

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

1983-1991, News & Views

University Publications and Campus
Newsletters

10-18-1989

News & Views - Vol. 08, No. 03 - October 18, 1989

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_newsandviews



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "News & Views - Vol. 08, No. 03 - October 18, 1989" (1989).
1983-1991, News & Views. 97.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_newsandviews/97

This University Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications and Campus Newsletters at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1983-1991, News & Views by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.

UMB 2-56.3

STATE CUTS UMB BUDGET AGAIN

Another budgetary cut "would be devastating" to UMass/Boston, declared Chancellor Sherry H. Penney in a statement released recently to the media.

"Our ability to fulfill our mission as Massachusetts' urban public university is severely threatened because of the drastic budget cuts of the past two years and the threat of yet another one," said Chancellor Penney.

The Chancellor reviewed the severe reductions that already have been made and discussed the long-range view.

In an interview, she said the cuts "would impact every area of the University."

(The full text of Chancellor Penney's statement appears on Page 2.)

UMB faculty, staff and students awards presented at Convocation 1989

Bright sunshine, warm breezes, and a mood of optimism provided the backdrop for the annual Convocation ceremonies held on The Plaza at the Harbor Campus.

While welcoming the arrival of the new academic year, the University took time to honor past accomplishments.

Richard Horsley, a professor in UMB's Study of Religion program, and Nicholas Tawa, a professor in the Music Department, received the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Scholarship from Chancellor Sherry H. Penney.

Horsley was recognized for his 1987 book *Jesus and the Spiral of Violence*, which is credited with providing an unprecedented critical reading of Bible scripture.

"I'm challenging the tradi-

tional reading of the Bible with a more critical reading of the text," Horsley says of his groundbreaking publication. "I'd say what I'm doing is taking a more concrete social-political reading of Jesus."

Horsley, who has been at UMass/Boston since 1973, has cultivated Bible and ancient scripture study in a more historical and philosophical context.

"We are pointedly not theological," he says of the Study of Religion program.

Since 1987, Horsley has had one book published and is awaiting the first copies of another. *The Liberation of Christmas*, printed last fall, views the arrival of Jesus as an epoch political event—the birth of a leader in a Third World country. *Sociology and the Jesus Movement*, a study of Christ in America, is scheduled for publication next month.

Horsley acknowledges his approach has been deemed controversial in some quarters, but he believes it is gaining momentum. Radio talk shows in Minneapolis and Pittsburgh have been ringing his office telephone.

"It's catching on in the field," he says. "Most major state universities have similar programs."

Tawa was honored for two books he authored which were published in 1987. *Art Music in American Society* provides an analysis of the state of art music in the second half on the 20th century. *A Most Wondrous Babble* explores the barriers in American culture that hinder artists.

Tawa, who has had six books published, is currently on teaching sabbatical and completing research for another book devoted to 19th century classical music.

continued on page 4



Three South Boston residents pose with Senate President William M. Bulger of their district after winning Michael A. Ventresca Scholarships at UMass/Boston. Left to right: William Sheehan of K St.; Christine Coffey, also of K St.; Jennifer Duffley, East Second St. and Senate President Bulger, who congratulated the winners. (Story on Page 3)

OCTOBER 4, 1989

STATEMENT OF SHERRY H. PENNEY, CHANCELLOR

The University of Massachusetts at Boston is a unique campus of the University and of higher education in Massachusetts. Known for the excellence of its faculty and academic programs, it serves a student population of more than 12,000 students with a high proportion of older students, minority students (minority students are 17% of our student body, by far the highest among Massachusetts' public universities), and low income students as well as those of more traditional college age. Today, however, our ability to fulfill our mission as Massachusetts' Urban Public University is severely threatened because of the drastic budget cuts of the past two years and the threat of yet another one.

In the fourteen months since my appointment as Chancellor of UMass/Boston, we have had to cut the campus's budget four times, and now a fifth cut is in the offing. Our goal is to preserve the academic program before everything else, and we took the highest proportion of savings from administrative and support operations. Even so, enrollment and course offerings have been affected, and now we have come to the end of our ability to make even short term cuts without severe and lasting implications for our academic programs. Already we have:

- absorbed a 24% cut in state appropriations in support accounts;
- laid off 18 members of the administrative/professional staff;
- reduced head count enrollment on the campus by 1000 students from fall '87 to Fall '89;
- reduced full time members of the faculty by 12;
- increased the overall vacancy rate of the campus to 14% of authorized positions, which means that the campus today has 197 vacant positions;
- experienced tuition and mandatory fee increases of 27% since Fall, 1988.

The campus is operating today with 38 fewer positions than it did a year ago, the equivalent of closing a small school or program in a single year.

All of this has been necessary because the campus has experienced a cumulative shortfall of more than \$12 million in state appropriations since July of 1988. For example, the campus had to cover \$5.2 million in negotiated salary increases without equivalent increases in our appropriation. State funds for equipment have been cut from \$1 million in FY '88 to \$259,000 in FY '90. State funds for critical maintenance of our physical plant and equipment, such as computers, has been cut from \$1.2 million to \$867,000. The state library special has been cut from \$946,000 in FY '88 to \$402,000 in FY '90. The tuition and fee increases allowed us to make up for some of these cuts, but we simply have no flexibility left to absorb further short-term cuts of state funds in the subsidiary accounts.

The president of the University directed us to plan for a stable institution at this new level of reduced funding. The stabilization plan I sent to the board of trustees is a three-year plan to reallocate resources in order to ensure quality in our academic programs. The plan would accomplish this reallocation through a combination of forced vacancies and some revenue increases from fees and tuition. It would require staff reductions, both faculty and administrative/professional, of 60 positions over the three years FY '90 to '92 inclusive, saving over \$2 million in salary costs. Reductions in staff and forced vacancies already have accomplished more than half that number in FY '90 alone. Based on a close analysis of future retirement patterns, the plan would accomplish the remaining reductions through retirements and resignations rather than layoffs.

The plan would anticipate some increases in revenue, principally from tuition retention and fees, of \$4 million over the same period. These funds would be distributed among the non-salary expense accounts so that funds for maintenance, equipment, repairs, cleaning and other critical activities could be maintained at a level which would ensure the quality of our enterprise.

I must repeat that even this plan would mean severe hardship for the campus and the students. twenty-seven faculty positions would be lost to teaching in FY '90 through '92, with significant decreases in some specific programs. Students would experience continuing tuition and fee increases. But the plan would put the University on a footing which provides a foundation for continued academic excellence.

But now we are asked to consider another \$2.9 million cut from our budget during this fiscal year. We see no alternative to further, extensive staff reductions if we are given a 5% cut. The effect on the University would be devastating.

Let me make one more heartfelt observation. These cuts are announced to us as if they were assignments to be done. But, as I have told the trustees, a 5% cut would strike at the heart of social conscience, for it would significantly block the artery of equal educational opportunity that has been the mission of this campus—indeed of public higher education in Massachusetts—for all of its history.

We can implement the stabilization plan—with hardship and hard work, and place the University on sound footing over the three year period. But the 5% cut, on top of all the cuts and shortfalls of the last two years, would simply devastate us. I urge the trustees, regents, and all who believe in higher education to do everything in your power to help prevent it.

South Boston students named recipients of Ventresca Scholarships

Three South Boston residents have been named recipients of Michael A. Ventresca Scholarships at UMass/Boston and were honored at colorful Convocation Ceremonies.

Awarded a full four-year scholarship was Christine Coffey of K Street, a graduate of Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Brighton.

Partial four-year scholarships were awarded Jennifer Duffley of East Second Street, a graduate of Msgr. Ryan Memorial High School, Dorchester, and William Sheehan of K. Street, a graduate of Don Bosco Technical High School, Boston.

The Ventresca Scholarship Fund was named in honor of one of the first graduates of UMass/Boston and the first president of the Alumni Association. He was killed in a tragic automobile incident four years ago. Friends raised \$170,000 for a scholarship fund.

Ms. Coffey has been active in the Gate of Heaven parish CYO as a player and coach. She also has been involved in the South Boston Community Health Center for the past four years as an employee and as a volunteer. Christine plans to use Art Therapy to work with troubled children.

Jennifer Duffley has been active at the St. Bridget's CYO as a player and coach. She was President of the Student Council and a member of the National Honor Society at Msgr. Ryan. During high school, she was elected to serve as the representative of Msgr. Ryan for Student Government Day.

Sheehan has been active in his neighborhood with the Boston Police Explorers as Vice President. He served on the Don Bosco Student Council and participated in drama productions.

(See photo on Page 1)

UMB Classified Staffers cited for service with Distinguished Service Awards

Sixteen members of the Classified Staff were presented Distinguished Service Awards at Convocation.

They included:

Sarah Margaret Bartlett of Brookline, Legal Services at C.P.C.S.; Kathleen Bell of Readville, Continuing Education, who is pursuing an accounting degree at the College of Management; Mary Bonner of Dorchester, a staff member of the English Dept. for 10 years, a two-time winner; Patricia O. Egan; Warren Paul Foster of Physics; Rufus Hudson, 16-year employee in the College of Arts and Sciences, a Roxbury resident.

Christopher Pahud of Quincy, who has worked in Media Services since November, 1980, and received a degree in anthropology from UMB; Bernadette Toomey of Squantum and Charlestown, secretary in the Material Dept.; Claire Poirier, secretary to Vice Chancellor Jean MacCormack; Marilyn Walsh, Student Financial Management; Kathryn M. (Kay) Walsh of Dorchester, who came to UMB in 1984 in the Office of New Student Services.



Classified Staff winners of Distinguished Service Awards posed on Plaza steps. Thirteen of the 16 winners were on hand. Front, left to right: Patricia Egan, Career Services; Mary Bonner, English; Kathleen Bell, Continuing Education; Doris Pienton, Continuing Education; Albis Mejias, Admissions; Kathryn Walsh, New Student Information; Charles King, Biology. Rear, left to right: Warren Paul Foster, Physics; Clare Poirier, Administration and Finance; Rufus Hudson, CAS; Bernadette Toomey, Materiel Dept; Michael Cajolet, Mail Room and Christopher Pahud, Media Services. Missing from photo: Sarah Margaret Bartlett, Legal Services; Marilyn Walsh, Student Financial Management, and Robert Fata, English.

Albis Mejias of Brockton, Data Entry Coordinator in the Office of Enrollment Services; Robert Fata, Art Dept.; Charles King of Kingston, who has been with the Biology Dept. since 1969; Doris Pienton of Dorchester, who has

been at UMB for 11 years and currently works in Continuing Education, and Michael Cajolet of Revere, Mail Room, who has spent 10 years at the University.

Donna Curtin awarded Ryan Faculty Award

Donna D. Curtin of Sanderson Drive, Plymouth, was awarded the John W. Ryan Faculty Convocation Award during recent (Sept.

13) ceremonies held at UMass/Boston's Harbor Campus. This was the opening of a series of events celebrating UMB's 25th

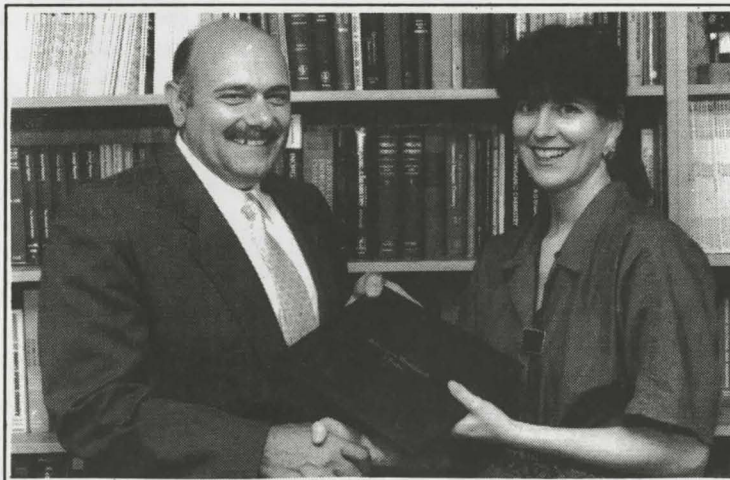
anniversary.

The Ryan award honors the junior who has attained the highest cumulative average during the freshman and sophomore years. She had a solid "A" record in completing 68 credits as a history major.

Ms. Curtin, 29, grew up in Pembroke and attended Silver Lake Regional High School. She worked for nearly 10 years at Plymouth Plantation, first as a person in costume and then in the Research Department.

She started at UMass/Boston in the Extended Day program while working full-time. She became a full-time student as soon as she was able.

She still works at Plymouth Plantation and has played historical roles.



Donna Curtin of Plymouth accepts the John W. Ryan Award from Provost Leverett Zompa.

UMB presents awards at 1989 Convocation ceremony

continued from page 1

He will return to the Harbor Campus in February.

Co-winners Tawa and Horsley split the prize-winnings, \$2,000 and two course-load reductions.

The Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Service went to Associate Director of Admissions Mary E. Mahoney for her efforts during the 1988-89 academic year as acting Director of Admissions.

Penney praised Mahoney for her 17 years of service to UMB and her willingness to step forward last year in a time of need without the expectation of additional compensation.

Mahoney, a member of Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education, was one of 14 college administrators selected nationwide last year to attend a conference in West Germany.

The John W. Ryan Scholarship, named after the first chancellor of UMass/Boston was awarded to Donna D. Curtain who was recognized for finishing her sophomore year at UMB last spring with the highest grade point average in her class.

The three winners of the Michael A. Ventresca Scholarship, named after the president of UMass/Boston's first graduating class in 1969, all hail from South Boston. UMass/Boston freshmen Christine Coffey, William Sheehan, and Jennifer Duffley were honored for their academic achievements in high school and their efforts in the community.

The first annual Vincent I. "Buster" Masticola Scholarship

in chemistry was awarded to Argyroula Stamatopoulou, an undergraduate senior chemistry major who was born in Greece and came to the United States four years ago.

Stamatopoulou, who describes her first days at UMass/Boston as "some of the happiest moments of my life," will use the \$2,000 subsidy toward her schooling. She is looking forward to graduate studies in inorganic chemistry.

Masticola graduated from UMass/Boston with a M.S. in chemistry in 1982 and was killed in a tragic helicopter accident in April, 1986.

Along with the initial bequest from the Masticola family, the Millipore Corporation Foundation funded an additional \$20,000 to continue the scholarship.

Alumni Association President Robert George presented the \$1,000 Alumni Scholarship to Elaine C. Bierman of Walpole, a senior in the College of Nursing.

Bierman, a 1970 diploma graduate of the Malden Hospital School of Nursing, returned to the classroom in 1986 after many years removed from student life. She matriculated to CON in 1987, took a concentration in Women's Studies, and fulfilled a longtime curiosity by beginning piano lessons at the University.

Bierman, a perennial Dean's List student who started the fall semester with a 3.76 grade point average, is also a member of the CON's Curriculum Committee.

Sixteen classified staffers received a Distinguished Service Award.



Chancellor Penney congratulates Prof. Richard Horsley



Chancellor Penney greets Prof. Nicholas Tawa



Elaine Carol Bierman of Walpole, a student at UMass/Boston's College of Nursing, won the UMB Alumni Association Scholarship Award and poses here with Alumni President Robert George. Ms. Bierman graduated from Malden Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1970, and returned to UMB to further her studies at the College of Nursing.



Elizabeth Mock, 25th anniversary co-chair, poses next to greetings bestowed on newly-inaugurated Chancellor Sherry H. Penney.