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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 9, No. 60

December 9, 1975

Urban Research

Joseph S. Slavet, Director of the Boston Urban Observatory of UMass-Boston, participated as a panelist in a special workshop on the benefits and impact of the Urban Observatory experience on December 1 at the Congress of Cities sponsored by the National League of Cities in Miami Beach, Florida. Mr. Slavet's presentation not only documented the significant shifts in policy attributable to implementation of policy research undertaken by the Boston Urban Observatory of UMass-Boston but emphasized that improved university-city relations was an important by-product of Urban Observatory activities.

Doctoral Dissertation by Hazel McFerson

Hazel McFerson Schlavo-Campo, a UMass-Boston graduate in the 'pioneer' class of 1969, has recently defended successfully her Ph. D. dissertation in Politics at Brandeis University, on the subject "Race, Politics and Society in the U. S. Virgin Islands: The Impact of a Changed Racial Tradition". The defense committee included Professors Martin Kilson of Harvard, and Ruth Morgenthau and Roy Macridis of Brandeis. Hazel McFerson will thus be among the first UMass-Boston alumni to receive a doctorate. She is currently Assistant Professor in the Politics Department at Southeastern Massachusetts University.

Webb Poetry

Professor Igor Webb of the English II Department has published five of his poems--"Us," "African Figure," "The Old Left," "Poem for an Old Czech Woman I Loved," and "Against Capitulation"--in the prestigious quarterly, The Southern Review. A number of these poems depend upon Prof. Webb's childhood experiences under fascism in Czechoslovakia.

Jansenist Manuscript Study

Richard Ferland, Assistant Professor French (College I), now directing the Year-in-Paris program, has been awarded a NEH fellowship of \$15,000 to support a year of research in Utrecht. A specialist in 18th century literature and the history of ideas, Mr. Ferland will be working on a large number of French Jansenist Manuscripts which he came upon in the Royal Archives in Utrecht.

New Views Needed

Prof. Joey Horsley presented a paper entitled "Needed: A Feminist Approach to German Literature" at the National Convention of the American Association of Teachers of German in Washington, D. C. on Nov. 29.

Social Work Programs

Faculty are asked to advise Juniors and Seniors that representatives (two graduates and one current student) from the Boston College School of Social Work will be available in the Advising Office to discuss the school's programs with students on Friday, December 12 between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Interested students should set up a meeting time as soon as possible in the Advising Office.

Italian Consul Donates Books

The Italian Department and the Italian Club of College I hosted a reception at which the Consul of Italy Faà Di Bruno presented the Department and the Club a gift of approximately one hundred books, donated by the Italian Government to form the nucleus of a small but important departmental library. Included in the donation are dictionaries, critical works, texts of Italian authors, and anthologies. The Consul promised to make a small contribution of new books annually.

Prof. Vito Giustiniani was instrumental in alerting the Consul to the value of such a gift to the Department, so that professors and student majors could avail themselves of a small collection of works on the Italian language and literature when immediate information is needed.

Amiji Publications

Hatimal M. Amiji (History I) is the author of a monograph on "The Bohras of East Africa." It concerns their entrepreneurial role in social life in East Africa. This was published in the Journal of Religion in Africa, an international journal published by the International Academy for the Learned Societies.

Prof. Amiji has been requested by Dr. Adu Bohen of the University of Accra in Ghana to write three chapters for the UNESCO History of Africa. His subject will be on the influence of foreign rule upon the religious life of Africa from 1880 to 1935.

Computer Communique

If on dialing to reach the computer you encounter a busy signal, try dialing "4". This is an alternate system and should get you a line, unless all lines are busy. If so, please retry.

Marital Separation

Prof. Robert Weiss, Chairman, Sociology II, is the author of a new book published by Basic Books, Marital Separation which was reviewed in the New York Times Book Review on November 30. Reviewer Morton Hunt notes that a number of books on divorce are being published, most of which are "titillating diaries of sexually liberated young divorcess" and survival kits. Weiss's book is "of another order." Hunt calls it "a comprehensive description of marital dissolution in America today-- its causes, emotional traumas and dislocations it produces, and the various coping and reparative processes by which most of the people rebuild their lives."

Dr. Weiss's study is called objective and analytic as well as emphatic. "He cares how these experiences feel to those undergoing them, and conveys their feelings by means of numerous statements by persons in his sample. Moreover,

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Marital Separation
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he takes a clear moral position: divorce, he feels, is an essential adaptation to the conflict between the value we place on commitment to a mate and the value we place on self-realization."

The book is called the soundest up-to-date overview of marital separation and divorce among middle-class parents available. The reviewer says the book "isn't exactly entertaining" but it can offer help to those who have anything to do with divorce or separation.

Among his papers, publications, and research reports are such subjects as loneliness, marital separation and bereavement, mental health implications of the large-scale physical environment, and child protective services in Massachusetts. He is an associate editor of Environment and Behavior.

Special People

Dr. Maxwell Schleifer, Psychology II, has some special interests for some special people. He is editor of the now-successful magazine "The Exceptional Parent" which is devoted to practical guidance concerning children with disabilities. Now in its fifth year of publication, the latest issue of the journal offers articles of a personal as well as a professional look at various aspects of children with disabilities. Especially interesting are articles on different facets of the community residence concept for disabled young adults.

The editors of the magazine and the Children's Museum are co-sponsoring tomorrow (Wednesday, December 10th) a workshop for parents, big brothers and big sisters of children with disabilities at the Resource Center of the Museum, Jamaicaaway. Donations are \$3 a family. For further information, call 522-4800. It's not just coincidental that the workshop is being held on Human Rights Day.

Nantucket Calling

Barry Phillips, Director of our academic program on Nantucket Island, reports that students may still apply for the Spring Semester. Applications will be accepted through Friday, December 12th, and faculty are asked to advise students of this new date.

This unique Program is especially valuable for students interested in American Studies generally, and specifically in the history and culture of this isolated New England community. Fifteen academic credits may be earned during the semester.

Courses are offered by Edouard Stackpole (the distinguished maritime and cultural historian), the staff of the Quaise Point Biology Field Station, Professor Phillips (who teaches the seminar in Humanistic Research and Methods), and through special seminar sessions conducted by Harbor Campus faculty members visiting the Island in connection with their supervision of student Independent Study projects.

Further information about the Program, as well as application forms, may be obtained from the College II Dean's Office (3rd floor, room 625: ext. 2851) or from Prof. Edwin Gittleman (English II: office 5-212, ext. 3108 or home phone 862-1560.)

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Nantucket Calling
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In the November 26th issue of The Inquirer and Mirror, published on the island, is an especially interesting feature on this program and the research being done by Prof. Phillips and the 13 students who have been enrolled this semester.

Of student research, Phillips says, "Here students can work with original source material. In few other places would they be permitted to handle original manuscripts, logs, diaries and journals. They are able to live right in the environment in which they study, and do research which has never been done before.

Boccaccio Commemorative

Prof. Vito Giustiniani, the mediaevalist story-teller of Italian I gave a lecture on Giovanni Boccaccio, at the Dante Society of Boston on November 22. His lecture commemorated the 600th Anniversary of Boccaccio's death and he pointed out Boccaccio's importance for modern fiction.

Slide Show Produced
By Media Center

When the preview of the Kennedy Library exhibit was held for the Dorchester community and university members, one of the highlights of the evening was a showing of the new UMass-Boston slide show. The film, produced by the Media Center staff, will now be available for viewing for all classified, professional, and faculty members at the Admissions Office. A screening schedule is now being prepared.

Although the film was made essentially for recruitment efforts by the Admissions staff, to be shown to high school seniors, parents, and guidance counselors, it was also adapted for screening for the Kennedy Library Corporation and was one of the many links that helped the Trustees make the decision favorable for UMass-Boston.

This is a gorgeous film. The adjective, we believe, is not excessive. And it is felt that all of the UMass-Boston community will want to see it.

Bicentennial Essay

Bicentennial projects abound everywhere, and the latest coming to our attention from Washington, D. C. is one sponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. A series of essays on various ethnic groups and their contributions to American Catholicism will be released, and later printed in book form. Thomas Brown, History I, one of the nation's foremost authorities on Irish immigrants in this country, has written on the role of Irish Catholics in America. The series will be released by the National Catholic News Services, which provides news and news features to 300 weekly and monthly publications.

McSorley Appointed

Grace McSorley, Associate Registrar, has been reappointed to the Standing Committee on Data Management for the New England Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, it was announced by Florence S. Kimball, President of NEACRAO and Registrar at Mount Holyoke College.