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MEYER MEMBER OF TEAM ANALYZING HOW ENGLISH IS SPOKEN AND WRITTEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

English professor Charles Meyer and an international team of researchers are collecting samples of various forms of the English language as it is spoken and written throughout the world. Meyer and colleagues in 20 nations where some variety of English is spoken are constructing a body of information that eventually will be stored on a computer, enabling language specialists to study the myriad nuances of English usage around the globe. Meyer is working with professor Robert Morris of the Math and Computer Science Department and Edward Blanchman of Interleaf, Inc., of Waltham to develop computer software for the project.

Some 25 researchers are working in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Singapore, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Zambia. Contributions are also being made by universities in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and South Africa. Team members in each country are collecting texts of the written word as it appears in newspapers, academic journals, popular magazines, personal letters, business correspondence and student essays. They are also recording dialogue from casual telephone conversations, face-to-face discussions, broadcast interviews, formal speeches, courtroom testimony, sports play-by-play, political debate and government hearings. Demographic profiles of the various authors and speakers also are being catalogued, as are such idiosyncratic tendencies as gesticulations, voice loudness and the propensity of some to speak while others are talking.

"All of this material will be part of a valuable tool for scholars of the future who are interested in linguistic analysis," says Meyer, a member of the UMass Boston faculty since 1986. Meyer became interested in English usage while earning his Ph. D. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he studied with Professor Stanley Greenbaum, a prominent scholar of English grammar. In 1988 Meyer began collecting data for the current project, which is being coordinated by Greenbaum. Several UMB students who are pursuing their master's degree in English are helping to collect data for the project. According to Meyer, the global study is not likely to be completed before 1996. The effort is principally supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to researchers at the University of California at Santa Barbara, with whom Meyer is collaborating.

Art Historian Butler Publishes Full-Scale Biography of Auguste Rodin

Professor Ruth Butler, former chair of the art department, has just published her third book, a major 566-page biography of 19th century French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), whose most famous works include The Kiss, The Thinker, The Burghers, Definitons of Man, Perspective. Butler has been praised for her thorough investigation of Rodin's life and of the forces that influenced his art, particularly his many, often difficult relationships with women. Several periodicals, including Publishers Weekly and Kirkus Reviews, as well as distinguished members of the art community have praised the biography. States Kirk Varnedoe, chief sculpture curator of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City: "This book establishes itself as the authoritative chronicle of Rodin's life. Based on exhaustive research into a wealth of unpublished letters and documents, and synthesizing the best of recent Rodin studies, the text shines an unprecedented, clarifying light into innumerable, cloudy corners of the artist's career, and flenses out as never before the characters of a host of relatives, friends, and lovers who were central to his persona development."

College of Nursing Thanks Donors for Renovated Lab

The College of Nursing last week held a short ceremony and luncheon to thank members of the Friends of Nursing and other donors who helped raise money to refurbish the nursing laboratory on the second floor of the Science building. The lab has undergone a facelift and now contains about $18,000 worth of new equipment. Among the laboratory's improvements are electric patient beds and a range of technical equipment that allows students to perform a variety of nursing procedures. The lab has a simulated hospital bedroom, a new large screen video monitor used for audio-visual presentations, and additional storage space. Its floor is covered by a new carpet designed especially for hospitals. According to lab director Sara Barnum, the lab improvements have significantly enhanced the experiences of students and faculty. "We've now got a lab that is extremely conducive to learning," she said. Approximately 250 nursing students use the lab each week to learn such skills as how to perform intravenous treatments and catheterizations, and administer dressings.

An important supplement to the main lab facility is a separate testing laboratory one floor above where students are quizzed individually on their skills. About 800 of these exams are administered to students each semester in the testing lab. "Ours is one of the largest nursing schools in the country, and I think it's one of the best," said Chancellor Penney. "It's plain that this is a dynamic entity that deserves all the support it's been given."
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOCUS OF DEC. 10 TALKS

Members of the UMass Boston community are encouraged to attend a discussion of the University's role in economic development. The program has been designed to inform the University community about economic development, what it involves, and what is being done in various sectors to strengthen the state's and Boston's business health. The session will take place on Friday, December 10, from 10:30 to noon in the Chancellor's Conference Room. The event will include presentations by Donald Walsh, Boston Edison's economic development manager, and Sheryl Marshall, vice president of investment services at the brokerage firm Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. Marshall recently traveled with the Governor's trade mission to South America.

A College of Management team led by marketing professor Betty Diener recently developed for Mayor Tom Menino a questionnaire that was distributed to chief executives of Boston manufacturing firms. It was designed to ascertain which companies are considering leaving Boston, and help the Menino administration develop strategies that will encourage businesses to remain in the city.

Environmental sciences professor Jack Archer was co-chair of an international conference in Antalya, Turkey that brought together 160 environmental researchers and policy specialists from around the world to discuss the management of coastal regions of the Mediterranean Sea. Also at the conference, UMass Boston and Middle East Technical University, located in Turkey, signed an agreement to work together to establish tighter environmental controls over heavily polluted coastlines on the Mediterranean and Black seas. The agreement calls for student and faculty exchanges. The Harbor and Coastal Center at the Urban Harbors Institute will coordinate the agreement.

Human services professor Ann Withorn has assumed duties as acting dean of the College of Public and Community Service, succeeding Miren Uriarte, who resigned due to health reasons. Withorn, a member of the CPSC faculty since 1977, will serve through next August, at which time James Green, director of the CPSC Labor Studies Program, will become acting dean. Green will then retain the position until a permanent dean is named. Neither Withorn nor Green will be candidates for the permanent position.

The book will contain a 20% holiday discount on all purchases by faculty and staff on November 29 and 30.

In the Chancellor's Conference Room on Tuesday, December 7, at 4 p.m., political science professor Spencer Di Scala will discuss the political implications of Italy's anti-corruption movement.

English Professor Monica McAlpine next February will become director of the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. She will succeed political science professor Paul Watanabe, who will focus on co-directing the new Institute for Asian American Studies.

Music department faculty raised $685 while performing classical, jazz and rock tunes at a November 5 concert.

The first of six campus hearings devoted to developing a proposed "model of general education," will take place on Tuesday, November 30, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the media room in the lower level of the Healey Library. A general education model will be submitted to the Faculty Council next April, and later reviewed in an accreditation process by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The UMass Boston Chorus and Chamber Orchestra will present a holiday concert at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 3, in Snowden Auditorium.

More than 1,100 Boston high school students attended a college fair at the campus November 18.

Fifty theatre arts students will present the first-ever production of professor Louis Roberts' play STAGES, a satire of Russia during the 1980s. The first of six shows will take place December 3 at the McCormack Theatre. Ticket information is available by calling 7-5646. Theatre arts students perform one show each semester. The spring production will be West Side Story.

Sociology professor Glenn Jacobs has written recently in "The Urban Review about the social, political and educational dynamics of Boston University's takeover of the Chelsea public schools.

As part of an initiative that involves all five UMass campuses, students and faculty are asked to submit written statements of what they believe to be the major goals of teaching and learning, and the obstacles to achieving these goals. Statements should not exceed one paragraph, and should be mailed to: Office of CAS Deans, Wheatley Building. Open hearings will be held December 8 and 9, at 2:30 p.m., in room 20 on the first floor of Wheatley.