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UMass/Boston Scholarship Dinner honors
33 students for academic excellence

At the seventh annual UMass/Boston scholarship dinner, parents, relatives and friends honored 33 recipients at the Faculty Club in the Healey Library.

"We've come a long way," said Dean of Enrollment Services Douglas Hartnagel. "I remember our first—we feted three winners at a luncheon in the cafeteria!"

A breakdown of the winners showed 19 received a Chancellor's Scholarship for Excellence, awarded by Chancellor Sherry H. Penney; 10 Foster Furcolo Scholarship winners from community colleges; three Adult Learners Scholarship winners; and the William M. Bulger Scholarship, named for the Senate President and awarded to Matthew Morad of Dorchester, a graduate of Christopher Columbus High School.

The Adult Learners scholarships are funded by payroll deductions of faculty and staff. The awardees were JoAnn Soloman of Malden, Ann D'Auria of Newton and Nicole Jordan of Somerville.

Those awarded Chancellor's Scholarship for Excellence were: John Fossa, Beverly; Lillian Tang, Boston; Stewart Yaros, Boston; Amy Mattson, Braintree; Lewissa Quinn, Brockton; Debra Kendall, Cambridge; Jan Nelson, Cambridge; Janell Hickey, Malden; Sheryll Berberick, Marshfield; Karen Casey, Marshfield; Amy Aisenberg, Natick; Maura Smith, North Quincy; Eileen Gardiner-Sanders, Quincy; Deborah Boc, Roslindale; Cindy Rush, Salem; Scott DeMello, Somerset; Louis Chios, Somerville; Rosann Sperduto, Somerville; Maureen Murray, Wollaston.

Former Gov. Foster Furcolo has been called the "father of the community college system" in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Scholarships in his name were given to alumni of that system. This year's winners were: DeLayne Gaughran, Cambridge (Bunker Hill Community College); Sonia Payne, Cambridge (Roxbury CC); Susan Keane, Concord (Middlesex CC); Joan Mauraus, Danvers (North Shore CC); Jeffrey Haines, Dorchester (Berkshire CC); Deborah Stier, Falmouth (Cape Cod CC); Carol Moineur, Newton (Mass Bay CC); Nancy Doran, Quincy (Quincy Junior College); Ellen Lively, Stoughton (Massasoit CC).

Briefly...

A memorial fund has been established in the name of Kermit L. Morrissey, who served as president of Boston State College, 1971-80, and joined the faculty at UMass/Boston in 1983 after serving as a director in the state Executive Office of Human Services for two years and as undersecretary in the office, 1980-81.

The Class of 1988 in the Masters of Science in Public Affairs at the John W. McCormack Institute is dedicating a room in the newly-renovated quarters in the Healey Library. It will be known as the Kermit L. Morrissey Conference Room and Library.

Former students, friends and colleagues who wish to contribute to the fund may contact Ruth Finn at the McCormack Institute.

James E. Blackwell, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, was the opening speaker at a two-day symposium on “The Future of Education,” which celebrated the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of Longwood College in Virginia. Prof. Blackwell spoke on “The Future of Liberal Arts Education in a Multi-Cultural Society.

On the second day, he participated in a panel that included Ernest Boyer (Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching); Hoke L. Smith (President, Townsend State University); Barbara Sizemore (University of Pittsburgh); Gordon K. Davies (Director of the Council of Higher Education, Virginia) and Lawrence E. McKibben (University of Oklahoma).

Frances L. Portnay, Interim Dean, College of Nursing, and Shulamit Wurmfield, R.N., M.S., continued on page 4
Dr. Floyd Fowler directs CSR toward public service

It is said that every man has his story, and at UMass/Boston’s Center for Survey Research (CSR), somebody is always anxious to listen.

The CSR is the only academic survey research facility in New England. Its roots go back to 1964, when the local office of the Combined Jewish Charities Fund organized a research project to study the Jewish population. The CJP’s survey won praise in academic circles and it was commissioned to perform further studies.

In 1968, the growing research expanded its operation and moved into the Joint Center on Urban Studies in Cambridge. Three years later, the CSR was taken over by a consortium of Harvard University and MIT and was located at UMB’s downtown campus, where it still has its home.

Dr. Floyd J. Fowler, Jr., who has served as director since 1972, says the CSR has carved out a niche serving the public interest. (The Center does not conduct surveys for private sector firms.)

Five senior professionals run the Center, but Fowler believes that its greatest resource is a force of some 60 telephone interviewers schooled in the art of coaxing honest opinions out of respondents. Each questioner undergoes several days training, works roughly six-hour shifts, and is endowed with equal doses of patience and persistence. Subjects who decline interviews are not easily let off the hook.

“We don’t give up on people,” Fowler says. “We try to explain to them that the work we are doing is important and beneficial to everyone. Twenty-five to 30 percent of the people who say no the first time will eventually say yes. Overall, we have a 75 percent success rate.”

The CSR initiates some of its own studies but often is only responsible for collecting and coding data, not interpreting results.

The Center has measured public opinion on a broad array of topics ranging from aging, AIDS, and alcoholism, to insurance rates, automobile seat belts and police road blocks. There have been studies on heart disease in South Boston and contaminated water in Woburn.

The Center currently is gathering data on a teen stress study, but the assignment may create more stress for interviewers than is found in the subjects. Questioners are required to dial households in search of teenagers willing to talk. Fowler sighs as he considers the task. “Teenagers can be difficult to get hold of,” he said.

Joiner Center co-funds new book focusing on Massachusetts Vietnam veterans

UMass/Boston’s William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences has co-funded a new book of photographs and interviews with seven Massachusetts Vietnam veterans. Let Me Tell You Where I’ve Been will be launched at a Veterans Day event at the Boston Public Library on November 10.

Author/photographer Janice Rogovin, recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Emerging Artist Award and a Massachusetts Artists Foundation Fellowship, will speak at the event along with some of the veterans featured in the book: Larry Celester, Peggy Perri, Bob Long, Ernie Washington, and Jim Kilroy.

The book, seven years in the making, features stories told in the veterans’ own words describing their experience in Vietnam and its continuing effect on their lives. Their self-reflections reveal a youthful but now tarnished idealism.

Larry Celester, now a Boston Police Detective, remembers seeing his entire company wiped out when he was a sergeant in Vietnam. He recalls asking his company medic, a conscientious objector: “What’s going to happen, man, if you see death coming right at you? Ain’t you going to pick up a weapon and shoot?”

Peggy Perri, an army nurse who was told to ride helicopters with other nurses to parties on the front lines of combat, now reflects that when she was caring for the thousands on the front lines of combat during the Tet Offense, “it seemed that everybody died.”

Bob Long, now a member of Veterans for Peace, remembers failing his military physical and returning to try again, demanding “You got guys wearing their sister’s underwear out there. I want what I want and I want it now.”

Let Me Tell You Where I’ve Been is a reminder of an era that won’t be swept away. It is funded by the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy with additional support from the William Joiner Center.

New phone system set for installation

A $29.5 million telephone and data system will be installed on the three University of Massachusetts campuses with UMass/Boston expected to go on line in January, 1989.

The Board of Trustees voted to authorize President David Knapp to enter into an agreement with Ericsson Information Systems, a Swedish firm with United States headquarters in Dallas.

The tri-campus project will take “17 months to two years to construct” according to Stephen Lenhardt, Vice President of Management and Fiscal Affairs.

Ericsson was among three finalists out of an original field of eight competitors.
President David C. Knapp addresses future of UMass

The University of Massachusetts is celebrating its 125th anniversary this academic year and the Boston campus is in the midst of its 25th year. University President David C. Knapp recently described the significance of this occasion in the following way:

In a mere century and a quarter, a neglected tract of farmland has been transformed into a major university whose reach extends to every country in the Commonwealth. While it has changed dramatically in scope, curriculum, breadth of research and public service, the University of Massachusetts has remained the same in one very important way—its commitment to the Commonwealth.

As the economy of the state has changed, we adapted the University to better serve it. As the demand for higher education increased, we expanded to meet it. When the marketplace called for new skills, we adjusted to provide them. In some instance we responded to the change; in others we anticipated it and helped the Commonwealth keep pace with change, no matter what shape or form it takes.

In that spirit, I have initiated a three-point program to bring the University’s strengths to bear on improving the Commonwealth’s urban public schools. We have strengths which can be of enormous help to the urban schools, and we have, therefore, an obligation to act. The elements of our initiative—focusing graduate study on the unique problems of urban education; providing opportunities for university faculty members to work directly with urban school teachers; and attracting support from the business community for those efforts—all represent ways in which this University can carry on its tradition of service to the state.

Of greater concern than that which we have arrived, let us not forget where we began. Let us remember that the Morrill Act, that magnificent piece of legislation that led to the creation of this and other land-grant colleges, was passed on July 2, 1862, when this country was engaged in a great civil war. Let us remember that this University was founded in 1863, some seven months before Lincoln questioned whether this nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated could long endure.

The nation did endure and prosper and a great deal of that prosperity can be attributed to the intellectual, cultural, and economic contributions of our land-grant universities. The accomplishments of this University stand as a sterling testament to the foresight and wisdom of the Congress in 1862 and the Massachusetts legislature in 1863. With every year that passes, their foresight appears that much greater, their wisdom that much more profound.

We have the ability to accomplish more in the future that we did in the past. Our physical and human resources are greater and our desire to excel has not been dimmed. We remain committed to the Commonwealth and resolve in our drive to secure the keystone in the arch of liberty, to be second to none. The citizens of this state deserve no less.

Prof. Kramer co-produces guide to ethnic Boston

There are maps of Boston’s tangled streets and directories to its historical sites. Now, thanks in part to the efforts of UMass/Boston Professor Bernie Kramer, there’s a guide to its melting pot population.

Kramer and Northeastern Dr. William Holton, an associate professor of sociology and anthropology, collaborated to produce Ethnic Boston, a 40-page listing of over 120 ethnic organizations and individuals in Boston.

“This directory will facilitate better knowledge about ethnic groups in the Boston area,” says Kramer.

Kramer, who will retire at the conclusion of the spring semester, has been teaching psychology courses at UMass/Boston since 1972, with special emphasis on social psychology. He has taught several courses dealing with racial prejudice.

The great issue that the University of Massachusetts will face in the future is the same one it faced 125 years ago. Our first president, Henry Flagg French, saw public higher education as essential to the achievement of democratic ideals. Equality in education to French was “the keystone in the arch of liberty.”

And the drive toward excellence, to be second to none, is a democratic impulse. After 125 years, we are on the threshold of greatness but that greatness is far from guaranteed. Indeed, that last mile may be the most difficult in the journey that has carried us so far, so fast.

We must and will convince the citizens of the Commonwealth and their elected representatives that the last leg is the most important, that we cannot rest here content in the knowledge that we are better than most, that we must be second to none. We must convince them that the next rise in the road is worth taking, that it is their future, not merely ours, that lies ahead.

As we celebrate the point at which we have arrived, let us not forget where we began. Let us remember that the Morrill Act, that magnificent piece of legislation that led to the creation of this
Trotter Institute announces appointments of '88 Fellows

Dr. VeVe A. Clark and Dr. William H. Watson, two senior scholars, have joined UMass/Boston's William Monroe Trotter Institute as Resident Fellows for the 1988-89 academic year.

Dr. Clark is Associate Professor of African and Caribbean Literature at Tufts University. She has received her B.A. and M.A. degrees in French Literature at Queens College, New York; the Certificate d’études supérieures from the University de Nancy, France; and a Ph.D. in French and Ethnology of the Caribbean from the University of California at Berkeley.

At the Trotter Institute she will work on a book with the tentative title Learning Disorder: Education and the Disclosure of Social Change in Francophone Black Literature.

Dr. Watson is the Edmund A. Ware Professor of Sociology at Atlanta University, where he is also Chairperson of the Department of Sociology. He is an editor of Phylon, the journal on race and culture founded by W.E.B. DuBois.

Center for Criminal Justice sponsors drug forum

A community forum on drug abuse will be held on Wednesday, November 16 at the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) at 250 Stuart Street from 6-8 p.m.

The general public is invited to participate in the forum which will bring together representatives from criminal justice and community agencies to discuss the critical issue.

Involving will be concerned parents, students, teachers, community leaders, clergy, public safety and criminal justice officials, treatment, prevention and youth workers plus individuals in recovery programs.

The forum is sponsored by The Center for Criminal Justice, CPCS. For further information, contact Associate Professor Charles N. Souris at 956-1046.

Announcement was made by John T. Tynan, President of the Executive Committee.