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University of Massachusetts Boston

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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 9, No. 36

May 20, 1975

Kennedy Library

The Herald-American reported the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library this way: "The odds have shortened on locating the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library on a University of Massachusetts campus -- either in Boston or at Amherst.

"A spokesman for the library corporation said yesterday, 'There is great symbolic value in being identified with the university which belongs to all the people of Massachusetts.'

"The Amherst campus is the crown jewel of UMass. The harbor campus on Boston's Columbia Point is its newest -- and potentially most glittering -- gem.

"Both sites are readily accessible to students and scholars from a number of other colleges and universities.

"Both the archival and museum centers of the monument to the assassinated President would be combined in one complex, regardless of which site is finally selected.

"The John F. Kennedy Library Corp. board of directors will make a final decision in June.

"There is still a contingency under which the library's archives -- but not the museum -- would be constructed in Cambridge near Harvard University, as the late President had planned. The split would be considered, the spokesman said, if someone were to come forward and offer the library corporation a deal on an existing building 'somewhere in Massachusetts' to house the museum.

"'To date no feasible museum possibility in existing buildings in Massachusetts has presented itself. If one should arrive in the next month, the library corporation will look at it closely,' he said.

"Building the archives in Cambridge would not leave enough money to construct a separate building for the museum.

"The corporation had seriously considered splitting off the museum and locating it in the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the nation's capital. The archives would have remained in Cambridge on the site already acquired for that purpose on the Charles River bank just off Harvard Square.

"It was the concerted opposition of Harvard Square business and neighborhood groups that delayed -- and finally all but killed -- plans to erect the entire complex in Cambridge.

(Continued to page 2)

Kennedy Library
(Continued from page 1)

"The split Cambridge-Washington axis has been abandoned as impractical, however, the spokesman said."

Chancellor Carlo Golino said if the library is located at the Harbor Campus it will be a mutually beneficial project for the library and the university.

"President Kennedy gave to youth and to the world a spirit of hope and promise," Chancellor Golino said, "Keeping bright that flame of promise through the library archives and through the spirit of his philosophy is, indeed, something that UMass-Boston will be proud to share."

He noted that there have been nearly 50 visits, inspections, campus discussions with Kennedy Library and General Service Administration personnel with faculty, staff, and community representatives.

Faculty Meeting

Dorothy N. Marshall, Chairperson, Spanish I, was elected by the assembled faculty at last week's meeting to serve as the faculty representative for UMass-Boston with the University's Board of Trustees. She will succeed Prof. Paul Gagnon, who made a preliminary report of his liaison for the faculty with the Board of Trustees over the past year.

He said the two most important items to keep track of for the coming year are budget situations, especially keeping the 15-1 student-faculty ration, and campus autonomy.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Spaethling, who is looking forward to returning to the classroom next year, summarized much progress and identified tensions which are endemic to the Vice Chancellor's position.

He said some of the progress made this year included authorization of Black Studies as a department next year; that the College of Professional Studies is on its way to being a good, new college; that the establishment of the Admissions Board and the work of the Admissions Office staff has been most positive, and that applications to the university topped the 8000-mark for the first time; that Affirmative Action activities have taken significant steps forward.

Dr. Spaethling stressed that he was personally opposed to the legislative requirements on reporting contact hours for the faculty but he and the university had a legal obligation to comply with the mandate.

In sorting through the bitter-sweet year, he said "I believe in our College system. It is our manifestation of our diversity and it is the strength of this university. It is the vehicle for us to become a great university."

But he emphasized that "if diversity becomes divisiveness, we are losing sight of our goals and our mission."

The Germanic scholar also praised the faculty for their talent, promise and commitments and told them they must "determine what we are and where we are going."

On his election to return to teaching from his administrative duties, he summed it up with "I want to teach Kafka. I don't want to live it."

(Continued to page 3)

Faculty Meeting
(Continued from page 2)

He pointed out his warm relationship with Chancellor Golino and pledged his support and that "I am very proud to have served with him."

Provost Spaethling received a standing ovation from his colleagues.

Chancellor Golino, in his report, said one of the dividends of his own job is "the friendship of Bob Spaethling."

The Chancellor said that tenure decisions denied the campus have been appealed with submission of new information on each of the candidates.

He said that institutional needs are the first in his priorities, and that he remains responsible for students, faculty, staff, community, trustees, president, and the Commonwealth. "I have no ulterior motives in serving this university. I came here to do a job and I will do it," he said.

Dr. Salvatore Schiavo-Campo, Faculty Co-Chairman of the University Assembly, reported on the year's deliberations at 27 Assembly meetings which focused on recommendations of the New Directions Report.

In other actions, the Faculty voted 58 to 46 that the appointments of the Acting Dean, College I, and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs should not be eligible for the permanent appointments.

The faculty voted unanimously to solicit "the views of the members of the faculty on such sensitive matters alluded to or implied in the President's response (4/15 to the 4/2 Faculty resolution) as tenure quotas, institutional need, mandatory retirement age, and fiscal exigency."

Desegregation in Boston Schools

There will be an important meeting tomorrow (Wednesday, May 21) in the College I Lounge, called by the Institute for Learning and Teaching on the university's role in Judge W. Arthur Garrity's order concerning desegregation in the Boston public schools.

Dr. James Case has been deeply involved as the campus' coordinator with the Boston schools and the Judge's representatives.

Faculty are urged to attend the meeting so they will be brought up to date on UMass-Boston's cooperative efforts.

Commencement

For UMass-Boston's seventh commencement, many people have been at work preparing for the great day for our graduates, including the first graduates of the College of Public and Community Service.

The Commencement Committee is headed by Prof. Roger Prouty, and the names listed below have many, many more people in back of them to make it a day to remember.

The Committee includes: Patricia Ahlin, Mary Ann Alexander, Sherman Arnold, Henrietta Ball, John Carpenter, Robert Dwyer, Judith Fuchs, Robert Gorman, S. William Haney, John Hanson, John Huggler, John Lerner, Grace McSorley,

(Continued to page 4)

Commencement
(Continued from page 3)

Harold Proudfoot, Arlene Quinlan, Sherry Robb, Eleanore Silverman, Shirin N. Thomas, Edward J. Topham and Joanne Yphantis.

Health Insurance

The Harvard Community Health Plan, (HCHP) became available to employees of UMass-Boston in the fall of 1974. At that time many employees converted from the Aetna plan to HCHP. During the month of May the option to convert to HCHP, as well as to convert back to Aetna, is available. Employees may call the Personnel Office, at Ext. 2271, 72, or 73, in order to arrange a mutually convenient time for filling out conversion forms. Conversions will become effective on July 1, 1975.

Under its expanded coverage, HCHP will provide full maternity benefits to females with individual coverage and without a deductible; preventative dental care is offered for children under 12 years of age; coverage is expanded for durable medical appliances.

Effective July 1, 1975, the cost of premium will be as follows: AETNA -- \$10.71 (I) and \$24.68 (F) HCHP -- \$5.11 (I) and \$15.77 (F).

Seminars will be held on May 21 and 22 in order to explain the differences in the two plans. Please contact the Personnel Office for the times and places and to express your intent to attend. Call extensions 2271, 72 or 73. Conversions may not occur again until May 1976.

Job's Poetry

John Job, of the Science Library, was invited to read from his poetry in the final installment of the Spring Series of Poetry Readings for Freshmen at Harvard University. The reading, which took place the evening of May 7th, was held in the Littauer School of Public Administration. A tape of the reading, consisting of 19 poems, is available in the recorded poetry collection on the Main Library's 10th floor.

Fifteenth Annual College
Research Symposium

UMass-Boston was well represented at the Fifteenth Annual College Research Symposium of the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society held on May 8, 1975 at Harvard University. David E. Dana (advisor: Professor J. -P. Anselme) presented a paper on "Diazoalkanes from Sulfonylhydrazones" and Ralph E. Truit (advisor: Professor H. Michael Widmer) spoke on "Fulvic Acid from the Waters of the Cambridge Reservoir." The latter was part of a larger program to investigate the nature of the metal deposits in the Cambridge Reservoir, including lead.

Social Notes

Our congratulations and good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cicconi on the birth of their first child, a son, David Anthony, who was born last week. Susan was secretary to Vice Chancellor W. R. Hamilton, Jr., and her husband Al is a graduate of UMass-Boston.

Nike Speltz, Assistant Director of the Office of Grants and Special Programs, leaves the University this week to live in Vermont and become a mother. At UMass-Boston Nike organized the comprehensive library of funding information, assisted most ably in faculty and staff making governmental and foundation proposals for funding projects, and was active in planning and developing special university programs.