING HOW ENGLISH IS SPOKEN AND WRITTEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

English professor Charles Meyer and an international team of researchers are collecting samples of various forms of the English language as it is spoken and written throughout the world. Meyer and colleagues in 20 nations where some variety of English is spoken are constructing a body of information that eventually will be stored on a computer, enabling language specialists to study the myriad nuances of English usage around the globe. Meyer is working with professor Robert Morris of the Math and Computer Science Department and Edward Blachman of Interleaf, Inc., of Waltham to develop computer software for the project.

Some 25 researchers are working in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Singapore, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Zambia. Contributions are also being made by universities in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and South Africa. Team members in each country are collecting texts of the written word as it appears in newspapers, academic journals, popular magazines, personal letters, business correspondence and student essays. They are also recording dialogue from casual telephone conversations, face-to-face

discussions, broadcast interviews, formal speeches, courtroom testimony, sports play-by-play, political debate and government hearings. Demographic profiles of the various authors and speakers also are being catalogued, as are such idiosyncratic tendencies as gesticulations, voice loudness and the propensity of some to speak while others are talking.

"All of this material will be part of a valuable tool for scholars of the future who are interested in linguistic analysis," says Meyer, a member of the UMass Boston faculty since 1986. Meyer became interested in English usage while earning his Ph. D. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he studied with Professor Stanley Greenbaum, a prominent scholar of English grammar. In 1988 Meyer began collecting data for the current project, which is being coordinated by Greenbaum. Several UMB students who are pursuing their master's degree in English are helping to collect data for the project. According to Meyer, the global study is not likely to be completed before 1996. The effort is principally supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to researchers at the University of California at Santa Barbara, with whom Meyer is collaborating.

## Art Historian Butler Publishes Full-Scale Biography of Auguste Rodin

Professor Ruth Butler, former chair of the art department, has just published her third book, a major 566-page biography of 19th century French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), whose most famous works include *The Kiss*, *The Thinker*, *The Burghers of Calais*, and *The Gates of Hell*. Published by the Yale University Press, *Rodin: The Shape of Genius* represents 10 years of scholarship by Butler, who conducted much of her research on the sculptor at the Musee Rodin in Paris.

Butler recently retired from the UMass Boston faculty after 20 years of teaching, but she still conducts a weekly seminar for undergraduates on biography. Her two previous books are *Western Sculpture: Definitions of Man*, which has served as textbook for a course she taught on 19th century sculpture, and a critical analysis titled *Rodin in Perspective*. Butler has also helped prepare Rodin's works for exhibit in the United States and wrote a catalogue titled *Nineteenth-Century French Sculpture: Monuments to the Middle Class*.

*Rodin: The Shape of Genius* received a full page review on November 14 in The New York Times Book Review, which called the biography "a well-documented summary of current knowledge about the artist ...". Butler has been praised for her

thorough investigation of Rodin's life and of the forces that influenced his art, particularly his many, often difficult relationships with women. Several periodicals, including *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*, as well as distinguished members of the art community have praised the biography. States Kirk Varnedoe, chief sculpture curator of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City: "This book establishes itself as the authoritative chronicle of Rodin's life. Based on exhaustive research into a wealth of unpublished letters and documents, and synthesizing the best of recent Rodin studies, the text shines an unprecedented, clarifying light into innumerable cloudy corners of the artist's career, and fleshes out as never before the characters of a host of relatives, friends, and lovers who were central to his persona development."

\$750,000 Over Three Years

## Grant Expands Urban Scholars

The Urban Scholars Program, which provides accelerated training each year to more than 100 gifted students attending public schools in Boston, will use a new three-year grant for \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to expand its middle school component. The grant will also support program director Joan Becker in providing expertise to educators in New York City, San Francisco, and Orlando who are in the process of replicating Urban Scholars in those cities. In addition, a portion of the money will fund a variety of professional development activities for teachers at Dorchester, Jeremiah Burke and South Boston high schools. Urban Scholars and nine other projects received awards out of 264 proposals submitted.

## College of Nursing Thanks Donors for Renovated Lab

The College of Nursing last week held a short ceremony and luncheon to thank members of the Friends of Nursing and other donors who helped raise money to refurbish the nursing laboratory on the second floor of the Science building. The lab has undergone a facelift and now contains about \$18,000 worth of new equipment.

Among the laboratory's improvements are electric patient beds and a range of technical equipment that allows students to perform a variety of nursing procedures. The lab has a simulated hospital bedroom, a new large screen video monitor used for audio-visual presentations, and additional storage space. Its floor is covered by a new carpet designed especially for hospitals. According to lab director Sara Barnum, the lab improvements have significantly enhanced the experiences of students and faculty. "We've now got a lab that is extremely conducive to learning," she said. Approximately 250 nursing students use the lab each week to learn such skills as how to perform intravenous treatments and catheterizations, and administer dressings.

An important supplement to the main lab facility is a separate testing laboratory one floor above where students are quizzed individually on their skills. About 800 of these exams are administered to students each semester in the testing lab. "Ours is one of the largest nursing schools in the country, and I think it's one of the best," said Chancellor Penney. "It's plain that this is a dynamic entity that deserves all the support it's been given."



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOCUS OF DEC. 10 TALKS

Members of the UMass Boston community are encouraged to attend a discussion of the University's role in economic development. The program has been designed to inform the University community about economic development, what it involves, and what is being done in various sectors to strengthen the state's and Boston's business health.

The session will take place on Friday, December 10, from 10:30 to noon in the Chancellor's Conference Room. The event will include presentations by Donald Walsh, Boston Edison's economic development manager, and Sheryl Marshall, vice president of investment services at the brokerage firm Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. Marshall recently traveled with the Governor's trade mission to South America.

## UMB, UCLA to Study Urban Inequality

The Gaston Institute was awarded \$66,600 by the Ford Foundation to survey black, Latino and white residents of Boston on racial inequality, and to compare the results with those of a parallel survey being conducted in Los Angeles by researchers at UCLA. The co-principal investigators of the project are Gaston Institute director Edwin Melendez and UCLA's Melvin Oliver.

"The grant will allow us to compare the experiences of Boston residents with those of people who live in LA, and draw some conclusions about racial inequalities that exist in each city," said Melendez.

The survey will consist of questions related to housing, education and employment. In addition to underwriting the Boston survey, the two-year grant will enable the Gaston Institute to hold seminars to discuss its findings.

### ATTENTION READERS

Send your news to John Craig, Office of Public Information, second floor, Quinn Administration building.

## Campus Notes

A College of Management team led by marketing professor Betty Diener recently developed for Mayor Tom Menino a questionnaire that was distributed to chief executives of Boston manufacturing firms. It was designed to ascertain which companies are considering leaving Boston, and help the Menino administration develop strategies that will encourage businesses to remain in the city.

Environmental sciences professor Jack Archer was co-chair of an international conference in Antalya, Turkey that brought together 160 environmental researchers and policy specialists from around the world to discuss the management of coastal regions of the Mediterranean Sea. Also at the conference, UMass Boston and Middle East Technical University, located in Turkey, signed an agreement to work together to establish tighter environmental controls over heavily polluted coastlines on the Mediterranean and Black seas. The agreement calls for student and faculty exchanges. The Harbor and Coastal Center at the Urban Harbors Institute will coordinate the agreement.

Human services professor Ann Withorn has assumed duties as acting dean of the College of Public and Community Service, succeeding Miren Uriarte, who resigned due to

health reasons. Withorn, a member of the CPCS faculty since 1977, will serve through next August, at which time James Green, director of the CPCS Labor Studies Program, will become acting dean. Green will then retain the position until a permanent dean is named. Neither Withorn nor Green will be candidates for the permanent position.

The bookstore will give a 20% holiday discount on all purchases by faculty and staff on November 29 and 30.

Theatre arts professor John Conlon plays Grandpa in the musical romantic comedy "Meet Me in St. Louis," which runs through December 5, at The Company Theatre in Norwell. Tickets are available by calling (617) 871-2787.

In the Chancellor's Conference Room on Tuesday, December 7, at 4 o'clock, political science professor Spencer Di Scala will discuss the political implications of Italy's anti-corruption movement.

English Professor Monica McAlpine next February will become director of the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. She will succeed political science professor Paul Watanabe, who will focus on co-directing the new Institute for Asian American Studies.

Music department faculty raised \$685 while performing classical, jazz and rock tunes at a November 5 concert.

The first of six campus hearings devoted to developing a proposed "model of general education" will take place on Tuesday, November 30, from 1:30 to 3:30 in the media room in the lower level of the Healey Library. A general education model will be submitted to the Faculty Council next April, and later reviewed in an accreditation process by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The UMass Boston Chorus and Chamber Orchestra will present a holiday concert at 8 o'clock on Friday, December 3, in Snowden Auditorium.

More than 1,100 Boston high school students attended a college fair at the campus November 18.

Fifty theatre arts students will present the first-ever production of professor Louis Roberts' play STAGES, a satire of Russia during the 1930s. The first of six shows will take place December 3 at the McCormack Theatre. Ticket information is available by calling 7-5646. Theatre arts students perform one show each semester. The spring production will be West Side Story.

Sociology professor Glenn Jacobs has written recently in The Urban Review about the social, political and educational dynamics of Boston University's takeover of the Chelsea public schools.

As part of an initiative that involves all five UMass campuses, students and faculty are asked to submit written statements of what they believe to be the major goals of teaching and learning, and the obstacles to achieving these goals. Statements should not exceed one paragraph, and should be mailed to: Office of CAS Deans, Wheatley Building. Open hearings will be held December 8 and 9, at 2:30 p.m., in room 20 on the first floor of Wheatley.

Athletics' Rodney Hughes and Ruth Jacobs have been honored for outstanding leadership by the National Youth Sports Program. The program is operated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Sociology's Estelle Disch and CPCS student James Williams will lead a racism workshop on December 8, from 2:30 to 4:30, in the Wheatley student lounge.

## WOMEN'S NETWORK TO HONOR HARRISON-JONES

Boston Public Schools superintendent Lois Harrison-Jones will be honored as Woman of the Year by the McCormack Institute's Boston Network for Women in Politics and Government at a dinner on the campus December 16. The dinner and award ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the University Club, on the 11th floor of the Healey Library. Tickets are \$30 each. For reservations, call Barbara Davis, executive coordinator of Network, at 7-5562. Many men and women involved in academia and public service, including current and former legislators, are expected to attend the event.

Founded in 1979, the Boston Network for Women in Politics and Government is an educational and social organization open to women who are involved in public policy. It is affiliated with UMB's Program for Women in Politics and Government, a one-year graduate certificate program designed to promote greater participation by women in politics and government. Twenty-eight students are enrolled in the program this semester.

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