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Some Interesting UMass-Boston Graduates

At UMass-Boston we believe all of our graduating seniors are interesting people. They have worked diligently to earn their degrees, despite the personal pressures of bringing up families, working at jobs to support their educational pursuits, serving as community workers, and having the drive and determination to complete their collegiate studies.

Among our interesting graduates are:

Maurizio Vannicelli, 28, of 1727 Cambridge St., Cambridge, who came to this country from Italy four years ago with limited verbal skills in English but exceptional reading ability, has won a full tuition scholarship and \$2800 stipend to continue studies for his Ph. D. in Politics at Harvard University.

In Italy he had a good job with an import-export firm but "wanted to do more with my life" and gave up his business career. His brother Primo, a member of the faculty at UMass-Boston, convinced him to come to this country for a visit.

The visit consisted in taking intensive summer courses and auditing courses at Harvard. Four years ago he enrolled at UMass-Boston and won Dean's honors for four years. He is graduating summa cum laude. In addition to the Harvard graduate scholarship he was named a Danforth Foundation Fellow.

Mrs Virgemina Rivera, 34, of 39 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Roxbury will have a cheering gallery at graduation with her husband Dioso and four children Melvin, 15; Elba, 13; Maritza, 12, and Kathleen, 4, as she graduates with honors. A native of Puerto Rico, she majored in English and was a model for her children who are students at St. Patrick's School in Roxbury.

Mrs. Shirley Simpson, 30, of 67 West Selden Street, Mattapan, is graduating with honors in Economics and has won a HUD Internship at MIT where she will study for her Master's degree in City Planning.

She made the most of every free moment pursuing her studies. She read books at the check out counter of supermarkets and while supper was still in the stove.

"I took turns in neglecting things," she says. "Sometimes the housework fell behind, but nothing ever turned into a disaster. Her understanding husband Virgil and her children Karin, 10, and Jerome, 9, both students at the Berea Elementary and Junior High School, gave her "all kinds of encouragement."

While attending UMass-Boston she also ran a secretarial consultant service which helped finance her university expenses but also served as an independent studies project. She also had time for community affairs, serving as Board Secretary for the Roxbury-North Dorchester APAC, and vice president of the West Selden Block Association.

Paula Kline, 20, of 1500 Great Plain Ave., Needham, is a young lady in a hurry. She graduates from UMass-Boston in three years with honors, accelerating her course of studies with summer school sessions. "I guess you would call me ambitious," she says. But she adds that she had great satisfaction in giving some of her spare time as a tutor for first grade students at the Paul A. Dever School at Columbia Point. Paula plans to attend the Simmons College School of Library Science and eventually hopes to earn a Ph.D. in history.

Mrs. Ilene Weinberg, 48, of 33 Sun Hill Lane, Newton, describes herself as a "happy Jewish mother." She's happy that her son Richard was graduated with his M.D. from the Johns Hopkins Medical School last week and her son Donald will be graduating from Harvard College on June 12th. Meanwhile, she is one of the five first graduates of the UMass-Boston College of Public and Community Service.

Previously she had worked with children at the Fernald School in Waltham and decided two years ago to return to school. She chose the new, experimental College of Public and Community Service, and "I learned what to do with the knowledge I gained," she says. She plans to work in a public service agency and enthusiastically adds, "I may take on law school next year."

The four others graduating with the first class in the College of Public and Community Service are Herbert Fothergill, 52, Chief of the Chelsea Fire Department and the Deputy Chief of the Department William Capistran, 55.

Paul Bright, 31, of 16 Mellen St., Cambridge, was a student at UMass-Boston eight years ago and dropped out to work as a musician and to do work with drug addicts. He has also worked in settlement houses and lately has been working with the Planning Office of Thompson's Academy, the school off the shores of the Harbor Campus.

His sisters will be at graduation, Mrs. Sheila Klaiman of Sharon and another sister Carolyn from Maine, a sister he only located last fall after being "missing" for 30 years.

Mrs. Sarah Curry commuted from New York, where she is the assistant to the director of the Department of Economic Development of the National Urban League. A lifelong "compulsive learner" she had sufficient "competencies" in the College of Public and Community Service to complete requirements in one year. She had previously been a Community Fellow at MIT, her colleagues describe her as an intellectual and as bright as a new minted coin. Her husband died a year ago, and she has been bringing up three children 18, 15, and 12, who will be at graduation.

Peter Flynn, 21, Of 15 Harlow St., Arlington, as part of his education spent one semester as a legislative intern in the office of Congressman J. Joseph Moakley. Although Flynn had an idea he wanted to become a lawyer the Washington experience convinced him while he worked with governmental agency lawyers. He will attend Boston College Law School. He graduates with a 3.8 high honors average. Flynn worked his way through college as a mover with the Casey & Hayes Co.

Mrs. Delia Dulong, 33, of 35 Lynn Fells Parkway, Melrose, came to UMass-Boston after she had been out of high school for 12 years. The mother of five children, she has had a busy career not only as an undergraduate at UMass-Boston but simultaneously as a Graduate Student at MIT, where she will continue her studies next year. She is also associated at the Cambridge Air Force Research Center, and has been doing research on the practicability of heating water with solar energy in Boston, and also comparing costs of solar energy and electrical power.

Hubert Humphrey, the sage of Minnesota, once said that "in back of every successful statesman is a surprised mother-in-law." In back of every graduation ceremony is a small army of people making the event come off successfully.

For the several hundred who stopped at the Service Building to get their caps and gowns, they were greeted by "SMILE" signs and by "Congratulations" wishes and by some very personal and friendly service by Joe Bloomstein, Ray O'Connor and Frank Craig, all delighted to be of help to the new graduate.

If you have been in the Registrar's Office lately, the whole staff has been at work in getting diplomas ready, honors listed, the program ready, and other important chores.

Graduation preparation began months ago with bids being sent to diploma printers and manufacturers of the diploma covers, and chair renters.

It takes many people, but it's all for the biggest day in the lives of the degree winners.

Congratulations to all!

Gardens

In response to the growing interest in vegetable gardening both as recreation and as a way to cut food costs a University-Community vegetable garden is being organized. An acre of land has been set aside for this purpose, on the northeast corner of the campus, near the gate to the Columbia Point Housing Project.

Present plans call for one hundred individual plots, each twenty feet on a side, to be made available. Fifty are earmarked for University students, faculty and staff and fifty are being offered to residents of the Columbia Point housing project, through the University field office there.

All bona fide members of the University are welcome to participate.

The garden site is being prepared with the assistance of various people in the maintenance department. A construction trailer has been moved to the site and will serve as a tool shed. A small supply of gardening tools has been obtained and more are being sought. Instructions for inexperienced gardeners will be available.

If you are interested in having a garden plot, please go to the Biology Department office in College II, or to the UMass Columbia Point field office to sign up. An organizational meeting will be announced soon.

Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts will hold their June meeting at the Harbor Campus on Wednesday, June 4.

Harbor Conference

The Boston Harbor Associates, an organization of community, business, civic, industrial and environmental members, will hold a conference at this campus on Thursday, June 5. "Boston Harbor -- Who Cares?" is the topic of the all-day meeting. Governor Michael Dukakis is scheduled as one of the principal speakers.

Bicentennial Exhibit

The UMass-Boston Bicentennial Committee is sponsoring an exhibit at the 100 Arlington St. Bicentennial Exhibition Hall through June 29 on Paul Revere pottery. The hall is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.