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Briefly...

UMass/Boston Chancellor Sherry H. Penney delivered Albion College's Commencement address, marking her return to the college from which she was graduated, Summa Cum Laude, in 1959 with a degree in American History. She was awarded an LHD, honoris causa.

"Liberal Arts Education and Responsible Citizenship in the Modern World" was the topic of her address to the 415 graduating seniors in the historic quadrangle.

Albion College is a liberal arts institution of 1650 students located in south central Michigan.

Chancellor Penney went on to an MA degree in American History from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in American History from the State University of New York (SUNY) in 1972.

The UMB College of Nursing will award its first Masters Degrees at Commencement. The five recipients include Susan Babcock of Newton, wife of Donald D. Babcock, Vice Chancellor for Planning.

Two Hingham residents, Claire Wohlgenuth and Patricia O'Grady, are among the recipients, as well as Jan White of South Weymouth and Barbara Blakeney of Watertown.

There's a family touch to the Environmental Science's Ph.D. program, too, where the second doctoral recipient is Andrea Rex of Milton, wife of Prof. Michael Rex of the Biology Department.

Speaking of family affairs, there's Jack Whittaker of the Provost's office, who is getting his doctorate from UMass/Amherst, while his wife and daughter will graduate from UMass/Boston.

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Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop to deliver UMB Commencement address

Dr. C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General of the United States, will deliver the featured address at UMass/Boston's 21st Commencement on Saturday, June 3, at 1 p.m. on The Plaza at the Harbor Campus. He will talk on "Health Challenges for the Citizen."

Dr. Koop, a retired pediatric surgeon who has been one of the most visible of the 13 Surgeons General to have served, has taken a number of highly-publicized stands on a variety of major issues from smoking to AIDS.

He is one of six to receive honorary degrees, according to Chancellor Sherry H. Penney, who said:

"The six people we will be honoring at this, my first Commencement as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston, represent an extraordinary range of achievement from the arts to scholarly pre-eminence, from leadership in the media and education to distinguished public service both nationally and locally. I look forward to welcoming these men



Dr. C. Everett Koop

and women to our campus. It will be a great day for our students and faculty and, I hope, for them as well."

Others to receive honorary degrees are:

- MIT economics professor Robert M. Solow, winner of the Nobel Prize in 1987;
- Boston Pops conductor John Williams, famed composer of music for over 65 films;
- Ernest L. Boyer, President, The Carnegie Foundation and one of the nation's foremost educators;
- Charlayne Hunter-Gault, the New York-based national correspondent for the MacNeill/Lehrer Newshour, America's only nightly televised hour of national news;
- Philip W. Johnston, Massachusetts Secretary of Human Services, who oversees the state's 17 health, social service and criminal justice agencies.

Dr. Koop, 72, was sworn in as Surgeon General on November 17, 1981. He had been a pediatric surgeon with an international reputation and was Surgeon-in-Chief of Children's Hospital, Philadelphia and Professor of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on October 14, 1916, was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1937 and received his MD degree from Cornell Medical College in 1941. Among his postgraduate training was a tour at Boston Children's Hospital.

A recent Time magazine profile noted: "Anti-smoking is a small part of Koop's crusade; AIDS, child abuse, domestic violence, pornography, old people, drunk driving and Baby Doe regulations make Koop one of the most visible officials in Washington."

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Charlayne Hunter-Gault

Frank Boback credits UMB for his degree opportunity

Pardon Frank Boback of Dorchester if he succumbs to reverie when he receives his bachelor's degree during UMass/Boston commencement exercises. If someone five years ago had suggested such an event would take place, he might have deemed it a cruel joke.

"I can't wait to get that degree," Boback says with a sparkle in his eye. "I never went to my high school graduation, so I'm really looking forward to this."



Frank Boback

In fact, Boback enjoyed few successes and had little to smile about when he arrived on the Harbor Campus five years ago. An Army vet with a string of low-paying jobs in his background, he had taken a friend's advice and in 1984 registered for UMB's Veteran's Education Training Program, where he could earn a high school equivalency diploma before enrolling in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Today, on the cusp of 38, Boback is nearing the end of a long journey he never dreamed he would complete.

"UMass/Boston is the best thing that ever happened to me," he says. "I don't know where I'd be without this place."

Boback spends a lot of time on campus reciprocating for the

opportunities the University has made available to him. When not studying, he works in the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences as a Program Coordinator for the Veterans Resource Project. The 1987 recipient of the Joiner Center's Outstanding Veteran Alumni Award, he is lauded by colleagues for various research efforts and for providing a compassionate ear to fellow vets.

Boback is also a two-year member of the Student Senate, where he has gained recognition as a valuable behind-the-scenes organizer.

One of four children, Boback grew up on working class Bowdoin Street in Dorchester and attended St. Peter's Parish grammar school. As the years passed he grew increasingly disinterested in academics. He transferred from Boston Technical High to Dorchester High in his junior year before dropping out without a diploma.

Boback received his military draft notice in 1971 but, lacking any promising alternatives, chose to enlist before his number was called. Due to a decelerating war effort, he was stationed in West Germany for a three-year hitch, then returned home in 1975 to begin a series of unfulfilling jobs.

An English major with a 3.0 grade point average, Boback's intellectual curiosity now reaches many areas. When he isn't tending to chores at the Joiner Center, politics weighs heavily on his mind. A six-month internship he served in Sen. Edward Kennedy's Boston office helped spark that interest.

Regarding a career path, Boback, who is single and still lives in Dorchester, keeps a broad perspective but adds, "I'd like to do something related to politics. I want to work for a couple of years and then go to graduate school."

Just the thought is enough to crease a smile on his face. Whoever thought Frank Boback would be talking like that?



Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy of the Eighth District spoke on the American economy at UMass/Boston. Here he posed with Chancellor Sherry H. Penney and College of Management Dean Arnold Weinstein, right. "Challenges to the American Economy: A View of Congress" was the title of his address.

Gerontology Institute honors activist Margaret Kuhn

Margaret E. (Maggie) Kuhn, who helped create the Gray Panthers, will receive an honorary degree at UMB's Gerontology Institute's ninth graduation on Wednesday, May 31, at the John F. Kennedy Library at 5:30 p.m.

Joiner Center sponsors annual D.C. conference

U.S. Speaker of the House Jim Wright hosted the 8th Annual Speaker's Conference on the Concerns of Vietnam Veterans in Washington, D.C. The conference was sponsored by the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences at UMass/Boston and the William Joiner Foundation.

Initiated in 1982 by a small group of Massachusetts veterans under former Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neil, the event is now national in scope, serving as a model for similar meetings of the city and state levels.

Senators and congressmen met with veterans' leaders from across the nation to discuss bills and other initiatives benefiting veterans. Workshops were held the previous day to update veterans on such issues on homelessness, jobs, POW/MIA's, Agent Orange and minority and women concerns.

Chancellor Sherry H. Penney will make introductory remarks and oversee the awarding of 65 degrees, 17 in advanced study.

Since her 65th birthday in 1970, Maggie Kuhn, based in Philadelphia, has almost singlehandedly created, nurtured and built a national organization with international impact—the Gray Panthers.

Through it, she has established a valuable and highly-visible image of aging.

Aside from her intense involvement with the Gray Panthers, Maggie is involved in a number of leadership roles. She serves on the Boards of many organizations and was on President Jimmy Carter's Commission on Mental Health, 1978-80.

Kuhn is a prolific writer. She is a former editor of national publications and has written many magazine articles and program materials. She has been the subject of two documentary films.

Her educational background includes a BA degree from Cleveland's Case Reserve University, where she was invited to give the Alumni Address in her 50th class reunion in 1976.

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Anne Foxx's persistence pays off with degree from UMB

Like many parents, Anne Foxx wants her children to do better than she did. But even if they only do as well, they will have accomplished much.

Foxx has borne the burden of teenage motherhood, suffered the sadness of a failed marriage, and felt the frustration of economic depravity. At UMass/Boston's Commencement exercises, she will celebrate the joy of being a college graduate—16 years after giving her education a second chance.

The only daughter in a family of seven children raised in Roxbury and Dorchester, Foxx first attended UMass/Boston in 1968 right out of high school but quit after three semesters to care for her baby daughter. She got married, had another baby, and began taking clerical courses offered near her Columbia Point home in the hope of one day breaking the chains of poverty. She interviewed for a secretarial position at UMass/Boston with Dr. James Blackwell, then-Chairman of the Sociology Department.

"I hired her because I was convinced she was seriously interested in working," Blackwell says.

That first impression proved accurate. Foxx eagerly assumed her role in the workplace and quickly displayed an ability to interact favorably with professors, students, and colleagues, most from backgrounds quite unlike her own.

Foxx started taking courses—one per semester—and accumulating credits towards the BS degree in Sociology that her two daughters, five brothers, and numerous other relatives will watch her receive. In a perfect setting, she says softly, her late mother, a Wampanoag Indian, would also witness the event.

Foxx's schooling has proved more fulfilling than she had imagined it could.

"I used to be very intimidated in the classroom when I was younger," she says. "But I'm a good listener. You have to listen



Anne Foxx

to what people say. After a while I started talking and people were listening to me."

Her competence, friendly ear, and pleasant demeanor prompted colleagues to select Foxx as steward of Local 285, the predominant employees union on the UMB campus. She served five years before surrendering the reins last year to enroll in extra courses. Meanwhile, she has risen through the ranks in the Sociology Department, winning the University's Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and now overseeing all the paperwork and numerous other "little things" that keep an office of 22 operating smoothly.

"Working in this office has given me a lesson in tact and diplomacy," she says.

Blackwell says Foxx's knack for having all the answers is valued most during the frenzied days of registration, when student tensions run high.

"Anne either gives them the right answer or directs them where to find it," he says, attributing her talents to a "quiet kind of determination . . . that quality of persistence."

Always, and despite limited resources, Foxx has also played the

lunch hour to tend to the children's needs.

"For years," Blackwell recalled, "Anne never missed a single day of work. She was always punctual. She's a very responsible person . . . a person of integrity, a kind of symbol of what can be done against odds."

Jackie, 19, is now a freshman at Bunker Hill Community College. Sandra is a senior at Madison Park High School and in the college decision mode.

The family lives in Brighton. "It hasn't always been easy raising two teenagers, but we've made it," acknowledges Foxx, who has come to regard hurtful times like her divorce several years ago as strength-building events.

Foxx has worked in a shelter for homeless families at a Boston YMCA and says she would some day like to branch into the human services realm, preferably counseling teenaged mothers. For now, she's happy to remain in her post at the University and contemplate graduate school next fall.

"My goal," she asserts, "is to try to move on and make a difference."

By all accounts, she already has.

role of responsible parent to her two daughters. When their mother began working at UMB, Jackie, 4, and Sandra, 3, would spend days at the campus daycare. In later years, when the two girls were marching off to school themselves, their mother was balancing her own pursuits with keeping a watchful eye, often using her



Gordon N. Oakes, Jr., Chairman of the University of Massachusetts' Board of Trustees, was a recent visitor to the Harbor Campus, where he addressed faculty and staff on current affairs involving the university. Here he posed with Chancellor Sherry H. Penney.

UMB honors Dr. Koop, five others with honorary degrees

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The 6-foot-1, 210-lb. doctor has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including 17 honorary doctorates. He has been honored in England, France, Scotland and the Dominican Republic and is the author of more than 200 articles and books on the practice of medicine.

Dr. Koop is married to the former Elizabeth Flanagan and has three living children and seven grandchildren.

On May 4, Dr. Koop announced his resignation to President George Bush, effective July 13. His term officially expires November 19.

President Bush, in a letter to Dr. Koop, accepted the resignation "with regret" and told him: "In your 7-1/2 years as Surgeon General of the United States, you have redefined and invigorated that crucial job."

Prof. Solow is the eighth member of the MIT faculty and the third professor in the Economics Department to win the Nobel prize. He is widely recognized as an outstanding economic theorist whose special fields of interest are macroeconomics and the economics of natural resources.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1924 and received his BA from Harvard University in 1947, an MA in 1949 and a Ph.D. in 1951 when he won the famed David A. Wells Prize. Dr. Solow joined the MIT faculty as an assistant professor of statistics in 1950, became associate professor in 1954 and professor of economics in 1957. He is the author or co-author of more than 100 papers for professional journals.

Boston Pops conductor Williams, born in New York, moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1948. He attended UCLA and studied composition privately with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. After service in the Air Force, he returned to New York, where he worked as a jazz pianist, both in clubs and on recordings. He went on to write music for television programs in the 1960s, winning much acclaim.



Clockwise from top left: Prof. Robert M. Solow, Conductor John Williams, Dr. Ernest L. Boyer, Philip W. Johnston

He has composed music and served as music director for more than 65 films, including *Jaws*, *Star Wars*, *Superman*, *Indiana Jones* and *The Witches of Eastwick*.

Williams has received 23 Academy Award nominations and has been awarded four Oscars and 15 Grammys. He was named the 19th conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra in January, 1980.

Before joining the Carnegie Foundation in 1979, Dr. Boyer served as the 23rd United States Commissioner of Education. In his tenure, there was a 40 percent increase in federal support for education.

For seven years (1970-77), Dr. Boyer was Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY),

the largest state university in the United States comprising a system of 64 institutions with over 350,000 students. He holds honorary degrees from 92 United States colleges and universities.

Dr. Boyer graduated cum laude at Greenville College and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Southern California. He is the

author of the widely-acclaimed book *High School and College: The Undergraduate Experience*.

Ms. Hunter Gault is a graduate of the University of Georgia. She began her journalistic career as a reporter for *The New Yorker*, where she won a fellowship to study at Washington University. In 1967, she joined the investigative news team at WRC-TV, Washington, D.C., where she also anchored the local evening news.

She joined the MacNeil/Lehrer Report in 1978 as correspondent. She has won numerous awards, including the George Foster Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism.

Secretary Johnston was appointed by Gov. Michael S. Dukakis in 1984. His advocacy helped the state embark on the Governor's Special Message on Mental Health, an ambitious plan to reform and rebuild the state's mental health system through new hospitals and expanded community care.

Johnston was vital to the passage of the Health Security Act, which by 1992 will provide health coverage to every Massachusetts citizen.

In 1974, Johnston was elected State Representative from the 4th Plymouth District. He was reelected four times. His major areas of interest in the Legislature included child abuse, juvenile corrections, foster care, adoption, environmental protection and transportation. He was co-founder and Executive Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Action Corps.

He and his wife Beverly raised two children and live in Marshfield.

Briefly...

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Joan Whittaker, an alumna of Boston State College, will receive her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Needs Education. She works as a full-time teacher in Rockland. Daughter Debbie will receive her BS in Accounting.

Word from England, where history Professor Eric Robinson is on sabbatical, is that he has delivered a series of lectures on poet John Clare in Peterborough Cathedral.

Prof. Robinson has the next two volumes of the collected poems of John Clare for Oxford University Press due off the press at any moment.