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Dinner honoring retired UMass/Boston professor and other black scholars raises money for minority graduate students

Former UMass/Boston sociology professor James E. Blackwell and 22 other distinguished black scholars from New England colleges and universities were honored at an April 12th reception and dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston. Among the institutions designating scholars for recognition were Amherst College, Brown University, Smith College, and the University of Connecticut. Boston-area schools—including MIT, Boston College, Boston University, and Wellesley College—were also well represented.

Funds raised by the event, called "A Celebration of Black Scholarship in New England," will help support the Blackwell Fellowship Prize Program, which will benefit UMass/Boston graduate students in sociology who are studying minority issues.

The Blackwell Fellowship in Social Science is to be given each year to a distinguished minority applicant for graduate study in the social sciences at UMass/Boston. Fellows will have the opportunity to work on projects concerning the minority community that are developed in collaboration with the University's William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture. The Blackwell Prize will be presented each year to a UMass/Boston student earning the M.A. in Applied Sociology whose work has focused on issues of minority group relations, racial equity, African-American institutions, or Third World development.



Chancellor Penney with Professor James E. Blackwell (left) and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Charles Desmond at the dinner honoring Professor Blackwell and other distinguished scholars.

Professor Blackwell, considered one of the nation's leading authorities on minority issues, is a recipient of the American Sociological Association's Dubois-Johnson-Frazier Award, recognizing lifetime achievement in research, teaching, and service. His publications include nine books and many articles, focusing particularly on race and ethnic relations, and community development. His 1986 book, *Mainstreaming Outsiders: The Production of Black Professionals*, won widespread praise for tracking black enrollment figures at colleges and universities, and for analyzing the factors that have created a shortage of blacks employed in the professions.

An activist scholar, Blackwell has served the Peace Corps, the Agency for International Development, and the NAACP in leadership roles; testified for civil rights litigants; and helped to found several professional organizations. Raised in Cleveland, he studied sociology and biology as an undergraduate at Western Reserve University before earning a Ph.D. in sociology from Washington State University. He began teaching in 1949 at Benedict College; he retired from the UMass/Boston faculty in 1989.

McCormack conferences confront problems in the state and in the world

McCormack Institute activities in March and April included conferences addressing important public policy issues both in Massachusetts and at the international level.

At the fourth annual conference on regionalism, growth, and land use on April 5th, Massachusetts Speaker of the House Charles Flaherty and several members of Governor William Weld's cabinet spoke to and answered questions from a gathering of the state's mayors, selectmen, environmentalists, developers, planners, and other participants. The conference, held in the Healey Library and open to the public, was called "Challenge of the 1990s:

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A UMass/Boston senior has become a national fellowship winner. Donna DeFabio Curtin, a history major, is one of 99 recipients of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation's Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities for 1990-91. The rigorous competition included more than 1,500 applicants nationwide. Another UMass/Boston senior, Jeanette Vicky Filippone, a philosophy major, was among the group of about 225 semi-finalists.

Carson Scholarships and McNair Fellowship programs encourage students to fulfill their potential for academic success



Dr. Benjamin S. Carson at the February ceremony honoring his achievements and celebrating the establishment of the Carson Scholarships.

Visits to the Harbor Campus over the past few months focused attention on two new UMass/Boston scholarship programs named after prominent black Americans. Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, a well-known neurosurgeon, visited UMass/Boston on February 22 to accept the Chancellor's Medal and to meet with recipients of the Carson Scholarship. On March 14th, Carl McNair, president of the foundation named in memory of his brother Ronald, one of the seven crew members killed in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster, came to the campus to meet with the University community and the recipients of McNair Fellowships.

Carson, raised in one of Detroit's poorest neighborhoods, earned scholarships to Yale University and the University of Michigan Medical School. Today he is director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He has written an autobiography, *Gifted Hands*.

UMass/Boston's Carson Scholarship Program, started last fall, is aimed primarily at black and Hispanic students. Carson Scholars receive financial support, and participate in a counseling and retention program. "Our goal was to name the scholarship after somebody who could serve as a role model for the recipients," said Lana Jackman, a career and academic counselor in UMass/Boston's Student Advising Center."

Two UMass/Boston freshmen were awarded Carson scholarships for the spring 1991 semester, bringing to six the number of students who have received Carson scholarships during the 1990-91 academic year. To date, UMass/Boston has committed a total of about \$95,000 to cover the full cost of tuition and fees for the six winners.

According to Douglas Hartnagel, dean of Enrollment Services, the University "wanted to develop a scholarship that was oriented toward minority students who had demonstrated outstanding academic promise."

In announcing his visit to campus, Chancellor Penney said of Dr. Carson, "His success is exactly the kind of motivational experience that students in Boston need to hear about. Those students receiving this scholarship will know that is named after someone who is a respected and successful person. I know the award will encourage and inspire students . . . to continue their education."

During his campus visit, Carl McNair spoke to the scholarship winners and showed a short film on the life of his younger brother. The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, a research fellowship program designed to prepare students for graduate study leading to a Ph.D. degree, was created in 1989 by the U.S. Department of Education. McNair Fellows are among the first members of their families to attend college, come from low-income background, and are members of ethnic or gender groups underrepresented in their chosen field of study.

Ronald McNair, a former Roxbury resident, held a Ph.D. in physics from MIT and was a Presidential Scholar and Ford Foundation Fellow. In 1984 he became the second African-American member of a NASA space program crew when he was chosen to serve as a mission specialist aboard Challenger.

The program's premise is that providing opportunities to do research is the single greatest inducement in encouraging students to participate in Ph.D. programs, according to UMass/Boston's Carol DeSouza, program director. Each of the McNair Fellows receives free tuition at the University, and a \$2,400 stipend, for a maximum of two years.

UMass/Boston is one of 28 universities chosen nationwide to participate in the McNair program. Each school receives \$105,000 from the Department of Education to help pay for the program.

Ten UMass/Boston students are presently active in the McNair program, and ten others are now preparing to become McNair Fellows by attending workshops, meeting regularly with tutors, and receiving special training in the sciences.

News & Views invites the UMass/Boston community to submit news items for possible publication, and particularly requests news of faculty activities appropriate for "Faculty Notes."

Please address all items to:
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Boston, MA 02125-3393.

Faculty Notes

Scott Bass, director of the Gerontology Institute and a member of the CPCS faculty, was recently appointed to serve as chair of the Fellowship Committee of the Gerontological Society of America, a national organization of professionals in many disciplines who work with the aging. Professor Bass has also been elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

Joseph J. Cooney of the Environmental Sciences Program and Elizabeth A. Davis of the Biology Department were among 280 scientists elected Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the organization's annual meeting in February. The AAAS, founded in 1848, is one of the country's leading scientific organizations, and publishes the weekly journal "Science." Those elected Fellows of the AAAS are described as members of the organization "whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished."

Wornie Reed, director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture and chair of the Black Studies Department, was the keynote speaker at Morehouse College's 46th Annual Family Institute, held in Atlanta from March 20th through the 22nd. The title of Professor Reed's address, and the theme of the conference, was "Limitations on Life Options for Black Men and Their Families."

Lloyd Schwartz of the English Department has been recognized for his achievements in two areas. One of his poems has been selected for inclusion in *The Best American Poetry 1991*; and he has won, for the third time, the ASCAP-Deems Taylor award in recognition of his *Boston Phoenix* music criticism, and his essay on Elliott Carter for an important new recording of Carter's work.

Carole Upshur of the Community Planning Center at CPCS was appointed in March to serve on the Governor's Commission on Facility Consolidation, which is now preparing recommendations for the consolidation of the 31 mental health, mental retardation, and public health facilities in the Commonwealth. Professor Upshur's appointment to the Commission reflects her background in planning community programs in the areas of mental health and mental retardation.

Collaborative for Community Service and Development hosts national conference and issues Chelsea study



CPCS students and Chelsea residents at one of the planning sessions for the report by the Collaborative for Community Service and Development on Chelsea's Hispanic community..

Two recent events highlighted the important role played in the greater Boston community by the University's Collaborative for Community Service and Development, a CPCS program that matches teams of students with community service organizations to work on year-long projects. On March 26th, the results of a wide-ranging study focusing on Chelsea's Hispanic community were made public; and on April 4th and 5th the Collaborative hosted a national conference looking at the needs of impoverished neighborhoods, seeking ways to improve the effectiveness of community service programs, and promoting stronger partnerships between such programs and universities in their communities.

The conference at Boston's Park Plaza Hotel, called "Beyond 1,000 Points of Light—Values, Priorities, and Strategies for Community Service in the 90s," was co-sponsored by five national community service organizations and was open to the public. United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy delivered the keynote address.

On the first day of the conference, an agenda for community service needs was proposed by several well-known community leaders representing a vari-

ety of perspectives: among them were former state representative Mel King, a 1984 Boston mayoral candidate and currently director of MIT's Community Fellows Program; Kip Tiernan, founder of Rosie's Place, a Boston shelter for homeless women; and Dorchester state representative Nelson Merced. Presenters went on to discuss this agenda with conference participants, who included community service practitioners and staff, faculty, and students from several universities.

Discussion also focused on some of the challenges common to university community service initiatives: starting and improving programs, maximizing the contributions of students, integrating community service into the curriculum, and assessing accountability to the community.

Conference workshops examined strategies for delivering community services in such areas of concern as adult education, AIDS, substance abuse, and youth issues. Other topics included budget cuts, community control of development, fund raising, the process of defining a needy community and developing programs for it, and the complexities of getting these programs up and run-

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Collaborative for Community Service and Development plays community role

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ning—recruitment of employees, working agreements, scheduling, and logistical support.

"The idea behind this conference," according to Collaborative director Geoff Beane, "was to maximize the positive impact that community service efforts can have on low-income and disenfranchised communities."

The 350-page study, by 22 CPCS students in the Collaborative's Chelsea Community Project, was made public at a Chelsea City Hall press conference on March 26th. The study benefited from the cooperation of the Chelsea Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and was based on data collected in the first six months of 1990. Among its topics are a comprehensive demographic profile of Chelsea's Hispanic population; the extent to which Hispanics in Chelsea have benefited from Massachusetts' Local Aid program; how the Hispanic community is served by Chelsea's local newspapers; the history of Hispanic parishioners at St. Rose's Parish; income, unemployment, and housing among the city's Hispanics; the numbers and status of undocumented Hispanic immigrants living in Chelsea.

Information collected by the study will prove useful in helping formulate public policies to address the needs of Chelsea's Hispanic population, according to Daniel Viggiani, director of the city's commission on Hispanic affairs. "Community leaders and organizations such as our own," he says, "that are trying to obtain public funds for a project can use this information."

Collaborative director Beane believes the study will also serve as a model for communities throughout the state, "especially in light of the fact," he says, "that Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic population in Massachusetts' 15 largest cities."

McCormack conferences confront problems in the state and in the world

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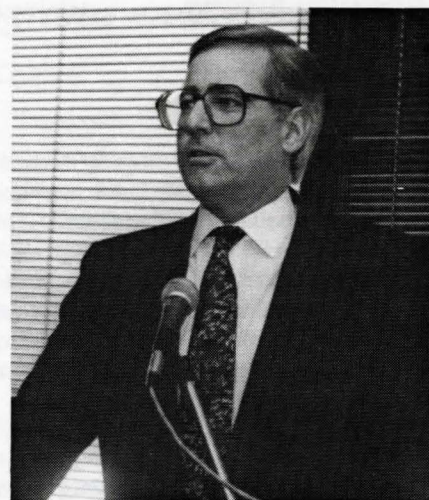
Planned Growth in a Protected Environment." It was co-sponsored by the McCormack Institute and One Thousand Friends of Massachusetts, a non-profit group focusing on land use policies, headed by Tom Winship, former editor of the *Boston Globe*, and former senator Paul Tsongas.

Conference sessions included discussion and debate with cabinet members Kevin Smith, (Communities and Development); Richard L. Taylor (Transportation); and Susan Tierney (Environmental Affairs); and Daniel Daly (Undersecretary for Economic Affairs). Discussion focused on plans for stimulating economic recovery in Massachusetts, particularly in the area of development, and for balancing these efforts with protection of the state's natural resources.

"The intent . . . was to give . . . elected officials from cities and towns, community leaders and concerned citizens an opportunity to glimpse the new secretaries and the new administration's policies, and to ask questions," said conference organizer Ian Menzies, senior fellow at the McCormack Institute, who moderated the program.

Ed Bates of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and Falmouth Selectman Richard Armstrong, chairman of the Cape Cod Commission, both advocates of a regional approach to public policy issues, also spoke at the conference.

In the area of international affairs, a two-day symposium on March 20th and 21st brought together many prominent human rights activists and political leaders from South Africa and Northern Ireland in a rare public forum to address human and civil rights issues in two of the world's most troubled societies. Hosted by the McCormack Institute, the event, which was open to the public, was co-sponsored by the Fund



Speaker of the House Charles Flaherty addressing the McCormack Institute conference on regionalism, growth, and land use.

for a Free South Africa, the Committee for a New Ireland, Northern Ireland Justice Watch, and the National Black Law Students' Association.

The two-day symposium, which coincided with this year's 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, focused on the possible role of such a formalized bill of rights in shaping the future of both Northern Ireland and South Africa. Participants examined methods for protecting the rights of minorities and other groups, and debated the concept of democratic government and the role of the judiciary in divided societies.

More than two dozen human rights activists, scholars, and government representatives from Ireland, South Africa, England, Canada, Belgium, and Switzerland traveled to Boston to take part in the two days of dialogue.

Padraig O'Malley, editor of the McCormack Institute's *New England Journal of Public Policy* and author of several books on Northern Ireland, served as a coordinator of the conference. O'Malley has started work on a new book tracking the demise of apartheid in South Africa.