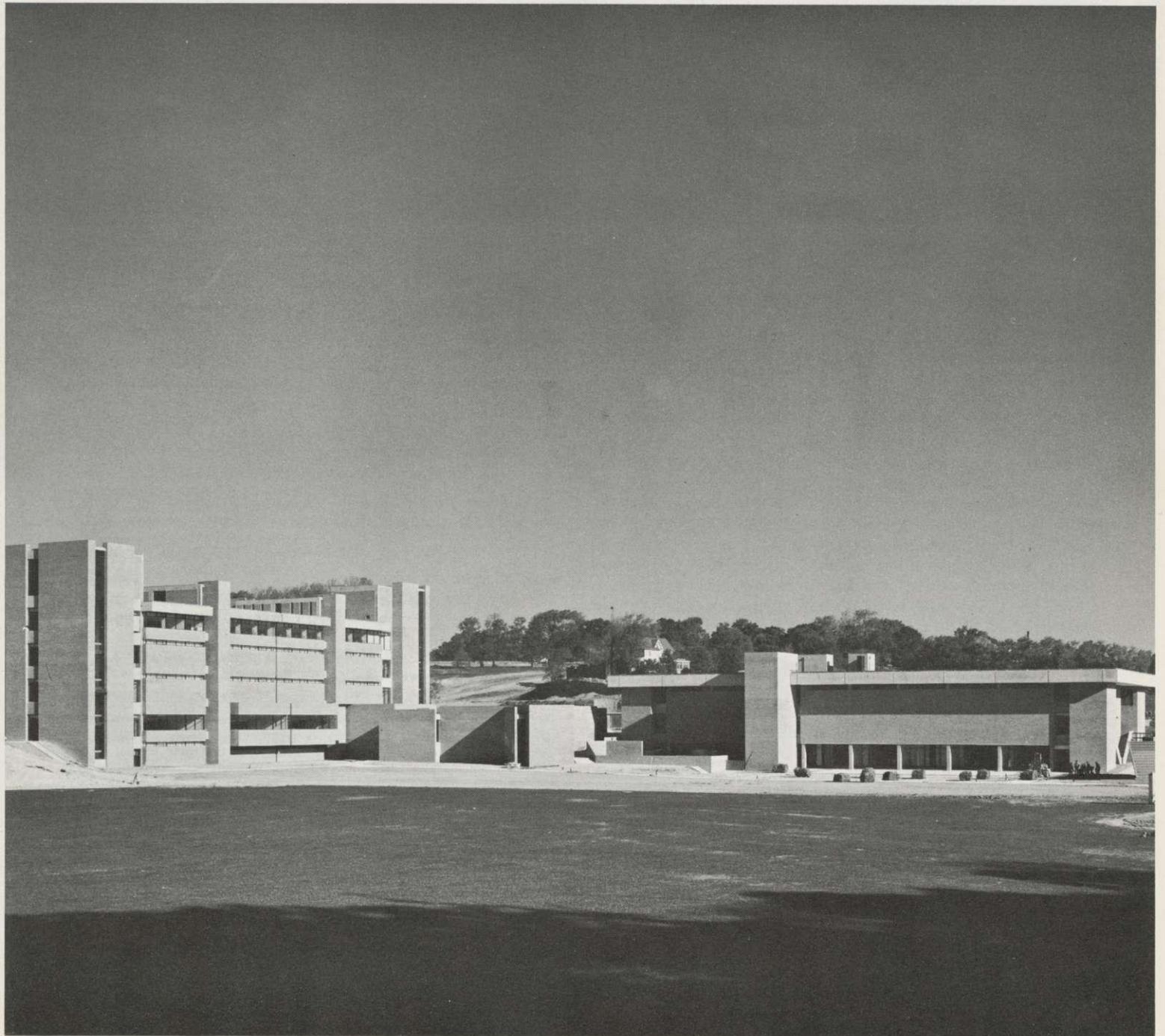


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UP FROM WILKENS AVENUE THE CARS and motorbikes came; first a few, then clusters and finally a steady stream disturbed the morning stillness of the former farmland.

They carried the final ingredient, the necessary spark to bring the University of Maryland Baltimore County campus into the world of higher learning.

As the vehicles slipped in between the freshly painted stripes of the parking lots, and students hurried to their first class, a new era for the University of Maryland began. It was a date to remember: September 19, 1966.

On that fall morning, Dr. Albin O. Kuhn, the Vice President for the Baltimore Campuses, in charge of UMBC, stood outside Hillcrest Building. The renovated building which houses administrative offices sits upon a hill overlooking the complex of newer buildings.

As he watched the procession of vehicles navigate into the parking spaces, Dr. Kuhn said, "Now it's a campus. It never seemed like one with those empty parking lots."

If you were one of those who came in near the ending or stood on the fringes during the creation of UMBC, it may have seemed instantaneous, as though some educational magician had touched his wand to a 435-acre site near Catonsville, Md., and up sprang buildings, walkways, roads and students.

But for those deeply involved in its creation, UMBC was anything but an instant campus. To them, it was the calculated fusion of thousands of ideas and details.

A Campus is Born

By John Blitz, BPA '59

WRITER, OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Photographs by Phillip Szczepanski

Later reflecting on the development of UMBC, Dr. Kuhn called opening day his most personally satisfying experience. "It worked," he said.

"We opened on the day we were supposed to, right on schedule. Buildings were ready to be occupied; sidewalks were installed; the faculty was here. There were blackboards and even chalk," he said.

"No matter how good the plan, no matter how much you assure others that you'll open on schedule, inside you have to have some reasonable doubt," Dr. Kuhn said. "Some things weren't completely finished by opening day. We had some minor problems. There was some laboratory equipment that hadn't been installed, but it was something that could be academically worked around," he said. "It could have been chaotic if we hadn't opened on schedule."

One reason that didn't happen was people. "A lot of people just went out of their way to help us," Dr. Kuhn said.

One incident occurred on a Sunday early in September. A van full of furniture arrived on the campus. "It was the furniture factory owner and his son. They couldn't get a driver to make the trip," said Dr. Kuhn, "so they drove the van from North Carolina themselves."

On the eve of opening day 20 people showed up and spent a Sunday tidying up the buildings, "including one lady who had read that we were opening and just came down to see if anything needed dusting," Dr. Kuhn said.

The new campus is not an annex of the College Park or Baltimore campuses, but a full partner in the University system. It will eventually have a full undergraduate and graduate programs.

"Just like a youngster, we don't have all the answers," Dr. Kuhn said. "But we do want to develop our own personality and become part of the Baltimore metropolitan area."

CAMPUSES ARE BORN AND UNIVERSITIES grow out of educational necessity and UMBC is no exception.

As early as 14 years ago, the Board of Regents began a study on the feasibility of an undergraduate and graduate campus to serve the Baltimore metropolitan area. Studies showed that one-third of the student enrollment at College Park resided in the Baltimore area. The city's school superintendent informed the University that Baltimore high

school graduating classes would double by 1955.

By 1958, the Board of Regents went on record supporting the development of a campus in the Baltimore area.

The need to extend the University programs into the Baltimore area perpetuated the formation of three governor's commissions during this early period: the Pullen Commission, the Warfield Commission and the Curlett Commission.

Then in 1962 Dr. Wilson H. Elkins, President of the University, went before the Board of Regents. He said the University was faced with three alternatives as a result of increased enrollment: build a campus in the Baltimore area; extend the building program at College Park; or raise admissions standards.

From October 1954 to October 1962 full-time student enrollment at College Park had soared from 6,945 to 12,925, an 86 per cent increase.

President Elkins noted then that continuing construction on the College Park campus would mean expensive expansion in dormitories, cafeterias and student activities facilities which to a great degree could be eliminated if a Baltimore area commuter campus were created.

By February 1963, the State Senate had passed a bill establishing an undergraduate and graduate campus in Baltimore County. The House of Delegates, however, broadened the legislation and authorized the University to establish four additional campuses, one in Baltimore County, one on the Eastern Shore, one in Southern Maryland and the other in Western Maryland.

"At this point, the resources of the total University got behind the initial planning for a Baltimore area campus," said Dr. Kuhn who at the time was executive vice-president.

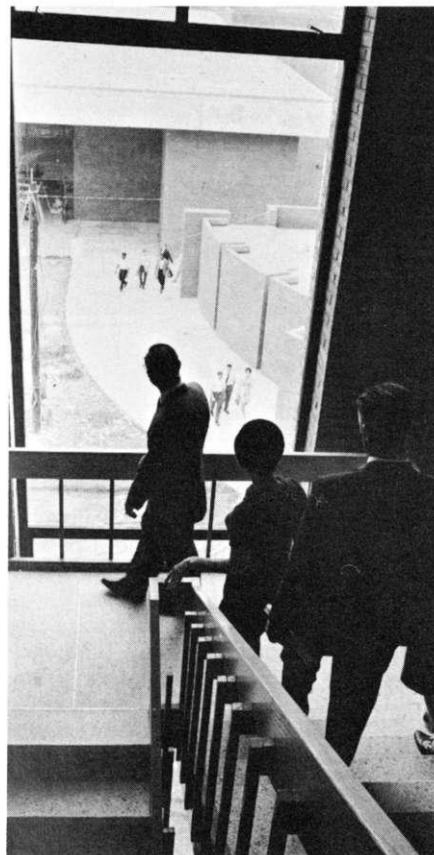
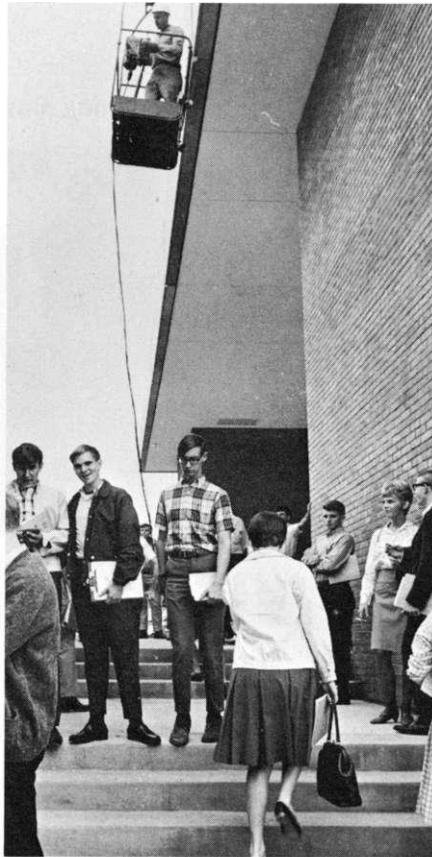
Also in this initial stage, the University's Capital Improvements committee began formulating plans for the new campus and the academic direction it should pursue.

At the time, the committee was composed of Dr. Kuhn; Dr. Frank L. Bentz, Jr., Assistant to the President; George O. Weber, Director of the Physical Plant; C. Wilbur Cissel, Director of Finance; Mark Shoemaker, since retired as Landscape Supervisor, and B. James Borreson, former Executive Dean for Student Life.

"Our greatest single problem at that time was the location of the campus itself," he said.

Countless details were involved in selecting a site. Tax maps had to be checked, price of land acquisition considered, engineering feasibility studies made, access to available utilities

Opening Day



checked, test borings made, terrain and drainage considered.

"The University was anxious to get a large initial site, one that wouldn't disrupt the community around it and one with easy access to the Beltway," Dr. Kuhn recalled.

Numerous sites were examined and, at one point, land in the northern part of Baltimore County near Lutherville was under serious consideration. Meanwhile Baltimore City officials made a strong bid for a downtown location near the present Baltimore campus.

Then, in September 1963, Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein suggested that the University explore the possibility of using the Spring Grove State Hospital farm near Catonsville.

Dr. Isadore Tuerke, Commissioner of Mental Health, agreed that the 435-acre farm would make an ideal site for the campus. Treatment of the mentally ill had advanced and the therapeutic value of the farm had diminished, he said. And in this generous gesture by one State agency to another, the State had saved millions of dollars in land acquisition.

"Not enough can be said about Dr. Tuerke's broad-minded approach," Dr. Kuhn said. "At the time this State-owned land was worth about \$7,000 an acre," he said.

Numerous advantages, other than the elimination of a capital outlay for the land, quickly unfolded.

The rolling terrain, it was found, drained well. Very little bed rock was found, making construction less expensive. Bordering Wilkens Avenue, the Beltway is only minutes away. Interstate Highway 95 will pass its western border and a full interchange is planned for the campus.

"I think one criterion for determining whether you have a good site," said Dr. Kuhn, "is time. If after several years no one complains about the campus location, then you have a good site. So far, not one person has complained," he said.

AFTER UMBC HAD FOUND SOIL FOR its roots, the second phase in its creation began, the development of a master plan.

The architectural firm of Rogers, Tali-ferro, Kostitsky and Lamb was contracted to design the new campus. Architecture was one of the first considerations. Through decades of building the College Park campus had concentrated on its basic theme of Georgian colonial exteriors.

Should UMBC follow suit or should its buildings be sharply different?

"The majority of those working on the Capital Improvements Committee felt

that the College Park campus had attained a certain beauty because of its reasonably consistent architecture," Dr. Kuhn said. "But it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that the new campus should have its own distinctive style," he said.

What evolved was a contemporary architecture. The three new buildings which opened this fall reflect this trend. Brick, limestone and concrete are the basic construction ingredients.

"We found that these materials were readily available and ones which we had successfully used in the past," Dr. Kuhn said.

Also instrumental in the development of the master plans were the site engineering firm of Rummel, Klepper and Kahl and the mechanical and utility engineering firm of Egli and Gompf.

The plan called for the construction of building in phases. In the initial phase three buildings, a lecture hall, a multi-purpose building which houses a cafeteria and gymnasium and an academic building were to be constructed. The contracting firm of John K. Ruff and Company completed these buildings this fall.

In the second phase of construction a library will be erected with completion scheduled for next fall.

In subsequent phases of construction a physical science building, a classroom building, a lecture hall and a large central heating plant will be added.

Another feature built into the master plan is the construction of five lakes to dot the campus. Besides their aesthetic value, the lakes will serve to catch runoff water from extremely heavy rains.

Also in the plans is a traffic loop around the campus. Guy Chisholm, the Physical Plant Director for the campus, said the loop would "help keep traffic at a minimum in the academic central portion of the campus."

It's an important factor, he said "when you consider that this is chiefly a commuter campus."

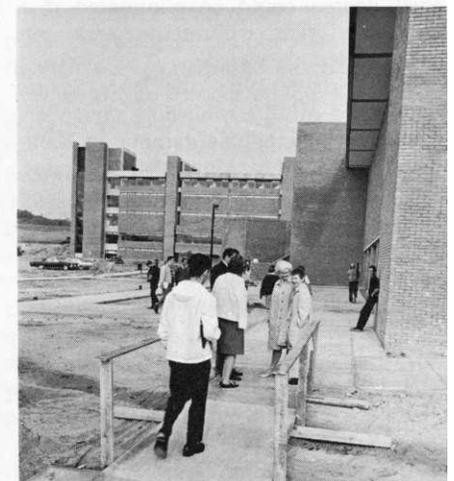
Campus growth will be a continual project for many years but construction should not hamper the academic functions of the completed buildings because the plan calls for the development of the center of campus first. "We'll be building from the inside out," Mr. Chisholm said.

In February of 1965, Dr. Kuhn was named Vice President for the Baltimore Campuses.

THE PROBLEMS OF ATTRACTING A faculty to a campus that was still girders and blueprints proved a challenge.

"Our first consideration," said Dr. Kuhn, "was the selection of an outstand-

Opening Day



ing person to be Dean of Faculty. It was important, we felt, to find a person with a good, broad liberal education and one who had excelled in his work."

On the College Park campus was such a man: Dr. Homer Schamp who had served with distinction as Director of the Institute for Molecular Physics. In June 1965 the Board of Regents announced the appointment of Dr. Homer Schamp to Dean of Faculty.

"One of our first steps," Dr. Schamp said, "was to seek advice and recommendations from various College Park department heads. We were looking for

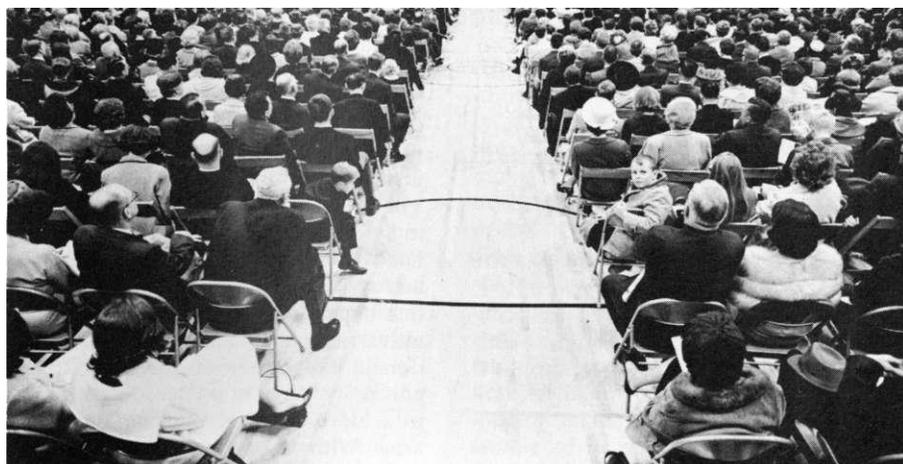
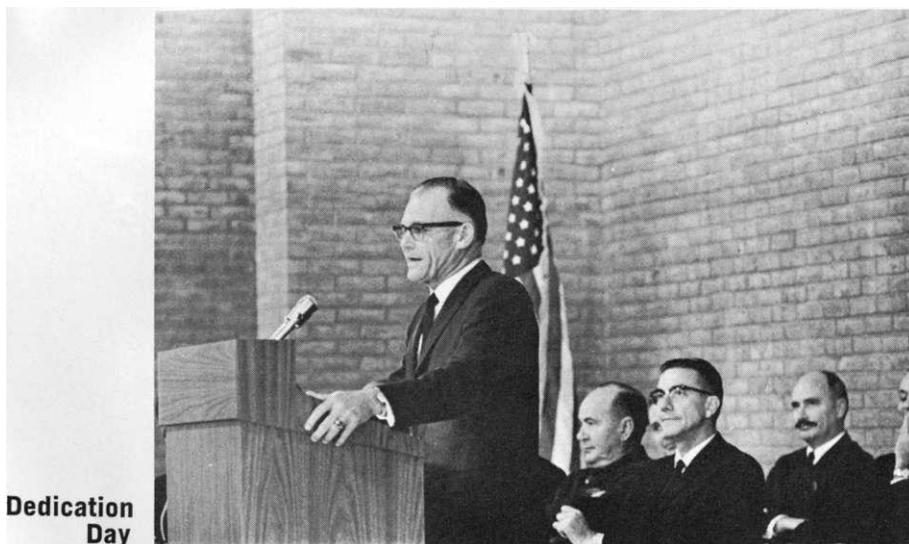
energetic, highly intelligent men—sympathetic to students," he said.

"We were looking for basically happy people with a feeling of accomplishment who were eager to accept the challenge of developing a new campus," Dr. Schamp said.

"In a new campus," Dr. Kuhn explained, "an educator can try new approaches without disrupting the standard procedures found at an established campus."

"Because of this challenge, I feel we attracted a good faculty," he said.

"When we hired our first faculty



member," Dr. Schamp said, "we increased the faculty 100 per cent; when we got our second man we doubled our faculty. What could be harder than that?"

UMBC is making a concerted effort to bring faculty and students closer together, a goal to which many universities aspire but few obtain.

"We feel that we have a faculty that is interested in students," Dean Schamp said.

One program which should help accomplish closer relations is called "The Educated Man And His Environment."

Last year the University acquired the Donaldson Brown Estate in Cecil County near Port Deposit and a schedule of academic weekend retreats was planned.

Faculty and students will spend a weekend together on the 20-acre estate located on the Susquehanna River. Group discussions on academic topics as well as recreation are included in the program.

A faculty eager to try new ideas have already gone a long way in shaping the academic program of UMBC. For the most part, it is an interdisciplinary

approach to higher education.

Instead of a departmentalized structure such as those at College Park, UMBC has created broader divisions of the disciplines. In each, new techniques are being tried.

Dr. Robert G. Shedd, chairman of the Division of English and Humanities, believes that English composition is too important to be delegated to graduate assistants. "It's the bread and butter of all college education," he said.

Senior instructors will teach the course but will not be tied to three weekly sessions on fundamentals. Instead the rules of grammar will be explained in one mass lecture each week with the other session devoted to small seminars in which individual themes are analyzed.

Dr. Walter A. Konetzka, chairman of the Biological Sciences Division, said that basic courses in the division will deal with biological problems.

"There are certain areas which are common to all the biological sciences which can be taught in the lower-level courses," Dr. Konetzka said. "Genetics, developmental biology, the study of and the problems of cells are just a few of these problems to give the student a hard core before taking advance courses in the specialized fields such as zoology, etymology or anatomy," he said.

Biological science laboratories will allow students to work at their own pace and at their convenience. Laboratory instructions will be on tapes and visual materials will be available to aid the students during school hours.

"There'll always be an assistant in the laboratory to answer questions but for the most part students will be on their own," Dr. Konetzka said. "They will be able to learn from their mistakes and without someone looking over their shoulders to disapprove."

Dr. David T. Lewis, chairman of the Social Science Division, feels that the metropolitan area of Baltimore will greatly influence the kind of research in the division.

"Urban development and urban problems are becoming increasingly more important and the social scientist is becoming more involved, especially in regional planning," Dr. Lewis said.

Because UMBC has a divisional system, Dr. Lewis said, psychology, geography, history and economics can all be applied to a particular urban problem. "It gives us a broad approach," he explained. "It also humanizes the social sciences."

UMBC, even in its infancy, is on a bold tangent, eager to use its youth to experiment, equally eager to challenge its students. Its development bears watching.