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Volume 5  
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December 22, 1995

News and information  
about and for the  
University Community from  
the Chancellor's Office

### Campus Notes

Hubert E. Jones has been appointed Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Urban Affairs. He left his current position as Senior Fellow at the McCormack Institute to take his new post on December 18.

Gail Hobin, Director of Community Relations and Special Events, was presented a Community Service Award by Boston Police Commissioner Paul F. Evans last month, during the tenth anniversary celebration of the Boston Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit.

Professor Eben Weitzman of the Graduate Program in Dispute Resolution, presented a lecture at UMass Boston on November 14, *Cultural Differences in Attitudes Towards Conflict*. Weitzman received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in social psychology.

John Coffey of the Healey Library's Circulation Department received a 1995 Champion of Change Award from the United Way in recognition of volunteer service to the community.

Albert P. Cardarelli, Senior Fellow at the McCormack Institute, has been named by the president of the American Society of Criminology to serve on its National Policy Committee for 1995-1996.

Four members of the UMass Boston community participated in the Boston/New York AIDS bike ride in September: Joel Grossman, Director of Health Services; Professor Jim Campen of the Economics Department; Gerard Gomez, Executive Associate Dean of CPCS; and Professor Clarke Taylor of CPCS. The four raised at least \$1,200 each. In conjunction with the bike ride, The Aids Awareness Team of UMass Boston's Health Promotion Center is available for interactive classroom presentations to provide the UMass community with information and education on HIV and AIDS. Contact the Health Promotion Center at 287-5685.

Professor Scott Bass, Director of the Gerontology Institute, edited a book, *Older and Active: How Americans Over 55 Are Contributing to Society*, published by Yale University Press.

Rebecca Breedlove, Serials Acquisition Librarian, participated in the American Cancer Society's National Annual Golf Tournament at Disney World this fall. Breedlove qualified on one of the three women's teams representing Massachusetts. Her team placed 13th out of 45.

Professor Siamak Movahedi of the Sociology Department received the 1995 Vision Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis.

The December issue of *Manoa*, a literary journal published by the University of Hawaii, features poems and translations from Kevin Bowen, Director of the William Joiner Center; Martha Collins, Co-Chair of the English Department; and Adjunct Professor Ba Chung Nguyen of the Asian American Studies Program.

Methods for recognizing inaccurate descriptions of minorities that appear in the media and educational curricula were presented at a conference, *Moving Towards Common Ground: Facing Issues of Race and Gender*, held at UMass Boston on November 14. It was sponsored by the McCormack Institute's Network for Women in Politics and Government, in collaboration with the William Monroe Trotter Institute.

Nam Pham, director of the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, spoke at UMass Boston on December 2 during the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment (CIRCLE) Community Forum. The forum presented regional reports and highlights of the work CIRCLE has done within the last year. CIRCLE has also established its leadership and training programs at UMass Amherst and UMass Lowell.

Mary Newman, Cambridge state representative from 1953 to 1970, retired Distinguished Senior Lecturer in management at UMass Boston, and 1994 recipient of the John Joseph Moakley Award, died on December 11.

John Larner, who worked in UMass Boston's external relations department for 14 years, died on November 9.

## NEASC Accreditation Commends Teaching, Graduate Development

UMass Boston's accreditation has been continued by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which commended the campus for creating new graduate programs while maintaining a focus on undergraduate education during a time of financial shortfall.

The December 4 letter of accreditation, signed by Joel C. Martin, Chair of NEASC's Commission on Higher Education, commended the campus for maintaining "a strong culture of support for teaching, investing resources in workshops and lectures which enable faculty to improve their classroom skills," and for giving "visibility and support to student support services and other aspects of the mission of its Office of Student Affairs."

NEASC also commended the campus for excellence and broad participation in its self-study and the planning of its accreditation visit. Nearly 200 faculty, staff, and students participated in the process.

In April of 1995, a ten-person team chaired by James Stukel, President of the University of Illinois system, visited the campus to assess the campus's performance in relation to NEASC's ten major standards. Accreditation was continued, according to Martin, "based upon the Commission's finding that its standards were being substantially met."

"We should feel a tremendous amount of pride in what the evaluators and the Commission had to say

about us," commented Graduate Studies Dean Martin Quitt, Chair of the Assessment Steering Committee. "We are a first-rate institution, but sometimes we need to hear it from the outside."

In keeping with Commission policy, the campus has been asked to submit a fifth-year interim report in Spring 2000, on its progress implementing campus-wide general education and assessment mechanisms, and its facilities management plan, especially the construction of the new Campus Center.

"This is a strong vote of confidence," said Chancellor Jean MacCormack. "NEASC recognized that we maintained our focus on undergraduate education while implementing our strategic planning goals for developing graduate programs. Their vote of confidence lets us move on the goals of our new strategic plan for the year 2000, the chief of which is to attain a leadership position as an urban university."

Provost Louis Esposito commented, "The ten-year reaccreditation is testimony to the commitment and efforts of faculty and staff, and a recognition of our achievement, the quality of our programs, and our students."

*UMass Boston's and UMass Lowell's joint doctoral program in nursing has been approved by the Commonwealth's Higher Education Coordinating Council, and will begin accepting applications in late winter for enrollment in Fall 1996.*

## STEP Promotes Commonwealth Envirotech Industry

The global environmental trade market is expected by Environmental Business International, a California market research firm, to increase from \$200 billion to \$500 billion within five to ten years. According to William Brah, Director of the College of Management's Environmental Business and Technology Center (EBTC), roughly 300 Massachusetts companies compete actively in this market, and thirty more have been newly established.

The Strategic Envirotechnology Partnership (STEP), a year-old initiative of the University of Massachusetts system that has already involved the City of Boston's Executive Offices of Environmental Affairs and Economic Affairs, offers services to envirotech companies to promote their products and services through EBTC at UMass Boston, and at centers on other UMass campuses. "With STEP's assistance, new environmental and energy technology companies can become recognized world-class companies," stated Brah.

UMass Boston's EBTC assists the Massachusetts environmental industry in environmental business management, including technology development, commercialization, and financing. At UMass Amherst, the National Environmental Technology for Waste Prevention Institute (NETI), provides research and development for redesigning companies' processes to minimize wastes. The Center for

Environmentally Appropriate Materials at UMass Lowell has concentrated on research and development of plastic recycling through the establishment of the Chelsea Center for Material Reuse. At UMass Dartmouth, the Center for Marine Science and Technology is developing measures for monitoring fish populations and closed-system agriculture.

One of the envirotech companies being assisted by STEP through the EBTC is Caldwell Environmental Inc., a private corporation established in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1993. The company produces equipment for treatment of waste products with naturally occurring bacteria.

Under the direction of Professor Joseph Cooney and graduate assistant Mark Doolittle of the Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences, STEP is providing demonstration procedures to validate Caldwell's grease trap services. "There is a critical need for testing, evaluation, and aid-in-development for the support of new technologies and new businesses like Caldwell's," said Professor Cooney.

"The University System is a repository of brain power and resources that can be directed at a particular situation," explained David Cooper, an environmental technology specialist at EBTC. "STEP works to evaluate and enhance the prospective viability of Massachusetts businesses."

# Program Unites McCormack Institute, Russia for Political Education

Internet-based, computer-assisted educational programs to teach Russian elementary and high school students about democratic institutions and processes will be the first products of an expanding partnership between the McCormack Institute's Center for Democracy and Development and Russia's Gorbachev Foundation.

The project, to be conducted in partnership with the University of Novgorod, is a result of Professor Edmund Beard's ten-day trip to the former Soviet Union in October. Beard, a Senior Fellow at the McCormack Institute and Associate Professor of Political Science, chaired the plenary sessions of a Moscow conference on parliamentary television funded by the Eurasia Foundation of Washington, D.C. Professor Beard also lectured on the evolution and direction of the American political party system to fifty researchers and their guests, including former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, at the Gorbachev Foundation in Moscow. Beard's presentations followed a visit from four Gorbachev Foundation officials to UMass Boston in October, hosted by the McCormack Institute.

## Women's Conference Held at the State House

*The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy of the McCormack Institute co-sponsored a conference, Collision Course? Massachusetts Families and The Economy At The Crossroads, in the Gardner Auditorium of the Massachusetts State House on November 30. Data detailing the needs of families, challenges to family stability and options for change were presented through a combination of keynote addresses, small group sessions, and workshops.*

*Other co-sponsors of the event were Speaker of the House Charles Flaherty and the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators.*

*"This conference was an ideal instance of how the research centers of the campus can work together with legislators to create well-informed public policies that will benefit the people of the Commonwealth," said Elizabeth Sherman, Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy.*

*Professor Randy Albelda of the Economics Department at UMass Boston and Research Fellow at the McCormack Institute, presented a report entitled An Economic Profile of Women in Massachusetts. "The purpose of the report was to shed light on the economic status of women in Massachusetts in the 1990s and to highlight some important changes that have taken place in women's economic lives over the last twenty years," said Albelda.*

After the lecture, Mr. Gorbachev invited Professor Beard to travel with him to Novgorod, one of Russia's ancient capitals, to announce a major economic development initiative for the region based on public, private and university partnerships and sponsored by the Gorbachev Foundation. The plan to develop computer-assisted educational software programs for teaching students about democratic processes was one outcome of this visit.

"We hope to teach young people about democratic political behavior—political party building, the legislative process, conflict resolution, and coalition building," said Professor Beard. "Eventually we would like to see this software available all over Russia." A major European telecommunications firm has agreed to provide software engineers for the project, and the Russian Ministry of Education has expressed interest in distributing and implementing this project throughout the Russian republic.

The Center for Democracy and Development also hopes to work with the Gorbachev Foundation to "jump-start" the regional economy. "This may be done through technical consulting, or by bringing Novgorod officials to UMass Boston for training," added Beard. He pointed out that the central purpose of the Gorbachev Foundation's initiative in Novgorod is to create models for economic development and to entice foreign investment.

The Gorbachev Foundation is a public service and research organization founded in 1992 to advance former Soviet President Gorbachev's efforts to promote a peaceful transition to democratic institutions and a market economy throughout Russia. Internationally funded, it has grown into a public policy "think tank" with a professional staff of over 150.

## Conference Examines Local Minority Business

Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, keynote speaker at a conference entitled "Economic Development and the Inner Cities: The Role of Minority Business Entrepreneurs," warned that recent Supreme Court decisions jeopardize programs which set aside shares of public contracts for minority and women-owned businesses.

Attorney General Harshbarger predicted that because of two high-court cases, City of Richmond vs. Croton in 1989 and Adarand Construction vs. Pena this year, cities and towns may have to justify set-aside programs by supplying compelling evidence that discrimination has occurred and that particular set-aside programs will remedy it.

Conference participants discussed other factors affecting minority business entrepreneurs (MBEs), including public perceptions of doing business in the inner city, the availability of well-educated workers, the need for critical information on the markets, and the impact of technology on small businesses.

At two roundtable discussions, panelists and audience members discussed recent progress and strategies for improving conditions for MBEs in the state. Mai Ling Tong, Executive Director of the New England Minority Purchasing Council, pointed out that in a survey of private sector companies,

two-thirds favored maintaining and increasing minority purchasing programs, despite the current challenges to affirmative action programs. Tong noted that in New England, minority business revenues amounted to \$685 million in 1995.

Kenneth Guscott, General Partner of Long Bay Management Company, encouraged political action and economic development for minority businesses to obtain a greater share of an estimated \$5 billion in business revenues within a five-mile radius of Dorchester's Grove Hall during the next two years.

"Today, there is a tremendous potential for global business," said Gail Snowden, President of First Commercial Bank. "I think that MBEs must look outward, not just at their own communities, in order to thrive." Snowden cautioned that MBEs must not be left out of the technological changes affecting the business world.

"The focus must be on producing jobs," said James Jennings, Director of the Trotter Institute. "I hope this conference elevates the public discourse about the future of the economy and the state, and can convince city and state leaders that a vibrant MBE sector will help create a healthy city."

*The staff of the Friday Report extends to the University community best wishes for the holiday season.*

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**UMass Boston**