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News & Views

UMass Boston

October 11, 1991

Volume 10, Issue 1

New five-campus system and administrative appointments highlight season of change at UMass/Boston



Secretary of State James Michael Connolly swearing in members of new five-campus system Board of Trustees at September 4th dinner.

Changes and reorganizations over the summer affected the University at levels from UMass/Boston's administration to that of the entire University of Massachusetts system.

Many current and former higher education officials and members of the boards of trustees joined new University of Massachusetts President E.K. Fretwell at a dinner on September 4th to celebrate the establishing of the new fivecampus system.

President Fretwell used the occasion to thank formally both Governor Weld and his staff, and members of the State Legislature for their efforts in helping to develop the University's reorganization plan. He went on to say, "The expansion of the University of Massachusetts will serve even more effectively all of the economic regions of the Commonwealth. This is truly an historic event." On the UMass/Boston campus, several administrative changes took place within the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Professor Fuad Safwat of the Biology Department, who has served for the last five years as dean of graduate studies and research, was named interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost. While he has delegated administration of the Office of Graduate Studies to the staff of that office, he will continue to direct the development of the University's graduate programs. Other appointments included the following:

• Yung-Ping Chen, the first holder of the Gerontology Institute's Frank J. Manning Eminent Scholar's Chair and a CPCS faculty member, was appointed deputy provost. His major responsibilities are in the areas of academic personnel policy and long range planning. Professor Chen has served as a consultant on elderly issues to both the White House and the United Nations. • Patricia Wilkie-Gootman, who joined the College of Management faculty in 1976 and later served as its associate dean and then acting dean, was named associate provost. She is responsible for such academic support areas as the Office of Enrollment Services, the library, Media Services, and the University Advising Center.

• Prudence King, who has served the University in many administrative capacities, was named assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs.

• Anthony Martin, since 1988 an assistant dean for budget and management in the Office of Graduate Studies, has been named assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, with primary responsibilities in the areas of budgeting and personnel administration.

• Roseanne Donahue was named assistant provost; her responsibilities include, among others, administrative support for the dean of the faculty of sciences, biology professor Christine Armett-Kibel.

Among other new administration appointments :

• James Jennings was appointed interim director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture. Jennings was dean of the College of Public and Community Service from 1983 to 1988, and for the last three years has directed the Trotter Institute's Community Research and Technical Assistance program.

• Professor Raymond Torto was appointed interim director of the McCormack Institute for Public Affairs. Professor Torto joined the University in 1970 as an economics professor. He served as department chair for five years before leaving higher educa-

Agreement facilitates transferring into UMass/Boston programs for students at two community colleges

Students at Bunker Hill and Cape Cod Community Colleges will find it easier to transfer into certain undergraduate programs at UMass/Boston because of a special agreement reached by the three schools.

The pact, known as an "articulation agreement," spells out a prescribed curriculum for students at Bunker Hill and Cape Cod Community Colleges that, if successfully completed, guarantees acceptance of their transfer credits by UMass/Boston.

UMass/Boston chancellor Sherry H. Penney, Cape Cod Community College president Richard Kraus, and Bunker Hill Community College interim president Kathleen Assar formally signed the agreement at a news conference on September 17th in the Chancellor's Conference Room on the third floor of the Quinn Administration Building. The new agreement is modeled after the Commonwealth Transfer Compact, which established a general policy requiring the state's public four-year institutions to accept students who successfully complete two years at a state community college. It gives the community college students a list of courses which UMass/Boston will accept as transfer credits toward a bachelor's degree.

Under the terms of the agreement, students at both Bunker Hill and Cape Cod Community Colleges who wish to transfer to the bachelor of science program at UMass/Boston's College of Nursing need only have earned an associate's degree in nursing. They would then complete their junior and senior years at UMass/Boston in order to receive a bachelor's degree.

Students who earn an associate's degree in computer science at Bunker Hill Community College can transfer into UMass/Boston's bachelor of arts program in computer science. They, too, would only be required to complete their junior and senior years.

"The advantage of such a program is that students can be comfortable taking courses at a state community college, knowing that if they follow the prescribed curriculum, they'll be guaranteed that their courses will transfer to UMass/Boston," said Doug Hartnagel, the University's dean of enrollment services. "This gives students some security."

According to Dean Hartnagel, the agreement is evidence of UMass/ Boston's commitment to the community colleges and reaffirms the University's status as a popular choice among transfer students. Approximately 62 percent of the new students each year at the University have transferred from other colleges, and both Bunker Hill and Cape Cod Community Colleges are among the primary feeder institutions.



Kamaljit Bawa, UMass/Boston professor of biology and a recently named University Research Professor, is one of ten environmental scientists and activists nationwide to be awarded an unrestricted grant of \$150,000 by the Pew Scholars Program in Conservation and the Environment.

Professor Bawa, who has taught since 1974 at UMass/Boston, is the only scientist in New England to win the award this year. He will use the grant to continue his research into the loss of biodiversity in the tropical forests of southern India.

Biology professor will use three-year national award to study conservation of India's tropical forests

The 1991 Pew scholars will each receive \$50,000 annually for three years to support their endeavors. Use of the funds is unrestricted so long as the scholars apply them in some fashion to their professional enterprises — a freedom not usually permitted by grantgiving institutions.

Professor Bawa's research examines the causes and consequences of deforestation in areas where population growth and other forces have put a tremendous pressure on natural resources. The consequences for tropical tree populations of what he calls "habitat fragmentation" are both genetic and demographic. In addition to his work in southern India, his research, which uses modern molecular biological techniques to study the effects of deforestation and selective logging on genetic diversity and the mating patterns of trees, has also focused on the rain forests of Costa Rica and Sri Lanka.

Professor Bawa received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from Punjab University in India. He has won several academic honors, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1987, and his work has been published widely. He is currently completing two books on tropical rain forests, one dealing with reproduction of trees, and the other on conservation and management of forest genetic resources.

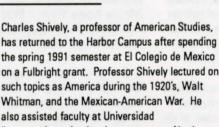
Faculty Notes

Professor Frances L. Portnoy of the College of Nursing and the Gerontology Institute has been appointed to the board of directors of the Massachusetts Long Term Care Foundation, an educational and research organization affiliated with the Massachusetts Federation of Nursing Homes.

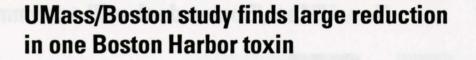
Mathematics professor Hans-Heinrich Wolfgang Herda is currently collaborating as co-author with Elisha Atkins, M.D., emeritus professor of internal medicine at Yale University, on a book about the conceptual history of fever.

Joey Horsley, professor of German literature, was among 80 scholars from across the country awarded a post-doctoral grant from the American Council of Learned Societies, a federation of 46 national associations that funds scholarship in the humanities. Professor Horsley will use the grant to research the lives of three German women writers from Weimar: Gabriele Tergit, Marieluise Fleisser and Irmgard Keun.

has returned to the Harbor Campus after spending the spring 1991 semester at El Colegio de Mexico on a Fulbright grant. Professor Shively lectured on such topics as America during the 1920's, Walt Whitman, and the Mexican-American War. He also assisted faculty at Universidad Iberoamericana in planning a course on North



American studies.



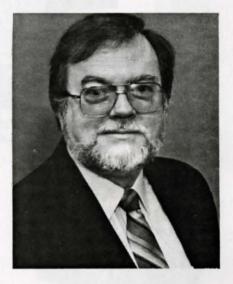
A recent study conducted by UMass/ Boston environmental sciences professor Ioseph I. Cooney and three graduate students has found that a toxic material which used to be abundant in Boston Harbor sediment has been greatly reduced.

According to a report co-authored by Professor Cooney in the latest edition of Chemosphere, a scientific journal, quantities of tributyltin (TBT), an important component of a paint used to coat the hulls of pleasure boats, tugs, ships and barges, have diminished by from 78 to 99 percent in several areas of the harbor. Professor James F. Brennan of the Psychology Department conducted statistical analyses of the data and is a co-author of the report. Graduate students Stefan Wuertz, Marvin Miller and Mark Doolittle worked as project researchers.

Professor Cooney had discovered extremely high concentrations of TBT in harbor sediment in a 1988 study. For his latest study, done in the summer of 1990, Professor Cooney obtained sediment samples from four of 11 Bostonarea sites that he had originally examined. The results were analyzed last December.

The greatest improvement was recorded at South Boston's Reserved Channel, a passage and berthing area for large cargo and cruise ships, where the amount of TBT was 99 percent less. A 98 percent reduction was recorded at Marina Bay Yacht Club in Quincy, one of several docks where TBT concentrations were called "stunningly high" in the 1988 study.

Boston Harbor is currently undergoing the massive clean-up that was ordered several years ago by a federal court. Several faculty members of the Environmental Sciences Program are currently working on research projects for the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority, the organization in charge of the multi-billion dollar effort.



According to Professor Cooney, a specialist in microbiology, the depletion of TBT can be traced to a federal regulation passed in 1988 banning the use of paints containing the chemical on all boats that are 81 feet or less in length. Such paints can still be used on larger vessels and on all aluminum hull crafts.

The marked decrease is also attributed to the breakdown of the TBT compound by bacteria in the harbor sediment. "This provides an example of how our environment is capable of cleaning itself if we take some minimum steps to lessen pollution," Cooney said.

Paint containing TBT had for several years been popular among boat owners because it is highly effective in preventing the growth of barnacles and algae on boat hulls. Barnacles clinging to the hull slow a vessel's speed and dramatically increase fuel consumption. TBT leaches from the paint and kills barnacle larvae. But it also works its way into harbor sediment, where it is responsible for killing oysters, clams and other marine life.



Boston City Councillor at large Michael J. McCormack (UMass/Boston '69), left, recently gave Chancellor Penney the first check for the Chancellor's Council leadership club of the 1991-92 Annual Fund. Looking on was Vice Chancellor Edward C. O'Malley, Jr.

New UMass/Boston dock will accommodate larger vessels



Top: Sailmaster Mark Hamilton points to new dock site. Bottom: Summer sailing program in action.

Construction is expected to begin soon on a \$660,000 dock that will serve marine research vessels at UMass/Boston, to be located 100 feet from the John F. Kennedy Library.

According to Eugene Cavanaugh, director of the Waterways Division of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM), work on the dock will start as soon as the state's Office of Administration and Finance, which has already approved the project, releases construction funds. The dock should be completed by next June, Cavanaugh said. UMass/ Boston will be responsible for the management and operation of the dock.

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: Walter D. Littell, Chancellor's Office University of Massachusetts at Boston Harbor Campus Boston, MA 02125-3393. Dredging finished in September, 1990, has made the water around the dock area deep enough for large research vessels. Some 90,000 cubic yards of harbor sediment was removed to produce channels that measure from 10 to 13 feet in depth.

The T-shaped dock will be composed of a wooden pier extending 133 feet into Boston Harbor. The pier will be supported by about 100 timber pylons. The pier will fan out from a width of 16 to a maximum of 51 feet. A ramp abutting the pier will extend down several feet to two float sections. Each float, positioned perpendicular to land, will be 100 feet long. One will serve as a berthing area for research vessels. The other will be reserved for tour boats and recreational craft. The ends of each float will be protected by a "dolphin cluster" of timber pylons designed to prevent boats from banging into and damaging the floats.

A small crane for loading and unloading light cargo and set on steel pylons will occupy a corner at the end of the pier. A road providing limited access to the pier is also part of the plans.

"The new dock will be very useful and will allow us to operate year-round," said Gordon T. Wallace, director of the Environmental Sciences Program.

UMass/Boston faculty and students doing research aboard the only University-owned research vessel, the 25-foot fiberglass craft Neretic (Latin for "near shore"), have for several years used as a seasonal berthing area the small floating dock located in the cove opposite the Savin Hill Yacht Club. During the winter months, the Neretic has had to be stored outdoors on a trailer at another small launching area.

According to Bob Bobek, business manager for the Environmental Sciences Program, research has occasionally been halted because waters in the cove have frozen, or because snow has blocked the trailer path.

"The waters around the new dock will never freeze because the current there is too strong," Bobek said, "and the new dock will provide much easier trailer access to the water."

The deeper waters and larger turning basin offered by the new dock also will accommodate the larger research vessels that the Environmental Sciences Program charters, but which must now dock elsewhere.

Richard Delaney, director of the Urban Harbors Institute, said the new dock may help increase the number of visitors to this area. The pier also will be available to fishermen.

Season of change

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tion in 1976 to work as a special assistant for tax policy to then Boston Mayor Kevin White. Professor Torto was the city's commissioner of assessing from 1980 to 1982.

• Gerard Gomez was appointed the University's director of affirmative action. Mr. Gomez has worked since 1982 in a variety of roles enforcing civil rights laws and affirmative action policies. Before coming to UMass/Boston he was the director of affirmative action for the University of California at Santa Cruz. His responsibilities include the monitoring and enforcement of all aspects of UMass/Boston's affirmative action policy.

• Mark Schlesinger, a former associate dean at the College of Management, was named assistant chancellor. He is assisting the chancellor in many areas, with special emphasis on academic and faculty issues.

• David M. Norris, Jr. was named director of undergraduate admissions. Mr. Norris comes to UMass/Boston from Georgia State University, where he spent seven years as assistant dean of admissions, with responsibilities in the areas of transfer students and adult learners.