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News & Views

Newsletter of the
Office of Public Information

Combating bigotry is focus of Human Relations Seminar at UMB



Panelists at Human Relations Seminar pose with Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan. Left to right: Corrigan; Martin Walsh, U.S. Justice Dept.; Frederick Hurst, Mass. Commission Against Discrimination, and Leonard Zakim, Executive Director, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"UMass/Boston has often been a haven in the midst of Boston's racial polarity... We will not accept behavior that threatens the rights and beliefs of others. To insult one of us is to insult all of us."
—Chancellor Corrigan

Below: Human Relations Seminar was addressed by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan in Wheatley Auditorium. Seated, left to right: Vice Chancellor Charles Desmond; student trustee Christine Saba; Robert Mean, Acting Chair, Student Senate; Frederick Hurst; Leonard Zakim; Martin Walsh and attorney Frank Jones.

"The key message when handling a racial issue is to be very quick to do something about it," says Commissioner Frederick Hurst of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

Hurst was a panelist in a Human Relations Seminar at UMass/Boston hosted by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan. Hurst investigated and reported on a racial brawl at UMass/Amherst in October after the seventh World Series game between the Boston Red Sox and New York Mets.

UMass/Boston had recent incidents of Nazi swastikas being placed on the door of three professors' offices.

Also participating in the seminar were Leonard Zakim, Executive Director, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Martin Walsh, Regional

Director of Community Relations, U.S. Justice Department; Vice Chancellor Charles Desmond; student trustee Christine Saba; Robert Mean, Acting Chair, Student Senate, and Frank Jones, who has been retained as counsel to a 25 person Task Force at UMass/Boston.

Referring to the swastikas, Hurst said:

"When something like this happens on your campus, you have to move on it very quickly or else it could lead to an even worse incident.

"Denial is one of the subtlest forms of racism because in a sense you're tolerating it.

"To combat a racial incident, you must have strong support from the top. At Amherst, this became a major

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Veteran Affairs director Julia Perez seeks women vets

Calling all women veterans.
Julia Perez, director of Veteran Affairs, wants you.

Report to her so she can arrange a program of recognition for UMass/Boston staff, faculty and students who've served in the military.

"Women have made contributions in both war and peace efforts but have never received the recognition...and often the rights due them," said Perez, who was recently selected one of the city's 100 Most Interesting Women by *Boston Woman's Magazine*.

Perez, a Cambridge resident, is a veteran, herself. She served in the U.S. Army in 1958-59.

At UMass/Boston she counsels other veterans on their rights and benefits, and produces programs on issues concerning veterans.

Those programs earned Perez and UMass/Boston national recognition. In November 1985, Perez organized a conference "Invisible Force: Women in the Military," attracting hundreds of female veterans from as far away as California who had served during World War II, The Korean Conflict, Vietnam and the intervening years.

The conference tackled subjects



Julia Perez

from sexism and racism to health issues, including complaints that women Vietnam veterans had not been included in the Government's study of the effects of Agent Orange.

During the conference, the women's personal reminiscences of military and related experiences were recorded by video camera.

An edited version of the video tape recently was selected by the International Women's Day Festival committee for airing on the cable television network in March.

The success of the conference and video record led to a UMass/Boston grant to produce a video recording of the oral histories of black women in the military.

"I loved the marching and training but the racism and sexism made the military a negative experience," said Perez, a native of Puerto Rico.

She earned a Bachelors degree at Queens College, New York and a Masters in Urban Education and Sociology at Fordham University.

Before joining UMass/Boston in 1984, Perez served as a social worker, the director of Casa Myrna Vasquez—a shelter for battered women, a bilingual counselor for Hispanic students and a teacher.

Currently she is compiling an anthology of women in the military.

On April 2, she will testify before a Congressional subcommittee chaired by Rep. Lane Evans, of Illinois, studying veterans issues.

B r i e f l y . . .

Professor Edward Strickland is winning much attention for himself and and UMass/Boston these days. He was mentioned in *American Visions*, a publication of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and also in a recent issue of *Art New England*.

Dr. Strickland is a frequent contributor to *Art New England* and the *Bay State Banner*. This year he has two exhibitions of paintings. On March 21 an exhibition opened at the Gallery Light Center in Brookline and on May 31 he has an exhibition scheduled at the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American artists.

In *Art New England*, writer David Joselit lauded the Community Arts Gallery, to wit:

"The gallery's philosophy is strongly oriented toward community service. As Carmen Dillon, Associate Dean for Planning and Development, and the person who conceived the gallery told me...the gallery will take risks; it will mount exhibitions that other venues in Boston will not."

□

The CPCS Gerontology Program graduation will take place on

Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Library, according to Director Scott Bass. Featured speaker will be former U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

□

The New York Times had a lengthy piece on UMass/Boston's Agent Orange conference, sponsored by the William Joiner Center. It drew about 70 scientists and medical and legal experts from across the country.

□

Tim Horton, son of Athletic Department Advisor Harold Horton, recently was named to the high school All-America soccer team selected by *Parade Magazine*. He's a junior at E.O. Smith High School, located on the campus of the University of Connecticut in Storrs. He's also a whiz academically.

□

A mortgage financing forum featuring representatives from the Boston Urban Bankers Forum will be held at CPCS' Downtown Campus at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 30. It is free and open to the public, according to Evonne Hill-Shepard.

The forum will feature a variety of topics, among them refinancing your current mortgage, Home Equity Loans, programs for elderly homeowners, etc.

□

The McCormack Institute will sponsor a special morning lecture by U.S. Senator John Kerry on Monday, March 30 at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 8 a.m.

□

Charles Weiner, MIT professor of History of Science and Technology, spoke of "The Politics of Biotechnology" at The Healey Library. The program was sponsored by the GTE Educational Foundation.

Professor Weiner is the author of numerous books and articles on science and public policy. Among them are "Historical Perspectives on the Recombinant DNA Controversy," "Science in the Marketplace," and "Universities, Professors and Patents."

Professor Weiner is currently finishing a book, "Going Public: The Ethical Dilemma of Biologists."

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Frank N. Jones named counsel to task force

Attorney Frank N. Jones has been named counsel to UMass/Boston's 25-person Human Relations Task Force, it was announced by Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Charles F. Desmond, chairman of the Task Force.

"Frank Jones has tremendous experience in this area," said Desmond. "He headed the well-known Boston Committee and also headed a Presidential Task Force under President Jimmy Carter."

The Task Force was formed by Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan following incidents of swastikas being placed on the offices of three professors.

Its members run a broad spectrum of the University campuses, both at Park Square and on the Harbor Campus. It includes Richard Freeland, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and James Jennings, Dean of the College of Public and Community Service.

Other members include:

- Faculty and Staff: *Ronald Ancrum*, Admissions Office; *Gail Arnold*, Physical Education; *Lucia David*, ILT; *Estelle Disch*, Sociology; *Dr. Philip Hart*, CPCS; *Yvonne-Hill Sheppard*, CPCS; *Bernard Kramer*, Psychology; *Winston Langle*, Political Science; *Herbert Lyken*, Accounting and Finance; *Wornie Reed*, Trotter Institute; *Lois Rudnick*, English; *Edmund Toomey*, Chancellor's Office, Ex Officio; *Patricia Turner*, Black Studies; and *Paul Watanabe*, Political Science.

- Classified: *Elaine Brown*

- Student Trustee: *Christina Saba*

- Student Senate: *Robert Means*,

Wayne Miller

- Mass Media: *Nancy Mades*,

Editor

- Graduate Assembly: *Dwight*

Trueblood

- Gay and Lesbian Center:

Katherine Sawyer.

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CHANCELLOR'S □ COLUMN □

On Graduate Education and Research

It has been just over two years since I have used this column to address the status of graduate education and research at the Boston Campus. Much has happened in the meantime, and I would like to share with you a number of important recent accomplishments in graduate program development particularly at the doctoral level as well as in the broad area of faculty research, scholarship and creative activities.

First and foremost, we have forwarded three Ph.D. proposals from the campus: Computer Science, Human Development/Clinical Psychology, and Gerontology. Each reflects the urban land grant mission of the University with its public service focus, and each program rests on a solid research emphasis. The faculty planning committees for all three programs recognized the need for developing doctoral curricula that provide research training second to none.

A second measure of our research growth concerns the recommendation by the University Research Council for a person who can provide faculty with expertise to translate their research ideas to actual funding proposals. I approve this proposal, and we were fortunate to acquire the contributions of Ms. Janice Litwin, who had served 11 years as a program officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities. Janice joined us in July, 1986 for a six-month commitment that helped us set up a research development capability. She conducted a highly successful workshop for faculty and wrote a general guide to proposal writing, which Dean Fuad Safwat has recently distributed to the entire faculty. Janice has now assumed a consultant role and is helping us recruit a permanent Research Development Coordinator. I see this effort as a long-term investment in the research potential of the University.

A third area of research growth again comes out of the Research Council's recommendations and involves efforts to coordinate the



internal resources of the University to provide faculty with seed funds to test their ideas. Such programs as faculty development funds from the Research Trust Fund, the Healey Research Grants, and the Biomedical Research Development Grants provide a valuable service by affording faculty members the opportunity to demonstrate the feasibility of their projects and justify funding from external sources. We must protect these programs and seek ways to expand their budgets.

A fourth measure of our research success is the amount of sponsored research awarded to the University. The total amount has grown steadily and this year will exceed six million dollars (tripled since 1982). Credit for this success belongs to the excellence of our faculty. From its inception in 1965, the University has attracted a faculty that is the envy of any institution. At several other occasions I have listed the accomplishments of the faculty, so I shall not reiterate its national and international recognition. However, we must never take for granted the tremendous work that is required for a faculty to remain at the frontier of its research area. Our faculty have done so under trying conditions in the past. Our major priority now is to create the environment that allows for a full development of faculty potential in research, scholarship and creative work.

We have committed the University to developing a select group of doctoral programs of the highest quality. To accomplish that task, we must recognize that doctoral work does not rely on an aggregate of courses. The curriculum guides the doctoral student toward dissertation research that demonstrates the student's research ability and serves to define the very nature of the university's function to generate new knowledge. As a community we must not only recognize the critical place of research, we must seek ways to contribute to environment that supports and nourishes the research potential.

UMB women's track team makes NCAA history

UMass-Boston became the first women's track team ever to win three straight NCAA titles when they captured the Division 3 women's track championship held last week in Chicago.

Genesis Eddins and Murtonda Durante scored impressive victories in the 800- and 400-meters respectively and then teamed up to spark UMass-Boston's 1,600-meter relay team to a record-setting triumph.

UMass-Boston wound up with 56 points to 52 for runner-up Christopher Newport of Newport News, Va. The University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse finished third with 25 points.

Eddins and Durante, both *Boston Globe* All-Scholastic performers at West Roxbury High, turned in exceptional efforts. Eddins sped to a meet-record 2:06.89 in winning the 800, while Durante and teammate Sonja Larts, another former *Globe* All-Scholastic, placed first and second in the 400, Durante setting a meet record of 56.66 with Larts close behind in 56.90.

Other scorers for UMass-Boston include Carol Thomas, second in the triple jump at 37 feet 4 inches; Debbie D'Entrement, fourth in the shot put at 43-7; Darrelle Boyd, fourth in the 800 in 2:17.14 and Jackie James, fifth in the 55-meter hurdles in 8.39.

Horticulturalist Richard Stomberg exhibits work at NE Flower Show



Richard Stomberg at University greenhouse

Bananas, lemons, oranges, orchids and even vanilla plants are growing happily on the fourth floor of the Science Building in UMass/Boston's greenhouse.

The plants are raised under the supervision of Richard Stomberg, of Cambridge, for use in biology teaching, research and classroom work.

Stomberg, an award-winning horticulturalist, exhibits his plants in garden shows throughout the nation. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society presented Stomberg a silver bowl in the educational category for his exhibit of carnivorous plants in 1984. His other honors include the Chicago Horticultural Society Medal, and the Bulkey Medal from the Garden Club of America.

At this year's 116th annual New England Flower Show, the second

oldest show in the nation at Bayside Exposition, Stomberg demonstrated the plant pollination process.

"Bees are probably the most common pollinator. Attracted by flowers' nectar, their bodies pick up pollen from the stamen of one plant and deposit it on pistils of other plants of the same species. Hummingbirds do the same thing. But did you know that bats and night flying moths provide the same service for night blooming plants?" asks Stomberg.

Beginning April 16 through May 28, Stomberg will teach a course in plant propagation every other Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. at the UMass/Boston greenhouse. The course, open to the general public, is sponsored by the Mass. Horticultural Society and the Arnold Arboretum.

UMass/Boston hosts Human Relations Seminar

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problem because the administration's response was not quick. There was overwhelming evidence of denial."

Chancellor Corrigan, who had issued a two-page letter to the University community, said:

"The sort of behavior we have witnessed on campus as of late is intolerable. I will use all of my legal power and moral suasion to make UMass/Boston a decent and open university.

"UMass/Boston has often been a haven in the midst of Boston's racial polarity. Human relations here are good. That's implying on the one hand that it could be better but on the other that it could be worse.

"We will not accept behavior that threatens the rights and beliefs of others. To insult one of us is to insult all of us."

The B'nai B'rith's Zakim cited "a resurgence of racial problems across the nation" and told of 19 campuses

which have endured a crisis, among them, locally, Tufts, Brown, Holy Cross and UMass/Amherst.

"Remedies are very difficult," said Zakim. "These issues can't be dealt with quickly."

Charley Shively, a law and justice professor and a gay rights activist, was one who'd had a swastika posted on his door.

"It made me fearful and created many sleepless nights," said Professor Shively.