


6-3-1975

## Bulletin - Vol. 09, No. 38 - June 3, 1975

University of Massachusetts Boston

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### Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "Bulletin - Vol. 09, No. 38 - June 3, 1975" (1975). *1971-1977, UMass Boston Bulletin*. Paper 205.  
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Graduation Poem

Susan Izzicupo delivered the Greetings of the Class of 1975 at the Commencement Exercises, and her poem has brought many inquiries for copies. With pleasure it is reproduced here. Incidentally, Susan won the first Alfred Ferguson Award for accomplishment in American Literature. The award is named after the late, great Prof. Ferguson who did much to advance the destinies of UMass-Boston.

I am the daughter of a working man  
Second generation of immigrant grandparents  
who set up house where the boat left  
them off.

They brought "Old Country" here  
to the docks of a city they called  
"Bosta". In food and song  
and family, they brought warm blood  
culture to the cold New England soil  
With awkward tools and reticent pride  
they transplanted their ancient roots.

We are their children's children  
Sons of ditchdiggers and construction  
workers.  
Daughters of seamstresses and sweat shop  
girls.  
Grandpa cleaned the Beaver Country Day School  
while Grandma raised six children in a  
red brick tenement.

But they made it  
Whatever that means in American.  
With pride and shame  
and broken English  
With Yankee ignorance and  
old world intellect.

They learned America  
In Chinatown  
In Roxbury  
In Southie  
In the North End  
They have built their heritage  
and housed their dreams.

They spoke a language  
in brogue and dialect  
and soon all the accents merged  
---they dropped their r's and added a's---

- the clicking harmonies of midmorning typewriters
- cramped fingers
- refrigerator raids when the stomach decides to work instead of the head
- the anxiety hidden in small blue books before the ultimate discovery of insight and wisdom within our own minds.

After the fifty minute hours,  
 after the notetaking and question asking,  
 after the formal education:  
 the other side of school,  
 indigenuous only to UMB-  
 dinners and drinks  
 drawing classes in the Public Garden  
 meetings and gallery openings  
 Sunday morning museum trips  
 in our true campus -  
 The City - the breathing, roaring, flashing creature  
 which we sustain and which gives us  
 energy in return.

We have no ivy  
 We bought our grass pregrown  
 We do not have acres of untouched  
 land, a riding club, or a boat club,  
 Yet.

We are a peninsula of personal attention  
 and group strength.  
 We have an undeniable sense of ourselves  
 and one another.  
 We live the Classics and the Modern daily  
 in a creative tension bordered by the power  
 of the sea, continually changing,  
 on our side.

Mixed emotions;  
 a sense of the past  
 a plan for the future  
 I accept today.  
 I have just begun my  
 search for self  
 and status and that  
 big, fat evasive truth.  
 Today, I set a family precedent  
 and a small personal victory  
 over poverty and fear and the  
 uncertain right to be an intelligent  
 first class person.

With my skill and talent  
 refined and directed,  
 with all the young naive hope  
 in the world that I will do great  
 things and be a special person,  
 I leave this point today.  
 With four years on paper

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- cramped fingers
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 in the world that I will do great  
 things and be a special person,  
 I leave this point today.  
 With four years on paper

wrapped in the ribbon of  
social mobility and intellectual reward,  
I hope for one thing above all else  
That I, and that we all  
will remember in our minds and in our  
mouths, the precious taste of  
salt.

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#### College I

Effective June 2, College I will be closed down except for the exceptions listed below:

1) Faculty and Staff having business in 010. 2) Contractors (prior authorization only) if working within 010. 3) Persons using the pool, on pre-arranged schedules. 4) Students and all others must be cleared by faculty or staff member presently in 010 (via telephone).

All persons (except for pool) must show University identification and sign in before being allowed into the building. Any questions or problems, refer to University Police X2111

Also, to conserve even more energy than the present planned programs, the parking area under College I on the G-I level will be shut down for the summer. This area will be opened for special functions only.

This plan took effect Monday, June 2.

#### College I Sociology Graduates

The following majors in the College I Department of Sociology were accepted for graduate studies: Douglas Terrell - University of Chicago; John Orthman - University of Chicago; Dennis Young - Tulane University (School of International Relations); Crista Getz - York University in Canada; and Pasqualino Colombara - Boston University. There may be additional names to this list.

The following 1972 graduates from University of Massachusetts at Boston who majored in Sociology, College I, will receive Master of Social Work degrees at the 1975 commencement at Boston College: Susan Palma, Ronald Tow Susan Lattin.

Mrs. Susan Palma's daughter, Mrs. Deborah White, will receive her Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst the same week that Mrs. Palma is receiving her Master of Social Work degree. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Palma is Director of the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Center in East Boston. Last year she served at the Mayor's request as a member of the Mayor's Task Force for the Elderly. In her capacity as Director of the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Center, Mrs. Palma also directs the program for the elderly for the East Boston Social Centers, Inc.

A portion of Mrs. Palma's graduate work was supported by the Small Grants Program of the Charles Francis Adams Trust Fund for graduate students which is affiliated with United Way.

Ronald Lembo, a 1974 College I Sociology graduate, has received a teaching assistantship in the Dept. of Sociology of the University of California at Santa Barbara where he is a doctoral student.