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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 10, No. 38

SUPPLEMENT

May 31, 1977

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Joan Chaisson leads a hectic life. She's the mother of 11 children, and if you ask her how many are at home, she might hesitate and then respond, "This week, it's seven."

Her children range in ages from 11 to 26, and every one of them and her husband Bill are quite proud of her latest achievement. She will be graduating from UMass-Boston on June 2nd with a degree in Legal Education.

Twenty seven years ago she left school to be married to devote her time to bringing up her family. In 1972 she went back to school at Newton Junior College, and for the past three years has been a student at the College of Public and Community Service of UMass-Boston.

Joan always hoped to get back to school, and now that she has earned her Bachelor's degree, she is hoping to continue studies at Law School.

As an undergraduate she had a hectic schedule between classroom work and participating in the Community Advocacy Law Office, which is part of the college's curriculum.

Her son Richard is a graduate of UMass-Amherst and has been accepted at UMass Medical School in Worcester next September. Daughter Barbara is a freshman at UMass-Amherst, and daughter Jean is a student at B.U. School of Nursing.

As interested as she is in her own graduation day--when most of the family will be on hand--she is thrilled with daughter Margaret's graduation this spring from Newton North High School.

Looking back on her collegiate career, Joan said she had debated if it would be worth while. She wanted to be more educationally productive. "I certainly feel that I have been enriched, and that's why I've set Law School as my next goal."

The household at 31 Evergreen Avenue in Auburndale is expected to have a happy graduation celebration.

Daphne Swabey, 1 Melrose St., Boston, has worked in London, Paris, Hollywood and Montreal. Her interests have been in music, art, film, pottery.

By any measure, she has led an interesting life, but she describes herself as a curious person who wanted more extensions to her life. She had been out of school for 12 years until she met a former Trustee of the University of Massachusetts John Boyden on Cape Cod, who suggested to her that UMass-Boston would be a challenge and the extension of the life she was looking for.

On June 2nd she will receive a triple degree from UMass-Boston in French, Russian, and English and this is a step for her future career at the University of Michigan, where she has won a \$5000 Fellowship for studies in Comparative Literature.

The way she looks at education: "Study in itself is exciting. I'm happy to have had the opportunities."

Rev. Richard B. MacLennan says his current career is based on his "Search for a Better Life."

He's been in broadcasting, raised horses, ran a commercial steamer service, ran Audubon Society camps, and finally entered the ministry.

To fulfill the requirements for his Master's in Theology from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, he needed his bachelor's degree which he is receiving at the UMass-Boston Commencement on June 2nd.

At the College of Public and Community Service he has been concentrating on Human Growth and Development courses, which he uses in his counseling ministry with the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church of the Eastern Rite.

His collegiate career at UMass-Boston, he says, has been particularly satisfying because his college, he says, "fully recognizes the value of an individual. Sometimes, education rejects people; at UMass it's nurtured."

He praises his wife Sally for the help she has given him over his various careers, and especially in his studies.

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They have four children Bruce, a student at Antioch College who is now in Mexico on a study program; Steven, who graduated from Georgetown University this month; Carol, a junior at Bowdoin College who recently returned from an exchange program in Kenya; and Nancy, who is ready for high school.

The MacLellans live at 5 St. John Rd., Cambridge.

In her working hours Selna Skolnick deals with professors of Latin, Greek and Russian.

For the past four years at UMass-Boston she has special interest in the courses by professors in the English Department, since she has been a candidate for a Master of Arts degree in English, and will attain her goal on June 2nd at the UMass-Boston commencement exercises.

She was graduated from Simmons College in 1970 and came to work at UMass-Boston as a secretary in the Classics Department.

She began the courses in English, with special interest in Women's Literature, the 19th Century American writers, and in creative writing. One of her ambitions, sparked by her instructors, is to publish fiction.

Ms. Skolnick lives at 1063 Beacon Street, Brookline.

The medical profession never found the cause why Ann Kavanagh, 121 Whiting St., Dedham, was stricken 15 years ago and confined her to a wheelchair ever since.

But the pretty 28-year old UMass-Boston senior knows the past year has been one of the most rewarding of her life.

She was a student teacher for kindergarten and second grade students at the Lincoln-Hancock School in Quincy, and now hopes that teaching will be her future career. She is talking about going to graduate school to become a reading specialist.

Her experiences were beautiful at the Quincy school. The children quickly accepted a teacher in a wheelchair, and the teaching staff were supportive of her efforts.

Her personality and her talents project a person who is vitally interested in teaching. She has much to offer.

William Dufresne, 28, of Jamaica Plain, came to UMass-Boston with the idea he could begin work toward a career in Nursing. When he met up with the faculty of the Biology Department his sights were lifted, but with it came a great deal of hard, concentrated work.

It paid off. He has been accepted at the Tufts University Medical School and will begin studies there in September.

A former Volkswagon mechanic, he came back to school with an intensity to get his college degree. He also worked in the laboratories at Massachusetts General Hospital, and the doctors there also contributed to his determination to get ahead. There he had first hand experience how people need medical assistance. Now he's ready to contribute himself.

Phyllis Wesley was twenty three years out of school before she returned to the classroom at the College of Public and Community Service at UMass-Boston.

Now, she is going onward to the Harvard University School of Education.

She believes in education--for herself, her husband Henry, and her children. She says she got her husband to come back to school, too, and he expects to graduate from UMass-Boston two years from now.

The Wesleys have five children. Daughter Arlene will be getting her Master's degree this spring from Kent State; daughter Diane is going to UMass-Boston next September; Henry, Jr., is at Howard University, majoring in business and daughters Suzanne, 14, and Christina, 11, have found the values of the METCO program. Suzanne goes from Roxbury to Rockland High School, and Christina will be going to Melrose High next year.

Mrs. Wesley has been active in her Roxbury community. She has been working with mothers at Norfolk House; doing considerable committee work with the Highland Park Free School, and with the Federation of Boston Community Schools.