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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 9, No. 80

May 4, 1976

Unification Committee

The first meeting of the Unification Committee which will oversee the merger of Colleges I and II was held last week with Prof. Franklin Patterson, Politics II, and Prof. Robert Swartz, Philosophy I, elected as Co-Chairmen.

Others serving on the committee, jointly named by the University Assembly and Chancellor Golino are: William J. Ford, Student; Michael Levy, Student; Joan Liem, Psychology II; Duncan Nelson, English II; Faud Safwat, Biology I; Arthur Simonds, Politics I; Linda Velgouse, Student; Anne Verdon, Student; Mary Winslow, Professional Staff Member; Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (non-voting).

The guidelines and a timetable for the orderly process of unification is the chief mission of this group of faculty, students, and professional staff.

Alumni Survey

Heinz E. Bondy, Special Assistant to the Chancellor, recently conducted a survey of the men and women graduates of UMass-Boston, asking them to express their major interests as members of the Alumni Association.

The chief interest, indicated by about one-half of the 500 returned questionnaires, was to have Graduate programs available at UMass-Boston, especially in the evening, so they could continue both study and work programs.

They also expressed special interest in having continuing career counseling and job banks be conducted by the Alumni Office.

A large number said they wished to have the privilege of using university facilities, especially the library and athletic facilities.

Other interests included organizing more social events so the graduates could get together; they want the Alumni Association to promote charter flights, and provide insurance and other programs.

Some offered to provide career counseling to undergraduates of UMass-Boston; others said through their places of employment they would be glad to offer internship programs; and others expressed interest in attending educational seminars on campus.

Modern Language Association

Several members of the College I English Department recently delivered papers at the Northeastern meeting
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Modern Language Association
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of the Modern Language Association in Burlington, Vermont. Prof. George Smith, newly elected secretary of the Literature and Linguistics Section, read his paper, "Schematic Rhetoric in Renaissance Poetry." Also, Prof. Francis R. Hart read his paper, "Visions and Impersonations: The Social Mode of Byronism" to the members of the Romantic Section. Prof. Monica McAlpine, who was elected secretary of the Chaucer Section, read a paper related to her forthcoming book on Chaucer. And Prof. Joel Blair read his essay "On Halifax's 'On the Character of King Charles II'."

Prof. Joan Lidoff attended the regional meeting which was held from April 8 to April 10.

Political Economy Publication

Prof. Louis Esposito has recently published an essay entitled "Industry Price Changes, Market Structure and Inflation" in Inflation, Trade & Taxes (Ohio University Press) edited by David Belsley, Edward Kane, Paul Samuelson and Robert Solow. The book of essays are in honor of Prof. Alice Beurneuf of Boston College who was one of Esposito's teachers.

Russian Poetry Lecture

Prof. George Kostich of the Russian Department has been invited to give a lecture at Wellesley College on Wednesday, May 5, at 12 noon. The topic of the lecture, to be delivered in Russian, will be: "Indestructibility of the Poetic Word--the Poetry of Mandelstam, Akhmatova & Pasternak."

Economics and Taxes

Prof. Sandra Kanter, College of Public and Community Service, gave a paper on the "Political Economy of Tax Incentives" at the Eastern Economic Association Conference held last week in Bloomsbury, Penn. She is now a member of a group from Harvard-MIT Joint Center on Urban Studies writing a survey of urban economic literature for the Economic Development Administration in Washington.

Language Workshops

Members of the English as a Second Language staff are active in their professional organizations.

At the annual meeting of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Amy Lezberg presented, with Ann Hiefert of Harvard University, a workshop on "Getting the ESL Student into the Job Market: Preparing Employer and Employee for the Cross-Cultural Interview." This workshop grew out of a project run at Harvard and UMass-Boston.

Lynn Fasten presented, with Charles Lindley of Northeastern University, a workshop on "The Fantasy Journey: A Valuable Tool in the ESL Classroom" and a paper, growing out of their work on fantasy and metaphor, "Meaning Through Metaphor: Pedagogical Implications for ESL."

At the same meeting, Amy Lezberg was elected associate chairperson of the national special interest group on Teaching English as a Foreign Language in the United States.

At the annual meeting of MATSOL, the Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages, Amy Lezberg presented a paper on Cross-Cultural Communications, particularly emphasizing non-verbal communication. At that time she was elected a member of the executive board of MATSOL.

For A Speedy Recovery

Two of our colleagues have been hospitalized over the past week, and the University community extends its heartiest best wishes that they will quickly return to their families and to UMass-Boston. Prof. Bernard Kramer, Psychology II, was stricken in New York while attending the Eastern Psychological Association Meeting and was rushed to The French Hospital, 330 West 30th St., New York, N.Y. 10001, where he was operated on for esophagus troubles.

Paul F. Finnegan, Athletic Director, was confined to Massachusetts General Hospital for tests for a circulatory condition.

Trustees Meeting

The May meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) at the John W. McCormack State Office Building, Government Center, at 1 p. m.

V. E. T. Program

We had a graduation on our campus on Monday---it was for the 74 students in the V. E. T. Program who were awarded certificates for the completion of courses here which prepared the students for collegiate careers.

Some 50 of the veterans will matriculate at UMass-Boston as freshmen in the Fall; the other graduates will enroll in junior and community colleges.

Chancellor Golino praised the veterans for their progress and their dedication.

Land-Use Conference

A day-long conference on the growth of Massachusetts in terms of land use, a sustainable economy, and the quality of life will be held Friday at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. Among the program coordinators is Prof. Stanley Nikkel, Sociology I. Representatives of fishing, cranberry, and home building industries, and of native American and local historical groups will be among the conferees.

Public Policy in a Presidential Year

A series of faculty seminars at UMass-Amherst on Public Policy in a Presidential Year, under the direction of Prof. Adam Yarmolinsky, have been in session. Last week's speaker was Prof. Marcia Guttentag, Psychology II, who spoke on "Evaluating Social Programs." Other topics in the series have included work, counter intellectuals, and crime.

Art Judges

The Dorchester Board of Trade, as a community service, recently conducted a poster and slogan contest for grammar school children in Dorchester's public and parochial school. Theme of the contests, for various age groups, was anti-littering and anti-vandalism. UMass-Boston personnel, including Robert Brady, Dolores Miller, Gwendolyn Gibson, and John Larner, participated in judging more than 2,500 entries. But the most perspective judges who volunteered their services were UMass-Boston Art Majors Ann Goolkasian and Scott Wilder. When thanked for their efforts, both responded: "This was a wonderful learning experience for us."

Prof. Bowen Wins Grant

Prof. Charles Bowen, English I, has won a grant from the
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Prof. Bowen Wins Grant
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American Council of Learned Societies to continue his research on Toponymic Legends of 12th century Ireland. The legends, in verse and prose, tell how places in the Emerald Isles got their names. His research for an edition of a Middle Irish Collection is scheduled to be done at the School of Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Study.

Prof. Bowen is the Director of the Irish Studies Program at UMass-Boston, a program that began a year ago.

Africa and the Game of
World Politics

This was the title of the talk given on Friday by Prof. Thomas Kanza, Politics II, at the conclusion of the successful African Culture Week on campus sponsored by the African Students Union of UMass-Boston.

In giving background on changes coming to Africa since World War II, he said:

"Since World War II, the continent of Africa has changed into a political laboratory experimenting with all theories and ideals of the world. The newly independent countries in Africa, as all other countries from the Third World, have been known as hungry nations in the opposition to developed countries or comfortable nations.

"The United States of America never had colonies in Africa, but the US had always shown great interest in African countries and peoples. For the last two decades since the second World War, the US involvement has been financial, economic, cultural and political; there is evidence that many African régimes have now American military advisors and instructors. Africa is militarily and strategically important for the US and its NATO allies.

"What will be the consequences of this involvement two decades from now cannot be accurately forecasted. The world is changing. It is changing very fast. This explains a series of mistakes and miscalculations made by foreign experts and policymakers in the capitalist and in the communist countries."

Prof. Kanza added that: "Millions of Americans are not aware of what is happening in Africa, what is the real involvement of the USA in Africa's internal affairs and development until some violent and unhappy anti-american reactions occur. Although American, West European and Japanese are often partners in their African financial and economic ventures, sometimes the competition reaches a point of open conflict of interests."

Concerning the views of African leaders, Prof. Kanza noted: "Many leaders and many intellectuals in Africa believe, rightly or wrongly, that the solution to the particular problems of development of their respective countries cannot be found in foreign political ideologies or in political decisions inspired by foreigners."

He added that, "The foreign policymakers, western and communist, have to adapt their general line of thinking and planning to the realities which are developing in Africa and in other hungry nations of the world. Without this adaptation, the African realities are bound to provoke unpleasant surprises and reactions."