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9-29-1995

Friday Report - Vol. 05, No. 02 - September 29, 1995

University of Massachusetts Boston

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Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "Friday Report - Vol. 05, No. 02 - September 29, 1995" (1995).
1991-1996, Friday Report. 79.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_fridayreport/79

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Convocation Focuses on Examining Campus Boundaries, Connections

UMass Boston's 31st academic year formally opened on September 20th with a Convocation whose theme was "Examining Boundaries and Making Connections."

In her keynote address at a faculty-staff breakfast, Chancellor Jean MacCormack said, "The concept of 'boundaries' represents for me all of the limitations that stand between us and the leadership necessary to meet our future. I think the hardest boundaries to examine are the boundaries of our thinking."

Chancellor MacCormack called on members of the campus community to address emerging challenges and make UMass Boston a dynamic model of a public urban university. These challenges include managing the results of the information revolution, and dealing with both spiralling costs and public uncertainty about the effectiveness of teaching and learning in higher education.

She defined ten types of activities in which the university community must actively participate to meet the demands of the future (see box). "I strongly believe that in many important ways, we are already the model of the new university of the future being talked about and longed for," she stated. "But I think to delay in engaging with our challenges places us at risk."

At a mid-morning symposium on examining boundaries and making connections in teaching and learning, Professor Lilia Bartholome of Harvard's

Graduate School of Education presented the Convocation address, "A Humanizing Pedagogy: Collapsing Disciplinary and Cultural Boundaries."

Professor Bartholome, who directs the Master's Program in Language and Literacy and co-directs the Bilingual/Multicultural Doctoral Fellowship Program, warned against looking for generic instructional answers to deal with increasingly diverse student populations. She called on teachers and institutions to examine their pedagogical foundations critically in order to break from deficit views of minority students.

In her keynote Convocation address, Chancellor Jean MacCormack named ten spheres of activity this year in which members of the UMass Boston community can address emerging challenges to higher education:

- strategic planning at the unit level;
- curriculum reform;
- reconsideration of UMass Boston's effectiveness in research, teaching and scholarship;
- establishment of priorities in resource allocation;
- improvement of services through the administrative redesign process;
- expansion of UMass Boston's research, training and public service agenda;
- development of new assessment measures;
- implementation of new technologies;
- commitment to staff retraining; and
- planning for improved physical space.

Her address was followed by a faculty-student panel's discussion of experiences in making connections and examining boundaries at UMass Boston.

Panelists included Professor Peter Kiang of the American Studies Program and the Graduate School of Education and Principal Investigator of the grant establishing our Center for Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment, and student Elise Coughlin, a double major in English and Environmental Science.

Also included were Professors Noushin Ashrafi and Michael Novak, designers of a collaborative organizational management course; Dean Ismael Ramirez-Soto of the College of Public and Community Service; and Professor Zelda Gamson of the Graduate College of Education and director of the New England Research Center for Higher Education, who moderated the panel.

"Crossing boundaries helps humanize us," said Professor Kiang. "The humanity of all of us engaged in teaching and learning is where we start. By collaborating and crossing boundaries, we can expect to transform the university and come back to transforming ourselves."

The final Convocation event was a reception for new deans and senior faculty.

First Ph.D. Training Grant Awarded by NSF

UMass Boston has received its first major training grant to support doctoral students through a multidisciplinary effort by science faculty and the university administration. The five-year \$562,500 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) will provide stipends, support, and specialized training for five students in the Environmental Biology Ph.D. program.

Professor Michael Rex, Chairman of the Biology Department, is principal investigator of the grant, "Environmental Biology: Conservation of Biodiversity." Professor Eugene Gallagher of the Environmental Science Department and Professor Kamaljit Bawa of the Biology Department are co-principal investigators.

"The purpose of the program is to train students in the area of biodiversity, which is perhaps the most pressing environmental problem facing our planet," Professor Rex stated. "Biodiversity is concerned with global ecosystems, species diversity, genetic resources and their conservation."

"The reason why conservation is a serious challenge to us is that recent losses of biodiversity have been tremendous," said Professor Bawa. "It is a global problem."

The grant will bring visiting faculty to UMass Boston for one-year teaching appointments. "I hope that it will be an integrated opportunity for investigators, scientists, and other outside experts in the ecology and biodiversity fields to visit UMass Boston and contribute to the program," stated Professor Rex.

Eighteen other UMass Boston environmental scientists, ecologists, evolutionists, geneticists and molecular biologists worked on the proposal, with support from the Dean of Sciences Faculty, Christine Armet-Kibel, Provost Louis Esposito and former Provost Fuad Safwat. "Those who reviewed the proposal commented on the fact that we have a fine mixture of young people in the biodiversity field, along with older people who are well known," commented Bawa.

"We were able to get the grant because many of the university's scientists have a high level of research funding in biodiversity," explained Rex. "The grant was a group effort involving many different departments and strong support from the administration. We also collaborated with the New England Aquarium and the Franklin Park Zoo," said Professor Rex.

A partnership for the development of academic programs and other strategies to increase public awareness of disability issues was established between the University of Massachusetts and the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) on September 19th.

"The UMass Medical Center has been working with the DMR and the people it serves in numerous programs," stated UMass President Sherry H. Penney, who signed the agreement. "The College of Public and Community Service at UMass Boston has long-standing ties with the DMR. This formal partnership with a key state health agency is clearly in keeping with our general mission as the state's university: to provide research and community outreach services to citizens of the Commonwealth."

Attention Readers

Send news information to Annette Fernie or Donna Roveto at the Office of Public Information, Second Floor, Quinn Administration Building.

DPH Grant Funds Nurse Training Program

The first state-sponsored nurse training program to address the needs of sexual assault victims in Massachusetts has been developed by UMass Boston's College of Nursing. A \$30,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health supported development of two pilot courses to train practicing nurses as sexual assault nurse examiners.

The curriculum includes training in cultural sensitivity, gynecological examination, forensic photography, and the collection and preservation of forensic evidence. It also provides instruction in pregnancy-prevention measures and treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases for assault victims. Nurses in the program will be trained to counsel victims, and may serve as witnesses in legal proceedings.

"We have prepared a thirty-hour curriculum for nurses, who will then be fully capable of conducting a sexual assault examination," said Professor Marion Winfrey, the grant's principal investigator. "The nurses will be looking at all aspects of sexual assault in their training."

This program was developed by Professor Winfrey in partnership with the Department of Nursing at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Gail Linehan of MGH co-coordinates the program.

Professor Winfrey worked with several colleagues at UMass Boston to develop this program. Professors Diane Arathuzik and Mary Ann Ringquist assisted in preparing the grant proposal and developing the curriculum.

Donald Babcock, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, assisted Professor Winfrey in developing a distance learning unit for the second course, utilizing MUSE (MULTI-Site Education) technology. The distance-learning course will be offered at UMass campuses in Boston, Lowell and Dartmouth beginning in November.

The first class of twenty nurses began their training on September 15th at MGH. They have been recruited from MGH, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston City Hospital and Beth Israel Hospital in Boston; Lawrence General Hospital; and Anna Jacques Hospital in Newburyport.

Governor William Weld announced his intention to develop the program last spring. It will provide the Commonwealth with 200-250 sexual assault nurse examiners in its first year.

When fourteen incoming freshmen from the Boston Public Schools were awarded William Davis and John I. Taylor Outstanding Scholars Program fellowships by the Boston Globe Foundation in August, they heard remarks from Donald Chavez, a sophomore in the College of Management. "The Taylor scholarship meant more than money to me," he said. "It can be compared to a lighthouse far off in the distance that gave me a sense of direction. The scholarship has given me an opportunity for a better future, and I think that is the best gift you can receive. I wouldn't have attended college without it." Chavez, with five older brothers and sisters, is the first person in his family to attend college. The scholarship covers over half of tuition costs.

CPCS Student Working on Video For Prevention of Alcohol Abuse

Otis B. Doiley, a Human Services and Management major of the College of Public and Community Service at UMass Boston, is producing a video presentation to examine how advertising targets young adults, African Americans, and women to consume alcohol. He is producing the tape at the UMass Center for Communications Media. It will feature 40 or 50 alcohol commercials.

Doiley is collaborating on the production with Professor Gerald Garrett of the Sociology Department. Garrett is the Director of the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Studies Program at UMass Boston and teaches in the Criminal Justice Center of the College of Public and Community Service.

Doiley's tape is based on analyses of over 40 television commercials and print advertisements for alcoholic beverages obtained from community substance abuse treatment and prevention agencies. "We would like to put the slides on a videotape with a voice-over to use as a teaching tool," explained Doiley. "We may not be able to stop kids from drinking but we can try to teach them prevention and show them the manipulation of alcohol promotions."

Doiley is the director of the FIRST (For Individuals Recovering Sound Thinking, Inc.) AIDS Project in Dorchester. FIRST provides outreach, confidential testing and counseling to persons at risk for AIDS, education, and support services for AIDS victims and their families.

Doiley also volunteers for the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program at UMass Boston, and travels across the state to speak at schools and halfway houses. He has been a member of the National Guard for the past thirteen years.

Doiley was the first student from the Northeast to receive the Student of the Year Award presented by the International Coalition of Addiction Studies Educators (INCASE). The award was presented at the second annual national INCASE conference this summer at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel.

"I feel so proud to have been honored by the teachers and educators who were at the conference. Many of these people have worked in the field of substance abuse for many years," commented Doiley.

Campus Notes

Madeline Walsh, Education Director of the Urban Harbors Institute, is co-author of a recent book, *Stellwagen Bank: A Guide to the Whales, Sea Birds and Marine Life of the Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary*.

Provost, Lou Esposito co-authored "Monopolization, Social Welfare and Overlap," which appeared in the summer 1995 issue of the *Antitrust Bulletin: The Journal of American and Foreign Antitrust and Trade Regulation*.

Sarah Kurko of the Gerontology Institute has won a \$3,000 public service grant from UMass Boston to support Boston City Hospital's *Helping Kids Thrive* program. She is planning three fundraisers to help Boston's needy children. Members of staff and faculty interested in the effort may attend a meeting on Friday, October 6th from 10:00 until noon at the Wits End Cafe in the Wheatley Building.

Professor Paul Tucker of the Art Department and Professor Lloyd Schwartz of the English Department were honored on September 7th at the Massachusetts Heritage Exhibit Series, co-sponsored by the Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin and the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA.) Tucker organized the major Monet exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts. Schwartz, who received the 1994 Pulitzer Prize in Criticism, had his poem "Nostalgia: The Lake at Night," published in the September 4th issue of the *New Yorker*.

Professor Thomas Ferguson of the Political Science Department has published a book, *Golden Rule: The Investment Theory of Party Competition and the Logic of Money Driven Political Systems* at the University of Chicago Press.

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