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# UMASS BOSTON NEWS & VIEWS

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

## Trotter Institute hosts conference on Black Americans

UMass/Boston was the site of a national conference marking release of the Assessment of the Status of African Americans Project begun in 1987 under the direction of UMass/Boston's William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture. In addition, Snowden Auditorium in Wheatley Hall and the Healey Library's Telecommunications Theatre provided the forum for discussion among some of the nation's top scholars.

The report focused not only on the present condition of Black Americans but also offered options for improving the quality of their lives. Studies were conducted in the areas such as: Education; Employment, Income & Occupation; Political Participation; Administration of Justice; Social and Cultural Change; Health and Medical Care and Family.

"Discrimination persists, although its forms have been altered," said the report. "Race continues to matter."

There was evidence, the report said, of racial discrimination in the criminal justice system and in access to health care, higher edu-

cation and jobs.

Some of the findings:

- The wealth of Black families continues to be much less than that of white families. In 1984, the median net worth of a Black family was \$3,400, compared to an average white family's \$39,000.

- Life expectancy for Blacks declined for two years in a row, from 1985 to 1986, the first such decline in this century. In 1986, Blacks' life expectancy dropped to 69.4 years while that of whites increased to a record high of 75.4 years.

- Minority youths are imprisoned at rates three-four times higher than white youths and receive stiffer sentences than do whites.

Dr. Wornie Reed, Chairman of UMass/Boston's Black Studies



Dr. Wornie Reed, Director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute, Left, poses with Harvard University's Dr. Charles Willie. Both participated in UMass/Boston's national conference to assess the status of African-Americans.

Department and Director of the Trotter Institute, said the study also offers a critique of Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society, a Federal survey released in July.

"We've tried to be more comprehensive," Reed says of the Institute's project. "Legitimately, the next step is to suggest what kinds of programs need to be • continued on page 2

## UMass/Boston honors student athletes

Fifty-five student-athletes at UMass/Boston were honored at the Harbor Campus for attaining high academic honors of 3.20 or above cumulative grade point averages.

Tennis player Daniel Pollard of Armory St., Brookline, an Economic Major in the College of Arts and Science, attained the highest in the group—3.98—according to Dr. Harold

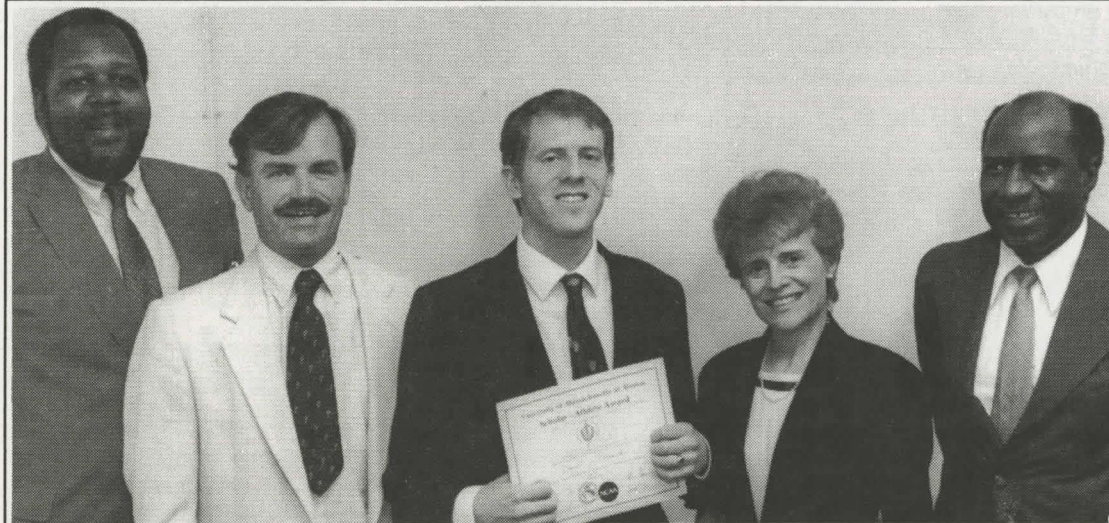
Horton, Academic Coordinator in the Athletic Department.

Chancellor Sherry H. Penney made a presentation to Pollard, who was named the Most Distinguished Scholar-Athlete for the 1988-89 academic year.

At the close of the 1988-89 academic year, 83.6 percent of all UMB student-athletes (268 in 18 UMB/NCAA intercollegiate varsity teams) who participated earned a cumulative grade point average of C or higher.

At the conclusion of each semester during the 1988-89 academic year, 15.5 percent of all student-athletes were named to their respective colleges' Dean's List.

Some 62.7 percent of all student-athletes were in the College of Arts and Sciences; 22.4 in Physical Education; 10.9 percent in the College of Management and a few were enrolled in other UMB colleges.



Top UMass/Boston scholar-athlete Daniel Pollard, center, of the tennis team posed at recognition luncheon. Left to right: Athletic Director Charlie Titus, tennis coach Mike Bradley, Pollard, Chancellor Sherry H. Penney and Dr. Harold Horton, Academic Coordinator.



## Two UMB staffers cited for "Pride in Performance."

Diane Vasseur, administrative assistant in the Office of Vice Chancellor for External Relations and the Office of Public Information, and Patricia Bennett, administrative assistant in UMass/Boston's Marketing Department, were named winners of A Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance, an award recognizing excellence in state government.

The women recently received the awards during a Pride in Performance Awards Dinner at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. As winners, Bennett and Vasseur also were eligible for the prestigious Manual Carballo Governor's Award For Excellence, 10 of which are given out annually.

In addition to her duties in Public Information, Vasseur tackles administrative chores for Vice-Chancellor Edward O'Malley. She also supervises several

part-time student employees, and while faceless telephone callers no doubt would attest to Vasseur's unflagging good cheer, it's the people within the two departments she serves that most value her caretaker's touch.

Explaining her balancing act, Vasseur says, "You become an improviser."

Dorchester's Bennett is the only secretary in the Marketing Department, but she can hardly claim she's lonely. Not when she serves seven professors and several dozen students.

Bennett manages to keep them all smiling, but she is a bit taken aback to be honored for it. She says being a good secretary has almost become second nature. Bennett arrived at the Harbor Campus four years ago after 14 years as an administrative assistant in the private sector.



Patricia Bennett



Diane Vasseur

## Trotter Institute hosts conference

• *continued from page 1*  
offered and funded."

Among the noted scholars who participated in study groups, contributed position papers, and led discussions during the two-day Harbor Campus seminar were:

Dr. Lucius Barkley of Washington University, a Co-Chairman of the project and former Vice President of the American Political Science Association; Dr. Andrew Billingsley of the University of Maryland, a former President at Morgan State University and author of the defini-

tive book, *Black Families in America*; Dr. Robert Hill of Morgan State, author of the critically-hailed *The Strength of Black Families*; Dr. Alphonso Pinkney of Hunter College, a nationally-respected sociologist; Dr. James Turner, Founding director of Cornell University's Center for African Studies; Dr. Michael Preston, Chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of Southern California; Dr. Susan Welch, University of Nebraska; Harvard University's Dr. Charles Willie, a widely-re-

## CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

by Chancellor Sherry H. Penney

This is the first in a series of columns I will write to further inform the University Community of some of the many important, special projects we are carrying out here at UMass/Boston, especially those which may help reduce spending.

The Northeast Energy Cooperative (NEEC) is a non-profit, energy cooperative organization composed of a group of large, concerned institutions in the Greater Boston area who have joined together to address the serious problem of the demand for electricity during the high consumption periods such as June, July, and August. This demand, as you know, was created by the tremendous growth in the New England economy over the past decade.

At present, the Cooperative is composed of eleven members such as Massachusetts General Hospital, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Digital Equipment Corporation, the Prudential Center, the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, Raytheon Company, along with the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Participation by members of the Coop in curtailing energy consumption during the summer months has contributed significantly to the avoidance of blackouts during these peak usage periods.

We and the other members of NEEC, have participated in a pilot project for the past two years that has proven to be very successful. As a result, this fall, the Cooperative entered into a three-year contract with the Boston Edison Company. The benefits to the University under this contract are substantial. Aside from the expenses we



avoid in the summer due to the reduction in both peak and energy demand during the curtailment days, between \$80,000 and \$100,000 per year is deducted from our electric bills as part of the monthly incentive payments received from Boston Edison.

We also have a public lighting control system which turns on and off public area lighting. When areas are not in use after hours, the complete system automatically shuts off any lighting in public areas that may have been left on inadvertently.

In closing, I want to emphasize that these are only two of many steps that we are taking here at UMass/Boston to conserve energy. I will follow up in the next couple of weeks with a letter to the University Community highlighting other energy-saving measures we have implemented on campus.

I am proud of the initiatives we are taking and encourage every member of the University to be cognizant and participate in enhancing these initiatives. Thank you for both your continued cooperation and support in this extremely important endeavor.

known sociologist, and UMass/Boston's Dr. James Blackwell.

Reed predicted the impact of the report will be swift and significant. It will reach the desks of legislators in Washington, D.C.

and be passed through the hallways of academia and eventually seep its way into the public consciousness, just as the 1966 Coleman Report on Education did, he said.



# UMB hosts annual Chancellor's Scholarship Dinner

More than a hundred people attended UMass/Boston's annual Chancellor's Scholarship Dinner, held at the University's Healey Library. The University has awarded 230 scholarships over a nine year period to students from area schools. This year twenty-nine recipients were honored.

Fifteen received the Chancellor's Scholarship for Excellence; seven Foster Furcolo Scholarships went to graduates of Massachusetts Community College programs; and there were two University Community Scholarships winners for Adult Learners.

## Four New Awards

Douglas Harnagel, Dean of Enrollment Services, hosted the evenings' events. He announced the first four winners of Samuel P. Brehm Scholarships. These scholarships were funded by Dr. Harold Brehm of Lexington for the purpose of encouraging graduates of Boston schools to pursue a four-year college education.

In his comments, Dean Harnagel noted that over the years, university scholarship winners have reflected the diversity of our greater Boston community—twenty-one percent of awards have gone to minorities and sixty-two percent to women.

The William Bulger Scholarship, named for the Senate President from South Boston, was also



*Shauna McCarty of Foxboro, left, posed with husband Paul and Chancellor Sherry H. Penney at scholarship dinner. She won one of 15 scholarships for excellence.*

awarded during the evening. Mr. Bulger presented the award to Michael Murphy of East Weymouth, a graduate of Boston College High School, as was Senator Bulger. Murphy will major in engineering.

## The Scholarship Winners

Margaret Adams, Washington Ave., Chelsea, (Girls Catholic High School of Malden); Gwendolyn Beaven, Stewart St., Quincy (Quincy Junior College); Jan Brown, Pearl Street Place, Cambridge (Boston University).

Lorraine Burns, Mt. Blue St., Norwell (Massasoit Community College); Frank Charlot, Cambridge, (Cambridge Rindge and

Latin High School); Carolyn Claccia, Manion Rd., Hyde Park (St. Clare High School); Adriana Cillo, Arborfield Rd., Roslindale, (Roxbury Community College); Todd Kaplan, Willow Ave., Somerville, (Received scholarship for community service); Jennifer Killilea, West Squantum St., North Quincy, (North Quincy High School); Kathleen Mawn, Vernon St., Hyde Park, (St. Clare High School); Shauna McCarty, South St., Foxboro; (Bristol Community College); Jacquelyn McKean, Abbotsford Rd., Brookline, (Boston University); Brett O'Hare, Wesson Ave., Quincy, (North Quincy High

School); Wilmot Max Ramsay, Cambridge, (Received scholarship for community service); David Weizl, Park St., Newton, (Received scholarship for creative writing).

## Foster Furcolo Scholarships

John Cain, Hibiscus Ave., Waltham (Bunker Hill Community College); Sheri Giglio, Daniel Drive., Burlington (Middlesex Community College); Nancy Iandoli, Blueberry Lane, Harwich (Cape Cod Community College); Virginia Johnson, Wellington Hill St., Mattapan, (Roxbury Community College); Joel Padovani, Holmes Terrace, Plymouth (Mass Bay Community College); Cathleen Young, Porter St., Avon (Massasoit Community College).

## Samuel B. Brehm Scholarships

Marie First, King St., Dorchester, (Boston English High School); Charles Foresyth, Ardent St., Roslindale (West Roxbury High School); Christine Hanley, Milton St., Dorchester, (Msgr. Ryan High School); Yim Ying Lee, Milford St., Boston (Charlestown High School).

## University Community Scholarships for Adult Learners

Howard Siddall, Needham, (Oberlin College). Elizabeth Yarr, Locust St., Winthrop (Boston University).

# UMB participates in Vietnam Memorial re-dedication

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Morrissey Blvd. at UMass/Boston's entrance was re-dedicated recently. The park has undergone significant landscaping and other improvements in recent months.

The Memorial stands on University land. It features a stone walk leading to the monument, which contains the names of 79 Dorchester residents killed in Vietnam.

A \$13,000 donation by Cablevision helped fund improvements to the monument and park, according to Joe Zinck, chairman of the park committee.



*Re-dedication of the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial on UMass/Boston land found dignitaries listening to speaker Joe Zinck, chairman of the park committee, right. Left to right: City Councilor Michael McCormack; City Councilor James Byrne; Thomas Lyons, Deputy Commissioner, Veterans Services, City of Boston; Rep. James T. Brett; UMass/Boston Vice Chancellor Edward C. O'Malley, Jr. and Joe Zinck.*



# Chancellor Penney convenes panel discussion on budget

Marshalling support to combat what Chancellor Sherry H. Penney called "a very severe budget crisis," a panel of UMass/Boston's top economic and political analysts addressed students, administrators, staff, and colleagues during an hour-long seminar at the Faculty Club in the Healey Library.

The informational session was part of the efforts during what Penney labeled "Budget Awareness Day," an initiative resulting from the state's recent request that public colleges outline the impact of an additional five percent budget cut. The added reversion comes on the heels of cutbacks which already trimmed \$12 million from UMass/Boston's operating budget.

Panelists expressed the urgency of the state's need for additional tax revenue, but found little optimism that such measures will soon be enacted.

"I agree that the best thing would be to raise broad-based taxes," commented Dr. Barry Bluestone, noted political scientist and instructor at UMB's McCormack Institute for Public Affairs. "But to be honest, I don't think that can happen."

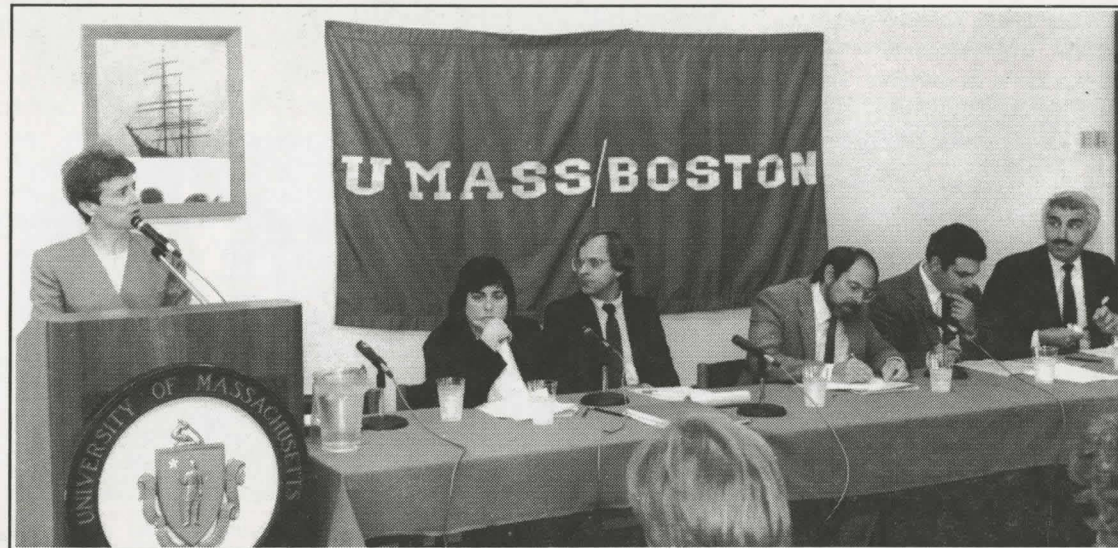
"The problem is we're working in a world that says we're 'Taxachusetts,'" said Dr. Henry Raimondo, an economics professor, in reference to the battle cry for anti-tax crusaders such as the Citizens For Limited Taxation group.

"We're not Taxachusetts," Raimondo said. "In fact, the Massachusetts tax rate, relative to income, is 34th highest in the nation."

Raimondo suggested that solving the problem is as easy as finding elected officials willing to confront the facts.

"All we need is a political consensus," he added.

Professor Randy Albelda of the Economics Dept., a former researcher for the State's Senate's Special Committee on Tax Reform, attributed part of the problem on the Federal Government's cuts in funding social programs,



Chancellor Sherry Penney introduces panelists, left to right: Randy Albelda and Henry Raimondo, Economics Department.; Barry Bluestone, Political Science; Louis DiNatale, McCormack Institute and Ray Torto, Economics Department.

which, she said, forced the state to subsidize a larger share of those programs.

She also blamed the state's restrictions on property taxes, which she said, is more limiting than any state except Arizona.

Raymond Torto of the Economics Dept. and the McCormack Institute said the prevailing mood of voters and politicians makes it unlikely that the Commonwealth can raise taxes.

"Eighty percent of our panel is economists, but eighty percent of our problem is political," he said.

Torto said he believes it is likely that further cuts in the state budget will be felt in 1990 and beyond.

The McCormack Institute's Louis DiNatale urged listeners to start a grass roots movement to lobby legislators for a tax increase.

DiNatale, who in 1980 was active in the fight against sweeping tax cuts outlined in proposition 2 1/2, said the educational realm is suffering from the absence of a strong governor.

"And we have no real leadership in the House (of Representatives)," he added.

DiNatale suggested that colleagues and students mount a public information campaign on the radio and television airwaves

and on the editorial pages of local newspapers.

"It's never been easy to raise taxes," he said.

"It traditionally has been the House that has been able to do the hard work," he continued. "We have to dig in, get on the radio talk shows and get into the editorial pages."

DiNatale used the legislature's recent approval of a bill to ban assault weapons as an example of a successful lobbying campaign led by voters.

Bluestone likened the demise

of public education funding to weakening the overall strength of the nation as it approaches the 21st century.

"Further cuts will compromise our future," he said. "Clearly, we cannot meet out fiscal responsibilities simply by making cuts, that's clear. Everybody knows that."

Bluestone suggested implementing a one percent increase in the state sales tax and earmarking the additional revenues to public education. He said such a measure would generate \$400 million.

## 25th Anniversary Calendar of Events

Wednesday, 1st

**Commonwealth Wellness Expo • 10:00 - 3:00 University Plaza**  
With fitness testing, cholesterol screening, health walks, a 3-mile run and demonstrations and information about numerous other health and fitness issues. Sponsored by Athletics, Health Services, Physical Education, The College of Nursing.

Monday, 6th

**Afro-American Women's History: A Resource for Our Communities**  
A Lecture by Marilyn Richardson • 3:30 p.m., Faculty Club, Healey Library  
In celebration of the first year of the Bachelor of Arts program in Women's Studies at UMass/Boston, the Department is hosting a lecture by Marilyn Richardson, Curator, Museum of Afro-American History, Boston, Massachusetts

Thursday, 9th

**Patients and Doctors: Together in an Age of Regulation**  
1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Wang Ambulatory Care Center • Mass General Hospital  
A Conference sponsored jointly by the Gerontology Institute of UMass/Boston, the Suffolk District Medical Society, the Massachusetts Association of Older Citizens, and Catholic Charities. For information, contact the Institute at 956-1157

continued to November 15

UMass/Boston Faculty & Staff Show

Dedicated to William Hansard • Harbor Gallery