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University of Massachusetts Boston

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# University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 10, No. 3

September 13, 1976

## Peninsula Prospects

Robert Burke of the Kennedy Library Corporation gave the Board of Trustees a close-up view of the plans for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library at last week's Board meeting.

The attractive model of the triangle-cylinder-circle library complex and its physical relationship to the UMass-Boston campus was on display, and Burke explained many of the details now being worked out between the university and the library, including visitor projections. In response to Trustee Ruth Morgenthau, he noted that now in Waltham there are 1400 annual visits by scholars at the archives. He said research spaces will be available in the triangular section of the complex for scholarly work.

Trustee Kit Clark made the report of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, revealing that there is interest by the Boston Opera Company in locating a proposed new facility on this campus. Sarah Caldwell is the artistic director of the Opera Company. President Robert Wood and Chancellor Carlo Golino said preliminary discussions have been held, but it is premature at this time to announce any future plans.

## HEPP Needs Help

HEPP---Higher Education in the Prisons Program---is seeking urgently needed faculty voluntary support to continue this highly valuable program at Norfolk and Walpole correctional institutions. UMass-Boston courses have been taught on a voluntary basis by many faculty over the years, and now more are needed to enlist.

The Program has funds to pay for transportation and books.

Associate Provost Primo Vannicelli will be happy to hear from faculty members who would volunteer their talents for the endeavor. He is at Ext. 2331.

## Planning For Psychological Convention, 1977

Prof. Edward Strickland has been named chairperson of the Convention Committee and Prof. Bernard M. Kramer is chairperson of the Registration Committee of the Eastern Psychological Association Convention which will meet at the Sheraton Boston Hotel next April.

Prof. Strickland and Kramer will be joined in the preparations by psychologists from Boston College, Boston University, Boston City Hospital, Emmanuel College, and Massachusetts General Hospital.

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Planning For Psychological  
Convention, 1977  
(Continued from page 1)

Dean Safwat Quoted on Cell  
Fusion Research

The Eastern Psychological Association is the largest regional organization of psychologists in the U.S. and is a major forum for scholarly and professional work in psychology.

Profs. Kramer and Strickland are seeking student assistants for this work and faculty and staff members are requested to forward the names of appropriate candidates.

Dr. Fuad Safwat, Acting Dean, College of Liberal Arts, was one of a group of international scientists cited in a Boston Globe article on a new and intriguing aspect of scientific research--cell fusion.

Writer Robert Cooke writes about "scientists who've been striving for years to mate the unmatable are now reporting they've coaxed plant and animal cells into fusing, thus producing strange new types of cells that some people are calling 'plantimals.'"

Dr. Safwat is one of a team of scientists who have been working with British botanist Edward Cocking whose group, more than a year ago, managed "to get red blood cells from a chicken to fuse with yeast cells."

Cooke wrote, " 'In plants,' UMass-Boston's Safwat said, 'the Sendai virus system doesn't really work, but chemicals do work. Sodium nitrate, for example, induces clumping (making cells clump together), and in centrifugation (spun in a centrifuge) some cells will fuse.'

"Safwat noted, however, that it also has been discovered that a chemical called polyethylene glycol (PEG) can make cells fuse.

" 'PEG seems to be the most effective fusing agent we have now, and...it works both with animal cells and with plant cells,' Safwat said.

"An important step toward the development of fusion techniques for plant cells was Cocking's discovery that the plant cells' rigid barrier, the cell wall, can be dissolved through use of special enzymes.

" 'For years,' Safwat said 'we've wanted a method to remove cell walls so we could do things with the naked protoplast. In the early 1960s Cocking, in Nottingham, was able to figure out a way to simply remove the cell wall by using enzymes.'

" 'After the cell wall disappears,' he added, 'what's left is the naked protoplast, a cell resembling a plastic bag--the membrane--full of a clear liquid. This treatment doesn't kill the cell, and--through use of proper conditions, hormones and nutrient--such a cell can be induced to divide, multiply and grow an entire plant.

" 'When I was doing this work in Nottingham, with Cocking's group,' Safwat added, 'we thought that, since PEG works both in animal and plant cells, shouldn't we try it with plant and animal cells together?

"So we started to look for possible candidates for cell fusion experiments,' he said, 'and settled on yeast cells and

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Dean Safwat Quoted on Cell  
Fusion Research  
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hens' red blood cells.'

"'We never did expect it would be possible to grow up a viable organism from such an experiment,' he added, "but it would give us a new tool to work with if it survived for some time.'"

Affirmative Action Plan of  
UMass-Boston Accepted by  
Health, Education and  
Welfare

Chancellor Carlo Golino has been notified by John G. Bynoe, Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Region One, of HEW that the Affirmative Action Plan submitted by the campus has been accepted.

Bynoe said, "The Institutions's Affirmative Action Plan in terms of its legal acceptability as well as aesthetic presentation is substantive, concise, well written and reflects an aggressive good faith commitment on the part of your Administration."

He said an Affirmative Action Plan should be the result of a review and self-analysis process which the institution undertakes to identify employment impediments which negate the full realization of equal employment opportunity because of race, sex, national origin or religion. "Therefore," he said, "an Affirmative Action Plan should be written for the institution developing the program and the intended beneficiaries of the program not for the Federal compliance agencies."

Bynoe added: "The Affirmative Action Director, Pamela O'Shaughnessy, with keen perception and sensitivity has accomplished this, and as a result of her efforts, the affirmative action plan reflects a sincere commitment to educate the University community about the concept of Affirmative Action, the programs, policies, procedures and concrete goals it hopes to accomplish, and sets up the internal procedures and committees that will allow for students and employees input into developing and implementing the Affirmative Action Program.

"We are pleased that the plan reflects your strong personal commitment to the concepts of affirmative action and equal employment opportunity. The aggressive innovative ideas and methods incorporated in the University's plan may be used as a model in this Region."

HEW reported that UMass-Boston along with one campus of the University of Maine, University of Vermont, Dartmouth, Harvard and MIT are the only institutions of higher learning in Region One whose Affirmative Action Plans have been accepted.

Dance Classes

Because of their enormous success last year, dance classes will be offered to the University community again this year. Students should take advantage of the discount offered---\$25.00 for nine 1 1/2 hour classes. This fee must be paid in full by October 4th, the first day of classes. The classes offered will be ballet, modern, jazz, tap and Egyptian. For more information, registration and payment, see Jean MacGowan in the Music Department, Bldg. 010, ext. 2681, 2682. The program is sponsored by the Center for Alternatives.

Author on Educational Policy

Prof. James E. Blackwell (Sociology) is a contributing author to Policy Issues in Education, edited by Allan C. Ornstein and Steven I. Miller, and recently published by D. C. Heath and Company. Prof. Blackwell wrote the chapter on "Social Sterotyping and the Education Community."

Plaver On Black History

The Afrikan Heritage Institute, Roxbury, resumed its popular Palaver series with a three-part Palaver on Black History, beginning last Sunday.

The series opened with a lecture by Hatim Amiji, professor of Afrikan History at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Prof. Amiji discussed "Afrikan History, Old and New."

Prof. Amiji, a native of Zanzibar (Tanzania), is an authority on East Afrikan history and on the history and culture of the Swahili people. He has taught at the Universities of Makerere in Uganda and Nairobi in Kenya, as well as at Princeton and Boston Universities. For the past six years he has been a member of the history faculty at UMass-Boston.

Palaver is an Afrikan word meaning a dialogue, an exchange of ideas and information, or a discussion, and is the name given to the Institute's on-going educational program of free community forums and discussions on issues of importance and concern to the black community.

Community Talk

Ann Froines, Director of Women's Studies, will speak before the Ethical Society of Boston, Sunday, October 3, 5 Commonwealth Avenue. Her topic will be the "Hidden History of American Working Women."

College of Public and Community Service Profile

Colt Butler of the College of Public and Community Service has released the results of a Spring survey of students in that College.

The survey was conducted among those students registered as returning students this Fall.

Some 300 students were questioned.

Among the profile statistics:

- . 199 students are married and are parents of 85 children.
- . 53 per cent of the students have an annual income less than \$6100.
- . The education level prior to coming to the College:
 

Non-graduate High School	4 per cent
High School Equivalency (GED)	6 per cent
High School Graduate	42 per cent
Less than 2 years college work	25 per cent
More than 2 years college work	13 per cent
Business or Trade School Graduate	4 per cent
Associate Degree	4 per cent
BA Degree	1 per cent
- . 49 per cent of the students have been out of school over nine years.
- . 184 Financial Aid grants were awarded to 134 students.
- . Students work an average of 31.6 hours per week in addition to their collegiate programs. 73 per cent have career related jobs.