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# UMASS BOSTON NEWS & VIEWS

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 21, 1988

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

## Chancellor Penney outlines her goals and priorities for UMB

Chancellor Sherry Penney has been meeting with the faculty in the various colleges of UMass/Boston. In her most recent discussion, with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) faculty, she shared her goals for UMB and her observations on the institution.

"My comments, after a month and a half on the job," she said, "are somewhat more thoughtful than just first impressions, although they will need some further refinement."

She has gathered those impressions from a series of meetings with each of the faculties, many members of the University community on a one-to-one basis, other campus groups such as the Professional Staff Association and UMB's top administrators.

In addition, she has visited with a large number of key public officials and other area leaders both in public education and in other professions.

From these conversations, she reported: "The concern with retention of students is evident. I have also picked up the sense that perhaps we do not know as much as we would like to about who our students are, about our skills, so they can best develop programs that will assist them.

"A related issue," she continued, "is that we do not know as much as we should about what they do when they leave us. We are aware of some of the outstanding students, but we need much better feedback about our alumni generally and, especially, about how their experiences at UMass/Boston related to their current lives. How do their years here look to them now that they have used what they gained here in life and in the workforce?"

From these and other observations, the Chancellor said, she has defined some goals for her administration. Four major ones emerge:



*Boston Harbor insights were gleaned by new Chancellor Sherry H. Penney and Edward M. Kennedy, Jr., son of the United States Senator when they recently visited the University's Harbor Exploration boat. UMB's program has been cited by the US Department of Education.*

to enhance a sense of community, a theme she stressed in her Convocation address; to seek funds from the Legislature to restore the funding base; to design a strategy and a plan to raise funds from non-public sources including foundations, corporations and alumni; and to tighten management standards and establish cost controls in order to both maximize the benefits from the funds that are available and to improve the day-to-day functioning of the University.

Chancellor Penney pointed out to the group that her plans for UMB are shaped by two major considerations: her own view of education, and the current budget situation.

Turning to the first, she said: "I have a strong bias about what a college education must accomplish. While I am not a member of the Bloom, Hirsch, Bennett camp, I do believe that we owe it to our students to provide a strong liberal arts education. As the world and the world of work

change in the next 10 to 20 years, that basic liberal education will become more important to our students.

"Given this point of view, there are two directions which I see as essential. One is that students in professional areas such as business, engineering and medicine need a more thorough exposure to the liberal arts, particularly the

humanities. At the same time, I have been a strong proponent of the idea that all students, particularly those in the humanities and social sciences, have an understanding of the impact of technology on society."

Although she stated that she will be holding a meeting with all faculty to discuss the University's budget for the next fiscal year, she did point out that "the budget crunch is serious and it will not go away." Simply to achieve funding at the same level as fiscal 1988, adjusted for inflation, would require a substantial increase over the 1989 fiscal budget under which we are now operating.

"In discussing UMass/Boston with a wide variety of people on campus," she reported, "I found that everyone has an idea of what we are supposed to be. It will come as no surprise to you, however, to hear that they do not all agree. That makes it doubly important that we recognize and refine the priorities as we see them. We must hold to our five purposes: access, excellence, teaching, research and service. Our task is to define them and implement them effectively," the Chancellor concluded.

## Capital budget earmarks 12M for UMass/Boston buildings

UMass/Boston faces budget constrictions in many areas, but fared well in the Higher Education Capital Outlay Budget (H.6040) which earmarked it a total of \$12,140,000.

Governor Michael S. Dukakis signed the bill he said "will help us build as fine a system of public colleges and universities as there is anywhere in America.

"Nothing is more important to the Commonwealth's economic

future than a first class university system of public colleges and universities. We have made great progress over the past five years in building one of the nation's finest higher education systems. This bill will take us to even greater heights."

The bill represents the first phase of a 10-year plan called "Building Educational Opportunity for the 21st Century," a plan • *continued on page 2*

# Switchboard operator Marie Gerardell recalls singing career

Telephone operators are supposed to say little and be seen less, which is a far cry from the way life used to be for UMass/Boston's ebullient switchboard operator, Marie Gerardell.

Gerardell, who has manned the switchboard at the Harbor Campus since it opened in 1973, spent her youth as a popular blues singer in old Scollay Square, where folks from Boston and beyond would come in search of a good time during the 1920's, 30s and 40s.

Today, Scollay Square is an edifice of brick and concrete known as Boston City Hall Plaza. But in its halcyon days, the place served up an entertainment smorgasbord, with tastes ranging from saloons and live music, to strip shows and tattoo parlors—even nickel hot dogs.

Gerardell lets her memory do the talking.

"Scollay Square was the place to be," she said. "It was the first place that anyone who came to Boston would hit. There will never be another place like it."

In the late 1920's, Scollay Square was anything but the place to be in the eyes of Gerardell's mother. But Marie defied Mom's directive and ventured into various clubs to compete in amateur talent shows. At age 18, she won a



Marie Gerardell handles the main switchboard at UMass/Boston.



Here was Marie Ford, beltin' out a tune.

blues singing contest at the American House bar and was invited to accompany the Dancin'

Donahue Brothers to New York City. Her mother quickly nixed the idea.

Her parent's perspective changed in 1929, when the stock market crash plunged middle class families like the Fiore's of East Boston into poverty. Domenic Fiore, a cabinet maker and father of 10, was suddenly out of work, and the prospects of Marie earning extra cash singing became tolerable.

Marie landed her first big job singing at The Crawford House, where local sex symbol and legendary "tassel turner" Sally Keith was the main attraction.

"It was the kind of place where a guy would bring his girlfriend while his wife was at home," Marie explained.

Life was good at The Crawford House, where Marie was earning \$75 for six days' work and taking home as much as \$40 a day in tips. She sang under the stage name Marie Ford.

"I was supporting the whole family," she said.

Gerardell took her singing to the Silver Dollar on the corner of Essex and Washington Streets in 1934 and became the only female member of Don Humbert and his Magic Strings, one of Boston's top bands.

The group moved its operation to the Frolics in Revere in 1940 and provided warm up and intermission acts for Louis Prima's 12 piece band as well as a 14-year old singer/dancer named Sammy Davis Jr., who was touring with his father and uncle.

Gerardell is a UMass/Boston original, having worked the switchboard when the Arlington Street campus opened in 1964. She moved to Arizona in the early 70's but returned a year later and has been answering calls at the Harbor Campus ever since.

## UMB gets \$12M in capital funding

• continued from page 1

to repair and modernize the physical plants of all campuses.

Included in the project for the FY89 bill was \$1,200,000 to build a Student Union building on the Harbor Campus. Other projects include:

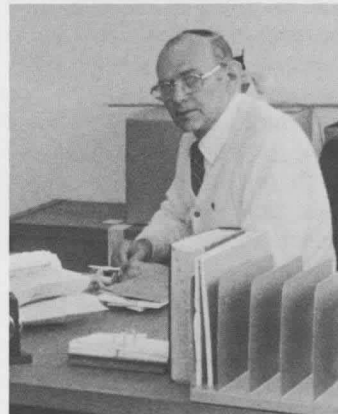
- \$9 million for repair and renovation to the Downtown Campus at 250 Stuart Street.
- \$1,700,000 for repairs and renovations at the Harbor Campus.
- \$200,000 for repair of Buildings.
- \$40,000 for repair and renovation of laboratories.

## Charles O. Spaulding. 1924-1988

Charles O. Spaulding, former Director of Physical Plant at UMass/Boston and a man actively involved in construction of the Harbor Campus, died recently after a lengthy illness. He had retired a year ago.

Spaulding, 64, was a former U.S. Navy engineering officer who served in World War II and the Korean conflict. He became associated with UMass/Boston in 1967, shortly after the University's Boston campus was founded.

A graduate of Somerville High School, he lived in West Springfield and for 19 years in



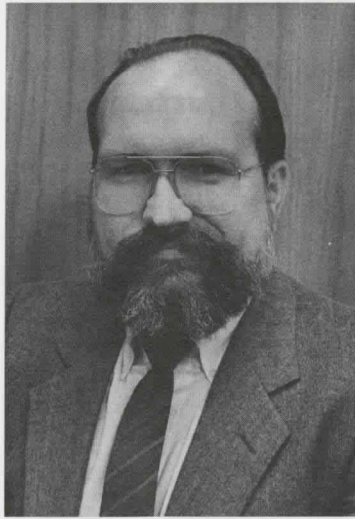
Norwell before moving to Bourne. Former co-workers attended his funeral in West Springfield.

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Director: D. Leo Monahan

Editor: Stephen Moniak

Assistant: Diane Vasseur



Valdis Kirsis

## Valdis Kirsis appointed Facilities Director

Valdis (Val) Kirsis has joined UMass/Boston as Director of Facilities Management.

A registered architect, he has responsibility of overseeing the operations of the Physical Plant as well as design and construction projects.

Kirsis is a member of the American Institute of Architects and Boston Society of Architects. He also belongs to the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges (APPA) and the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP).

Prior to coming to the Harbor Campus, Kirsis was Manager of Facilities Engineering at UMass Medical School in Worcester. More recently, he was Director of Facilities and Planning at Massachusetts College of Art, Boston.

His broad background includes teaching at Blue Hills Regional Technical Institute and currently as Thesis Advisor at Boston Architectural Center and Faculty Representative to the BAC Board of Directors.

## UMB Professor Barbara Luedtke honored by Massachusetts Historical Commission

Of the over 30 islands dotting Boston Harbor, many are unknown, unkempt, and underutilized. They are also an archaeological treasure, as UMass/Boston associate professor Barbara Luedtke has discovered.

"You only have to dig down about two feet to get to the glacial period," she says.

Luedtke has unearthed artifacts on the islands dating 8,000 years.

The academic significance of her discoveries led to the 700 acres of Harbor Islands being named to the National Register of Historic Places.

Recently, the Massachusetts Historical Commission honored Luedtke with a preservation award.

Luedtke, a native San Diegoan and graduate of the University of Michigan's prestigious graduate program in anthropology, arrived at the Harbor Campus in 1974 and was commissioned to participate in an archaeological survey of the Boston Harbor Islands. The project lasted a year, but Luedtke's love of the islands continued.

Students have accompanied her over the years on a number of expeditions.

Various harbor island artifacts such as Indian arrowheads and hunting tools are currently in storage at UMass/Boston, which serves as a curatorial for all the



Professor Barbara Luedtke of UMass/Boston accepts Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) award from Secretary of State Michael J. Connolly.

island discoveries. The 8,000 year-old campsites reveal a surprising fact of life.

"It was a very sophisticated living," Luedtke says.

In addition to her harbor digs, Luedtke has also done archaeological research on the Shattuck Farm Site in Andover and numerous other sites in Massachusetts.

She has also helped streamline the relationship between archaeologists and public agencies by

co-organizing a public conference in 1975 credited with raising the awareness of archaeological sites.

Luedtke distributes the credit for her recent award among her colleagues. "I'm sort of standing in for all the archaeology people in the state," she says. "I see myself representing the people in the field."

And her discoveries represent a bridge to the past.

## B r i e f l y . . .

Charles Elliott of the Office of Facilities Planning retired and was feted at a farewell reception. He joined UMass/Boston in 1972 as the Harbor Campus was under construction and assisted in the completion and occupation of the new facility.

In recent years, he worked with diligence in designing most of the post-merger internal renovation projects.

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Macmillan (London) has recently published *Studies in Anglo-French Cultural Relations*, a

collection of essays on topics spanning the past 100 years.

Among the contributors are 10 British writers, including Colin Wilson and John Fowles, and two Americans, the late Gerald Ellman and UMB's John J. Conlon. Conlon has also recently been selected to write a short history of criticism in the Victorian Age.

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WUMB-FM, now in its sixth year of serving Greater Boston with public radio, received the 1988 Corporation of Public Broadcasting Local Radio Development

Award for its overall excellence in promotion and advertising of the program "Black Expressions/The Quiet Storm". The award was presented at the 12th annual meeting held in Cincinnati.

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Condolences to the family of Simona (Schwartz) Somers of Brookline, associate professor of psychology, who died of melanoma in July. She was 41.

Mrs. Somers joined the UMass/Boston faculty in 1980 after receiving her doctorate in psychology from Boston University.

A memorial service was held September 15 in the Faculty Club.

## Dr. Yung-Ping Chen named to Frank J. Manning Chair

Dr. Yung-Ping Chen has been named the first holder of the Frank J. Manning Eminent Scholars Chair in Social Gerontology at UMass/Boston, it was announced by Graduate Dean Fuad Safwat.

The late Frank J. Manning, long-time activist in elderly affairs, died at the age of 84 in 1986.

"Establishment of the Manning Chair at the graduate level offers a unique opportunity. We will have a nationally-recognized program," said Dr. Scott Bass, Director of the Gerontology Institute.

Dr. Chen comes from a position at The American College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where he was professor of economics, research director at the McCahan Foundation for Research in Economic Security and first occupant of the Engle Distinguished Chair in Economic Security Research.

He received his bachelors degree from National Taiwan University and his masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Washington. He previously held teaching and research positions at UCLA and the Brookings Institute.

He is an internationally-recognized authority on economic is-



*Dr. Yung-Ping Chen*

sues related to the elderly and has lectured here and abroad.

Dr. Chen's gerontological research has focused on three distinct areas: social security financing, home equity conversion and economic status of the aged. He has published five books and nearly 100 articles.

He is a Fellow of the Gerontology Society of America, the organization's most prestigious form of membership.

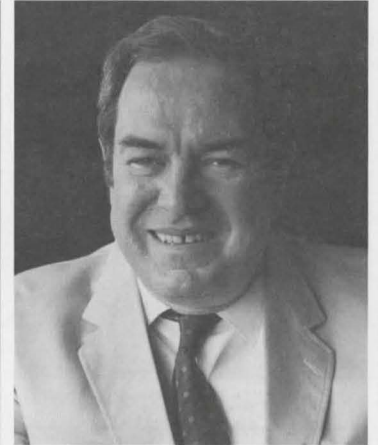
## Dr. Richard Hogarty selected Faculty Representative

Professor Richard Hogarty has been selected by the UMass/Boston Faculty Council as representative to the University's Board of Trustees.

Starting his assignment on June 1, Professor Hogarty already has attended three trustee meetings. Some of the important agenda items have included the FY88 budget, the \$29.5 million telecommunications project, a proposed Ph.D. program in public policy, the student emergency fund, the awards of tenure and new faculty appointments. Recently-named Chancellor Sherry Penney was one of those awarded tenure. Prof. Hogarty also served on the recent Chancellor's Search Committee.

A specialist in American state and local government, Professor Hogarty earlier was honored for his teaching by the minority alumni of the College of Public and Community Service. In 1985, he received the Dean's Award as well as the Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance.

As a political scientist, his current research centers on academic autonomy and political accounta-



*Dr. Richard Hogarty*

bility in public higher education.

Dr. Hogarty, father of six, has served on the UMass/Boston faculty since 1968 in a variety of roles. In 1972, he chaired the Campus Impact Study Group which paved the way for relocation of the Harbor Campus in Dorchester.

He was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1955, studied at the University of Notre Dame Law School, 1957-58, received an MGA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1960 and his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1965.

## Auditorium named after late Trustee Muriel Snowden

The Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts voted to name the Auditorium of Wheatley Hall at UMass/Boston in honor of the late Muriel Sutherland Snowden. Mrs. Snowden was a former Trustee of the University of Massachusetts (1969-1976) and received an Honorary Degree from the University in 1968.

Mrs. Snowden, 72, died recently of cancer. Noted *The Boston Globe* in an editorial:

*"Education was Mrs. Snowden's passion. She tried to pass her love of learning to the many thousands of young persons she came in contact with over the years."*

With her husband, Otto Snowden, Muriel founded Freedom

House, Inc., in 1949 and served with Otto as Executive Director until her retirement in 1984. The original purpose of Freedom House was to provide, without duplication, services and programs to improve the social, economic, recreational and general welfare of Roxbury citizens.

While serving as Trustee of the University of Massachusetts, Muriel took a special interest in the Boston campus. She was instrumental, not only through the expression of her own values but, more importantly, in the practical program advice she provided, in establishing and developing relationships between UMass/Boston and several community and corporation educational endeavors.

Community appreciation of



*Muriel Snowden*

this outstanding woman was recognized on June 16, 1987 when she was named a Fellow by the prestigious McArthur Founda-

tion. This fellowship recognized the value of her creative ability to a multitude of communities and funded, without restriction, the full-time expression of that creative strength for the five years to follow.

Mrs. Snowden also served as an overseer of Harvard University and was the first female and black director of the Shawmut Bank of Boston.

*"Education was Mrs. Snowden's passion. She tried to pass her love of learning to the many thousands of young persons she came in contact with over the years."*