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U M A S S / B O S T O N NEWS & VIEWS

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OCTOBER 12, 1990

CONVOCATION 1990

Regent's Chancellor Bromery keynotes Convocation

"We have a fight to save what we have built," said Dr. Randolph W. Bromery, Chancellor for the Massachusetts Regents of Higher Education, addressing a sun-drenched audience at colorful Convocation ceremonies held on The Plaza at the Harbor Campus on September 19th..

"Pressure will continue to mount for universities, especially those in metropolitan areas, to more and more, be all things to all people," said Chancellor Bromery. "This rising expectation is not only true of those outside the university, but also will be an increasing expectation of students, faculty and even trustees. If not addressed by the university community, it will continue to lead observers to find the university without purpose...

"With the coming of the 21st century we should remember that academic specialization in comprehensive urban universities can and has bolstered reputations and the success of the university academy as a whole. It can also place an inordinate value on traditional research.

"This University's reputation has risen over its first 25 years because it has focused its mission on undergraduate teaching and learning, with selective graduate offerings dedicated to urban needs and service to the metropolitan community....

"Finally, and most importantly, as reform toward the 21st century picks up steam, it is important to remember that lasting and meaningful change in American higher education and the University itself must come from the faculty. For higher education to be able to meet the changing demands facing it, faculty must not only be partners in reform but leaders of

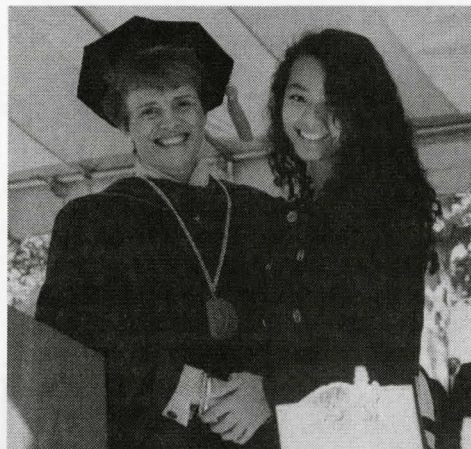
it. Only then will we institutionalize the change and recognize it as central to our purpose....

"Let me congratulate this University community—its administration, faculty, students and trustees—on its accomplishments over the past 25 years. You truly exemplify the best in urban university education."

Following a rousing opening rendition of The National Anthem by student Edmund V. Bullock, Class of '94, an impressive program unfolded. Student Trustee James Canina and Student Senate Speaker Mary E. Sullivan extended greetings from the students.

Chancellor Sherry H. Penney gave greetings, introductions and closing remarks.

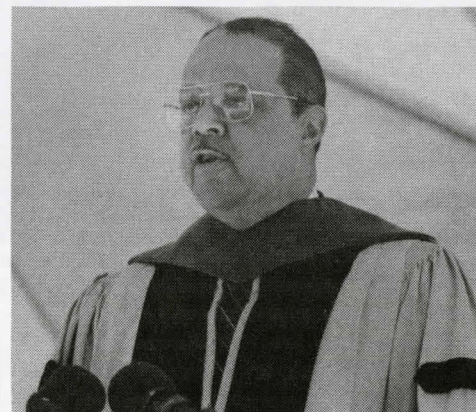
Recipients of awards included:



Ventresca scholarship winner Danielle Ngo congratulated by Chancellor Sherry H. Penney.

- Laurie W. Rose, the John W. Ryan Scholarship.
- Danielle J. Ngo, the Michael A. Ventresca Scholarship.
- William Lane, Jr., the Vincent J. Masticola Scholarship.
- Alex Chi-Ming Lee, the Alumni Ass'n Scholarship.
- Alexandrina Young, the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award for Professional Staff.
- Prof. Paul Bookbinder, the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching.
- Prof. Garrison W. Wilkes the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Scholarship.

Prof. Bookbinder of the History Dept. was cited for teaching 11 courses in the past five years as well as being "an exceptional historian," according to Chancellor Penney.



Chancellor Randolph W. Bromery addresses Convocation audience.

Prof. Wilkes of the Biology Dept. was named for "a series on the problems of world food supply."

Trustees in the stage party included Judith A. Baker, Bernard J. Doherty, Dr. Michael T. Foley, James F. O'Leary and Student Trustee James Canina.

Chancellor Penney addresses Faculty Convocation Breakfast

Chancellor Sherry H. Penney talked of "opportunities for new visions as well as new ways of conducting our affairs," when she addressed a faculty Convocation breakfast.

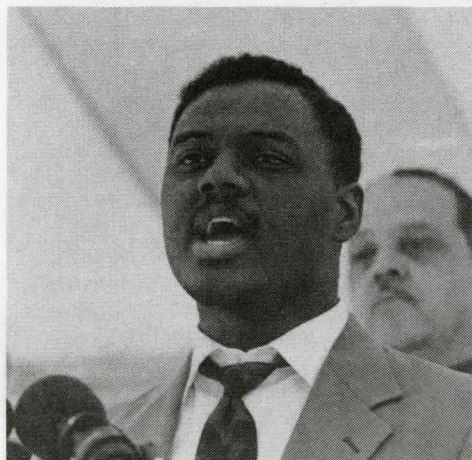
She resisted an urge to speak of Massachusetts politics and finances. "There are other more appropriate occasions for this," she noted.

"I would like to focus on two questions: How are we doing? What should we educators be thinking about as we move into the second 25 years of our institutional history?"

"As you know, we have suffered enormous losses in the last two years because we have had to absorb seven budget cuts. However, the cut before the most recent was one that we had anticipated and planned for.

"No institution, however, can take the kind of budget cuts which this institution has had to absorb in the last two years without acutely feeling the impact. We continue to feel it every day. All of us will continue to feel it until the picture begins to change. We must continue tight controls on spending and position

• continued on page 4



Student Edmund Bullock rendered a stirring version of The National Anthem.

CONVOCATION 1990

Laurie Rose awarded John W. Ryan Faculty Award

When she got out of Pioneer Valley Regional High in 1971, Laurie Rose opted for a path traveled by many in her graduating class of 80. She moved in with a girl friend of hers in Bernardston and took a part-time job dusting shelves and tinkering with antiques at the family store. Soon she got married, started having babies, and settled on a farm so she and her husband could raise chickens and goats and drain honey from the bee hives they collected. In its own way, life on the Massachusetts-Vermont border proved quite fulfilling.

Today, Rose lives in Somerville and finds fulfillment in a wholly different lifestyle. She's still waking up at the roosters' hour, but now it's to roust her three adolescent children from bed and jump-start her own hectic day.

As a single parent, part-time UMass/Boston student, and program director at a halfway house for mentally ill adults, Rose is burning candles on both ends.

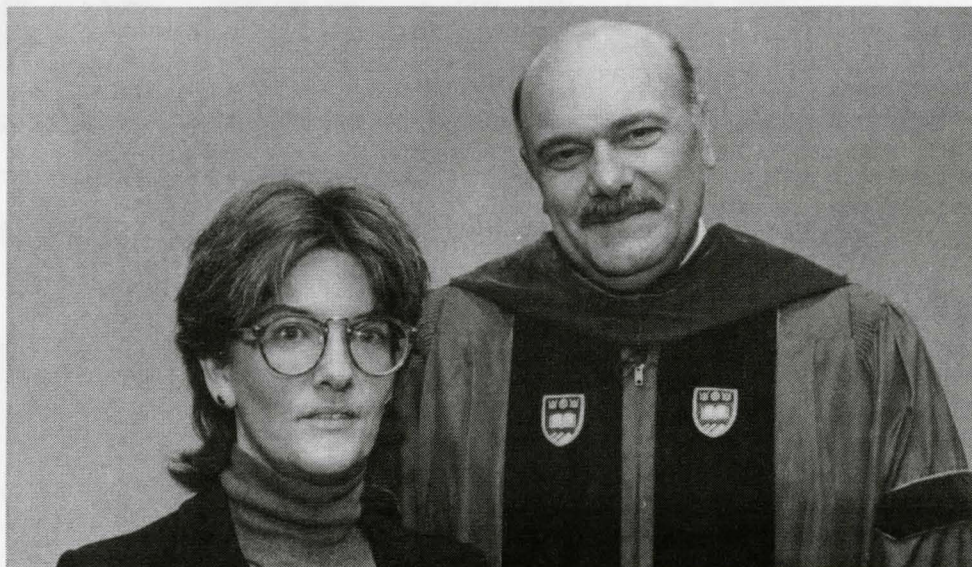
"I don't need much sleep," she insists.

That's apparently so, because Rose sports a 3.98 grade point average and was recently given the John W. Ryan Faculty Convocation Award, bestowed annually on the UMass/Boston junior who has attained the highest cumulative average during freshman and sophomore years. The award is named after the school's first chancellor.

Rose, for whom an A-minus is considered a setback, blushes a bit at the notion that she's something of a class-room whiz.

"I was literally shocked when I started doing well," she says. "Coming out of high school, I had no sense what I wanted to do with my life. I wasn't a very good student, but I guess in high school you have a lot of other things to act out."

Rose still wasn't sure what the future held when she and her now ex-husband moved several years ago



Ryan Award winner Laurie W. Rose and Provost Leverett Zompa.

to Cambridge. He was attending Harvard Divinity School, and she was getting the kids off to school and sizing up her new surroundings.

As a newcomer to urban living, she often was unsure where to turn. These feelings led to her becoming interested in helping people most in need.

"I learned what it was like to be afraid and uncertain," she explains. "That made me want to get involved helping people."

Before going to work as a counselor for the Cambridge and Somerville Cooperative Apartment Project (CASCAP), a private company that operates several halfway houses, Rose enrolled at UMass/Boston as an anthropology major. She shifted majors to human services this semester and is currently taking classes at the College of Public and Community Ser-

vice after four years at the Harbor Campus. She hopes to earn a degree within a couple of years and then pursue a masters degree in social work. She also wants to remain in the mental health field.

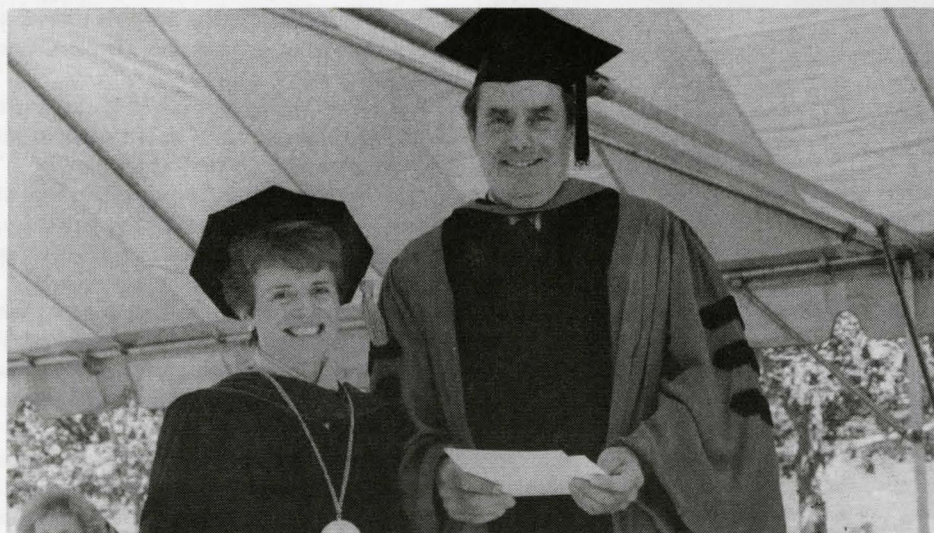
"I just plain love working with the people," she says.

Rose credits a stimulating atmosphere around UMass/Boston with helping her bring out her best.

"I really enjoy the older students," she says. "People who have had more experiences are more interesting. I think it would have been very difficult for me to return to school and sit in a classroom with young people."

Rose occasionally retreats to pastoral Bernardston to visit family and friends, but she finds it increasingly less likely that she can ever again reside there.

"I went back last summer and noticed that a house there that I always loved was up for sale," she says. "That made me think about going back, but it was more of a nostalgic feeling. I think sometimes we all feel for the good old days. Then we realize that maybe the good old days weren't so good after all."



Professor Garrison H. Wilkes was presented Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Scholarship by Chancellor Sherry H. Penney during the recent Convocation ceremony.

The Board of Trustees and the Friends of David C. Knapp have established a scholarship fund in his name in recognition of his contributions and achievements as President of the University of Massachusetts. The fund will provide scholarships for undergraduate students in the Departments of Political Science at the Amherst and Boston campuses.

Fundraising efforts for the scholarship fund will culminate in a reception and dinner in Knapp's honor on Tuesday, December 4th from 6 - 10 p.m. at the Copley Plaza, Boston. Individuals who wish to attend the reception and dinner should call Cindy Fontaine at (617) 287-7006 to purchase a ticket. Contributions to the scholarship fund may be made to the University of Massachusetts Foundation.

CONVOCATION 1990

Ventresca Scholarship presented to freshman Danielle Ngo

Had they ever met, it's likely that Michael Ventresca and Danielle Ngo would share a lot of the same ideas. But that meeting will never take place. Ventresca was killed by a drunk driver in 1985.

Recently, Ngo, 18, the recipient of a four-year scholarship named in memory of Ventresca, began her first classes at UMass/Boston.

The scholarship is awarded annually to an entering freshman who shows a commitment to helping others and aspires to a career in public service.

Ventresca, who served as president of the school's first-ever graduating class, was active in a number of social causes as an undergraduate and through his years in law school. He participated in civil rights marches, lobbied for preservation of the environment, and demonstrated against the Vietnam War. He was 38 when he died.

Danielle Ngo was a child of three when she, her younger sister and mother boarded one of the last United States' airplanes to leave Saigon in 1974. By then, her father, who fought in the South Vietnamese army, had been captured by the communists and imprisoned.

The Ngos traveled to the Philippines and Hawaii before arriving in Boston.

Wearing only the clothes on their backs, the family settled in Malden. Danielle's mother, Thai-an, didn't know a word of English but possessed an indomitable spirit that enabled her to provide for her to provide for her family. She worked long hours for low pay at menial jobs. She also took English classes. Upon returning home late at night, she would teach new words to her young children.

Danielle and her sister, Lan-Dinh, attended public schools in Malden, took speech therapy, and gradually assimilated to American culture.

"I was a real tomboy," Danielle recalls.



Ventresca scholarship winner Danielle Ngo poses with her family and Provost Leverett Zompa. Left to right: Zompa, Ngo, mother Thai-an and stepfather John Smolinski.

Life in the new country was generally good.

When Danielle was in sixth grade, her mother met John Smolinski, a co-worker at the computer firm where she was working. The couple was soon married. The family moved to Hingham.

The teenage years were not always easy. Prejudice, Danielle says, confused her.

"There were a lot of times when I didn't feel very good about myself," she says.

Danielle's routine was much different from those of her peers. After school, she would rush home to care for her infant half-sister and prepare meals for her mother and her stepfather, both of whom worked until early evening hours. Often, other relatives from Vietnam would be staying at the house while trying to get their feet on the ground in America.

"I'd have to do my studying late at night,"

Danielle says.

Despite these barriers, Danielle was an outstanding and active student at Hingham High. She founded a student volunteer group that assisted sick children and the elderly, sang in the school choir, and collected clothing and served meals at Rosie's Place, a Boston shelter for homeless women.

After convincing her mother that it would be a rewarding experience, Danielle also enlisted in the Army Reserves eight weeks before getting her diploma in June, 1989. She planned to save money by working fulltime and fulfill her service commitment before attending college.

Last April Danielle left her job at a clothing store for eight weeks of basic military instruction at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Then it was six more weeks at Fort Sam Houston, Texas for training as an operating room technician. Her last stop was Fort Devens.

"I loved it," says Danielle. "I made a lot of good friends in the Army--people who will be friends for life. And I learned a lot of things that will help me through life."

Danielle is currently enrolled in the College of Management, but is undecided on a major. She hopes to attend law school and work in international law, a field that interests her because her aunt is employed as an international lawyer by a bank.

Danielle is not alone in her successes. Lan-Dinh, now a high school senior, has also signed on with the Army, and Danielle's mother has worked her way up to programmer at the Teradyne Corporation.

"I admire her so much," Danielle says.

Danielle says she will continue to live at home to help the family make ends meet. She also plans to continue volunteering help to those who need it most.

"I do these things because I enjoy helping people," she explains simply.

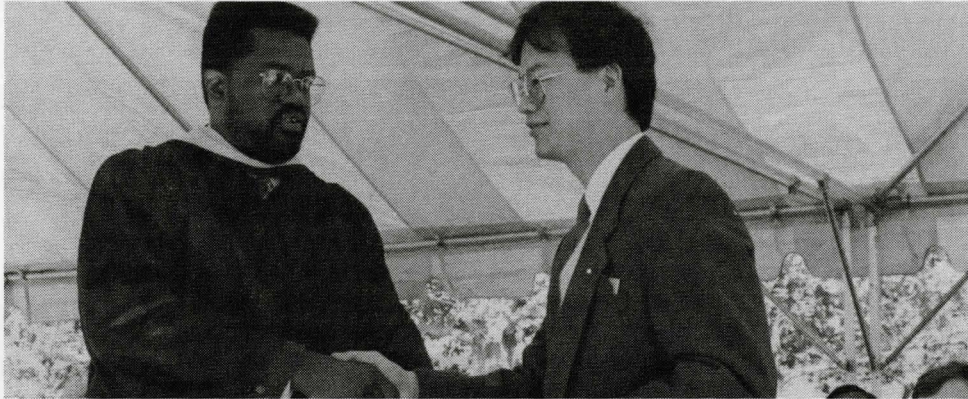
Michael Ventresca might have said the same.



Mary E. Sullivan, Speaker, Student Senate, delivers greetings at Convocation ceremony.

CONVOCATION 1990

Alex Chi-Ming Lee receives Alumni Association Scholarship at Convocation



Alex Chi-Ming Lee, right, accepts Alumni Award from Alumni President Robert George.

Alex Chi-Ming Lee will tell you that he's had help from numerous sources along the way, but it's one constant companion that has served him best—an appetite for hard work.

That is often the case for the 9th of 10 children of working class parents.

"I am the only one I can rely on," he says.

Lee, who was raised in Hong Kong, learned that lesson even before he graduated high school in 1981 and had taken a job at a travel agency. He was going to work his way to the top, until he discovered what a lot of hard-working folks eventually realize: that you can only go so far in a company that's not your own.

Lee devised an alternative plan. He would attend college in the United States. He saved \$13,000, enough money to prove to the United States government that he was serious, while applying for a student visa.

Two years ago, visa firmly clasped, Lee moved in with his sister in Jamaica Plain and enrolled at UMass/Boston. He had little trouble picking a school.

"UMass/Boston was the only place I could afford," he explains.

Last September 19, 10 days after his 27th birthday, Lee received a \$1,000 scholarship from the UMass/Boston Alumni Association. The fact that Lee holds a 3.94 grade point average while carrying a double major in accounting and economics did not hurt his candidacy.

He also is a leader outside the classroom. He has served as president of the Chinese Activities and Cultural Association, a group that organizes events to bring together the several hundred Asian students on the UMass/Boston campus, and was elected to the Student Senate with 70 percent of the ballots cast last spring.

"I want very much to stimulate the Asian students here," Lee says. "We represent five different ethnic backgrounds, so it's helpful that we all work together."

Lee believes his ability to speak two Chinese dialects, Mandarin and Cantonese, has prepared him to

bridge the gaps separating Asians.

Lee also is among the 80 percent of UMass/Boston students to hold down jobs. He works on campus in the Office of Graduate Studies. His computer expertise is utilized in updating accounting records.

"Alex is terrific," says Paul Wright of the Graduate Studies and Research Office. "He's smart, hardworking, and congenial. He'll be a winner when he gets into the business world."

Lee has taken courses every summer and expects to graduate next September, nearly a year ahead of schedule. Soon he will begin interviewing with headhunters from accounting firms. He is looking forward to the day when he can reach inside his pocket and pull out more than spare change.

"Of course I want to make money," he says. "But the objective of my coming here is not a better-paying job. I wanted to be an educated person."

For that, he was willing to travel halfway around the world and leave the relative security of family life.

Factors at home hastened his decision. In Hong Kong, Lee says, public colleges are the domain of a chosen few, and his chances of attending school abroad were dim because his parents could not afford to be so generous.

In addition, many people believe that life in Hong Kong will be upset in 1997, when the Chinese government assumes control of the capitalist enclave. The city's powerful businesses are already fleeing, Lee says, and economic forecasts are bleak.

"People don't have the faith in the Chinese government," he says, "especially after the June 4 massacre."

That date is a reference to the killing of student protesters by government troops 17 months ago.

Lee returned once to Hong Kong, but he doesn't anticipate going back any time soon. He has a life in America to build. He has work to do.

"Knowing what it's like to work has helped me analyze things," he says. "I think to go to work and then come back to school is a good way to do it."

And for him, it was the only way.

Faculty Convocation Breakfast

• continued from page 1

freezes. We must also continue other reduction measures, including fees...Most importantly, we must remain committed....

"But let us remember that in spite of all the bad news, we have tripled our Annual Fund and we have been able to reallocate internally to support campus priorities...We have, therefore, been able to demonstrate that we are an educational institution that has been able to move ahead in several areas in spite of disastrous cuts....

"This university is blessed with outstanding faculty. Your credentials and commitments, your professional contributions to this institution as well as to the common good, and your capacity for teaching and research are all characteristics of a great university....

"The answer to the question of 'How we are doing?' is, we have enormous assets in you, the faculty. And we have the potential to raise outside monies and be less dependent on the Commonwealth. We have moved forward in difficult times and we will survive, in spite of it all.

"As a young and vigorous institution, we cannot afford to allow the state's continued fiscal crisis to deflect our attention from building for UMass/Boston a secure base for the future. Accordingly, I would like to focus my remarks on what we should be thinking about to push our institution forward....

"For openers, we need to guarantee our graduates have mastered such basic skills as verbal proficiency, critical thinking, writing and computation. This means that we implement assessment and instructional programs in these areas that are both potent and just....

"There are four areas I believe are important. They include:

- Knowledge and competence with respect to global awareness;
- Knowledge and competence with respect to diversity;
- Knowledge and competence with respect to science and technology;
- Knowledge and competence with respect to leadership."

Chancellor Penney announced a series of 10 professional development awards for junior faculty, the creation of 10 research fellowships for faculty and a sum of money available for faculty who work together on developing programs or grant proposals.

"I want you to know that we are committed to raising as much money as we can of a discretionary nature through the Annual Fund so that we can begin to put some funds into these important programs.

News & Views is a publication of the UMass/Boston Office of Public Information. News items should be addressed to: Office of Public Information, Second Floor, Administration Building, Harbor Campus, Boston, MA 02125.