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The UMass Boston Friday Report

Volume 2, Number 16
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News and information about and for the
University Community from the Chancellor's Office

UMass Boston To Sponsor International Symposium On the History and Future of Democratic Socialism in Italy

Historians and political scientists from the United States and Italy, as well as former and current officials of the Italian government, will participate next week in an international symposium on Italian Socialism co-organized by UMass Boston. The symposium will take place from Thursday, March 18th, through Sunday, March 20, at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. The event's principal organizer is history professor **Spencer Di Scala**, who has written several books on the political history of Italy.

The symposium will examine a century of Italian Democratic Socialism from 1892 to the present. "We're trying to take a broad view of this very important movement," says Di Scala. "The only way to determine the future of the movement is to investigate its past. Democratic Socialism has achieved a lot of good things in Italy. It established labor unions and was responsible for improved conditions for Italian workers. It also fought Mussolini. But there's doubt as to whether the Democratic Socialists will continue to exist in the same form as in the past. This is one of the many issues that we'll address at the symposium."

Among those speaking at the symposium is **Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.**, who will discuss the role of the Kennedy Administration in the development of the Italian Center Left. Presentations will also be made by **Giorgio Spini**, a professor at the University of Florence and one of Italy's foremost historians; **Gino Giugni**, a prominent senator, who will discuss the future development of the Left in Italy within the context of the changes currently taking place in the country's political system; and **Valdo Spini**, Italy's undersecretary of state for foreign affairs, who will deliver the keynote address at the March 18th opening of the symposium. That evening, Boston mayor **Ray Flynn** will hold a dinner and reception for symposium participants at the Parkman House on Beacon Hill.

Two English Professors Win NEA Fellowships for Writing

English department professors **Chet Frederick** and **Ron Schreiber** recently won fellowships in creative writing from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), marking the second time that the University has had multiple NEA Fellowship recipients in the same year. In 1990, English professors **Martha Collins** and **Lloyd Schwartz**, and **James Haug**, a former student, also received NEA writing fellowships. "It's highly unusual to get more than one winner from the same institution in the same year," said **Alex Ooms**, the NEA's program specialist in creative writing fellowships. "In recent years, the University of Massachusetts at Boston is the only university to have achieved such a feat."

NEA Fellowship winners are each awarded \$20,000. Eighty-nine winners were selected this year from a nationwide pool of some 2,400 applicants in three writing categories: creative fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry. Nine of the winners came from institutions in Massachusetts. Frederick, who has been teaching creative writing at the University since 1968, received the fellowship for short story writing. He has published more than 40 short stories, and several have appeared in the annual journal *Best American Stories*. Schreiber, who has been at the University since 1967, received the fellowship for a collection of 10 poems taken

from his 1989 book *John*, which focuses on the terminal illness of Schreiber's lover, John MacDonald, who died of AIDS in 1986. "John contracted the disease as a result of a rape," Schreiber says. "Obviously, his illness was a very difficult period in our lives. Writing poetry during those days is perhaps what held me together."

Frederick will use his fellowship award to help pay for a sabbatical that he will take during the spring 1994 semester. He is planning to visit Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he will use the facilities at the University of North Carolina to continue work on his second novel. Writing novels is a fresh challenge for Frederick. Last spring, after several years of work, he finished his first, *Numbered Days*, the story of a working class Detroit man who turns to crime as the operator of a profitable gambling ring.

Schreiber will use the fellowship prize money for a trip to Amsterdam, where he will work on his latest writing project, titled *The Amsterdam Journals*. He has written six books of poetry, and his work has appeared in many publications, among them *The New England Journal of Public Policy* and *The Literary Review*. He also is a co-founder and co-editor of Hanging Loose Press, a small literary press started in New York City in 1966 that publishes books of fiction and poetry, as well as *Hanging Loose*, a poetry journal.

Lectures, Films and Exhibits on Astronomy to Highlight March 27 Festival Presented by Campus Radio Station WUMB

Radio station WUMB-FM will sponsor a day-long celebration of astronomy at the Harbor Campus on Saturday, March 27, from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. The day's activities will consist of lectures, exhibits and films on topics related to astronomy. These include the future of the universe, space flight, how to use a telescope at home, and how to prepare for a career in astronomy. Tours of the University Observatory will be given from 1:00 to 4:00 and from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., and visitors may use the observatory telescope to view stars and planets. Admission to the celebration is \$4 for adults, \$2 for students. WUMB members will be admitted for half price. Refreshments will be served. A limited number of tickets are available.

Grant to Urban Harbors Institutes Enables University To Participate in Conference On Computerized Geography

A conference this week organized by the Urban Harbors Institute demonstrated how computer technology can improve the understanding of world geography. Several undergraduates majoring in geography and 16 Boston high school students enrolled in our Urban Scholars Program participated in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Business '93 Conference, held March 8 to 10 at the campus and the Sheraton Boston Hotel. UMass Boston faculty and high school teachers from Boston and Fairhaven also took part in the conference. **John Murphy**, manager of research computing at the University's computing services center, presented a lecture. GIS World, Inc., the firm that created the software package, donated \$13,000 to the Urban Harbors Institute to cover the cost of University people who attended the conference. In addition, the company donated \$2,000 worth of software to the GIS Lab located on the third floor of the Healey Library.

Campus Notes --The College of Management lecture series continues on Tuesday, March 30, at 6:00 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room with professor **Mary Lou Roberts**, senior author of *Direct Market Management* speaking on how to achieve quality in the workplace. • **Andres Torres**, research director at the Labor Studies Program, will speak on Latinos and the labor movement at noon on Thursday, March 18, on the 10th floor of the Healey Library.