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1989-1990 Annual Fund attracts major donors

Agnes and John Cullinane present UMB with $50,000

The University of Massachusetts at Boston 1989-1990 Annual Fund recently received two generous gifts from Mr. and Mrs. John Cullinane. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Boston Campus, Boston State College alumna Agnes (Diddy) Cullinane of Dedham presented the Campus with a $25,000 donation, its single largest unrestricted gift ever.

Mrs. Cullinane's gift, which Chancellor Sherry H. Penney accepted on behalf of the Boston Campus at a December 18 reception, coincides with UMass/Boston expanded efforts to raise private funds. In thanking Mrs. Cullinane, Chancellor Penney stated, "Diddy's commitment to education is what we celebrate today. What makes her generous gift so special is that it comes from an individual for whom improving public education is part of a lifetime commitment to philanthropy and public service."

Chancellor Penney has identified development and fund raising from private, corporate, and foundation sources as a top priority for 1990: "We at UMass/Boston have made a new beginning in our 25th year. We have embarked on an aggressive development campaign to procure new sources of funding for our campus. To our delight, we have found that our campaign has attracted substantial support." UMass/Boston's campaign for new, non-state sources of revenue began with a drive for donations from faculty and staff, which to date has raised over $45,000.

The generosity of faculty and staff inspired a matching $25,000 gift from the Cullinane Group, Inc. John J. Cullinane, founder and former Chairman of the Board of Cullinet Software, announced the foundation's gift upon learning of the Boston Campus' successful faculty-staff fund-raising campaign.

Futures Shock

Provost's Advisory Committee Holds Open Meetings

"We pieced our thoughts into philosophy./And planned to bring the world under a rule"

—W. B. Yeats

On February 8 and 9, the Provost's Advisory Committee on New Structures for the University of the Future ("Futures Committee") held two-hour meetings with faculty and staff. The Futures Committee solicited responses to its interim report, released to the campus community on February 2.

The response, at each of the well-attended meetings, reflected

Vacant front-row seats belie SRO crowds at Futures Committee open meetings. Futures Committee members (left to right) Professors Bluestone, Spaethling, Chen, and Horton listen to faculty and staff.

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MONETMANIA: Series Paintings Make Big Impression

There was a time when meadow, grove, and stream/The earth, and every common sight/To me did seem/Apparelled in celestial light/The glory and the freshness of a dream.

—William Wordsworth

Who would have guessed that the faculty, staff, and students of UMass/Boston have put their worries about the budget and the future of the Campus aside to think instead about...ART? Enter Professor Paul Tucker, back from a semester-long leave-of-absence that took him from the foot of Mount Greylock to the banks of the Seine.

Most have us have read about Prof. Tucker’s monumental accomplishment—either in the Globe, the Herald, or the New York Times—and know about the years of research, scholarship, and detective work that went into making the epochal exhibition of Monet’s series paintings from 1889 to 1890 a reality.

On February 8, just one day after the exhibit opened at the Museum of Fine Arts, Professor Tucker talked about Monet 1890’s series paintings to an audience of well over 100 who had gathered in the Faculty Club to hear his “Distinguished Lecture.”

Professor Tucker’s commentary not only provided historical context for Monet’s work, but also gave listeners insights into the mind, and the sometimes quirky work habits, of the artist. Perhaps the highest praise for the lecture came from an MFA docent, who noted that Professor Tucker’s remarks were the most illuminating she had heard in her years of volunteering at the museum.

The following week, on February 15, another 200 friends of UMass/Boston braved an ice storm to join Chancellor Penney and Professor Tucker at “UMass/Boston Night at the MFA.” The series paintings will be on display at the MFA through April 29.

Chancellor Penney compared his “tenacity and perseverance” to the strength of UMass/Boston. Professor Tucker added, graciously, his thanks to Campus for supporting his four-year project and went on recognize the efforts of his faculty colleagues “who work equally hard on projects of less public prominence.”

Graduate Studies Distinguished Lecture draws capacity crowd. Paul Tucker and Fuad Safwat smile amidst the culture-happy throng.

Chancellor Penney and Professor Tucker welcome special MFA guests (left to right) Brenda (Mrs. James) Carlin, Trustee James Carlin, and Trustee Thalia Zervas.

Elevating public awareness of Monet to new heights, Paul Tucker assumes the podium—UMass/Boston Night at the MFA.

UMass/Boston’s Best and Brightest at Monet Exhibit (left to right): Ventresca Scholarship Recipient Robert Furlong (Class of 1990), Alumni Board Member and Alumni Special Events Chair Linda Manning, Professor Tucker and Chancellor Penney, Ventresca Scholarship Recipient Melissa Menton (Class of 1991), and Chancellor’s Scholarship Recipient Karen Cummings (Class of 1991.)
Mary Eliza Mahoney: A Special Profile

Carole Saunders Simon, Assistant Director of the Child Care Center at CPCS, and her three daughters celebrate Black History Month by honoring the memory of Mary Eliza Mahoney, Ms. Simon's great-great aunt.

In 1879, Mary Eliza Mahoney completed the 16-month training program for nurses at the New England Hospital for Women and Children. One of only three women to graduate from the program that year, Mary Mahoney became the first black woman in the United States to earn professional nursing credentials. During a career that spanned more than 40 years, Mary Mahoney practiced as a private duty nurse, earning in the late 19th Century the enviable weekly salary of $15.00.

By 1908, the number of black women who followed Mary Mahoney into the profession had grown, and, to address the prejudices these pioneering nurses encountered, the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN) was founded; in 1909 at the organization's first convention, in Boston, it was Mary Eliza Mahoney who gave the welcoming address. In 1936, some 10 years after her death at age 81, the NACGN honored her life and professional achievements by establishing the Mary Mahoney Medal.

The Medal, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of nursing, continues to be awarded by the American Nursing Association, which merged with the NACGN in 1951. In 1986, Roxbury's Dimock Community Health Center presented its first Mary Eliza Mahoney Humanitarian Award, a fitting tribute from the Center, which is the present day incarnation of the New England Hospital for Women and Children.

That Mary Mahoney's great-grand niece should pursue a career serving the students of the University of Massachusetts at Boston seems particularly appropriate: many of the statements that UMass/Boston makes about its mission to UMBC make up its students today could very well apply to Mary Mahoney. Beginning her nursing studies at age 33, she was an "older, returning student"; that she was the first black to pursue such studies certainly made her "non-traditional"—as does the fact that she remained a single, working professional throughout her life.

Carole Simon says that she and her family members have drawn inspiration from the life of Mary Mahoney. College of Nursing Dean Brenda Cherry adds that Mary Mahoney was a "trailblazer in nursing education." "One person can make a difference," says Dean Cherry, "Mary Eliza Mahoney is such a person." Ms. Simon also points out that her three daughters take particular pleasure in knowing that their ancestor is one of the famous Americans they and their classmates study and learn about during Black History Month.

Advisory Committee hears responses to interim report

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A range of diverse perspectives on the mission of UMass/Boston, the nature of its student body, and the course it should chart for the future. As times the discussion grew heated, tempered by occasional flashes of wry self-knowledge—as when committee chair Professor Susan Horton asked Professor Joseph Cooney to keep his remarks brief, for example; the august professor replied, "I'll be as brief as it's possible for an academic to be."

Members of the committee, according to Professor Horton, did not call the open meetings in order "to defend" the interim report; rather, committee members came to the Chancellor's Conference Room intending "to spend time listening" to faculty and staff reactions. Although those reactions engendered considerable debate on a variety of fundamental issues, there was an apparent consensus on at least one point: a passionate commitment on the part of faculty and staff to keep UMass/Boston an institution vital to the City of Boston and its metropolitan communities.

The Futures Committee continued to meet and revise the interim report for final submission to the Provost and Chancellor. Provost Zompa distributed the final report to the campus community on February 21. In addition to incorporating the faculty responses articulated in the open meetings, the final report also drew, as did the interim report, on the work of three support committees—Excellence and Quality, Access, and Urban Mission—that met during January. The final report concluded: the Committee endorses a restructuring which preserves (a) a continued commitment to our undergraduate program, (b) continuation of our efforts to provide support services for academically-underprepared students, and (c) maintenance of modest growth in graduate programs. We recognize that in order to pursue these missions we must look to possibilities for program, department, or even college consolidation; elimination of duplication of effort across campus units; and outright elimination of some programs.

Joining Professor Horton (English Department) on the Futures Committee were Boyden Professor Barry Bluestone (McCormick Institute), Manning Professor Yung-Ping Chen (Gerontology Program), Assistant Professor Marlene Fine (Analysis and Communication Department), Professor Joan Liem (Psychology Department), Professor Thomas N. Margulis (Chemistry Department), Professor Martin Quitt (History Department and Chair of the Faculty Council), Professor Wornie L. Reed (Trotter Institute), and Deputy Provost Robert Spaelthling.

Cullinanes' gifts enlarge Annual Fund

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Of the Cullinane Group's matching gift, the Chancellor said, "this unexpected but much-appreciated donation has given UMass/Boston's campaign to secure new sources of funds a new dimension of credibility."

Chancellor Penney's remarks were affirmed by Paul Tsongas, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education. "UMass/Boston has set an example for the 29 public campuses around the Commonwealth," said Tsongas, who called the occasion of the Cullinanes' gifts "an historic event."