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University of Massachusetts Boston

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Volume 4  
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May 19, 1995

News and information  
about and for the  
University Community from  
the Chancellor's Office

## Campus Notes

Prof. Philip S. Hart of the College of Public and Community Service was inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Gallery at the University of Colorado's Heritage Center. The Gallery honors alumni with national and international successes.

Graduate College of Education student Frances J. Gannon has received this year's *Award for Outstanding Achievement in Marriage and Family Therapy*. She was elected by the faculty for her academic performance, internship experience, and service to the department.

The publication of a series of Vietnamese war novels by the William Joiner Center's Translation Project has been underwritten by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to the UMass Press.

As a member of the first UMass Boston graduating class, Dr. Dennis Butler was selected as the *1995 Distinguished Alumnees of UMass Boston*. The award will be presented during Commencement on June 3, 1995.

Administrative Assistant Barbara Davis of the Anthropology Department has been elected to a three-year term on the Holbrook School Committee.

On June 2nd, Prof. Kyle J. McInnis of the College of Nursing and the Human Performance and Fitness Program will be inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Sports Medicine. His research focuses on the prevention and rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease.

Noel Johnson, the director of development and marketing of radio station WUMB, has received the Molly Moon Award for community service from the Urban League.

On May 13th, the Admission Guaranteed Program held its Annual Unity Day, which featured a fashion and talent show and a poetry reading. About 50 high school students from Jeremiah Burke, Dorchester, and South Boston High Schools attended.

On May 16th, The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy of the McCormack Institute, with support from the Boston Women's Fund, held a conference, *Challenges For Our Communities*. Participants discussed solutions to violence.

The Center for Occupational Education sponsored Dr. Michelle Sarkees-Wircenski's presentation, *Vocational Education for Special Populations in the Year 2000* at the Radisson Inn in Marlborough on May 18th. She is a professor of technology and cognition at the University of North Texas. She discussed service to special needs students, disadvantaged students, incarcerated students, students facing gender equity issues, and students with limited English-speaking skills.

UMass Boston Theatre Arts graduate Bill Solo, 1976, is appearing in the National Touring Company of *Les Miserables*, at the Colonial Theatre.

Prof. Zong-Guo Xia of the Geography Department received a China-Cornell Fellowship from Cornell University, supporting his research for the next three years on projects such as *The Use of Remote Sensing on Geographic Information Systems for Earthquake Risk Assessment*. Xia has also been appointed the cochairman of Working Group I of Commission VI of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

The Ford Foundation has funded a grant of \$125,000 to the Haitian Studies Association.

The Black Achievement Dinner will be held tonight at *Estelle's*, 888 Tremont Street, Boston.

*Special Topics in Marketing*, a class taught by Prof. Mary Ann Mechanic of the Department of Marketing and Communication, conducted a major marketing project on May 3rd in partnership with General Motors Truck Division, attended by 1200-1500 persons on campus.

The two winners of the Knapp Scholarship in Political Science are Ulrica Hildingsson and Tamra Watson.

Prof. Susan Horton of the English Department has recently published a book, *Difficult Women, Artful Lives: Olive Schreiner and Isak Dinesen In and Out of Africa*. The book details the identification of white women with Africans in a colonial setting.

## Research Professorships Announced for Faculty

Research professorship positions have been created to recognize and support activity of senior faculty. The yearlong positions, which carry one course reduction per term and \$2,000 for research expenses, will be awarded to full-time professors five years in rank. Two research professorships will be awarded for 1995-96 and four in successive years.

"The research professorships acknowledge the high value we place on research and the wealth of talent among our most senior faculty," explained Chancellor Sherry Penney. "Like our publications and grants themselves, they help us to preserve and strengthen our standing as a research institution."

The research professorships were announced at a reception May 5 for faculty and staff who had published books or had grant proposals funded during the year. Fifty-six books had been published, and as of May 1, 258 grant proposals had been submitted by 129 principal investigators. Grant funding for the

current year is expected to increase by three to five percent over the \$13.5 million obtained by the campus in 1993-94.

"Details of the research professorships are still to be worked out," explained Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Provost Louis Esposito. "For example, we hope to include a provision that would allow talented undergraduates to assist in the professors' research, providing support and gaining invaluable experience simultaneously."

*Thomas J. O'Mara of Hingham, founder and president of AMF Technologies, a metal finishing company with 50 employees based in Dorchester, has received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the College of Management. He is a graduate of Boston Latin High School and Boston College and is the former president of the National Association of Metal Finishers.*

## Rain Forest Collaboration Helps Inner City Youths Experience Science

Boston middle and high school students in the Rainforest Collaboration (RFC) at UMass Boston, with support from the Institute for Learning and Teaching of the Graduate College of Education, took two field trips in April to learn about forest and marine ecology.

One group, supported by the Educational Foundation of America and the Eisenhower Foundation, visited the UMass Boston Field Station on Nantucket Harbor.

Professor Robert Stevenson of the Biology Department participated in the Nantucket Field Expedition. At the Field Station, 11 seventh-grade students were hosted by director Dr. Wes Tiffney and his wife, Dr. Susan Beegel-Tiffney. "This was a good place to take the kids because the Field Station has many different kinds of ecosystems that include a salt marsh, fresh water pond, sand dunes, and heathlands," said Stevenson.

"In the salt marshes students were able to search for crabs and study the lady crab's morphology," stated Stevenson, "Many kids worked on water chemistry measuring pH." Other activities included trips to the Whaling Museum, the heathlands, the Aquaculture Laboratory at Brant Point where shellfish are raised and released into the harbor.

The other group was funded by private grants and contributions. Students visited the northeast part of Puerto Rico and studied the tropical marine and rainforest ecosystems.

Lisa Rioles, Science Education Coordinator at the RFC, headed the Puerto Rico Field Expedition. Her 15 high school students and one eighth-grade student spent five days at a camping site in the

Caribbean National Forest, the only tropical forest in the U.S. National Forest System. The remaining four days were spent at a 316 acre reserve operated by the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico.

While in Puerto Rico, the students studied the rain forests and tropical marine biology with the help of faculty and staff from the University of Puerto Rico Humacao and the United Forestry Service. They examined the effect of hurricane damage on the forests.

According to Stevenson, the students on these expeditions were able to have a hands-on learning experience that they otherwise would not have been able to have. "Many of these kids are from the inner city. They have fewer opportunities to get out into the ecosystems, which they studied during the expeditions. Both groups had a chance to make reports and do papers relating to what they have studied."

Besides educating these children scientifically, the trip to Puerto Rico brought about another benefit. "An Earth Day celebration was organized, bringing the students from Boston and those from the island together, in the hopes for future collaborations," stated Rioles.

*Campus Players, a non-profit, student-run organization, will produce the comedy, "Beyond Therapy," scheduled in the Snowden Auditorium on May 19th and 20th at 8:00 pm, with a 2:00 pm performance on May 21st.*

## Attention Readers

This is the final issue of the *Friday Report* for the 1994-95. Printing of the *Friday Report* will resume in the fall, for 1995-96.



# Seminar Provides Awareness for City's Future

The John W. McCormack Institute held its eighth annual public affairs seminar last month, 2005: *Getting An Edge on the Future*, on "Planned Growth in a Protected Environment." Attended by 300 people, it focused on a view of the city and state in the next ten years. It was organized and moderated by Senior Fellow Ian Menzies with introductory remarks from Richard Hogarty, acting director of the McCormack Institute.

Session I of the seminar included an analysis by Thomas Finneran, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, of the Legislature's stance on tolls, turnpikes, and megaplexes. The future of transportation between Boston and its suburbs was discussed by Mayor Thomas Menino; Hubie Jones, Senior Fellow of McCormack Institute; Geoff Beckwith, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association; and Alan Lupo, *Boston Globe* Columnist.

Session II began investigating the prospects for the Commonwealth's environment, with remarks by John Devillars, Regional Director of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Trudy Coxe, Secretary of Environmental Affairs. Douglas MacDonald,

## Members of Small Press Awarded Grants from the NEA

A small independent press with a long UMass Boston affiliation, *Hanging Loose*, has recently received two grants from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), one for a small literary magazine and the other for a small literary press.

Operating for 30 years, *Hanging Loose Press* "is not connected with any university, but three out of the four publishers work at UMass Boston," said co-publisher Dick Lourie of the Publications Office.

The other co-publishers include Mark Pawlack of the Academic Support Program in the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor Ron Schreiber of the English Department. Robert Hershon, a printing consultant has worked with Lourie and Schreiber for 30 years, while Pawlack joined 15 years ago.

"I believe that we are the only press in the country to receive grants for both presses," stated Lourie. In the past *Hanging Loose* has received grants from the New York State Council of the Arts.

Executive Director of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and James Kerasiotes, Secretary of Transportation, discussed the impact of the "Big Dig," the submerging of the Central Artery and constructing a third Harbor Tunnel.

"The seminar was put together to create public awareness of the protective environment, including water resources," said Hogarty. "For example, the Massachusetts Resource Board authorized cleanup of the Boston Harbor so that there would be less pollution, making it swimmable, with a better disposal of sewage."

Speaking on behalf of the seminar's cosponsors were Larry Koff of the Massachusetts Chapter, American Planning Association, and Armando Carbonell, Board Member of the 1000 Friends of Massachusetts. Closing remarks were made by Chancellor Sherry H. Penney and Congressional Representative Barney Frank.

*Old Warrior, a film made by Josh Seftel through the Gerontology Institute, has been nominated for a 1995 New England Emmy award.*

## Leadership Seminars to Continue Next Year

This year, a program of seven seminars, *UMass Boston 2005: Leading In Transitional Times*, was designed by Sally Boland a Fellow of the American Council on Education. Staff and faculty members of UMass Boston attended the seminars to discuss the mission of the university in terms of legal issues and higher educational finance and planning.

"The evaluations of each seminar and on the program overall, show that attenders received a better perspective on UMass Boston while discussing the current issues affecting the university and how they will be worked out in the future," stated Boland.

Professor Lee Teitel of the Graduate College of Education attended four of the seven two and a half-hour lunch sessions. "The meetings were well-organized with a variety of ways for people to connect. We all had case studies and articles to read prior to the sessions," stated Teitel, "To deal with these case studies, we were subdivided into smaller groups during the session to tackle these problems. This gave us a broader understanding of the issues that the administration faces, while getting to know other faculty and staff members."

According to Boland, "Because these seminars were so positively received, they will be continued next

## New Steering Committee Continues Pew Agenda

Thirty faculty and professional staff who attended the Pew Charitable Trust Roundtable this year selected representatives to form a steering committee to pursue issues raised at its three day-and-a-half-long sessions.

The steering committee, which is chaired by Professor Zelda Gamson of the Graduate College of Education and New England Resource Center for Higher Education, has set an agenda that includes improved monitoring of student progress and wider dissemination and integration of findings of major campus committees.

Other members are American Council on Education fellow Sally Boland; Professor Estelle Disch of the Sociology Department and the Center for Improvement in Teaching; Associate Provost Eleanor Kutz; Professor Sheila Post-Lauria of the English Department; CAS Dean Woody Smith; Professor Lynne Tirrell of the Philosophy Department; and Jennifer Wilton, Office of Institutional Research.

Those who attended this year's sessions will have the opportunity to work on special projects and get further training in conflict resolution, new technologies, and other subjects."

*On April 22nd, members of the Women's Studies Program gave three presentations for the New England Women's Studies Association's 19th Annual Conference at the University of Connecticut, Storrs.*

• Professor Jean Humez and professor Gail Dines of Wheelock College discussed "Teaching and Learning in a Women's Studies Media Course." The two have also finished editing a text, "Gender, Race, and Class in Media."

• Professor Catherine Manton and several undergraduate students presented a panel discussion, "Backlash Debates, or the Loneliness of the Long Distance Feminist."

• Doreen Dury, a graduate student of the Women's Studies Program and Linda Morrison, a graduate student of the History Archives Program, presented a panel on "Women's History in the Archives: Problems and Possibilities."

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