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The UMass Boston Friday Report

Volume 2, Number 22
 May 7, 1993

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

Chief ANC and Government Negotiators at South African Multi-Party Talks To Address UMass Boston Commencement

The two chief negotiators in the multi-party talks aimed at bringing about democracy and an end to white minority rule in South Africa will speak at UMass Boston's annual Commencement exercises at the Harbor Campus on Saturday, June 5. The ceremony will start at 11:00 a.m.

Roelof Meyer, South Africa's minister of constitutional affairs and of communication, and **Cyril Ramaphosa**, secretary general of the African National Congress (ANC), will each address the gathering of UMass Boston graduates, their friends and relatives, and members of the campus community. Meyer and Ramaphosa also will be among seven women and men receiving honorary degrees from the University of Massachusetts.

Meyer is the leader of the South African government's negotiating team, and Ramaphosa is the head of the ANC group. The two men have been instrumental in keeping the negotiation process in South Africa on track. After formal discussions broke down last year, Meyer and Ramaphosa continued private discussions that helped lead to a resumption of official talks earlier this year. The appearance at Commencement of Meyer and Ramaphosa is contingent on the political situation in South Africa at that time.

In addition to Meyer and Ramaphosa, the following individuals will receive honorary degrees at UMass Boston's 25th annual Commencement exercises:

- **Ruth M. Batson**, a Boston resident and champion of academic opportunity for African Americans. Batson is former president of the Museum of Afro-American History and former executive director of METCO, a program through which Boston high school students attend public schools in other communities.

- **Brian Donnelly**, a former U. S. Congressman who retired in 1992 after serving 13 years on Capitol Hill. Donnelly, a Boston University graduate who was raised and still resides in Dorchester, rose through the ranks to become an important member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He was widely hailed for sponsoring the 1986 legislation which eased immigration restrictions on the Irish and enabled thousands of people to settle legally in the United States by obtaining "Donnelly Visas."

- **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for the Study of African-American Culture at Harvard University and chairman of the Afro-American Studies Department. Gates earned a Ph.D. at Cambridge University in England, the first black ever to do so. He has written several books and won the American Book Award in 1989 for *The Signifying Monkey: Towards a Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism*.

- **Paul C. O'Brien**, president and CEO of New England Telephone Company and influential leader of the Boston Coordinating Committee, the business organization known as the Vault. He is active in many charitable causes.

- **Louis "Studs" Terkel**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and well-known media personality in Chicago. Terkel has written several best sellers, including *The Good War: An Oral History of World War II*, *Lost and Found*, *American Dreams*, *Talking to Myself*, and *Hard Times*. (Terkel will also deliver the keynote address at the June 6 commencement exercises of the Gerontology Center.)

Chancellors Appointed at Amherst, Dartmouth Campuses

UMass President **Michael K. Hooker** this week announced the selection of new chancellors for the Amherst and Dartmouth campuses. The UMass Amherst chancellor is **David K. Scott**, a nuclear physicist and former provost at Michigan State University. Scott was born in Scotland and educated at Oxford University. The UMass Dartmouth chancellor is **Peter H. Cressy**, president of Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Cressy is a retired rear admiral in the U. S. Navy, and concluded a long career in the military by serving in operation Desert Storm. He was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, and has degrees from Yale University, George Washington University, the University of Rhode Island and the University of San Francisco.

Campus Notes -- **Howard London**, acting director of the Higher Education Administration Track of the Ed.D. Program in the Graduate College of Education, has been awarded a \$400,000 four-year grant by the Ford Foundation for an extensive study of community colleges that are successful in preparing "at risk" students for transfer to four-year institutions. London will identify effective strategies at these community colleges so that they might be replicated at other schools. • Chemistry professor **Hans van Willigen** has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for \$321,000. The grant will be disbursed over three years and will allow van Willigen to continue researching how solar energy is converted into chemical energy. His experiments are conducted with the assistance of a Fourier Transform Electron Spin Resonance spectrometer, a sophisticated machine which van Willigen built from scratch by himself in 1989. • Professor **Donaldo Macedo**, director of the graduate program in English as a Second Language, has written in favor of preserving bilingual education in the book *Taking Sides*, a collection of conflicting views on some of the controversial issues in education.

Three graduates of the University's theatre arts program have been admitted for next September to several of the country's most prestigious master's degree programs in playwriting. **Joanne Waters** will attend Carnegie-Mellon; **John Piccardi** will enroll at Brandeis University; and **Bob Curtis** is headed for Yale University. Waters and Piccardi trained for the last two summers in the University's highly-successful playwriting program based on Nantucket Island. All three students have written their own plays, and have had them performed by local acting companies. "To get three people accepted by such institutions is extraordinary," says **Lou Roberts**, chairman of the Theatre Arts Department. "We're quite proud of their achievements." • The Harbor Explorations Program, which provides students a glimpse of marine research conducted aboard the University's Envirolab III vessel, is listed among the nation's best in "Successful Practices in Science and Mathematics," published by Research for Better Schools. **Mike Borek**, a program coordinator, will be among those honored at a May 18 awards ceremony at Holy Cross College in Worcester. • A discussion of **President Clinton's** national service program will take place at the Harbor Campus on May 11. The sessions will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Snowden Auditorium, located on the first floor of Wheatley. Among the speakers will be **Barbara Buchanan**, director of field education at CPCS, and **Tom Sander**, an advisor to **Senator Edward M. Kennedy**. • Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney** was scheduled to be in Washington, D.C. today, appearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. She was to testify on behalf of the American Council on Education concerning fiscal year 1994 higher education appropriations. Copies of her testimony are available in the Chancellor's office.