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United Fund

Provost Dorothy Marshall and Director of Administration and Finance Thor Olson have accepted the responsibility to serve as Co-Directors of the United Fund appeal on the UMass-Boston campus. They are naming captains to make a personal approach to all of the University's community of faculty and staff.

Acting Chancellor William R. Hamilton, Jr., urged success for the campaign which gives us the "opportunity to help people who need help through the agencies that comprise the United Fund."

He said our campaign will begin this week and "you are reminded that through the payroll deduction system you can give generously and, at the same time, painlessly."

Student Trustees

Six student trustees representing all elements of public higher education in the Commonwealth have stated they are "deeply distressed about recent development at the state level which we believe will have a serious negative impact on the quality of public higher education."

They stated that any proposal to increase the cost of education through tuition hikes would seriously obstruct the goals that "public education exists to provide quality education to the citizens of the Commonwealth at a cost everyone can afford. The entire quality of life including economic growth in Massachusetts depends on an educated citizenry."

The student trustee group, which includes Ellen Kelly of UMass-Boston, also noted that any proposed cuts in the educational budget "will only hurt the quality of education we receive now -- larger classes, limited supportive services and reducing scholarships to needy students; ironically the needy students who are making an effort to decrease the possibility of their becoming dependent upon the state. It is disgraceful that the most productive vehicle for training disadvantaged people to become contributing tax payers is being short-changed."

(continued)

Student Trustees

The student trustee group also said they were concerned about the "Governor's rumored plan to centralize state higher education."

They said, "we would like to preserve separate and independent boards; any plan to centralize only adds to the growing bureaucracies and further separates the source of decisions from the people who must bear the consequences of those decisions."

Food Threat

On the fins of the red tide that threatened our coastal waters recently, two UMass-Boston biologists have voiced concern for another threat to the national and world-wide food supply.

Professor Lawrence Kaplan in the Boston Globe observed that the corn blight of two years ago is an augury of what may happen again.

"The magnitude of the disaster, however, is the result of the uniformity of the genetic make up of the corn. To produce hybrid corn the tassels used to be pulled out of the seed plants. To avoid this costly hand labor, breeders made crosses that genetically "remove" the tassel. This new genetic material that is widely used to produce the hybrid corn seed that farmers plant carries susceptibility to the blight. This is why the blight was widespread. Some genetecists and others are concerned that there may be unforeseen consequences of a similar widespread nature as the high yielding "miracle" grains are introduced into large areas of Asia where the older, lower yielding but genetically diverse varieties are being replaced," Professor Kaplan said.

Dr. H. Garrison Wilkes in the September 22 issue of Science and later commented upon in the October 8 issue of the New York Times had more to say on threatened corn crops.

Walter Sullivan's Times piece said: "The alarm was sounded for the wild weed-a cousin of corn-by Dr. H. Garrison Wilkes of the University of Massachusetts in the Sept. 22 issue of Science. The cousin, which some believe was the ancestor of corn, is teosinte. It is native to Mexico, where the cultivation of corn is thought to have originated, and its cross-breeding with corn, over thousands of years, is thought to have helped sustain the vigor of that food crop."

"Teosinte grows within Mexican corn fields and around their edges but, Dr. Wilkes said, current farming practices are wiping it out. It appears to be only half as extensive as it was in 1900 and, he reported, "in the last 10 years I have watched the rated of extinction accelerate." He added: "We can ill afford the loss of such genetic wealth in this day of exploding population."

(continued)

Food Threat

"The origins of corn remain controversial. It is said to be the only food crop whose cultivation began so long ago and which was so drastically changed that its origins are obscure."

Nine Lies

The Politics Department's Arnold Beichman's book, "Nine Lies About America" has more than nine lives in the public print and electronic ether waves. This Bulletin first mentioned his book when it was in article form in the New York Times Sunday Magazine, June 6, 1971. Since then it has been reviewed across the country, commented on, praised, refuted, and, certainly has not been ignored. The latest happenings include a second review in the New York Times, October 8, by Benjamin DeMott, Professor of English at Amherst College. The DeMott review is a ping pong exercise. Beichman, he says is ingenious but marginal, self consistent and amusing who never "grasps the true scope of his job."

On the other hand, Beichman's book was reviewed last week in London and BBC interviews were taped while Beichman was in town to finish research on Neville Chamberlain. And this Sunday night (October 22) at 10 o'clock on Channel 2 what should be one of television's better moments will be when William Buckley, Jr., and Professor Beichman cross swords on "Firing Line."

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Lammerman, Jr., announce with pride the birth of their son Eric Nicholas Lammerman, who weighed in at eight pounds, five ounces. Marilyn and Nick are doing fine.

McCurdy Exhibit

The UMass-Boston library exhibit of illustrated books and ephemera by Michael McCurdy will continue through November 22.

Most of the books shown at the exhibit represent limited editions. These are fine art books printed in relatively small quantities and exemplifying the best in modern bookmaking. Several of the books are illustrated with wood engravings, with the illustrations printed directly from the blocks. Among them is the recently published Imprint Society edition of "The Narrative of Cabeza de Vaca," the only modern edition of this fascinating account by the early Spanish explorer.

Visitors

Eight faculty members of the University of Madrid on a State Department-sponsored tour of the United States will visit UMass-Boston on Friday, October 20. The law and history professors will hear an analysis of the American political system by Arnold Beichman and Robert Steamer (Politics) and will meet with Prof. Ricardo Navas-Ruiz of the Spanish Department. The Boston Council for International Visitors asked Provost Dorothy Marshall to arrange the meeting here.

Lecture

Elena Rodriguez, an Argentine activist, will speak on the political situation in her country today (October 17) at 12:30 in Room 1-0222. Her topic is "What Is A Right-Wing Dictatorship Like?" All are invited to attend.

Fellowships for Faculty

The Office of Grant Development (Statler 503-W) has promotional material on Fellowship programs for faculty members. The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is offering: fundamental long-run issues of peace, world order and United States international responsibilities in the post-Vietnam era; man's overall relationship and response to his deteriorating environment, particularly the social, cultural, political and international dimensions of the problems of the human environment; and the development of international understanding, law and cooperation in the uses of the oceans and safeguarding of the marine environment.

The National Research Council has Research Associateships in Postdoctoral and Senior Postdoctoral programs in Federal laboratories, and the University-AEC Laboratory Program at Oak Ridge, Tenn., offers these programs: Faculty research participation, laboratory graduate participation, and a traveling lecture program.

Advising Office

Faculty are asked to advise students that a Graduate Business School Day will be held October 25 at 1:30 p. m. in the Faculty Dining Room of McElroy Commons, Boston College. Representatives from a number of schools will speak about their programs. For further information contact the Boston College Career Planning & Placement Office, 969-0100, ext. 565 or the Advising Office, Room 2-0448.

On October 17, Boston College will host representatives from 15 law schools. From 1-4 p. m. they will be at Alumni Hall to talk to students. For more information call the B. C. Career Planning & Placement Office, 969-0100, ext. 565 or come to the Advising Office, Room 2-0448.

Non-Traditional Learning Programs in Higher Education

Alma Armstrong of the Staff of the College of Public and Community Service has been appointed to the Institute on Non-Traditional Learning Programs in Higher Education.

The Institute was formed to promote regional planning, coordination, and evaluation of non-traditional educational programs; create formal and informal networks of communications among those engaged in non-traditional programs; review, through case-studies, current non-traditional programs; establish a pool of faculty and administrative expertise; provide regional on-campus training programs for faculty and administration; and open formal and informal networks among two- and four-year colleges concerned with non-traditional approaches.

She will be convening a conference at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey on November 4-5.