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Briefly...

UMass/Boston will host a one-day conference entitled "Challenges in the Academic Workplace: Improving the Quality of Faculty Life" at the John F. Kennedy Library on Thursday, December 8, from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The conference will be conducted by UMB's New England Resource Center for Higher Education of the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs in conjunction with the New England Board of Higher Education.

The meeting will tackle the issue of dissatisfaction among faculty with their work. It will focus on three general problems: the increasing gap between faculty expectations and student performance; a feeling of isolation not only from the administration but from other faculty members and limited opportunity for career advancement.

Rosabeth Moss Kanter, internationally-known business expert and best-selling author, will deliver the keynote address on ways to improve the academic workplace.

For further information call 929-7275.

In response to an order from the Boston Fire Department, UMass/Boston will close the current day care facility as of the end of December and move the program to Harbor Point. The Department determined that such activities should not be carried out in a building which, like the Science Center, houses scientific experiments.

Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Donald Babcock, University officials are working on various methods of returning the program, which serves 55 youngsters, to the campus as speedily as

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UMB senior Brian Baldwin beat national networks on calling presidential election



Brian Baldwin

A UMass/Boston student defeated by 57 minutes an army of political experts and network data doctors in predicting the outcome of the November 8 presidential election, and in the process believes he may have discovered an irrefutable formula for determining the outcome of elections.

"It's not as hard as it sounds," says Brian Baldwin, a senior political science major from South Boston, who at 8:20 p.m. on Election Night correctly predicted to listeners of WXXS Radio (Kiss-108) Vice President George Bush's 54-46 percent popular vote margin and came within one vote of the final electoral margin.

Baldwin's theory, which he insists is applicable to smaller-scale elections, combines traditional polling and past voting tendencies.

Baldwin says he plugged variables into the following equation: First, early returns from states were compared with results of polls conducted the previous weekend in each state. Second, he compared those re-

turns with the 55-56 percent vote the Republican candidate historically carries in presidential elections. Third, he selected 11 counties nationwide which he calls "preeminent bellwethers" for demonstrating final voting ratios seen nationally in each of the five previous presidential elections.

Having concluded Bush was the winner, Baldwin, who has financed his education by working as a security guard supervisor at the radio station, went public with his prediction. He says station officials approached him on the possibility of going on the air when they became aware of the magnitude of his research.

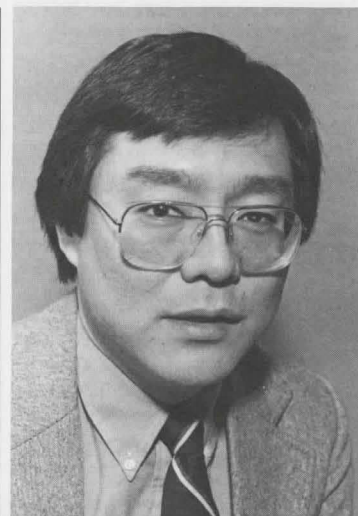
"The real significance of this work," Baldwin says, "is that it gives us a model for identifying who the swing voter is, where he is, and what his interests are."

Baldwin, who rates himself a "moderate Republican," says 24 percent of the electorate is comprised of these swing voters, while the remaining 76 percent traditionally split between the Democratic and Republican candidate.

"That means the outcome will be determined by whoever can capture the middle 24 percent," Baldwin says.

Baldwin's profile of the undecided or swing voter is a white, middle-class, blue collar farmer or union person who lives in a narrow stretch of rural or suburban territory from Delaware west to the state of Washington. This voter also "is the least sophisticated politically," he says.

From a strategic viewpoint, Baldwin says Bush's effort to sway the swing voter was more skillfully tailored than that of Gov. Dukakis. He describes the swing voter as more likely to be influenced by a simplified emo-



Prof. Paul Watanabe

tional message "like the Pledge of Allegiance or the ACLU issues."

Baldwin's political zeal is both practical and fulfilling. His election findings are the subject of his senior thesis, "A Model of Presidential Election Voting Behavior." His work also represents the pinnacle of a lifelong interest in politics.

When he was 14, Baldwin, a native of New Haven, Connecticut, served as state treasurer of "Youth for Nixon." But his political ardor was not transferrable to the classroom. More amenable to playing than hitting the books, he finished 157th in a high school class of 162, and instead of going to college, Baldwin went off to work in a fast-food restaurant for five years. He moved to Boston in 1985 for a district manager's position with Burger King. He left after a year and enrolled at UMass/Boston. "I was tired of flipping hamburgers," he says, with a note of chagrin.

Certain that a restaurant career was not for him, Baldwin was yet unsure he'd find success in academia. "I was very uncertain," he

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Prof. Eric Robinson finds editing John Clare a labor of love

UMass/Boston history professor Eric Robinson is in the midst of his life's second greatest labor of love. Robinson, who in September received the University's Distinguished Scholarship Award, is halfway through editing eight volumes of a 6,500-page collection entitled "The Collected Poems of John Clare in Oxford English Text."

In writing the "variorum text" of the Englishman Clare (1793-1864), Robinson is required to search out every manuscript the poet authored. He could have chosen an easier subject. Clare, a self-educated agricultural laborer who, while in his 30s, was committed to the Northampton Lunacy Asylum, had a habit of scribbling his poems on whatever surface was often available, often via a pencil.

"He wrote a lot of old scraps while working in the field," Robinson explains. "He also used a lot of provincial expressions. But I refuse to clean Clare up. I won't change his grammar or his punctuation."

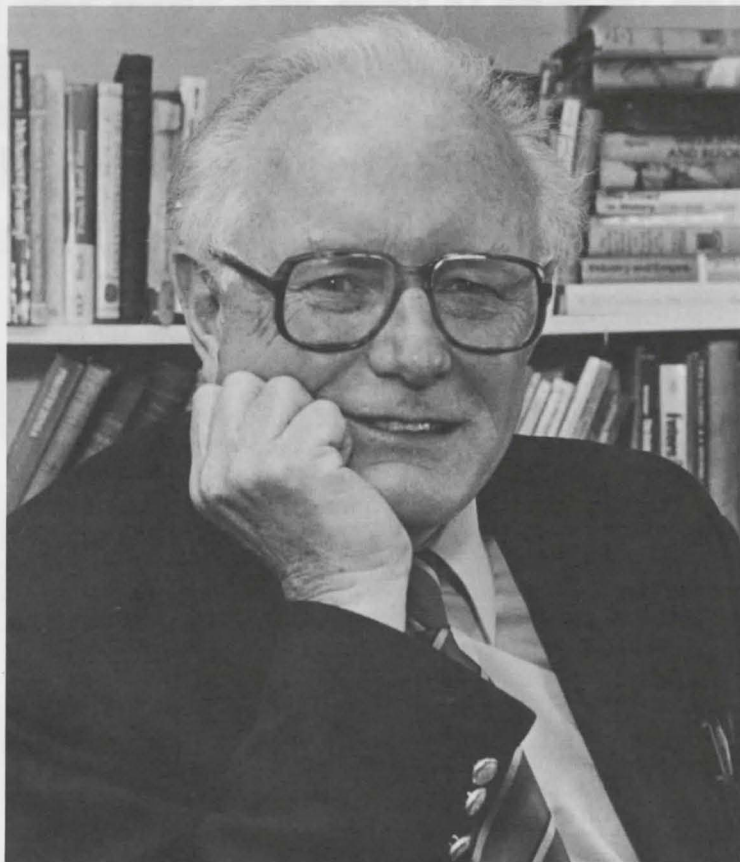
"All of which makes the job more difficult."

In truth, it is a task befitting monastic devotion, one which would seem finely tailored to Robinson, a self-admitted despot for details who proudly contends that his courses on the history of technology are no place for the ambivalent. Explaining his dual love of history and literature, Robinson explains that two disciplines "go hand-in-hand in any society."

Clearly, when it comes to the pursuit of Clare, love conquers all.

"Whenever you're involved in something like this," Robinson attests, "it has to be a passion."

Robinson, whose stepfather was



Prof. Eric Robinson

an army map officer for General Montgomery, was raised in a working class home in the British industrial city of Birmingham. A child during the early stages of World War II, Robinson was among many young Britons evacuated from the cities and sent to live in the countryside during the German Blitz.

Robinson attended King Edward's Grammar School, and at age 17 matriculated to Jesus College in Oxford, where he bought his first volume of Clare. Robinson's affinity quickly grew into compulsion. But like all able-bodied men of his generation, Robinson was scooped up by the war machine. He served aboard

destroyers as a Royal Navy lieutenant in World War II.

After the war, Robinson graduated from college in 1948 with a degree in English Literature and embarked on a teaching career.

In recent years, Robinson has spearheaded efforts to gain wider acclaim for Clare. In addition to editing several books of Clare's poetry, he helped found "The John Clare Society" in the early 1980s. Robinson believes his current project will elevate Clare to the leading poet status which has eluded him.

Robinson says he will complete the remainder of his eight-volume text within a few years.

"I have to finish it before I die,"

he says, concluding that, if necessary, even his death will have to be postponed.

Robinson, who taught three years at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria in the early 1950s, came to UMass/Boston in 1970 after two decades of instructing at British universities.

He recalls visiting in Boston during a time of student unrest over Vietnam. "When I met the chancellor," Robinson chuckles, "he was having the locks changed on his door." And his first meeting with the history dean was interrupted by a bomb scare.

Nonetheless, Robinson accepted a position at UMB, and shortly after settling in the North Shore community of West Newbury, encountered his life's greatest love.

Joan Hawkes was a one-time *Boston Herald* writer and beauty editor for *Seventeen* magazine who was suffering from terminal ovarian cancer when she and Robinson met. They married during one of Joan's stays in University Hospital, and for the next three years, Robinson kept a daily journal of the couple's experiences. Joan died in 1975 at age 43.

A television documentary based on Robinson's journal aired throughout the country. "Joan Robinson: One Woman's Story" won the prestigious Dupont-Columbia University Award for Broadcast Journalism, and Robinson was featured on talk show host Phil Donahue's nationally syndicated program. He also lectured nursing students on caring for terminally ill patients.

The journal was converted into a book which UMass Press recently agreed to publish. Due out in the spring of 1989, it is entitled *One Dark Mile: A Widower's Story*.

A theatre and medieval music fan, Robinson, who has two daughters from a first marriage and 12 grandchildren, is also planning a book on industrial espionage in the middle ages. He will take a sabbatical for the 1989 spring semester to return to his homeland and concentrate on the Clare tomes.

Prof. Robinson aids Clare's admittance to "Poet's Corner"

English poet John Clare (1793-1864) will be enshrined in the fabled "Poet's Corner" in Westminster Abbey, thanks largely to the scholarly efforts of Eric Robinson, Clare's biographer, and a UMass/Boston professor.

Prof. Robinson currently is in

the midst of an eight-volume collection of Clare's poems.

"To think that George Clare will be honored in the same area as Shakespeare, Milton and the rest is a wonderful feeling," said Prof. Robinson, who currently is writing the "variorum text" on the

Englishman Clare (see above story).

Current plans call for the wording "Poet of Rural England" on a slate marker to honor Clare, whose memorial tablet will be sited next to poet Matthew Arnold (1822-88).

UMASS / BOSTON NEWS & VIEWS

Joiner Center grows into nationally respected organization

Soldiers can put down their weapons and leaders can reconcile nations, but the baggage of war is not so easily packed away. That is the premise behind UMass/Boston's William Joiner Center, an academic institute dedicated to providing services to war veterans and promoting scholarship on war issues.

The William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences was founded in 1982. With a current operating budget of \$1 million per year, it has grown into one of the most respected and visible advocacy organizations in the country.

Named for UMB's first Veteran's Affairs Director, the late William Joiner, a black Vietnam Air Force vet who was used to load 5-gallon drums of Agent Orange onto transport planes before he died of cancer in 1981, the Center has gained stature as an intellectual "think tank" on the social ramifications of war.

It is also credited with easing veterans' reentry into civilian life, both by providing educational guidance to some 1,000 student veterans at the Harbor Campus and by sponsoring numerous seminars aimed at fostering sensitivity towards vets.

Much of the Joiner Center's mission has focused on the Vietnam War.

In July, the Joiner Center received backing from the Legislature to conduct a survey on the progress of the state's Vietnam-era veterans. It is a follow-up to a study completed in 1983.

"This remains the only survey of its kind in the nation," said Paul Camacho, the Center's associate director.

A profile questionnaire on topics such as "Agent Orange," post traumatic stress disorder, employment, housing and veterans' benefits was mailed to over 150,000 veterans. Results of the survey should be available by May 1989.

Last March, in recognition of the 15th anniversary of the withdrawal of American troops from Southeast Asia, the Center was host to two exhibits featuring



Joiner Center members include, left to right, Paul Atwood, Jaime Rodriguez and co-director Kevin Bowen.

photographs and artifacts from Vietnam.

"Too often the memory of war fades," comments Kevin Bowen, co-director of the Center and himself a Vietnam vet. "These displays not only revive the memories of those who lived through the war, but also educate a generation unaware of its realities."

Early last summer a delegation from the Center made a goodwill trip to Vietnam.

Jaime Rodriguez, a research coordinator at the Joiner Center, was a member of the touring group. A native Puerto Rican, Rodriguez was 18 years old in the summer of 1968, when he began a 10-month hitch as a reconnaissance specialist in the jungles outside Long Binh. He says his return visit personalized the tragedy of war.

"The government has erased all evidence of the war," Rodriguez says. "but you can still see it in the people. There are so many handicapped."

Margaret Perri, a part-time Joiner Center researcher who served as a nurse in Vietnam, said the trip was "a healing experience," but not one without sadness. She recalled walking through a hospital ward in which were stacked jars of deformed fetuses, the effects of Agent Orange poisoning.

The Center has recently begun a study on the problems facing women veterans. A three-day conference last summer brought

together 150 women who worked with civilian organizations during wars or served in wars from World War II to Vietnam.

Julia Perez, a Korean War veteran and director of the research

project, noted the powerful response evoked by a conference panel on post traumatic stress disorder.

"It brought out discussion of the ways women have held in the pain," Perez said. "In some ways it was really cathartic."

As years pass, delivering emotional and practical assistance to war veterans will be a diminishing task, so Bowen projects an expanded purpose in the Joiner Center's future.

"I see us basically as a growing resource center for other people," Bowen says. "Whether through the delivery of direct services for education or through aiding in serious scholarship on the social consequences and the history of war, we are here to broaden the focus and understanding of war's impact."

Joiner Center hosts Vietnamese writer



North Vietnamese writer Le Luu, right, huddles with Joiner Center co-director Kevin Bowen during recent visit to Harbor campus.

UMass/Boston's William Joiner Center has received laudatory media coverage, both nationally and locally, in recent weeks.

Biggest splash was the two page spread in *People* magazine that spoke of the Boston visit of Le Luu, 45, a former soldier in the North Vietnamese army—first Vietnamese writer to visit this country since the war ended in 1975.

Le Luu spent a month here participating in seminars as a guest of the Joiner Center. He brought with him the latest of his 12 novels, *Thoi Xa Vang* ("Long Time Passing") and hopes to have it published in English by the Uni-

versity of Massachusetts Press.

The Joiner Center also was featured in the prestigious *Christian Science Monitor* in a story about the journalistic exchange program between the US and Vietnam since the war. The *Monitor* quoted Joiner Center co-director Kevin Bowen, who discussed his most recent visit to Southeast Asia:

"It reaffirmed good feelings for the land and its people, the feeling we can do some good things for the country out of a situation that was very bad."

Author Luu's visit also resulted in a lengthy page 2 profile piece in *The Boston Globe*.

Briefly...

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possible next year. Many people, including Chancellor Penney, top campus administrators, concerned parents and state and local officials worked hard to ensure a smooth transition.

A forum on prison reform will be hosted by UMass/Boston on Wednesday, December 7, in the First Floor Lounge, Downtown Campus, Park Square, Boston. It is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by the College of Public and Community Service's Center for Criminal Justice, the program will include representatives from the criminal justice system and the community.

Participating will be concerned citizens, public, business and community leaders, ex-offenders, students, advocates, workers in the area of corrections, law, probation, law enforcement, human services and education.

For additional information, contact Associate Professor Charles N. Souris, Center for Criminal Justice, 956-1046.

A two-day conference on adolescent stress was recently held at

UMass/Boston's Faculty Club. "Adolescent Stress, Social Relationships and Mental Health" was the title of the conference co-sponsored by UMass/Boston and the William T. Grant Foundation.

Presenters included some of the top people in the field. Keynote speaker was Anne C. Petersen, Professor and Dean, College of Health and Human Development at Pennsylvania State University. She spoke on "Coping with Adolescence: It's Depressing!"

Other presenters: Hortensia Amaro, Boston University School of Medicine; Carol Anehsen, University of California at Los Angeles; Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Educational Testing Service; Bruce Compas, The University of Vermont; Sanford M. Dornbusch, Stanford University; Felton Earls, Washington University School of Medicine; Reed Larson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Mary Jane Rotheram, Columbia University; Gary Siperstein, PhD, UMass/Boston; Judith Smetana, University of Rochester; Cathy Widom, Indiana University.

Conference organizers were Dr. Mary Ellen Colten of the University's Center for Survey Research, and Drs. Susan Gore and Helen Tager-Flusberg from the Department of Sociology and Psychology, respectively.

College of Nursing creates Fund to honor Dr. Kibrick

A Fund has been established in the name of Dr. Anne Kibrick, who left the Deanship of the College of Nursing on June 30, 1988.

Dr. Kibrick has made important contributions to the nursing profession in the state as well as nationally and internationally for the past four decades. She continues to be active in professional organizations and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science.

Dr. Kibrick was the founding dean of the College of Nursing and has provided leadership to the program since its inception at Boston State College in 1974. Under her direction the College has grown to be the seventh largest in the country, has established a graduate program and has a faculty of 30 full time and 16 part time members.

To honor Dr. Kibrick's contributions to the program and to nursing, a fund has been created which will be used to invite a dis-



Dr. Anne Kibrick

tinguished nursing leader to the campus as an annual event which will be open to the nursing and university community.

If any of her friends, colleagues, students or former students would like to contribute to the Fund, please make your tax deductible check out to the Anne Kibrick Fund and send it to Ms. Ethel Conaxis in the UMB College of Nursing.

Brian Baldwin beats networks

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says. "I didn't have much confidence in my ability. I never could have imagined things would turn out so well."

Now in his 30s, Baldwin benefits from a renewed sense of purpose and commitment in the classroom. Last year he was awarded the prestigious Harry S. Truman Fellowship for Academic Excellence. Every college in the country nominates three students for the honor. Two from each state receive it.

And that's not all. Baldwin counsels alcoholics and is active in the Pine Street Inn, Boston's homeless shelter. He has also participated in the Harbor Campus's "Agenda for the Future," a student discussion group that reflects on a variety of current issues.

"Brian is the classic UMass/Boston student who has come back to school and performed to the best of his ability," says Politi-

cal Science Department Chairman Paul Watanabe, who has Baldwin as a student. "He's exceptional."

Lately, Baldwin has been answering telephone calls from reporters and weighing the marketability of his election talent. Imagine what it would be worth to a candidate or news service. "They tell me millions," he says, only half-kidding.

But Baldwin claims money is not his sole guide. He may attend Harvard's Kennedy School of Government next fall. A legal career is also under consideration.



State Senator-elect Paul White (D.-Dorchester) huddles with UMass/Boston Vice Chancellor Edward C. O'Malley, Jr. at recent meeting of the Dorchester Board of Trade. White has been a long-time advocate for the University.

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Director: D. Leo Monahan

Editor: Stephen Moniak

Assistant: Diane Vasseur