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University Advising Center Keeps Students On Course in Their Studies and Careers

UMass Boston students, so many of whom balance their education with work and family responsibilities, receive assistance on a wide range of issues at the University Advising Center.

Established in 1990, the University Advising Center was one of the major restructuring projects undertaken by Chancellor Sherry H. Penney in response to severe budget cuts at the University. The goal behind the creation of the advising center was to enhance and consolidate the campus's various support services for new students.

Reshaping the University

The restructuring effort has been effective, according to advising center director Peter Langer. "Placing all of the University's advising services in one department has enabled us to put together a cohesive staff of people who believe strongly that their understanding and advice can significantly enhance the lives of UMass Boston students," says Langer, who also teaches sociology courses at the University. "Our staff feels rewarded because we are dealing with students who need us — students who typically are forced to juggle many demands."

The advising center provides students with a wide array of academic and career support services. These include comprehensive orientation programs for students who are new to the University, academic advising for new students and those who have not yet selected a major, and a co-operative education and internship program that provides students with invaluable work experience in their chosen fields. The advising center also has career counseling and job placement programs that prepare students for life after graduation.

Hooker: Prospects Are Unclear For Renewing Contracts

University of Massachusetts President Michael K. Hooker told a UMass Boston audience last week that state administrators are unlikely budge in their opposition to a contract — agreed to by the University — which calls for faculty raises of 15 percent over the next three years. "I'm not going to back down," Hooker said. "But I don't know what the resolution will be, and I'm not optimistic."

Hooker made the comments while presenting about 100 faculty and administrators with his five-year plan for improving the University. He restated many of the goals he articulated several weeks ago at a meeting of the University of Massachusetts' Board of Trustees. His plan includes raising academic standards, streamlining administrative functions, increasing fundraising, and updating facilities and technologies.

The pay raises for faculty were part of a University budget request for next year which was rejected by state Secretary of Administration and Finance Charles

The advising center's orientation program welcomes approximately 2,000 new students to the campus each fall. Another 800 students who arrive at UMass Boston in mid-year also participate in orientation programs.

During orientation, students are introduced to the UMass Boston's resources and requirements and participate in workshops designed to ease their transition to campus life. Students also have their writing and mathematics skills assessed and are assigned an academic counselor who helps to create an appropriate academic plan for each student. The advising center's five academic counselors are Elsa Orjuela-Casas, Hannah Gilman, Lana Jackman, Stephanie Janey and Mary Beth Maneen.

Co-operative education and internship programs, led by Robert Dunbar and Carole Remick, are also administered by the advising center. These programs provide hundreds of UMass Boston students with constructive work experiences at various companies. Assignments are available in a variety of fields, and students earn an average of \$10 an hour.

The advising center's two career counselors, Len Konarski and Grace McSorley, assist students in defining and planning their occupational goals. The center has several methods for matching students with professional opportunities. These include a campus bulletin, published monthly, which lists job openings; a service which furnishes personnel recruiters with student resumes; and an on-campus recruitment program which enables headhunters representing various companies to meet individually with students. The advising center also offers assistance to UMass Boston students — about 250 a year — who wish to pursue graduate study in medicine or law.

Baker. Hooker said he will continue to seek from the state increased funding for the University. He also said he will request that Governor William Weld and legislative leaders agree to a "compact" which would provide a "stable" amount of money to the University over the next several years. Meanwhile, Hooker said, administrators and faculty can help strengthen the University's bargaining position by working toward his overall goal of improving quality and efficiency at the campuses. The UMass president also said the "C plus" grade he recently gave to the UMass system was misinterpreted by news media. Hooker said his assessment "was a measure of our administrative performance, not the performance of faculty."

"While we welcome President Hooker's strategic initiative, we can't lose sight of the constant turmoil and reorganization that UMass Boston has experienced," said Philip Quaglieri, chair of the faculty council. "We must be very careful in evaluating what programs remain and what is central to our mission. President Hooker's plan right now lacks detail."

Chancellor Penney Elected to American Council on Education

Chancellor Sherry Penney has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the American Council on Education (ACE), a national association representing nearly 2,000 accredited colleges, universities and higher education organizations. Penney was elected during the organization's annual meeting this month in San Francisco.

At the meeting, Penney and other higher education leaders met with President Clinton to discuss student financial aid. It was Penney's second recent meeting with Clinton to talk about higher education financing. Last month she was among 26 university heads who visited the White House to speak with the president.

Clinton told ACE members he will continue to support need-based financial aid and wants to increase the amount of money available through Pell Grants. The president also stated his desire to preserve the practice of deferring until after graduation interest charges on student loans.

Perseverance "in spite of everything"

Meanwhile, Penney delivered to ACE members a speech on restructuring universities, calling upon her experience at UMass Boston through seven years of budget cuts. She said the best restructuring strategy is to stick to the institution's mission and continue to develop "in spite of everything." She also stressed the importance of developing and promoting leaders from within the university.

"These individuals saw us go through an unbelievably difficult situation — not of our making — which we tried to manage as well as we could," Penney said. "They saw that we came through it as an institution with many pluses to report. Many members of our community have moved ahead."

Leadership from many sources

Penney added that UMass Boston has received valuable input from more than 100 faculty and staff who have worked on self-study task forces on accreditation and on strategic planning (scheduled for release in April). She noted that many people at the campus are participating in the American Council on Education leadership seminars and in the Pew Charitable Trust Higher Education Roundtables.

Penney gave her remarks as a member of a panel that included Robert M. Berdahl, president of the University of Texas (Austin); Elizabeth Coleman, president of Bennington College; Alan E. Guskin, chancellor of Antioch University; Manuel T. Pacheco, president of the University of Arizona; and Robert H. Atwell, president of the American Council on Education. Atwell served as chair of the panel.

Greenhouse Exhibit Has Japanese Roots

Native Japanese trees and shrub first imported to the United States in 1877 will be featured in the UMass Boston exhibit at the 124 New England Spring Flower Show. The show will be held March 11 to 19, at the Bayside Exposition Center in Dorchester. The UMass Boston exhibit is being created by horticulturalist Richard Doherty, supervisor of the University's 3,000-square foot greenhouse complex, located on the top floor of the Science Building.

Doherty's exhibit honors the work of William Smith Clark, an Amherst College chemistry professor who possessed an abiding interest in chemistry. In 1867 Clark became the first president of Massachusetts Agricultural College in Amherst. The school later became the University of Massachusetts. According to Doherty, Clark was commissioned by the Japanese government in 1876 to establish in Japan a learning institution similar to Massachusetts Agricultural College. "Clark helped start an agricultural school on the Island of Hokkaido at Sapporo," Doherty says. "Today it is called Hokkaido Imperial University."

While building the Japanese agricultural school, Clark sent back home seeds and plants he found in Japan. Some of the Japanese flora were sent to Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain; much of it went to Amherst, where the current landscape at the UMass campus includes century-old Japanese elms. "Clark is known today in Japan as the father of modern agriculture," notes Doherty. "His name is quite highly regarded there."

Since 1983 UMass Boston's flower show exhibits have won 13 first place ribbons in a number of categories. Last year Doherty won a ribbon and a medal for his exhibit of plants indigenous to Massachusetts. Two years ago he was honored for portraying the famous gardens on Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate. Doherty, who came to UMass Boston in 1990, has served as an assistant professor at the State College of New York (Cobleskill) and as a horticulturalist at Mount Holyoke College's Talcott Arboretum. He has a bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst and a master's from California Polytechnic State University.

WUMB to Listen to Program Ideas

Radio station WUMB will hold a public forum on Friday, March 3, to discuss ideas for enhancing its minority oriented programming. The forum will take place from noon to 4:00 at a campus location that had not yet been determined as the *Friday Report* went to press. Discussion will be led by a panel of WUMB advisory board members and representatives of the broadcast industry. The panel will be chaired by UMass Boston sociology professor Philip S. Hart, a Roxbury resident and longtime member of the faculty at the College of Public and Community Service. More information is available by contacting WUMB at 7-6900.

Juries' Loss of Power And Its Impact on Criminal Justice System Is Topic of Political Science Professor's Research

A UMass Boston researcher is investigating what she calls a shift in the balance of power from juries to judges and how it has affected America's criminal justice system. Elizabeth Bussiere, an assistant professor of political science, is focusing on the decline of "jury nullification," a practice in which juries substitute their own common sense understanding of justice for judges' interpretations of the law.

"Jury nullification rests on the belief that sometimes justice demands mercy and therefore requires jurors to issue a verdict of acquittal even though a defendant is guilty of a crime," Bussiere says.

According to Bussiere, the decline of jury nullification began more than a century ago in many state courts. In federal courts, an 1895 Supreme Court decision (*Sparf and Hansen v. United States*) made it more difficult for juries to nullify the law. Yet despite judges' efforts to curb the power of juries, Bussiere says, there have been several famous recent examples of jury nullification. She cites the trials of New York City subway gunman Bernard Goetz, Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry and Michigan physician Jack Kevorkian.

Each of these defendants was acquitted of the most serious charges against him despite strong evidence of guilt presented during trial, Bussiere notes. "I want to understand what leads a jury to nullify the law and

what these verdicts reveal about the community and societal relations in which jurors are enmeshed," she says.

Bussiere's research consists of reviewing hundreds of appellate court decisions and other court documents on judge-jury relations dating back to the middle of the 19th century. She also is gathering information from newspapers, journals and books. Among the jury nullification cases that Bussiere is exploring are capital crimes, labor disputes, battered women who kill abusive mates, sedition and other political protests. She hopes to illuminate the race, class and gender dimensions of jury nullification.

Her interest in the criminal justice system was kindled at Brandeis University, where she earned a doctoral degree in political science and served as a research assistant to Brandeis professor Jeffrey Abramson on his recent book *We the Jury: The Jury System and the Ideal of Democracy*. Bussiere's research is primarily supported by several grants from UMass Boston, as well as from the American Philosophical Society. Harvard University Press recently awarded her an advanced contract to publish a book based on her findings. Bussiere, who lives in Needham, has been teaching at UMass Boston since 1988. Last year she was a visiting fellow at the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College. She has an undergraduate degree from Smith College and a master's from Columbia University.

Campus Notes

A committee chaired by senior fellow Vivien Schmidt is seeking a permanent director of the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs. Meanwhile, senior fellow Richard Hogarty is serving as acting director of the institute. He was named in December to succeed Raymond Torto, who had been acting director of the institute since 1991 and remains there as senior fellow. Hogarty, a professor of political science at the College of Public and Community Service, has been teaching at UMass Boston since 1968 and served on numerous campus organizations.

Documents and photographs illustrating the history of the educational institutions which have been on Thompson's Island since the early 19th century will be displayed on the

fifth floor of the Healey Library through the end of the spring semester. The exhibit is titled "Boston Farm School & Farm and Trade School, Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor, 1835-1956." All of the materials on display are from the Healey Library's archive and special collections department.

UMass Boston faculty, staff and students, as well as advocates for the poor, will conduct a teach-in, "Welfare: It's Not What You Think It Is," on Wednesday, March 1, from noon to 7:00 p.m., in the Wheatley and McCormack buildings.

The McCormack Institute will soon release an in-depth analysis of public higher education in

Massachusetts from 1988 to the present. The analysis is titled *Turnabout Time: Public Higher Education in the Commonwealth*. It is co-written by acting director Richard Hogarty and former University of Massachusetts president Robert Wood, both of the McCormack Institute, and Aundrea Kelley, a student in the Ph.D. program in public policy. Its findings are based on interviews of legislators, public opinion polls and talks with students and faculty at the state's universities, colleges and community colleges.

UMass Boston sociology professor Philip S. Hart has become the 13th person inducted into the "Distinguished Alumni Gallery" at the University of Colorado. Hart, who received his bachelor's

degree from the school in 1966, joins a group which includes Robert Redford, Supreme Court justice Byron White, Pulitzer Prize winner Jean Stafford, historian Louisa Ward Arps, skier Billy Kidd and golfer Hale Irwin.

John Gianvito, assistant professor of art, will be guest curator of "Stirring Ash: Of Cinema and Holocausts," a film and video series showing from March 16 to 26 at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

John Papageorgiou, professor of management science, has been named associate dean of the College of Management. He has been teaching at the University since 1976.

University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393

UMass Boston