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Institutes win federal and local grants

Three new grants to UMass/Boston institutes will serve to broaden the scope of important research activities and extend the University's commitment to the community. The McCormack Institute is expected soon to receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, while the Gaston Institute and the Institute for Learning and Teaching have been awarded grants by the Boston Foundation.

The \$3 million endowment grant to the McCormack Institute will allow the Institute to expand what Chancellor Penney called its "major role in identifying and analyzing public policy issues." In announcing the grant, Chancellor Penney noted the efforts of Edward C. O'Malley, the University's vice chancellor for external relations, and Representative John J. Moakley. "Congressman Moakley," she said, "had the vision to shepherd the idea of the grant through the intricacies of the federal budget process." Since its founding in 1983, the Institute has been directed by Associate Professor Edmund Beard of the Political Science Department.

See more grant news on page 2.

The two Boston Foundation grants total \$90,000. The Gaston Institute has been awarded \$75,000 to support a research project on poverty among Massachusetts Latinos. Miren Uriarte, CPCS associate professor and director of the Gaston Institute, said, "Our first major grant from a local foundation shows support for the contribution Latinos can make to the understanding of major problems in the state."

The Institute for Learning and Teaching has received \$15,000 for its ALERTA Project, directed by Lucia David, a program that focuses on Boston public school youngsters from grades 3-5.



At the Chancellor's Scholarship Dinner on October 30th: William O. Taylor, publisher of the Boston Globe, with Taylor Scholarship Program winners Anita Ash of Mattapan and Genteen Lacet of Boston, and Chancellor Penney.

UMass/Boston honors scholarship winners

Seventy-two UMass/Boston students, all winners of merit-based scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$16,000 apiece, were honored at an October 30th dinner on the Harbor Campus hosted by Chancellor Sherry H. Penney. A total of more than \$180,500 was awarded to the students at the start of the academic year.

The event brought together scholarship winners, family and friends, UMass/Boston faculty and administrators, members of the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees, and sponsors of the various awards.

The largest number of award winners—31—received the Chancellor's Scholarship for Excellence. This award recognizes students who are ranked in the top five percent of their high school graduating class, or who have demonstrated excellence in the arts or dedication to community service. Fifteen outstanding students received scholarships under the John I. Taylor and William Davis Taylor Outstanding Scholars Program, named for the long-time president and publisher, respectively, of the Boston Globe.

Among the honorees were also two winners of the University Community Scholarship for Adult Learners, which carries a stipend of \$16,000 to cover the complete cost of four years of study at UMass/Boston.

Other scholarships awarded included the Foster Furcolo Scholarship, named for the former governor who played an important role in the development of the state's community college system; the William M. Bulger Scholarship; the Samuel P. Brehm Scholarship; the Alumni Association Scholarship; the Vincent I. Masticola Scholarship; the Michael A. Ventresca Scholarship; the Minority Student Scholarship; the Vivian Carolyn Savio Scholarship; the Ella Brehm Scholarship; the John W. Ryan Award; and the Madden-Quigley Scholarship.

These recipients bring the number of merit-based scholarships awarded by UMass/Boston to more than 400. Of this year's group, 52 percent are transfer students, 58 percent are women, and 39 percent are minorities. They range in age from 17 to 50, and are

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Urban Harbors Institute awarded \$750,000 federal grant to study nation's ferry services

The Urban Harbors Institute at UMass/Boston has been awarded a federal grant of \$750,000 to conduct a nationwide study of ferry travel and how it can be improved.

Institute researchers will examine both public and private ferry systems in 200 port cities throughout the United States. Their findings are expected to help improve both the operation of existing ferries and the design of new water transportation systems.

Congressman John J. Moakley played an important role in helping the University obtain the grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. The grant provides \$268,574 for the first phase of the three-year study: the gathering of detailed information from different regions of the country.

The study will focus on a wide range of the kinds of craft used for ferry service, from Mississippi River tourist boats to the less elaborate conveyances that serve islands off the South Carolina coast or

shuttle travelers between downtown Boston and Logan Airport. Factors to be studied include size, speed, age, seating capacity, and comfort. Examinations of ferry terminals will focus on accessibility, the availability of parking, fare collection equipment, accommodations, and even the kind of food they offer passengers. The study will also look at such economic factors as total ridership, maintenance and crew costs, fuel prices, marketing plans, and profitability. Finally, researchers will want to know how ferry service links up with railroads, airports and bus lines, focusing specifically on how more efficient ways could be designed to make these connections.

The data collected through this study will be invaluable. "The database will be the most comprehensive description of ferries in the United States," said Richard Delaney, director of the University's two-year-old Institute, the first such organization in the country to focus solely on issues affecting urban harbors. "It will include information on the successes and problems of every known ferry system."

According to Delaney, ferries in many of the nation's most crowded cities are credited with conserving fuel, reducing pollution, and alleviating traffic delays. "In Seattle, for example, the ferry network is so extensive and reliable that residents of harbor islands who work downtown can go home for lunch," he said.

Delaney, a former director of the Coastal Zone Management program in Massachusetts, pointed out that ferry service is also especially practical in cities like Baltimore and Cleveland, where retailers operating in revitalized waterfront districts depend on ferries to bring them customers. He predicts that the Institute's database will benefit federal transportation officials, city planners, and business entrepreneurs seeking to duplicate ferry systems like that of Seattle. "At a time when ferry systems are becoming more popular," he said, "UMass/Boston will become a center for water transportation research."

JFK Library helps rebuild campus field



The John F. Kennedy Library has given UMass/Boston the use of earth-moving machinery and several thousand cubic yards of soil worth approximately \$100,000 to rebuild a playing field at the entrance to the Harbor Campus.

Soil thrown up by the construction of a new JFK Library wing was originally to have been spread around the library building. But according to Gerard O'Connor, UMass/Boston director of facilities operations and capital development, there was too much dirt to deal with. So he suggested the library give the soil to the campus.

"The field we're rebuilding is used by the physical education program and the soccer and lacrosse teams," O'Connor said. "But when it rained, the field flooded. It usually took three or four weeks for the puddles to clear up after heavy downpours, and in that time the field was unusable."

Reshaping the field for proper drainage will involve removing existing topsoil, then spreading 4-5,000 cubic yards of soil and a similar amount of silt, and finally adding 3,000 cubic yards of high-grade topsoil. The field will be seeded next spring, and O'Connor plans to open it to the soccer and lacrosse teams in June.

Faculty Notes

Phyllis Freeman of the Law Center at CPCS has been working with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and other groups on a Children's Vaccine Initiative which was presented at the World Summit on Children in New York in September. Professor Freeman will publish an account of her work this winter in a new policy journal, *The American Prospect*.

Spencer DiScala of the CAS History Department has been invited to Rome to participate in a scholarly debate between four American and four Italian historians, to be held in recognition of the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Socialist politician Pietro Nenni. Also invited was Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.; Professor DiScala has been asked to nominate the two additional American participants. The invitation was extended by the Nenni Foundation and the Italian Socialist Party.

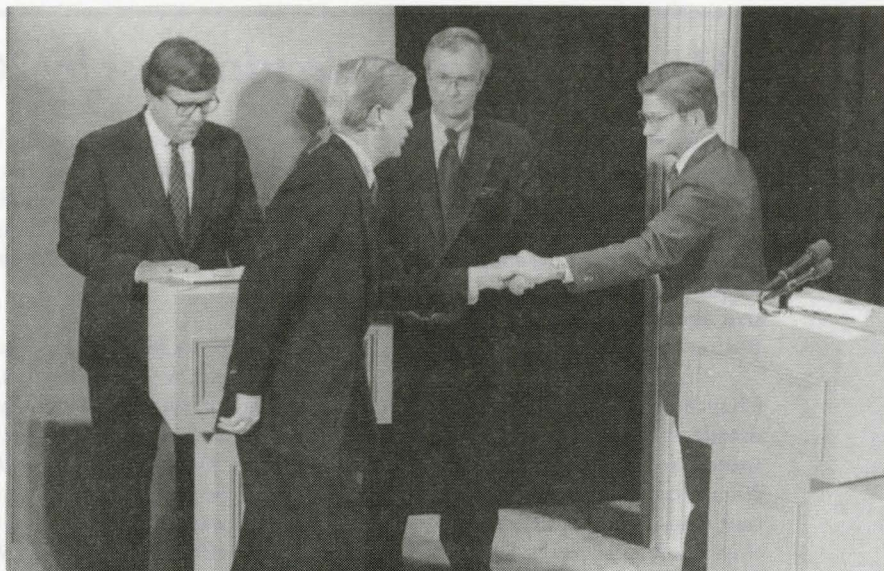
Vincent A. Cristiani, director of UMass/Boston's Graduate Program in School Psychology, has been appointed to the Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health and Human Service Professionals. Professor Cristiani was officially sworn in by Governor Michael S. Dukakis on October 3, 1990.

The American Association of University Professors has appointed Betty Woody of the CPCS Human Services Center to a three-year term on the association's Committee on the Status of Women.

Boston Superintendent of Schools Joseph McDonough has asked William Dandridge, acting dean of the Graduate College of Education, to serve as chair of a special commission charged with designing an implementation plan to revamp tracking and grade retention in the Boston public schools.

News & Views invites the UMass/Boston community to submit news items for possible publication, and particularly requests news of faculty activities appropriate for "Faculty Notes."

**Please address all items to:
Walter D. Littell, Chancellor's Office
University of Massachusetts at Boston
Harbor Campus
Boston, MA 02125-3393.**



The first gubernatorial candidates' debate took place in UMass/Boston's Lipke Auditorium on October 18th. Looking on as William Weld and John Silber shake hands are moderators Chet Curtis of Channel 5, and Channel 7's R.D. Sahl.

Floating an idea in the bay

UMass/Boston biology professor William Hagar is standing on a floating dock near the Harbor Campus and talking about his prized invention—an old car battery and a couple of small computers that sprout wires, all encased in a three-foot-long plexiglass box. "We've had to work out a few bugs," he confesses. "The salt water isn't kind to all this equipment."

Since June, the equipment has every 10 minutes been recording temperature and oxygen readings in Dorchester Bay. Collecting such data is a substantial achievement—and, what's more, Hagar can gather his information without getting wet. From his office on campus, he simply uses a telephone to access the computer. He believes that a year-long string of readings will prove helpful in identifying sources of the pollution that troubles the bay.

Hagar and Richard Volpicelli, an engineer who works in UMass/Boston's Physics Department, shared a vision of this technology long before they perfected it. In April, the two men crowned a three-year effort by patenting their invention.

They can't help but laugh when recalling the early days of the project. Instead of the plexiglass box, the meter and computers were mounted inside a huge metal buoy originally designed for use with submarine-defense nets during World War II. Maneuvering the buoy proved an adventure each time Hagar entered the bay to attempt it. "At the time, we had to take what we could get," notes Hagar.

They had some help along the way. One of Hagar's former students contributed an oxygen meter, and another ex-student helped program a lap-top computer to communicate with the meter. The plexiglass casing was constructed by Mark Hamilton, the University's sailmaster, and Tom Goodkind of the CAS machine shop. Hagar now plans to use his invention to measure acid rain concentrations in several ponds in Plymouth County, and Hamilton reports he's building even better buoys made out of plastic tubing.

Despite investing several thousand dollars in the project, Hagar and Volpicelli aren't eager to turn a profit on their idea. "It's nice to be pioneers," says Volpicelli, "but I don't think we're going to get rich."

UMass/Boston to cut electricity use by 20% in conservation program

UMass/Boston will participate in an energy conservation program with the Boston Edison Company that is expected to reduce the school's energy costs by more than \$1 million annually beginning in 1992. Energy costs represent about eight percent of UMass/Boston's total operating budget.

Chancellor Sherry H. Penney outlined details of the effort in an October 12th speech to business leaders and CEOs from around the state during the second annual Energy Efficiency Partnership Conference at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The event was co-sponsored by Boston Edison and the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

The measures to be taken emerged from a two-year energy audit recently completed by Pequod Associates, a Boston-based engineering consulting firm, which produced a series of recommendations for trimming electricity use at the Harbor Campus. They range from putting in better insulation and installing more efficient heating units to brightening hallways with reflectors

and replacing existing bulbs inside exit signs with lower wattage fluorescent lamps. According to Pequod, the initiatives should reduce the school's electricity usage by more than 20 percent annually.

The impetus for the program comes in part from the settlement of a legal case, reached in October, 1989, by Boston Edison and the state Attorney General's Office. Under the terms of this agreement, the utility agreed to spend \$25 million over three years to improve energy efficiency and to implement energy management programs in state-owned facilities, low-income and elderly residences, public schools, and multi-unit residential buildings.

"Our participation in the Energy Efficiency Partnership will significantly expand our energy conservation capacity while also contributing to greater efficiencies and cost savings," Chancellor Penney noted. "This partnership is a joint model of action that represents an affirmative response to both institutional self-interest and the public interest at large."

The consulting firm predicts that one measure alone—installing a heat pump using water from Dorchester Bay to provide heat to the central distribution system—could save the campus four million kilowatt hours of electricity each year. Heating costs represent the largest share of the University's annual energy cost of \$5 million.

Boston Edison, which paid \$110,000 for the energy audit, is also covering the \$3.7 million cost of updating electrical equipment on the campus. By 1996, the projected savings generated from the program will have paid for the conservation measures.

The utility has solicited bids from companies interested in carrying out the conservation program at the University. Representatives from Boston Edison and UMass/Boston are conferring to review these proposals. Work is expected to begin on the campus by the end of the calendar year and conclude in 12 to 18 months.



Jaime Escalante, the Los Angeles high school math teacher whose teaching achievements are chronicled in the 1988 film "Stand and Deliver," is shown here with audience members at the Clark Center Gym on October 5th, where he gave a lecture for the UMass/Boston community and local high school students.

Scholarships

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enrolled in 20 different academic programs at the University. The most popular majors among them are management, nursing, biology and English.

In her address to the scholarship winners, Chancellor Penney said, "What is striking about the honorees is how much they symbolize this institution and its values. With a primary focus on Boston residents, the scholarships reflect the rich diversity and experience of this city and its people. Each of you has a unique story to tell—and each of us can be inspired by that story.

"Your hunger for advancement, your willingness to sacrifice to accomplish your goals, your capacity to engage your teachers in the process of discovery are all characteristics of a vibrant institution. You epitomize the purpose and pursuit of UMass/Boston's ideal."