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The UMass/Boston Friday Report

Volume 1, Number 19
June 5th, 1992

News and information about and for the
Community from the Chancellor's Office

University Celebrates 24th Annual Commencement -- Degrees were awarded to more than 2,500 students during the 24th annual Commencement ceremonies that took place under sunny skies on Saturday, May 30th, at the Harbor Campus. A total of 1918 undergraduate degrees were given out: 1,103 by the College of Arts and Sciences; 312 by the College of Management; 190 by the College of Nursing; 171 by the College of Public and Community Service; and 142 by the teacher preparation programs. The University also bestowed 606 graduate degrees and 24 certificates of advanced graduate study. The John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Achievement, the top academic prize given to a graduating senior, was presented to **Danielle M. Roberts** of Greenfield, Massachusetts. Roberts achieved a 3.9 grade point average and was cited for her extensive volunteer work with AIDS patients. She will embark on a career in nursing and hopes some day to attend graduate school. She was the student speaker at the ceremonies. Some of the other notable graduates are **Ruth Melchin**, 62, of Milton, a mother 12 and grandmother of 12, who received a B.A. degree in history and was profiled last weekend in *The Boston Globe*; and **Barbara Mahoney**, the 68-year old director of the Stoneham Council on Aging, who started her college career six years ago and received a B.S. in gerontology.

Internationally-known neurosurgeon **Dr. Benjamin S. Carson**, who has a scholarship program at the University named after him, delivered the commencement address. Dr. Carson, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree, urged the graduates to cast aside racial intemperance and work toward common goals. "We are all in the same boat here in America," he said. "Why should we care that someone looks different than we do? It is such a petty thing. It means nothing. We must start focusing on some of our national problems. No boat can stay afloat when part of it is sinking. Despite all the terrible things you hear about in society today, the American dream is still alive." Chancellor Penney awarded honorary degrees to four other distinguished men and women during the ceremonies, including **D. Allan Bromley**, a science advisor to President Bush and a nuclear physicist who is considered the father of modern heavy ion science; **Mildred Dresselhaus**, a physicist and electrical engineer who is one of 12 faculty members at MIT to hold the rank of institute professor; **Robert H. Quinn**, a former member and chairman of the University of Massachusetts board of trustees and one-time speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives who helped found UMass/Boston and **Gerda Lerner**, an historian and early advocate for studying the history of the women's movement. Cited earlier with an honorary degree at the May 26th convocation of the College of Management was **Peter Lynch**, the guiding force behind Fidelity Investments' enormously successful Magellan Fund, who is now heavily involved in philanthropic activities. A seventh honorary degree was awarded on June 3rd at commencement exercises at the JFK Library for 56 graduates of the Gerontology Program. It was given to **Sammy Cahn**, one of the most prolific and successful American songwriters of the 20th century. Forty-eight of the Gerontology Program graduates received Frank J. Manning certificates for their year of study, and eight were awarded advanced certificates. A highlight of the evening occurred when Cahn performed a medley of his songs.

Campus Notes -- The William Joiner Center is accepting applications for its fifth annual writer's workshop which will be held June 15th-26th. The workshop, presented with the Creative Writing Program, is open to aspiring and established writers of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama. The fee for the two-week session is \$85. A host of distinguished authors are offering instruction. They include **Carolyn Forche**, winner of the Yale Younger Poets Competition, and **Gloria Emerson**, a former *New York Times* reporter and winner of the National Book Award. Those interested in attending should call **Michael Sullivan** at 7-5850. • **Mary (Helena) Walsh**, an undergraduate biology major and a McNair Fellow, has been awarded a summer internship at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, where she will be working with Dr. David Weaver on the molecular biology of tumor formation. • The American Association of Retired Persons has made a one-time scholarship award of \$4,000 to the University to be given to a student involved in graduate study in gerontology. • **Jack Archer** (Environmental Sciences) has been in Turkey under the auspices of the Fulbright Academic Program, lecturing at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara and delivering a paper at an environmental conference in Istanbul. He also consulted with Turkish officials on the development of a coastal management program and to help plan a conference in October 1993 on the Mediterranean. This summer Archer will be a visiting professor at the Vermont Law School, teaching a course on coastal and ocean law. • Earlier this spring **Keitha Fine** (Political Science) presented a paper, "Problems of Identity, Nationalism and Nation-State Formation," at a week-long international conference on identity and civil society in Ischia, Italy. Fine is working with colleagues to help reconstruct the facilities of the InterUniversity Center of Dubrovnik, a sponsor of the conference, which were completely destroyed in Yugoslavia's civil strife. Faculty wishing to contribute books for a new library at the center should get in touch with her.

MBA Students To Tackle Environmental Issues -- The College of Management is among an initial group of 25 business schools in the U.S. to offer environmental management courses, and we are the first Boston area university to establish a specialization in environmental management for MBA students. The specialization is being offered through a collaboration between the College and the M.S. program in environmental sciences that will allow a student enrolled in either program to take courses in the other program. According to **Betty Diener** (College of Management), the impetus for providing MBA students with training in environmental issues has come from business leaders.

Diener believes that environmental training is likely to become an important component of management programs. "There is a growing demand among companies to have their managers become knowledgeable about and sensitive to the environmental impacts of their business decisions," she says. A former secretary of commerce and resources for the state of Virginia, Diener helped construct the program after working with groups in Washington charged with developing curricula for use in business programs. Next Tuesday, Diener's MBA class will board our research vessel Harbor Explorations to get first-hand experience in surveying the environmental health of Boston Harbor. The craft, which is normally used to introduce area schoolchildren and teachers to the ecology of Boston Harbor, will "set a net," bringing up fish from its waters to demonstrate the impact of pollution on marine life. The students then will examine a core sample showing contamination in the harbor sediment.