UMass Boston's Development Office Plans for First Capital Campaign

With the support of the senior administration, deans, directors, department chairs and faculty, UMass Boston's Development Office is coordinating fundraising and development efforts in preparation for the University's first capital campaign, scheduled to begin November 1. The First Campaign, with its $50 million dollar goal, is the result of a major initiative to develop the University's long range endowment and expendable resources in support of faculty, students, program initiatives, and the acquisition of technology.

Campus Notes

Diana Burgin, Russian Professor and Chair of the Modern Languages Department, will discuss her recent critical biography of the 20th century Russian poet Sophia Parnok as the first spring term presentation of the Office of the Graduate Studies' Distinguished Lecture Series. Her lecture, "Rediscovering a Russian Poet and Other Reflections on Living Books," will be held in the Chancellor’s Conference Room on February 14 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm.

Russell Schott, Chair of the Sociology Department, published his book, Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research with the Pine Forge Press. The book has been adopted in over thirty college courses, including those at Northeastern University, Providence College, and Columbia University.

David Matt, Director of the Dispute Resolution Graduate Program, presented a paper, "The Protection of Individual Rights in the Mediation Process," at an international conference in Jerusalem, entitled The Relationship of Conflict Resolution to Education for Democracy. The conference was sponsored by Jerusalem's Adam Institute, which supports democratic institutions in the Middle East.

Patricia Davidson, Professor of Mathematics, was awarded a grant of Undergraduate Education in the College of Arts and Sciences, gave two presentations for high school mathematics teachers at the Association of Teachers of Mathematics Conference, America's Youth - America's Future. The conference was held during December in Portland, Maine.

According to Vice Chancellor for Development and Campaign Director Michael F. Luck, Ph.D., contributions to UMass Boston increased dramatically from the first two quarters of fiscal year 1995 to 1996. Pledge commitments for the first two quarters of fiscal '96 have increased by 452.75% over figures for the same quarters of fiscal '95. Fundraising for the same period increased by 82.11%, and gifts in kind by 23.73%.

A number of major gifts have been made to UMass Boston this year, as a result of the efforts of Jane Walsh, Director of Major Gifts, and Joseph O'Brien, Director of Alumni Relations. These include $100,000 from former Governor Michael Dukakis for The Michael S. Dukakis Internships in Public Service; $100,000 from a prominent Boston couple for scholarships; $100,000 from Litton Industries Foundation for the class of 1969's Alum Bran Endowed Scholarship Fund, and a $50,000 planned gift from a member of the English Department faculty.

The Annual Fund, which encourages annual gifts on the part of alumni, faculty, staff and friends of UMass Boston, appeals for support through direct mail and telemarketing. Susan Davis, Director of the Annual Fund, is working with deans and department chairs to develop an appeal for alumni, which will include news about the campus as well as a request for support. Since 1990, faculty and staff have contributed over $275,000 to the Annual fund. All contributions can be designated or restricted for use in departments, centers, institutes, and schools.

Mc Cormack Institute Welcomes New Director

Robert Woodbury, who has served public higher education as Chancellor of the University of Maine System, President of the University of Southern Maine, and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Associate Provost at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, assumed the directorship of UMass Boston’s John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs on January 1.

Woodbury has published widely on issues in higher education and American Studies. He has been Chair of the Council on International Education Exchange, and the New England Board of Higher Education, as well as a Fulbright Lecturer and a member of several international missions. In addition, he ran for Governor of Maine in 1993-94.

Woodbury cites a long-time interest in linking university resources to the community as one of his key professional academic concerns. As Associate Provost at UMass Amherst, he initiated and ran several programs enhancing diversity, creating student internships, and establishing partnerships with public schools. He continued this interest as a founding member of the American University in Bulgaria, a collaboration among the University of Maine, education and political leaders in Bulgaria, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Soros Foundation.

A strong effort is underway to strengthen and develop corporate and foundation relationships. According to Denise Dabney, Director of Corporate and Foundations Giving, the strategy is to develop relationships with senior administrators at Greater Boston's major corporations and foundations and request their help and support. Another is to appeal to national foundations for financial backing for the proposed Campus Center, which will begin construction in 1998. Dabney points out that there will be many opportunities for the naming of facilities in return for support.

Another component of the Development Office plan is the creation of a UMass Boston Speakers Bureau, which will offer a selected group of university faculty available to address community organizations. Speakers Bureau Coordinator Mara Klein is creating a brochure announcing the bureau, and plans to mail it to community organizations in March. A brief update on UMass Boston’s development plans will be part of each speaker’s presentation. According to Klein, the Speaker’s Bureau highlights the commitment of UMass Boston faculty to wider recognition of achievements on our campus.

Further progress will be made in the year ahead with the addition of the University's first magazine and alumni directory, scheduled for a summer debut. Even an arts advisory council has been initiated in order to acquire gifts of sculpture and original art to help beautify the campus.

While President of the University of Southern Maine, he played a central role in the development of the Edmund Munkie Institute of Public Affairs and Management, established in 1982. "I thought we should link the university and its resources to issues of both policy and management in public institutions, and bring faculty from different disciplines together in a mission of public service, education and applied research," says Woodbury.

Woodbury views the McCormack Institute’s mission as having two levels. Like many public policy Institutes, it is responsible for public service, applied research and education in public affairs. But it also has a special mission to focus on Boston, the region, the state of Massachusetts, and New England.

The effectiveness of the McCormack Institute, says Woodbury, depends on keeping in mind its unique relationship to Boston as the public affairs institute within the city’s only public university. “I know the leadership of the campus is thinking about new ways to strengthen connections,” says Woodbury. “I think the McCormack Institute, along with others, should exemplify the kind of role that UMass Boston can play in addressing policy problems in Boston and Massachusetts. I look forward to working with faculty across the campus in that effort.”
First Study Released on the Economic Status of Massachusetts Women

"An Economic Profile of Women in Massachusetts," a recently-published report by Economics Professor Randy Albelda, a Research Fellow at the McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, has provided statistical evidence of broad changes in Massachusetts women's participation in the labor force.

Albelda's study documents that the number of working mothers with young children in the Commonwealth has increased sixfold in the past 25 years. In 1970, 11 percent of women with children under six worked outside the home, compared with 70 percent in 1990. The study also shows that incomes of women have remained lower than men's. In 1993, women's median earnings were $18,000, which was 72 percent of men's median earnings.

"When women work, they make less money than men, even after adjusting for hours worked, education and age," Albelda states. "Women are concentrated in lower paying jobs."

The report reveals that one out of four women in Massachusetts holds a clerical job, as opposed to one in three in 1970. "Clerical jobs are now more complex, involve technical training, and are more substantial than similar jobs in the past," says Elizabeth Sherman, Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy of the McCormack Institute. "However, I think that women are still disproportionately represented in clerical jobs."

Albelda adds that as women are spending more time at paying jobs, their traditional unpaid work at home is not replaced. "The increase of women in the labor force means that fewer women stay home and take care of their children," Albelda explains. "It is almost unusual for anyone to stay home to take care of the kids."

"Every society, whatever the structure, needs to take care of its offspring," says Albelda. "Children need attention for an extended period, and traditionally women have been the primary caretakers. Free labor is more precious today and people miss it. We all depend on that labor and we all need it at some point in our lives."

Her study also shows that 50 percent of all African American women in Massachusetts live in Suffolk county, which includes Boston, Chelsea, and Winthrop. "Policies in these cities will have an important impact on black women, which is significant when discussing issues of race and poverty in Massachusetts," says Albelda.

"When we discover that there are geographical concentrations of women who need access to higher education, job training, and health care, we have to recognize the need to target urban policy," explains Sherman. "We must direct public resources to these issues in a useful manner."

Albelda's profile was funded through the Massachusetts Economic Project of the UMass President's Office. It was released to the public at the end of November during a conference held at the Massachusetts State House. Research assistants included Carol Cardoza of the McCormack Institute's Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, and graduate students of the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy, Tiffany Manuel and Denise Diddo. Sherman, Professor Mary Stevenson of the Economics Department, and Phyllis Freeman, Senior Fellow of the McCormick Institute offered suggestions and opinions for the report.

"The findings in my study can help Massachusetts' development of state policy," says Albelda. "State governments are being given more responsibilities and less money to fulfill obligations. The current political climate suggests the importance of understanding the economic status of women."

National Marine Policy Fellowships Awarded

Rebecca Smyth and Samantha Woods, students in UMass Boston's Environmental Sciences Masters Program, have been awarded Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowships to work in executive branch offices of the federal government. Twenty-six fellowships were awarded nationwide this year.

"The fact that two UMass Boston students have been chosen says a great deal about the quality of education offered through the program," says Environmental Science Professor Robert Bowen, who is Smyth's academic advisor. "I think it also says a great deal about the quality of the students who come through the program. It is rare for two students to be chosen in one year at any institution. UMass Boston has had two or three students chosen over the last five years, and having two students in one year is remarkable."

Smyth is conducting her fellowship as a policy analyst and researcher for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). "My daily work consists of tracking legislation and making sure that people in Congress are aware of NOAA's policies," she explains.

"Rebecca's academic focus is coastal and environmental policy," comments Bowen. "She received her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from Boston College, and has worked closely with us as a research assistant. This past summer, she chaired a panel on coastal and environmental management in the Black Sea at an international meeting in Florida."

"Receiving national recognition and working in my field of interest at a national level is a great experience," comments Smyth. "It will give me a better understanding of how things work outside the classroom."

Woods is working at the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is the administrative agency for all laws concerning fish stocks. "My work deals with climate change and its effect on fish stocks," she says. "I also participate in reviews of the equipment used in measuring the numbers of fish in an area to see if we are over-fishing."

"Samantha has a broad interest in natural resources and the means by which they are used and exploited," states Environmental Science Professor Tracy Villareal, who is Woods' academic advisor. "This takes a multidisciplinary approach, which is important to understand when dealing with environmental legislation." Woods received her undergraduate degree in Environmental Coastal Studies from UMass Boston.

"Being in Washington, D.C., as a presidential election approaches is a wonderful experience," says Woods. "It is also a great opportunity to meet people and see how business is conducted at the Capitol. I hope that I can make a difference during my stay."

The one-year fellowships, which began February 1, were awarded by the National Sea Grant College Federal Fellows Program. Smyth and Woods applied for the fellowships through the Sea Grant Institute and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. They each receive a stipend of $30,000, and an additional $6,000 for supplies and travel.

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