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Volume 5
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News and information
about and for the
University Community from
the Chancellor's Office

Campus Notes

Christopher Alberto, a former student trustee who received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1981, has been appointed an assistant United States attorney by the United States attorney in Boston, Donald K. Stern.

Prof. Edward S. Ginsberg of the Physics Department had two versions of a Solution Manual published by HarperCollins. Ginsberg is collaborating with Prof. Regina M. Panassiouk of the College of Education at UMass Lowell to develop case studies testing the effectiveness of manuals for instructors and students.

Prof. Claire Golomb of the Psychology Department has published a new book, *The Development of Artistically Gifted Children: Selected Case Studies*. The book's publisher is Lawrence Erlbaum.

Joel Fowler of the Acquisitions Department of the Healey Library was inducted into Beta Phi Mu, the International Honor Society for Librarianship.

Prof. Anne Kibrick of the College of Nursing was chosen by the Hadassah Nurses Council National Advisory Board as the recipient for the Kaplan/ Landy Award. The honor is given to an outstanding American Jewish nurse who exemplifies the pioneering spirit of the first two nurses sent by the Jewish charitable organization Hadassah to Palestine in 1913, Rose Kaplan and Rachel Landy.

Three members of the university community died during the summer. Ann O'Neil, of the Department of Public Safety, died on June 7. She served as the Parking Clerk and Hearing Officer for the past five years.

Bob Bowers, a member of the Facilities Administration staff, died on August 7. Bowers had been the university's mason since 1985.

J. Nevin Weaver, emeritus professor of Biology, died on August 20. He joined the faculty in 1965 and retired in 1987.

Doctoral Program in Computer Science Begins

After nine years of planning, a new Ph.D. program in Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences enrolled its first students this term. The program is designed to prepare candidates for research careers in universities and the software industry.

The program was built on the success of the Mathematics and Computer Science's master's program in computer science, which was established in 1984 and enrolls approximately 100 students. The Ph.D. program will eventually accommodate twenty students, with a maximum of five accepted each year. Three students began doctoral work last week in areas such as programming languages, databases, operating systems, and computer architecture.

"In the past we have seen our best students leave the undergraduate and master's programs to study at institutions such as the University of California at Berkeley, Brown University and UMass Amherst," says Prof. Dan Simovici, director of the Ph.D. program. "Now we can offer our students the alternative of staying on to the completion of their Ph.D's."

There were two major challenges to be met before the program was officially recognized in January of 1995:

- A major upgrading of equipment was recommended by a visiting committee which analyzed

UMass Boston's needs during the Ph.D. program application process. The upgrading of the program's technical capacity is now under way.

- The program had to attract the interest of the computer industry. Simovici credits UMass system President Sherry Penney with building relationships between the faculty and firms such as Lotus, IBM, and Cullinet during the past seven years of her Chancellorship. Industry representatives participated in brainstorming sessions with UMass faculty during the program development.

A resource vital to the Ph.D. program's development is UMass Boston's Software Engineering Research Laboratory (SERL). SERL was established in February, 1994, with a start-up grant from the University of Massachusetts system to promote economic development and research service to the state.

SERL's main project has been managing Interleaf Inc.'s service to 200 colleges and universities. For a nominal fee, SERL distributes and provides technical support to users of Interleaf's primary publishing product, Interleaf version 6, and its new Cyberleaf World Wide Web publishing software.

Simovici states, "The Ph.D. program will generate new opportunities for our department, by virtue of the fact that the candidates will teach and do research. With so many resources in place, I believe that this is a significant move for UMass Boston."

Deans, Directors, Vice Provost Appointed to the UMass Boston Staff

Seven major administrative appointments were made this summer after national or internal searches, and several others were made by Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Louis Esposito and Chancellor Jean MacCormack.

Dr. Michael Luck was appointed Campaign Director/ Special Assistant to the Chancellor. He has twenty years' development experience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rutgers and Wayne State Universities, and other institutions.

Dr. Ismael Ramirez-Soto, Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Council of Education and an expert on legal education, was chosen Dean of the College of Public and Community Service. He obtained a J.D. from the University of Puerto Rico and an Ed.D. from UMass Amherst.

Ernestine Whiting, Director of Financial Aid at the University of Maryland at Baltimore, was appointed Director of financial aid. She had been Director of financial aid at Roxbury Community College, Assistant Director at Northeastern University and Associate Director at Brown University.

Dr. Robert Woodbury, interim and former Chancellor of the University of Maine system, past President of the University of Southern Maine, and a Yale

University Ph.D. in American Studies, was selected Director of the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Policy. He will begin in January.

Acting Dean of Sciences Christine Armett Kibel, a member of the Biology Department, was appointed Dean of Sciences after a national search.

Convocation September 20

"Examining Boundaries and Making Connections in Teaching and Learning," is the theme of UMass Boston's 1995 Convocation, Wednesday, September 20 from 8:30 to 4:30 at several campus locations. A panels of UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students will describe efforts to move beyond boundaries and create connections in their academic lives. Professor Lilia Bartolome of Harvard University's School of Education will discuss, "A Humanizing Pedagogy: Collapsing Disciplinary and Cultural Boundaries." Convocation is organized by the Office of the Provost and is open to the public. Faculty are invited to bring their classes.

Prof. Paul Benson, Chair of the Sociology Department, was appointed Vice Provost for Special Projects and Public Service.

Prof. Martin Quitt, a member of the History Department, was appointed Dean of Graduate Studies. As Special Assistant to the Provost, Quitt had coordinated the campus's ten-year accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Provost Esposito made three other appointments. Associate Provost Eleanor Kutz, a member of the English Department, was appointed Acting Dean of the Graduate College of Education following the resignation of William Dandridge, who became Dean of a new College of Education at Leslie College. Prof. Morris Lounds of the Political Science Department and Prof. Sheila Post-Lauria of the English Department were appointed Associate Provosts.

Chancellor MacCormack appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Donald Babcock Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. She had left the position to serve as interim Chancellor in June, following the appointment of Chancellor Sherry H. Penney by the UMass Board of Trustees to serve as University President.

Chancellor MacCormack also appointed Gina Spaziani Assistant to the Chancellor. She was Budget Director for former Secretary of Education Piedad Robinson and a member of the staff of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Professor Joins Literacy Forum in South Africa

Professor Elsa Auerbach of the English Department participated in the Regional Literacy Forum at Gordon's Bay, South Africa from June 26 through 30. The forum explored the prospects for improving adult literacy after the end of Apartheid. The forum's sponsors included the International Literacy Institute, UNESCO, and the University of Cape Town in Rondesbosch.

"Between 9 and 15 million adults in South Africa had minimal access to primary, secondary, or higher education due to Apartheid," stated Auerbach. "During Apartheid, what literacy education was available had been provided by foreign donors' contributions to community-based organizations. The foreign donors are now funding directly to the government, and the government has not yet determined how to distribute the money. As a result, many of the community-based organizations are struggling to survive. Some are laying off adult literacy teachers whom the government has not yet hired," said Auerbach.

"During the next three to five years, South Africa will attempt to organize a professionalized literacy service for these adults. Many of the people I met talked about two challenges. The first was being able to meet the incredible scope of need with very limited resources in a context where there are other priorities such as housing, jobs, transportation, health care, and primary and secondary education. The second was figuring out how adult education can fit into formal education so that people can be accredited for what they know and what they learn," Auerbach continued.

Two-hundred students graduated from the 17th commencement of the college preparatory program, Directions for Student Potential (DSP) on July 21. DSP is designed to prepare individuals to begin the freshman year at UMass Boston.

During six weeks in the summer, students attend daytime or evening classes to help them improve verbal, math, and critical thinking skills. A separate writing curriculum was offered to English as a Second Language students. If the students pass the DSP classes, they are admitted into the College of Arts and Sciences.

Attention Readers

Send news information to Annette Fernie or Donna Roveto at the Office of Public Information, Second Floor, Quinn Administration Building.

The forum was attended by one hundred scholars, practitioners, donors, planners, and administrators of literacy work. Half came from South Africa and the remainder were from other countries in Africa and from Europe and the United States. Auerbach was the only person attending from Massachusetts.

"The main agenda of the conference was to create a form of dialogue between various stakeholders in South Africa and people with related experiences outside of South Africa," said Auerbach.

Auerbach was part of a panel on family literacy, which enables parents to develop skills obtained by their growing children from conventional schools. She discussed trends in family literacy in the United States but cautioned against unreflectively transposing our American model into the differing social and political context of South Africa.

Other members of her panel included Dr. Maria Ramarumo, representing the Department of Education of South Africa, Suzanne Smythe, a lecturer at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, and Letta Mashishi, director of the Parent School Learning Clubs in Soweto, South Africa. Other members of the forum included Neville Alexander of the University of Cape Town, who was imprisoned with Nelson Mandela at Robben Island, and Prof. Brian Street of the University of Sussex in England, a widely-read literacy theorist.

Collaboration Signed on Environmental Issues

A framework for future collaboration on environmental issues between the City of Boston and UMass Boston was signed by Mayor Thomas Menino, President Sherry Penney, and Chancellor Jean MacCormack on August 16. These initiatives include:

- the creation of a Boston Urban Environment Fellowship Program, allowing UMass Boston students to intern at the Environmental Services Department,
- joint participation on environmental research projects, and
- future collaboration on education efforts and environmental forums, including a conference entitled, "Sustainable Boston," to be held at UMass Boston on October 28.

Last winter, UMass Boston faculty and staff engaged in urban research and service met with Mayor Menino and members of his administration to

Central Asians Visit Boston to Study Service Management

During July and August the McCormack Institute trained a group of twenty-two senior social services professionals from four former Soviet republics in Central Asia in advanced social service management. They left Boston with the goal of establishing financially stable welfare support systems upon their return to Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

"We provided them with information on how to finance and administer public welfare," said Professor Elaine Werby of the McCormack Institute, "They heard how the United States and Massachusetts finance these social services."

During their stay in Boston, participants discussed with officials aspects of operating social service programs, including raising and budgeting public and private funds.

The Central Asians also spent two and a half weeks in Mississippi at Jackson State College. The program was sponsored by the Newly Independent States Exchanges and Training Project, administered by the Academy for Educational Development for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

explore ways in which the university and the city could work more intensively on a range of environmental issues.

As a result, Boston's Chief of Environmental Services, Cathy Douglas Stone and Urban Harbor Institute Director Richard Delaney drafted the memorandum of understanding.

"The mayor was very supportive of the agreement because UMass Boston students will not only be helping his staff but will bring new ideas and fresh thinking into his office," said Delaney.

Other UMass Boston staff and faculty present at the signing were Peter Langer, Director of University Advising, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Charles Desmond, Madeline Walsh, education director of the Urban Harbors Institute, and Professor Betty Diener of the College of Management.

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