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Select Class of Writers Provide Instruction At Joiner Center's Seventh Annual Workshop

A distinguished teaching faculty is at the Harbor Campus until July 1 to lead the Joiner Center's seventh annual two-week workshop for aspiring writers.

Workshops are being conducted by a pair of National Book Award winners: Larry Heinemann, who

Poetry from Captured Documents Published in Book by UMass Press

A collection of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers' poems translated by two people connected to UMass Boston was published recently by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Poems from Captured Documents: A Bilingual Edition was culled from a collection of enemy documents captured by the American military during the war. The documents include military supply lists, performance evaluations and hand-drawn maps, as well as diaries and personal notebooks containing poetry written from the battlefield.

The poems were translated by UMass Boston graduate Thanh Nguyen and Bruce Weigl, an acclaimed poet and teacher in the annual writers workshop held at the campus each summer by the Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequence. Nguyen and Weigl conducted their translations over a period of several years by studying a microfilm copy of the documents which is owned by the Joiner Center and stored in University archives. Two years ago they traveled to Vietnam so that two Vietnamese writers could verify their translations.

Poems From Captured Documents provides rare insight into the feelings of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers. The book's 23 poems focus on patriotism and yearning for loved ones.

won in 1987 for *Paco's Story*, and Tim O'Brien, who received the honor in 1979 for *Going After Cacciato*. O'Brien's recent book about an American infantryman's experience in Vietnam, *The Things They Carried*, won the National Magazine Award in fiction.

Many but not all of the instructors in the Joiner Center workshop are writers whose work has been influenced by the experience of war. Among the accomplished individuals on the teaching faculty are poet Carolyn Forché and UMass Boston professors of English Martha Collins, a writer and translator of poetry, and Lloyd Schwartz, winner of the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Criticism for his reviews of classical music.

"This is the equivalent of your son or daughter going to baseball camp and getting instruction from Roger Clemens and Ken Griffey Jr.," says Michael Sullivan, coordinator of the Joiner Center workshop.

This year's program has attracted a larger-than-usual class of 88 students, who range from aspiring authors to published ones. Instructors critique students' manuscripts and present techniques for writing poetry and prose of various genres.

Several people who have enrolled in the Joiner Center workshop have gone on to have successful careers as writers, including Mildred Riley, a retired nurse who was in her 50s when she published the novel *Yamilla*, the story of an African American romance in 19th century America.

Associated with the Joiner Center workshop are a series of public readings taking place the week of June 26 at the University, at First Parish Church in Harvard Square and at the Boston Public Library on Boylston Street. Also, there will be panel discussion on how to get published.

Campus is Scene of Gala For Nigeria Soccer Team

UMass Boston will be the scene on Saturday evening of a celebration for Nigeria's World Cup soccer team, which played Argentina that afternoon in an opening round game at Foxboro Stadium.

The celebration for 40 Nigerian team members and officials took place at the Clark Center hockey rink and featured food and live musical entertainment. The event was organized by the Nigerian American Multiservice Association, a Boston-based association of some 3,000 Nigerian immigrants who are now living in New England. The group holds its monthly meetings at UMass Boston.

UMass Boston provides space to dozens of community groups and organizations for meeting and social events. "Opening the campus to community groups is a vital component of the University's mission, and we're pleased to help the Nigerian team and its fans observe a very special occasion," says Gail Hobin, UMass Boston director of community relations and special events.

Isongesit Ibokette, a professor of African American history and former assistant soccer coach at UMass Boston who was born and raised in Nigeria, says approximately 10,000 Nigerian citizens have traveled to the United States to watch their country compete in its first-ever World Cup. Some 30,000 Nigerian partisans were expected to attend the match against Argentina.

Ibokette says the Nigerian soccer squad has become a catalyst for national unity and lifted the spirits of a nation frustrated by a beleaguered economy. "This game with Argentina is the biggest sporting event that has ever taken place in the history of Nigeria," Ibokette says. "If it were played on a weekday, I'm certain it would be declared a national holiday. The entire country watched the game on television."

Campus Notes

Athletic director Charlie Titus, an alumnus of St. Michael's College in Vermont, has been elected to the institution's board of trustees.

Gerontology Institute senior fellow Robert Morris, the University's Medeiros lecturer in gerontology, was honored for lifetime achievement by the Massachusetts Gerontology Association.

Correction: Brian Thomposn is a professor of French language, not a professor of music, as previously reported.

Sociology's Estelle Disch and Human Services' Connie Chan conducted a workshop on teaching about racism during the National Confer-

ence on Race and Ethnicity In American Higher Education, held in Atlanta this month.

A McCormack Institute report by senior fellow Barry Bluestone highlights the widening disparity between high- and low-wage earners, and recommends that a combination of worker training programs, new tax policies and government subsidies to industry are needed to reverse the trend.

UMass Boston's College of Management has honored Joseph Pollak Corporation of Dorchester as its 1994 Entrepreneurial Company of the Year. The Pollak Corporation, whose primary

facilities are on Freeport Street, manufactures switches and electromechanical devices that are installed in automobiles, trucks and boats, as well as farm and construction equipment. The company, which employs 525 people at plants in Dorchester and Stoughton, is expected to reach \$100 million in sales in 1994. "As an entrepreneurial example within the local community, there is none better than Pollak," said College of Management Dean Eric Hayden.

A grant for \$20,000 from the Exxon Education Foundation will support the general education project coordinated by Zelda Gamson, director of the University's New England

Resource Center for Higher Education.

Terry Mortimer, associate provost for continuing education, was elected to the board of directors of the National University Continuing Education Association.

Fifteen men and three women from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine are in the final month of a year-long UMass Boston program of study in marketing and management. They will graduate from the program on July 29, and in the fall begin one-year assignments at such North American companies as Amoco, Chevron and Pan Canadian.

Student Art On Display

Sixty-seven works by 32 UMass Boston students will be on display from June 28 to August 6 at the art gallery First Expressions. A reception for the UMass Boston artists will be held at the gallery on Thursday, June 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

First Expressions is a non-profit undertaking devoted exclusively to art done by students from eight local art schools, colleges and universities. It is housed in a renovated former furniture store located at 81 Arlington Street in Park Square. The gallery is the first in New England to provide a professional setting exclusively for student art. Art departments at the participating institutions exhibit their students' art one school at a time, each for a period of six weeks.

Also at First Expressions, members of the the University's student jazz band, under the direction of Jeanne Munroe, will perform on Tuesday, July 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Students Set Sail To New England Ports

Sixteen young men and women, most of them UMass Boston students, are aboard an 84-foot schooner in the midst of a seven-day research expedition in southern New England sponsored by the University.

The charter vessel *Sylvina W. Beal* set sail on Friday, June 17, from Fallon Pier at the John F. Kennedy Library and began a journey that will bring the student researchers to ports in Plymouth, Block Island, Newport, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Mystic, Connecticut.

During the journey UMass Boston geography professor Jack Looney is leading students in learning about such topics as coastal landforms, currents, tides, wind and water quality. The students also are examining basic concepts in marine ecology and getting a first-hand lesson in seamanship and how to navigate a traditional vessel. While the vessel is sailing, students are taking part in its operation.

The sailing excursion is one component of a five-week program of study at UMass Boston in the coastal environment. During the first two weeks of the program students were at the campus learning about the commercial fishing industry, marine transportation and physical oceanography. They then spent four days doing research on coastal dunes, swamps and salt-water marshes at the University Field Station on Nantucket Island.

"This entire program and particularly the excursion on the *Sylvina W. Beal* is a special opportunity for students to develop an awareness of the dynamics of the relationship between human beings and the marine environment," says Looney.

The three-year old coastal environment program is sponsored by the University's Division of Continuing Education, Urban Harbors Institute and Department of Geography. The *Sylvina W. Beal* is a knockabout schooner, built in the Frank J. Adams Yard in East Boothbay, Maine. Its captain is Jeffrey Jones.

The students aboard the *Sylvina W. Beal* include eight men and eight women. Fourteen are UMass Boston undergraduates, and two, Christopher Gurshin of Newburyport and Jessica Hammerly of Sturbridge, are recent high school graduates selected for the expedition because they won an essay contest in which they were asked to explain why they wished to go on the trip.

Kids Examine Sea Life

Harbor Explorations Concludes Busiest-Ever Spring Season

The University's Harbor Explorations initiative this past academic year provided first-hand lessons on the biology of Boston Harbor to about 3,000 students, the largest number of participants in the 10-year history of the program.

As many as 150 students per day, many of them from middle and high schools in the Boston area, visited Dorchester Bay aboard the Harbor Explorations research vessel *Envirolab III* to examine marine life and perform experiments in water quality.

Envirolab III is a 65-foot craft designed specifically for research. The vessel is docked at UMass Boston for about seven months a year. It is owned by Project Oceanology, a non-profit educational corporation of which UMass Boston is the largest among 27 collaborating schools and colleges. Project Oceanology, a non-profit marine science institute in Groton, Connecticut, is a co-sponsor of Harbor Explorations.

All Hands on Deck

"This program emphasizes a hands-on approach, and I don't think there's a better way to capture kids' curiosity for science," says Mike Borek, director of Harbor Explorations, which since its inception in 1985 has taught basic marine biology to students ranging from elementary school up to college level. Borek has for the first time established a waiting list of schools that want to join the program.

"A lot of interest comes from word of mouth among teachers," Borek says. It also may have helped that Harbor Explorations was selected last year by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the 100 best programs for young people in the country.

Borek has arranged for *Envirolab III* to spend a few days docked in Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and New Bedford so that students in those areas will have easier access to the program.

The Harbor Explorations crew is composed of young men and women interested in educational and professional careers in the sciences. They tend to be like Brad Hubens, who grew up in a boating family and just finished his freshmen year at Bates College. "I can't think of a better job for the summer," he says. "It's nice to see the young kids developing good feelings for the ocean."

A typical Harbor Explorations lesson consists of Hubens and other crew members helping students drag a net along the ocean floor. The students will then investigate their catch. They also learn how to use equipment that tests water for salinity, oxygen content, clarity and depth.

"I've been bringing my students here for several years, and for many of these kids this type of learning experience is a wonderful and rare opportunity," says Vinnie Amara, a teacher at the Umana Barnes Middle School in East Boston, whose students boarded *Envirolab* one afternoon this month.

Amara's students were not afraid to get their hands dirty while learning about lobsters, crabs, flounder and skate — sea creatures captured in a net the boys and girls helped pull aboard.

Even the squeamish enjoy it

"This is the best," beamed sixth-grader Phuc Huynh as he demonstrated crew member Rick Schmidt's technique for holding a lobster. By the conclusion of Schmidt's hour-long lesson on fish, even the few squeamish boys and girls were able to pick up the animals.

Real fish stories

Schmidt's discussion of fish anatomies fascinated the young people. But they were startled to learn that certain kelp are used in some brands of ice cream. "That ruins my appetite," said Michael Gleason, one of several students for whom no detail on ocean life was unimportant.

Meanwhile, students at the other end of the vessel who calculated the water's oxygen content discovered the harbor is not as badly polluted as they had expected. "Pollution is usually the first topic that kids will ask about," noted crew member Michelle Carley.

Harbor Explorations isn't just for students. Next month the program will hold its annual three-week institute on marine studies for middle and high school teachers. The institute sessions will take place aboard *Envirolab III* and in laboratories at the Harbor Campus.

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