Historic First for UMass Boston and the Northeast
First Presidential Debate Held on Campus October 3

by Joe Peters

The leading candidates came, millions of viewers worldwide saw, and in the end, the University of Massachusetts Boston conquered several challenges on its way to being the first institution in the Northeast to host a presidential debate.

It was apparent to anyone on campus this past September that much work was being done to accommodate the debate. However, this was just the visible tip of an iceberg of planning and cooperation among many departments on campus.

In January, the Commission on Presidential Debates announced that UMass Boston and its Columbia Point neighbor, the John F. Kennedy Library, would cohost the first scheduled debate. While the planning started shortly thereafter, activities heightened throughout the summer months. It wasn’t until Labor Day weekend that Republican candidate George W. Bush took the wind out of the debate sails by announcing that he did not intend to come to Boston.

When the parties finally agreed to the Boston debate, the event was suddenly only two weeks away. In that time frame the Clark Athletic Center had to be converted into a debate hall and the adjacent hockey rink into a media center, replete with red carpet, approximately 700 phones, more than 70 televisions, and accommodations for almost 1,600 media representatives from around the world.

"People pitched in and crossed boundaries. They invested a great deal of time and effort in this to ensure the debate would go without a hitch for us," said LaVerne Cawthorne, associate vice chancellor for administration and finance. "People truly cared about their individual work. Down to the smallest details, people pulled together."

The debate presented a rare opportunity for departments to combine forces and for the campus to work closely with its neighbor and cohost, the John F. Kennedy Library.

"The debate really gave an opportunity for people who might normally never have the chance to work together to do so," said Annemarie Lewis Kerwin, assistant vice chancellor for university communications and debate coordinator. "I think we have already seen this sense of cooperation and appreciation surrounding the debate continue into the day-to-day life of the campus."

"This is not to say the debate did not have surprises. Delays in the allotment of tickets postponed the student lottery to the afternoon of the debate. But even at that late point, volunteers from different departments hurriedly worked together to contact each selected student to ensure he or she had the opportunity to witness this event of a lifetime."

Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, attempting to enter the debate with what is believed to have been a false ticket, was turned away without major incident.

Recognizing early on that very few tickets would probably be available to students or the public, debate planners developed creative ways of involving the campus and the community.

Several convocation events adopted an election perspective. The campus Web site hosted opportunities for people to voice opinions or connect with other election-oriented Web sites. Including on-campus events and forums at the JFK Library, there were two dozen public programs surrounding the debate.

The return on all this effort likely will be seen over many years. Prior debate hosts have seen double-digit enrollment increases, better ability to attract grant and other funding, and an increased sense of school spirit among students, faculty, and staff.

Two days after the debate, in a crowded meeting with faculty, University President William Bulger opened with "I know that what you all really want to know is, Who won the debate?" The audience laughed at the icebreaker from the former state senator. "The University of Massachusetts did," he concluded, to the applause of those gathered.

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Lottery Winners!
49 students chosen in a lottery received tickets to the hottest event in Boston.
Campus Basks in Worldwide Media Spotlight

By Leigh DaPuey

UMass Boston became famous for its role in Campaign 2000 as the national and international media turned their attention to the site where Vice President Al Gore and Governor George W. Bush would meet for the first time.

With the approach of October 3, the University was mentioned in every national network on a weekly basis. Profiles of the University appeared in the venerable New York Times and Washington Post, and local stations such as WBZ, WHDH, and WFXT came to campus to tell the story of UMass Boston’s role as co-host.

Following the debate, every major newspaper across the country reported on the site where Vice President Al Gore and Governor George W. Bush would meet for the first time.

Campus Communications / Third Floor
Quinn Administration Bldg.
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3391
617.287.5560
E-mail address: news@umb.edu

The University Communications/Third Floor
Quinn Administration Bldg.
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3391
617.287.5560
E-mail address: news@umb.edu

Annmarie Lewis Kerwin
Editor
Leigh DaPuey
Jeffrey Mitchell
Senior Writer
Sarah Weatherbee
Art Director

Staff Writers:
Kim Burke
Melissa Fassel
Joe Peters

Contributing Writers:
Maurice Cunningham
Jen Liborio
Erika McCarthy
Yves Solomon

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Convocation Celebrates the Spirit of Civic Education

L to R: Howard Koh, Commissioner of Public Health, and Gail Russell, Director of the Ph.D. Program in Nursing. (Photo by Harry Brett)

by Kim Burke

Hosting the first presidential debate brought more than an international media spotlight to UMass Boston. The University used the opportunity to extend the buzz surrounding October 3rd into a learning experience that would involve students, faculty, and staff. Chancellor Sherry Penney and Provost Charles Caudle collaborated to decide upon this year’s convocation theme, “Civic Education for Civic Responsibility.” The convocation effort provided a wide range of activities that brought attention to the importance of civic involvement.

The convocation series, which totaled sixteen events from September 13 through October 17, had tremendous support from faculty members. All of the events were faculty developed and sponsored. Everything from special topics woven into the regular classroom curriculum to interactive forums and workshops was included in the schedule of events. Vice Provost Theresa Mortimer, who helped to plan some of the activities, was excited that “other learning opportunities for students could draw upon and add to the campus-wide excitement over the debate.

Students were not only attendees. They also were active in planning some events as well, such as the “Healthy People 2010” discussion that took place in the small science auditorium on September 20. Graduate nursing students joined Commissioner of Public Health Howard Koh to issue an analysis of the health policy positions of the presidential candidates. Koh and the students looked at access to insurance, keeping Medicare solvent, prescription drug availability for low-income seniors, and patients’ rights protection.

Examining another key issue concerning the community, UMass Boston sponsored the forum “Closing the Digital Divide: What is the Problem and How Can It Be Fixed?” at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston on September 26. Panelists from MIT, the Museum of Science, the Children’s Museum, and City Hall discussed ways to bridge the digital divide in schools and communities. In her remarks to the assemblage, Chancellor Penney said, “As a society, we cannot afford to leave people behind.”

One of the final convocation events was a gathering in Snowden Auditorium on October 13 on “Long-Term Care: A Neglected Issue.” Moderated by Los Angeles Times White House Correspondent Robert Rosenblatt, Gerontology Institute faculty and health care experts led an enlightening discourse on an overlooked subject. Joanne Handy, president of the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston, impressed sociology student Diane Clevy, who said that Handy “gave a viewpoint from the nurses’ perspective, which is usually never heard.”

NBC’s Tim Russert and Tom Brokaw confer before the debate. (Photo by Harry Brett)
Lipke Viewing Sparks Debate

by Jess Liborio

Not all the action on October 3 was happening in the debate hall or among the protesters outside on Morrissey Boulevard. Lipke Auditorium was set up for a special evening of pre-debate commentary followed by a viewing of the debate itself. A reception was held in McCormack Cafeteria for people who were invited to the event at the auditorium. Both events were organized with help of hard work from volunteers and university staff.

Most people in attendance at the reception, commentary, and viewing were students, faculty, and administrators. Many students were mailed tickets by the Office of Student Affairs because of their participation in the Honors Program and the Beacon Leadership Project.

One student who attended said, "Despite feeling like the debates are a sham because there is no significant difference between the candidates, it would be foolish to miss the opportunity to meet other politically active students. Students are portrayed as apathetic, but the truth is that we are overcommitted and busy. I wanted to dispel the myth of the apathetic student." Another student simply wanted to "see and hear for myself what the candidates had to say."

Possibly the most interesting part of the evening was a small focus group that met after the debate. Two representatives of the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) gathered about ten volunteers to give them feedback on the content and format of the debate.

The CPD representatives seemed to be looking specifically for students who didn't attend a debate event on campus. They hoped the CPD would really hear what we said and take our perspectives and concerns into account.

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Debate Highlights...a glimpse into the preparation for the Presidential Debate 2000

University of Massachusetts Boston
John F. Kennedy Library

Chancellor Sherry Penney poses with Donna Shalala, U.S. secretary of health and human services.

L to R: Matthew Cole, Delores Reyes, Leslie Driscoll, Sandra Karahalis, Glenn Fisher, Chancellor Sherry Penney, and UMass President William Bulger and his wife Mary pose before greeting the candidates on the afternoon of the debate.

Top: Chancellor Sherry Penney and UMass President William Bulger present Vice President Al Gore with a gift from the University.

Above: John Jessoe of Media Services meets Reverend Jesse Jackson in the media hospitality tent.

Left: The candidates greet their families after the debate.

Three employees hang the eagle which will be the backdrop for the stage and candidates.
Above: Supermodel Christie Brinkley shows her support in the halls of the Clark Athletic Center.

Left: Governor Bush and his wife Laura receive their University gifts from Chancellor Penney and President Bulger.

Below: Workers adjust lights in the Clark Athletic Center.

L to R: Denise Duggan, facilities administration, Mary Volk, chancellor's office, Vincent Cristiani, counseling and school psychology professor, Anne Riley, budget office, Renato Past, chancellor's Office, Clare Poirier, human resources, Arlene Costello, facilities administration.

Above, L to R: David Cella, chief of public safety, shares a light moment with his assistant chief, Phil O'Donnell.

Photo Credits: Harry Brett took all photos featured here except for the photo of Jesse Jackson, which was taken by John Potter, Media Services.
Golden Key Registers 800 Voters for Election 2000

by Erika McCardy

The Golden Key International Honor Society joined the flurry of campus activity surrounding the presidential debate by signing up more than 800 voters to increase attendance at the upcoming presidential election polls.

"Golden Key members took to the heart the statistic that the Chancellor gave out, that the 18-24 year old age group is the least likely to vote," explained Anita Miller, UM Golden Key chapter advisor. "That's us, that's our college generation."

The voter registration drive began on September 4, the day before classes started, and continued through Friday, October 13. The Golden Key Honor Society encouraged students, faculty, and staff to register to vote by answering questions, providing registration forms, and mailing them from convenient campus mail registration stations.

Golden Key, a non-profit, international academic honor organization that provides academic recognition leadership opportunities, career networking, community service, and scholarly organizations, organized the voter registration drive in recognition of our civic responsibility to vote. Golden Key has also recently supported the Walk for Lupas and the Pine Street Inn.

Made up of junior and seniors with a GPA of 3.8 or above from all over the world, Golden Key is a group of "smart people doing good things," said Miller.

Successful campaigns like the voter registration drive may be one of the reasons the UMass Boston chapter of the Golden Key Honor Society was recently awarded the Most Improved Chapter Award at the August 2000 Golden Key International Convention, "Setting the Stage," in Los Angeles, CA. The Most Improved Chapter Award is presented to chapters that have been active for more than one full school year and have most dramatically improved their leadership and involvement in Golden Key.

Golden Key has 300 chapters across the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New South Wales, and South Africa. Membership in the society is by invitation only, and chapters have at least 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields of study.

Fiitting In: The Debate in History

By Maurice T. Cunningham, Political Science, stands in for the candidates during a debate rehearsal. (Photo by Harry Berton)
On Monday, October 2, the McCormick Institute sponsored an off-campus workshop on "Why the Young Don't Vote," held at South Boston High School, featuring comments from Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner, State Representative Antonio Cabral, Representative John French, and Michael J. Sullivan of Plymouth County, and former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. The workshop was the second in the UMass Boston undergraduate Jim Coughlin and McCormick Director Edmund Beard. The event drew some fifty young people from area high schools and colleges.

The newly established Office of Service Learning and Community Outreach participated in a Service-Learning Institute conducted and written by the Vermont Campus Compact. Associate Provost of Administration, Dean of Student Affairs Stephanie Janey, OSDCO coordinator Jani Rovidech-Higgins, and AmeriCorps VISTA Program Director Lisa Gonsalves represented UMass Boston at the three-day conference held at Lyndon State College, Vermont on October 27-29.

UMass Boston biologists Jeremy Hatch, Jennifer Arnold, and Patty Sazzay made presentations at workshops on the North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan (October 30-31) and the coromant fisheries conflict in North America (November 1), preceding the annual meeting of the Waterbird Society in Plymouth, MA.

Burton Holmes, director of continuing education marketing, for the Division of Enrollment Services and University Communications, chaired the annual conference for the New England region of the University Continuing Education Association (UECA). This year's conference, "Strategies for Successful Sailing: Charting a Course for Success," was held on October 25-27 in Westbrook, Connecticut. Jack Hughes, director of professional training programs, and Stuart Phillips, assistant director of professional training programs, Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education, took part in the panel presentation to discuss the topic "Developing and Sustaining Strategic Alliances with Corporate Partners."

On October 16 and 17, UMass Boston's Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education (CCDE) and the Boston and Northern New England chapters of the Society for Technical Communication sponsored Inter/Change, a conference for technical, marketing, and scientific writers and designers. The conference attracted over 200 participants. Conference organizers from UMass Boston included CCDE Dean Dick Mosher, Business Administration Assistant Professor Joseph Lally, and Publications Manager Brian Middledot.

The New England American Studies Association recognized Lois Rudnick, American Studies Program, as an "outstanding" contributor to the field of American Studies and NEASA, and named its biennial book prize the "Lois Rudnick Prize for an Outstanding Book" by a NEASA Member." Rudnick is the first recipient of the prize.

Grants
Lois Bienner, Center for Survey Research, received a grant of $4,120,070 from the National Cancer Institute for a new training initiative to evaluate the effectiveness of three major types of public health interventions used by the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program.

In January 2000, Maria Papuga, Biology Department, received a $5,000 NSF Early Career Investigator (CAREER) program award to investigate red and white yeast. The CAREER program is highly competitive and targets pre-tenured faculty with a strong agenda between their teaching and research activities. The President's Young Investigator Awardees are chosen from among the CAREER awardees in a given year. The title of the grant is "Exploring Authentic Inquiry: Factors that Influence Students' Learning of the Process of Science."

Research and Polls

Robert Bucci, research director of the UMass Poll, conducted a nationwide survey for the Patriots' Trail Girl Scout Council that found that girls found Flowers are more likely to be involved in politics and vote than non-girl scouts. He is currently conducting a Massachusetts survey for the Division of Information Technology on the use of the Internet in the workplace.

The UMass Poll is currently working with Town Online and conducting a weekly survey of Massachusetts voters called MassPoll.

Appointments and Departures
Lois Bienner, Center for Survey Research, was appointed to the Scientific and Program Advisory Steering Committee of the American Legacy Foundation and will serve as chair of the Evaluation Research Panel. The organization is responsible for the Truth national antitobacco media campaign.

Reverend Adrienne Berry-Burton has joined the Interfaith Campus Ministry as the Protestant campus minister. She has been appointed by the Board of Boston Campus Ministries in Higher Education (BCMHE), which oversees the ministry at UMass Boston as well as at those at MIT, Suffolk University, Boston University, and Harvard University. She replaces Sarah Small, who served as the Protestant minister for many years, and has been ill for quite some time. Dean of Students Stephanie C. Janey recently accepted a position on the BMJHE Board as a representative from the UMass Boston community.

Mary Benner, secretary for the English Graduate Program, retired from the University on October 21 after 28 years of employment. She moved to Ireland on November 1.

The National Academy of Sciences has appointed Gary N. Siperstein, director of the Center for Social Development and Education, to a two-year term on the Committee on Disability Determination for Mental Retardation.

Births

Fernando Colina, Office of Institutional Research, and his wife Sonia had their first child, Olivia, on August 5.

A daughter, Liana Leslye Freeman, was born to Dale H. Freeman of the UMass Boston Archives and his wife Andrea on April 14, 2000.

In the News

McCormick Institute Director Edmund Beard was interviewed live on national CNN television on October 3 on historical parallels to earlier presidential debates, the potential impact of such debates, and the legitimacy of excluding third parties from the debates. Beard also offered pre-debate commentary on Boston's WBEZ Channel 4 and on New England Cable News.

Professor Garrison Nelson, senior fellow of the McCormick Institute and UMass Poll, was quoted by the Baltimore Sun, Burlington Free Press, Chicago Tribune, Congressional Quarterly, Providence Journal, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post on the upcoming elections in Vermont. He also was on WXIN-NBC and WVTG-TV giving commentary on the presidential debates.

Professor James Ward, Political Science Department, was interviewed by WVU Channel 56 to discuss the history of voting on October 18.

Correction
Due to a printer's error, the photos for the October issue, University of Gazette were scanned improperly, making them unclear and distorted.
Calendar of Events

November 2000

The Calendar of Events is published monthly by the Office of University Communications. All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted. From off campus dial (617) 287 and the last four digits listed below each calendar event.

Send submissions by the third Monday of every month to Calendar of Events, University Communications, Quinn Administration Building, 3rd Floor; Fx: (617)-287-5177; E-mail: news@umb.edu

Wednesday 1

Group Counseling: Improve your Close Relationships 2:35 - 4:00 p.m. An ongoing, psychodynamic interpersonal therapy group for men and women. For more information, call Brenda Hanamy at 7-5890.

Memorial Mass for the Deceased Throughout November, send names of loved ones for prayers during memorial masses held four times a week. Stop by Catholic Campus Ministry, 3rd Floor, Ryan Lounge, McCormack Hall, or call 7-5890.

Thursday 2

Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead 11:30-12:45 p.m., Wheatley-1052. "Mari­golds and Skulls: The Living Celebration of the Day of the Dead in Mexico," presentation by Dr. Susan Mauser, director and curator, Tufts University Library, and specialist in Mexican folk art. Hosted by Latin American Studies, Hispanic Studies Department, with sponsorship by offices of the Provost and Dean, CAS. Call 7-7559 for more information.

Friday 3

Biology Seminar Series: "Regulation of X-chromosome inactivation by non-coding RNA genes" 2:30 p.m., Small Science Auditorium. Featuring Dr. Jeanne Lee, Dept. of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Dept. of Molecular Biology/ MGH. Call 7-6600 for more information.

Monday 6

Learning Center Course: Grantsmanship Workshop Series, #408A 1:30 p.m., Learning Center, Hailey, lower level. An opportunity in cooperation with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Call 7-3980 to register.

Tuesday 7

Engineering 103 Open House: What is Engineering? 8:30-9:45 a.m., Ryan Lounge, 3rd floor, McCormack Hall. Engineering 103 teams will be competing with their "anti-grav­ity" projects. This introduction-to-engi­neering course is offered at UMass Bos­ton every semester and is without prereq­uisite. High school students, prospective engineering students, or the curious-minded are invited and can also enter the competition as a guest. For more infor­mation, please contact Tomasz Matarz, 7-6435.

Learning Center Course: Center for Education: Women's Studies Program, CCT 10:30 a.m., Learning Center, Healey Library, lower level. An ongoing, constructivist workshop. For more information, contact Sharon Ehrlich, 7-6285.

Learning Center Course: Jenzabar Hands-on Training 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Learning Center, Healey Library, lower level. Build YOUR web-enabled course site using Jenzabar.com tools. Bring your imagination and constructivist approach to the course with a zipt disk. Call 7-3980 to register.

Critical and Creative Thinking in Practice Seminar 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., Wheatley, 2nd floor, room 209. "Creating a constructive learning environment," featuring Emeritus Shih-Hsiung Fanta, Ph.D., instructor, winter session course. For more information, call 7-4520 or e-mail cct@umb.edu.

Wednesday 15

 McCormick Institute on Africa 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Administration, 3rd Floor, Chancellor's Conference Room. Sponsored by the Center for Democracy and Develop­ment, Reception following. Call 7-5550 for more information.

Thursday 23

Women's Research Forum: Abortion Rights of Minors in Massachusetts 2:30-4:00 p.m., Administration, 3rd Floor, Chancellor's Conference Room. Students Tim Eagan and Cyndie Mignini. For more information, call 7-6520 or e-mail cct@umb.edu.

Monday 20

3rd Annual Years of Service Recognition 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., Wheatley Cafeteria. Reception to honor UMass Boston employees' years of service. Call 7-5151 or 7-5311 for more information.

Learning Center Course: Issues in Technology, #490 1:30 p.m., Learning Center, Healey Library, lower level. "Understanding the Print Pro­cess," a discussion forum moderated by Jason McCarrick. Call 7-3980 to register for more information.

State House Forum: Paying for Long­Term Care -- Is Private Insurance an Answer? 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Gardner Auditorium, State House, Boston. Featuring speakers: Samsung Loo, City of Boston; Kathy Gutfreund, Massachusetts Senate Rep­resentative; Dr. Nancy Flavin, Massachusetts Commonwealth Care Corporation. Sponsored by Massachusetts Legislative Caucus on Older Citizens and Geriatric Institute, UMass Boston. For more information, call 7-7381.

Tuesday 21

Learning Center Course: Jenzabar Hands-on Workshop Series, #408A 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Learning Center, Healey, lower level. Build your web-en­abled course site using Jenzabar.com tools. Bring your imagination and come prepared with your coursework on a zipt disk. Call 7-3980 to register.

Learning Center Course: Introduction to Multimedia, #722A 1:30 p.m., Learning Center, Healey Library, lower level. What are your campus technology options? Let us walk you through the possi­bilities of using technology in the class­room. Call 7-3980 to register.

Critical and Creative Thinking in Practice Seminar 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Wheatley, 2nd floor, room 209. Public presentations by synthesis stu­dents. For more information, call 7-6520 or e-mail cct@umb.edu.

Thursday 28

Women's Research Forum: Abortion Rights of Minors in Massachusetts 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., Administration, 3rd Floor, Chancellor's Conference Room. Students Tim Eagan and Cyndie Mignini. For more information, call 7-6520 or e-mail cct@umb.edu.