



Motley to become first black chancellor at UMass

Howard Manly

In a move considered to be a win-win for the University of Massachusetts college system, J. Keith Motley is expected to become chancellor of the Boston campus while Michael Collins, the school's present chancellor, moves over to the UMass medical school in Worcester as its senior vice president for health sciences.

Motley served as interim chancellor of the Boston campus for a year before losing the job in June 2005 to Collins. The decision by University of Massachusetts President Jack Wilson touched off a wave of protests as scores of Boston community activist and politicians, including Mayor Thomas M. Menino, demanded the hiring of Motley in Boston.

The protest was muted after Motley decided to accept the job as the university's vice president for business, marketing and public affairs.

If approved next month by the University of Massachusetts Board of Regents, Motley would become the school's first African American chancellor.

The new personnel move comes days after Wilson announced his decision to shuffle leadership roles at three of the university's five colleges. Part of the shuffling was the result of the retirement two months ago of Aaron Lazere as medical school chancellor. To fill that gap, Collins, the former president of the Caritas Christi hospital network, will serve as interim chancellor as well.

Also under Wilson's plan, John Lombardi will step down as chancellor of the Amherst campus at the end of the next school year. After a one-year sabbatical, he'll return to teaching while serving as a "special adviser" to Wilson.

Wilson's reshuffling comes two months after Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Mass., was named chancellor of the

Lowell campus.

During his time at UMass-Boston, Motley was extremely popular. As interim chancellor, Motley oversaw a campus that had about 12,500 students, a faculty of about 800 full- and part-time professors and a budget of \$176.5 million. Motley has said that he understands the mission of an urban university and that his role in leading the school will combine a mission of affordability with academic excellence. He replaced outgoing chancellor Jo Ann Gora, who left to run Ball State University.

Before UMass-Boston, Motley spent 20 years at Northeastern, where he worked primarily in student-services positions. He left Northeastern in August 2003 to become UMass-Boston's vice chancellor for student affairs. Motley earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Northeastern University and a doctorate in education from Boston College.



J. Keith Motley, shown in this Aug. 11, 2004 file photo while serving as the interim chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston, will likely become the first ever black chancellor of the University of Massachusetts college system if approved next month by the UMass Board of Regents. (AP photo/The Boston Globe, Pat Greenhouse)

BIO convention addresses health care disparities

David Cogger

Don't get Cambridge Mayor Kenneth Reeves going on the importance of biotechnology.

Two weeks before the wildly successful Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) 2007 International Convention in neighboring Boston,

the city of Cambridge held a citywide science event that included 230 scheduled presentations.

The city also broke the Guinness world record of the world's longest genome trail by stringing 27 chromosomes on light poles from Kendall Square to Harvard Square.

And during last week's BIO con-

ference, Reeves said, the city of Cambridge was the only one in the country to have its own booth.

That is impressive, given that the conference attracted a record 22,366 attendees, an increase of nearly 15 percent from the previous year, with representatives from 48 states and one-third of attend-

ees hailing from outside the United States. The conference also featured the largest gathering of biotech exhibitors in history, with more than 1,900 companies and 60 domestic, country and regional pavilions representing every aspect of the biotechnology industry.

As Reeves tells the story, Cambridge held its own.

"We have almost an embarrassment of riches in Cambridge when it comes to biotech," an ebullient Reeves said. "It would be a shame if the schools did not take advantage of the strong biotech presence here."

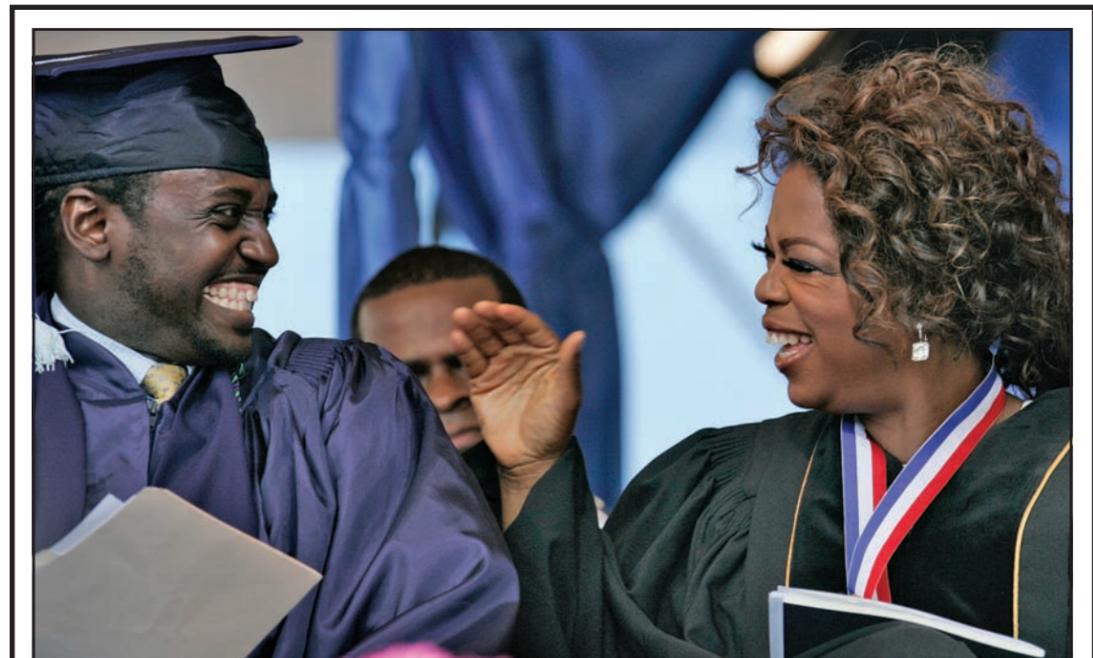
And therein lies the rub. In addition to urging biotech companies to

locate in Cambridge, Reeves made it clear he believes it is equally important that those companies make a commitment to share the industry's resources in providing training for future scientists.

Closing the achievement gap is a problem of which biotech officials said they are all too aware.

On the last day of the conference, researchers and executives from Genentech, the San Francisco-based company considered to be one of the founders of the biotechnology industry, told a mostly African American audience that some of the obstacles to closing the achievement gap

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Oprah Winfrey (right) congratulates student Andre Samuels on his speech during the 139th commencement ceremony for Howard University, a historically black college in Washington, on Saturday, May 12, where Winfrey was awarded with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. Also receiving honorary degrees were Dr. Julian M. Earls, retired

director of the NASA Glenn Research Center (Science); Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University professor at Harvard (Humane Letters); Dr. Walter E. Massey, president of Morehouse College (Science); and Mrs. Irene Sue Pollin, founder of Sister to Sister - Everyone Has a Heart Foundation, Inc. (Humanities). (AP photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Controversial African studies lecturer retires

Kenneth J. Cooper

MEDWAY, Mass. — Tony Martin, whose teaching about the Jewish role in the Atlantic slave trade led to a national controversy in the 1990s, will retire quietly next month after 34 years as a professor of black studies at Wellesley College.

His retirement on June 30 marks the end of a teaching career that spans almost the entire existence of what is now the Africana Studies Department at the women's college.

Martin, 65, plans to return to his native Trinidad and continue to write scholarly books and lecture around the world on Marcus Garvey, the Jamaican Pan-Africanist who is the subject of nine books he has written or edited.

"Marcus Garvey has been the lion's

share of my work," said Martin during a recent interview at his home on a leafy street in Medway.

But in the files of daily newspapers, the few mentions of his academic specialty are overwhelmed with stories beginning in 1993 about his assigning one Wellesley class readings from a 1991 book published by the Nation of Islam, entitled "The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews, Vol. 1." It attributes a larger role to Jews in the trade of African slaves than some scholars say is justified.

National Jewish organizations condemned Martin, who defended teaching about the Jewish role in slave trade and fired barbs at his critics in a book he self-published in 1993, "The Jewish Onslaught." One of his targets was Selwyn Cudjoe, a fellow Trinidadian.

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