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Historical events in Europe, local media follow East German delegation to UMass/Boston exchange program

As epic events that resulted in the tumbling of the Berlin Wall unfolded, television news crews hungry for an insider’s perspective clamored to UMass/Boston’s Downtown Campus, where a delegation of East Germans was participating in an international human services and cultural exchange seminar sponsored by the United States Committee for Friendship with the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

Reporters from Boston’s Channels 2, 4, and 7 and several local radio stations interviewed East German experts from various fields such as health and child care, education, youth policy, the arts, and emigration and reform.

The history-making news from eastern Europe provided a curious backdrop for the two-week-long series of events. While the daily presentations highlighted East German’s success in realms such as education and health care, TV newsreels and American newspaper accounts communicated a mood of civic unrest inside the Communist regime.

Addressing a group of visiting East German students and other interested listeners from the Community Arts Gallery in the College of Public and Community Service building, Ambassador Gerhard Herder was quick to dispel the image of upheaval and downplay the effect free passage between the two Berlins would have on his homeland.

“Recent events indicate that we are a strong and attractive Socialist state,” he stated. “We will continue to grow much, much stronger. Those who are talking about unification will be deeply disappointed.”

UMass/Boston Deputy Provost Robert Spaethling, a former German language teacher at the Harbor Campus, expressed reservations about the rapidity of change.

“These are very exciting times for GDR,” he noted. “And times that must be looked upon with great caution. I would like to see GDR become the perfect Socialist state, not something swallowed up by the West.”

CPCS’s Al Sargis, Carmen Dillon, and Joan Ecklein are among the organizers who handled the logistics of the exchange, though, as Ecklein attests, no amount of planning could have provided the boost that timing did.

“It was sheer accident,” she said. “I'd call it ‘dumb luck.’”

Among the myriad presentations in the CPCS Gallery and Lounge were snapshots of the beauty and history of GDR, paintings and sculptures of Wolfgang Smy, and discussion workshops with economists Ursula Gabler and Diethelm Hunstock; sociologist Klaus Fuchs-Kittowski; Dr. Annaliese Salzer, a physician, Parliament member, and vice president of GDR's UNICEF committee; and Vera Oelschlegel, an actress and singer.

Experts also availed them-

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College of Management develops program for minorities

When College of Management Dean Arnold Weinstein arranged four years ago to brainstorm on how he might raise money for UMass/Boston, a handful of Boston business leaders leaned back in their chairs and started to talk about their own problems.

Weinstein left the discussion with something more valuable than dollars. He left with an idea.

“The business community wanted to know how it could attract more minority professionals” he recalled.

His suggestion, to deliver undergraduate students from his own college via internships, was eagerly endorsed.

But the logistics were easier said than done. Qualified candidates were in short supply, with the College of Management’s enrollment only six percent Blacks and Hispanics.

Needing resources to recruit more minorities and prepare them for the corporate work-

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UMB responds to business needs with new program

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how important that was," says Welch. The summer program will be repeated and perhaps expanded for next year, she says. When school opened last September, 43 Blacks and Hispanics—20 percent of the freshman class—were enrolled in the College of Management, more than double the 1988 figures.

Several College of Management undergraduates are logging about 30 hours each week in places like the Data Processing Networking Department at Bank of Boston. More are lining up for interviews.

"We've said to the companies, 'You told us you want minority employees, now you have to do your bit.' That doesn't mean our employees, now you have to do your bit," Weinstein says.

Interns earn $8 - $11 per hour. Some are getting full benefits, an appealing hook for older students living on a tight financial string.

Welch has pitched the program to area high schools and two-year institutions like Roxbury Community College, where Welch's husband, Tom, is Chairman of the Board.

Weinstein said recruitment efforts are focusing on students unlikely to consider attending a four-year college as an alternative.

"We're not looking for the A-student from Boston Latin," he says. "We're looking for the B-student from Boston English."

As former Chief Executive Officer of the Management Education Institute, a degree-granting subsidiary of Arthur D. Little, the international consulting firm, Weinstein is attuned to the corporate mindset.

"There's no charity in the private sector. Nobody is going to give a job just for the sake of giving," he warns. "We're being very careful about who we send them."

Equally strong is internal pressure to uphold the standards of the College of Management, where the average SAT score of enrollees is 980. "We're trying not to move too quickly. Five years from now, if this is a success, we can say we'll take members of the freshman class into the program."

Ideally, Weinstein says, the program would like to build escrow account that would assure it keeps rolling, but that might be more difficult today than it was a year ago. "Unfortunately," he predicts, "the downturn in the economy will make companies more reluctant to donate money."

Weinstein will discuss overcoming that barrier at his next meeting with COM's Board of Advisors, a group of Greater Boston business executives.

UMB faculty recalls late colleague Prof. Tim McCarthy

Friends and colleagues recalled UMass/Boston history professor Tim McCarthy as a lover of music and baseball and a voracious scholar whose sometimes impish behavior was endearing to those who knew him best.

"Tim was a man of remarkable persistence and energy," history professor Eric Robinson said following a memorial gathering attended by about 60 people, including McCarthy's parents, in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

McCarthy was 48 when he died in his sleep the night of Oct. 21. An associate professor of history, he served as Department Chair from 1980 to 1986. He was a native of Lawrence and graduated from Clark University. He joined the University in 1966.

McCarthy's health had declined precipitously in recent years. At the end, an incurable genetic deterioration of the retina had practically robbed him of sight, but not mettle.

"He still had a self-deprecating sense of humor" remembered Robinson, one of his closest friends. "And he had no meanness of spirit."

Robinson also recalled that revolutionary views McCarthy had embraced as a young man had yielded to conservatism over the years. Among students and colleagues, Robinson said, McCarthy was noted as a vigilant proponent of traditional academic values.

"One of Tim's great virtues was believing in academic quality," he said. "He was the one man in the department I could go to as a confidante. He wouldn't necessarily agree with you, but he'd always give a fair handling."

Lou Roberts recalled afternoons in Harvard Square, where he and McCarthy engaged in eclectic lunchtime debates and invited others into the discourse.

He touched upon McCarthy's affinity for Groucho Marx and reminisced about the afternoon the two men visited the famous battlefields of Lexington and Concord, where they attracted crowds by reenacting military maneuvers and delivering ad-libbed lectures on the course of history.

Roberts also remembered McCarthy's difficult tenure as head of the History Department, a task he handled with commitment and alacrity.

"Tim had the tenacity of a bulldog," he recalled. "I used to tell him, 'Don't accede to what is not right, but don't let it kill you.'"

Former UMass/Boston professor Fran Malino, now a professor of Jewish history at Brandeis University, poignantly recalled McCarthy as a dear friend who always had time to listen and could coax a smile with his imitation of W.C. Fields.

"We all suffered with Tim as his eyes grew weaker and weaker," she said, "But he never lost his vision."

Friends said McCarthy, who turned more to music as his sight departed, would have found joy in the Mozart and Hindemith selections performed by the New England String Quartet at the conclusion of the memorial service.
It's like growing up in Athens but never venturing near the ruins, or driving the California coast and keeping your eyes fixed on the road.

Thousands of New Englanders complete educations and live otherwise fulfilled lives knowing little or nothing about what lies beside them—the ocean.

"We have kids captive here in school for 12 to 16 years who never spend a single day on an outdoor environment that covers 70 percent of the globe," says Jack Crowley, incredulity in his voice.

Twice each week for the past four years Crowley has been boarding students on a boat for research expeditions of Boston Harbor sponsored by UMass/Boston's Institute for Learning and Teaching. The 50-foot craft that serves as their laboratory is docked at UMass/Boston near the Savin Hill Yacht Club.

Recently, Crowley, 47, Director of UMB's Harbor Exploration Program and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Marine Educators, was named National Marine Educator of the Year by a panel of his peers.

A marine and environmental science instructor at his hometown Hingham High School for the past 20 years, Crowley has the program designed as a national model increase in popularity from 10 original schools to currently include 170 from areas as far away as Springfield. The expeditions are attended mostly by high school students and take place over a 17-week period during the school year, stopping in winter, when conditions aboard the open air vessel are prohibitive.

Some 6,300 students participate in the expeditions each year.

Crowley, who grew up near the Neponset River in Dorchester and graduated from Boston State in 1965 before achieving a Master's degree from Syracuse University, believes the personalized experiences have given students a deeper appreciation of the harbor's ecological problems. Students are outfitted in fisherman's gear and drop nets to sweep the water, hauling whatever is collected onto the deck of the boat.

"They see it all," says Crowley. "Flounder, crabs, jellyfish. The good, the bad, and the ugly."

Crowley wisely notes that convincing tomorrow's taxpayers of Boston Harbor's gross pollution problem will make it easier to gain support for future cleanup efforts.

The vessel used for the expeditions is one of two research boats owned by Project Oceanology, a regional education center based in Groton, Connecticut. Crowley is hoping money will be made available for a new, larger craft which would be partly enclosed, enabling the trips to continue year-round. It would also be equipped with microscopes, computers, and sonar.

Championing environmental sciences can seem like a lonely crusade, Crowley points out, because it is so difficult to convince funding institutions of the importance of the cause, especially during times of shrunken budgets. Enthusiasm often exceeds resources.

Crowley hopes to turn the Harbor Educators Conference he organized at the Harbor Campus recently into an annual event. The day-long seminar featured 34 workshops on how to make the field more enticing for students.

Crowley is an avid diver. In September he was one of 25 teachers from Massachusetts and Connecticut to travel 10 miles out into Massachusetts Bay on board the research submersion Delta to photograph and sample the ocean floor at a depth of 120 feet.

Crowley and his wife Judith, a neurosurgical nurse, have two children and live on High Street, Hingham.

University Medals awarded to Kaplans

University Medals were awarded to Professor Sidney Kaplan and his wife Emma Nogrady Kaplan on publication of the revised edition of The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution in ceremonies held in the Faculty Club, Healey Library on the Harbor Campus. UMass President David C. Knapp and UMass/Boston Chancellor Sherry H. Penney made the presentations.

Dr. Sidney Kaplan, historian and critic, is emeritus professor of English and Afro-American studies at UMass/Amherst. He is the author of several books and numerous journal articles. He was one of the major forces behind the launching of the University of Massachusetts Press in 1963.

Emma Nogrady Kaplan was for many years a reference librarian at Smith College. She is the compiler of Guide to Research in Afro-American History and Culture: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography of Materials, in the Smith College Library.
UMASS/BOSTON NEWS & VIEWS

UMass/Boston’s Ballroom Dance Club won the recent Commonwealth Classic Competition at Wonderland Ballroom, Revere.

UMB’s team competed with teams from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale, among others, and prevailed in competition over two divisions.

UMB students in competition: Hilda Diaz, Boston; Peggy Sheehan, Arlington; Julie White, Marshfield; Kathy White, Woburn; Mary Reynolds, Newton; Mark Height, N. Randolph; Kevin O’Brien, Medford; Stewart Yaros, Boston; Keith Veno, Waltham, and Raymond S. Norris, Andover.

Coaches are English Prof. Pam Annas of Newton Center, and Physical Education Prof. Margaret Pappalardo of Nahant.

Next major competition is scheduled January 10-17, 1990 in Orlando, Florida.

UMB Ballroom dance club takes first place honors at Commonwealth Classic

Evonne Hill-Shepard, left, accepts plaque from Angela Rizzolo, Program Development Specialist, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Women’s Bureau, after Hill-Shepard conducted five noteworthy workshops at UMass/Boston’s Downtown Campus. Ms. Hill-Shepard is Director of Community Services and Outreach for the College of Public and Community Services.

UMB hosts East Germans

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selves to address classes of students during the 14-day visit.

A presentation from the Paul Robeson Archives in East Berlin displayed literature, art, etchings, tapes of his music, and other personal collections the American civil rights champion and internationally-known stage and recording star donated to the GDR before his death in 1975.

All events were open to the public.

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