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news



views

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Caldicott to address UMB's Class of '83

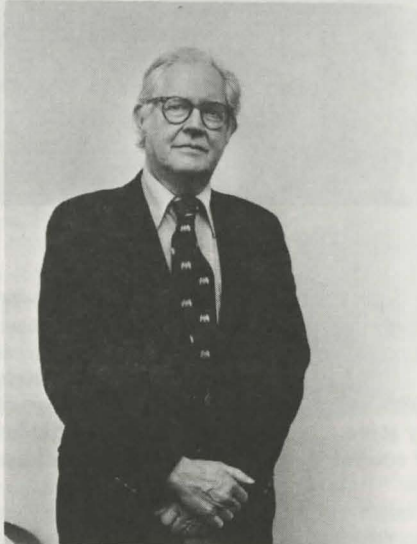
A world-famed nuclear protestor and a leader of the nuclear freeze movement, Dr. Helen M. Caldicott, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker will be honored at the 15th Commencement on Sunday, May 22.

Also receiving Doctor of Humane Letters degrees will be Dan Huntington Fenn, Jr., Director of the John F. Kennedy Library, our next-door neighbor on the Harbor Campus, and George V. Kenneally, Jr., former State Representative and Senator from Dorchester and longtime friend of public higher education.

Dr. Caldicott, a resident of Newton, will be the Commencement speaker. She recently shared in an Academy Award-winning Best Documentary Short Subject *If You Love This Planet* awarded in Los Angeles last month.

Dr. Caldicott's voice, taped from an earlier-delivered speech, was the background for the short subject produced by the Canadian National Film Council.

A noted pediatrician and author, Dr. Caldicott is the National President



Dan Huntington Fenn, Jr.

of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), a Cambridge-based group started in the early 1960s to protest nuclear testing.

Caldicott revitalized PSR in 1978 after her arrival at Boston's Children's Hospital Medical Center from her native Australia, where she is credited with leading two successful nuclear protests. One resulted in a ban of atmospheric bomb tests by the French in the South Pacific. The second stopped the export of uranium from Australia.

In 1980, the zealous anti-nuke physician resigned a position she held as an instructor in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and took a leave from the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic at Children's Hospital, to devote her time exclusively to PSR's program of educating the public about the dangers of nuclear weapons and war.

Alice Walker recently became the first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction when she received the 1983 award for her novel "The Color Purple."

Walker, the daughter of a Georgia sharecropper, depicted a poor Southern black woman's fight for emotional survival. Just recently the book received the 1983 American Book Award for fiction in hardcover.

Ms. Walker, now a resident of San Francisco, began writing in a journal at the age of eight after a freak accident left her blinded in one eye.

She won scholarships to Spelman College in Atlanta and Sarah Lawrence College in New York before becoming active in the black freedom movement in Mississippi in the late 1960s.

Ms. Walker has been active in the feminist movement and is a former editor of *Ms.* magazine. She has taught at Yale and Brandeis Universities, Wellesley College and Tougaloo College in Mississippi and the University of California at Berkeley. Walker, 39, moved to San Francisco from New York in 1978.



Dr. Helen M. Caldicott



Alice Walker

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profile

About a year ago this time, Violet Harrison of Martha Road, Boston, realized one of the dreams of her life.

She was accepted as a member of the prestigious Copley Society of Artists.

Soon a second dream will come true for Harrison.

At Sunday's Commencement at UMass/Boston, she will be presented with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

The fruition of both these life-long desires would seem to be a pretty normal thing for any aspiring and talented artist in this day and age.

But, for Harrison, such accomplishments seemed unattainable and meant years of living, working and waiting until she could finally reach out to participate in the American dream her immigrant parents told her about.

Violet Harrison is 68 years old. She returned to school in 1979 after an absence of 41 years.

Here is a heartwarming story of a woman who took care of herself unaided and went her own way according to her conscience and her needs long before such independence was so universally admired.

Retracing the significant events of her life, she recalled her parents were 18 when they emigrated from Jamaica in the West Indies.

She and her sister, Edna, grew up in Boston. Violet attended Roxbury Memorial High School for Girls, now Boston Technical High School. She graduated in 1934.

But, before Harrison could make plans for further schooling, her mother died and she and her sister were sent off to New York City where they lived for a brief time with a friend of the family.

"Then we felt we had to move along and do something for ourselves. I guess you'd say we just became orphans of the storm," she said, chuckling with good humor that has won her so many friends at UMass/Boston.

"I got the first of many jobs I held over the years. It was taking care of children. My sister and I took a room and I remember we were so poor we lived on buns and soda pop," she said.

"But I was able to spend a lot of time drawing," she added. And she persisted in her dream to go farther with her education. In the late 1930's she was accepted as a student at Wilberforce University, 35 miles outside Dayton, Ohio.

She managed for a while, but finally Harrison had to leave school for lack of funds. The two sisters

Age no barrier to art major Harrison's drive for a degree



Violet Harrison

journeyed back to Boston to begin the search for jobs. Working became the focus of their lives from then on until both retired, Violet in 1977.

Her first job was as a \$10 a week clerk in a cooperative grocery store. During World War II and for several years later, she worked at the Charlestown Navy Yard on the sheet metal used for the ships being repaired there.

Then Harrison answered an ad and was hired to make dresses in a garment factory. "I cut threads at first, then I learned stitching and did buttons. I became a special machine operator." She did this for 10 years. At the same time she had a part-time job in the post office.

In 1958, Harrison went back to the Navy Yard and was later transferred to the Coast Guard where she spent

the next 19 years until her retirement in 1977 working in the comptroller's office.

She recalled saying to herself at the time, 'Now I'm retired and I'm only 63. Violet, you've got to try one more time,' and I did.

"I read in a retirement newspaper that in Massachusetts when people get to be 65 they can go to any state college of their choice and their tuition will be waived," she said.

"I started right then getting ready for school when I reached 65, two years later. (The age for the school tuition benefits for the elderly was lowered to 60 years during the 1982 legislative session.) I went for an interview and told them what I wanted to study. I took some tests, I made out admission papers, and, in 1979, I came to my first class."

UMass/Boston gave Harrison 31 credits for her studies at Wilberforce University.

In most of her classes, she said, "I've been the only senior citizen. But I have loved every minute and I don't hesitate to walk over and sit down at lunch tables full of young people and tell them what I think, if it will be helpful.

"When I hear any of them complaining, I tell them right out . . . friendly you know . . . but right out,

that I waited 41 years before I could come back to school.

"There's no law," she said she tells young people, "that says you've got to go to a university when you're 18. So why don't you quit and go to work and find out what lots of parents go through to pay for kids to go to college.

"You know, they sometimes listen to me," she laughed, "and we enjoy each other's company."

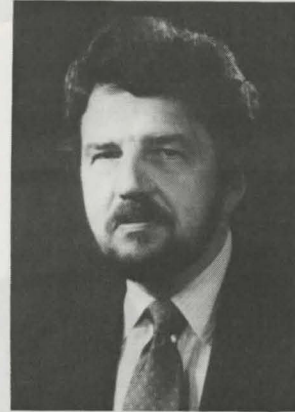
In her artist's beret and sturdy shoes, the silver-haired retiree became a familiar figure in both the classrooms and the administration offices at the Harbor Campus of UMass/Boston.

During her four years there, she was given a work-study grant of \$3.70 an hour to clerk in the admissions office 12 hours a week to help pay for extra expenses.

Graduation will put school days behind her but Harrison is already making plans for her new career. People who have seen her traditional style paintings on display at school, usually like them.

Now she has another dream. It's to be successful and make people happy with her works of art. And why shouldn't she be a success? After all, said Harrison, "I'm going to be a commissioned artist."

chancellor's corner



by Robert A. Corrigan

For several years now, recognition of an obligation to offer quality graduate-level education at low cost to the citizens of metropolitan Boston has made graduate program development a high priority on campus. As a result, the University of Massachusetts at Boston currently offers approximately twenty Master's programs and a Ph.D. program in Environmental Science.

As I look around at the broad societal and educational climate of today, I am convinced that continued growth in this area is essential. As a public university, we must strive to provide a diverse and comprehensive program to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.

Over the next ten years, a steadily growing proportion of our potential student body will be at the graduate level — not only because of increased demand for graduate degrees by employers, but also because the size of the traditional eighteen to twenty-one-year-old cohort will decline dramatically (by 43%) by 1994.

I think it is not unrealistic to foresee a student body on this campus in the year 2000 made up of 7500 undergraduates and 2500 graduate students. We will, of course, try to avoid needless duplication of traditional programs already offered within Boston's private sector. But there is clearly room for programs in high-demand fields and for interdisciplinary and/or practically oriented programs.

I urge faculty to think hard and creatively about new graduate programs, at the Master's level and even at the Doctoral level, which might serve a manifest need within the Commonwealth. The same arguments which led to the development of high-quality, low-cost undergraduate programs can now be extended to justify a commitment of State resources to increased graduate education at UMass/Boston.

UMass/Boston to bestow four with honorary degrees at '83 commencement

• Continued from page 1

Dan Fenn, Jr., has walked with equal comfort in the divergent worlds of business, government and higher education. He was a faculty member at the Harvard Business School and is a regular lecturer at several other institutions.

Fenn served as a staff member of President John F. Kennedy and as Vice Chairman of the U.S. Tariff Commission.

He has been director of the JFK Library since 1971. Under his guidance the Library has joined in numerous cooperative ventures with UMass/Boston.

A longtime Dorchester resident, George Kenneally served six years in the House of Representatives and later in the Senate. At present he is Associate Counsel to the Senate.

Throughout his legislative career, Kenneally proved himself a friend of public higher education in the Commonwealth. He acted as



George V. Kenneally, Jr.

co-sponsor of the original legislation founding UMass/Boston.

He has maintained his allegiance and interest in the University.

Briefly . . .



Charlie Titus

Athletic Director Charlie Titus was honored by the Greater Boston Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of 10 outstanding leaders on May 13 at the Hyatt Regency. Four women and six men were feted.

Titus, 33, came to UMass/Boston

in 1974 to inaugurate the basketball program. He was a fine player at Boston Technical (1968) and St. Michael's College (1972).

A native of Roxbury, Titus became Athletic Director in July, 1980 and has directed a program of intercollegiate, intramural and community service that has tripled in three years.

Bob Boyd, 57, will receive two degrees Commencement Day, a B.A. in English and a B.S. in Management. His average is 3.0 plus.

Boyd is another of those interesting people found on the UMass/Boston campus. He's a native of Beaver, Pa., spent two years in the U.S. Army and then 28 in the merchant marine.

Boyd has worked in a steel mill, operated cranes, worked in an Oldsmobile factory, on the advertising staff of the New Orleans Item and served as curator of a Maine Museum.

Boyd's interests include the theatre. He had non-speaking parts in three Hollywood movies.

He's an interesting man in an interesting place.



Prof. Chi-Hua Wang

Professor Chi-Hua Wang of the Chemistry Dept. is in Beijing, The People's Republic of China, this semester as a visiting professor. He's lecturing at the Graduate School USTC, Academia Sinica on Advanced Organic Chemistry.

Arrangements were made through the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. The Graduate School is one of the most prestigious institutions in China — the equivalent of the National Academy of Science. Prof. Wang is the only U.S. faculty member there this semester.

More than 300 attended the first annual UMass/Boston — Boston State reunion on May 7 at the New England Aquarium. President John Comerford introduced many of the alumni luminaries, including Labeebee Sequet, Class of 1925.

Alumni Director Don Costello extended thanks to all on the committee, especially chairwoman Nancy Cross and her committee of Joe O'Brien, Hal Masterman and Sherry Thomas. This was by far the strongest alumni event and bodes well for the future.

Members appointed to UMB sexual harrassment board



Newly appointed members of the University's sexual harassment board; standing, left to right: Cheryl Skipper, CPCS student; Halcyon Carroll, Health Services; Estelle Disch, Sociology; Stephen Tessier, CM student; Professor Timothy Sieber, Anthropology; and seated, Jocelind Gant, Associate Director of Affirmative Action.

News & Views

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