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University of Massachusetts at Boston

# the Spectator

Vol. 1 No. 7

June 8, 1978

## UNIVERSITY HOLDS 10TH COMMENCEMENT

The University of Massachusetts at Boston awarded some 1,156 degrees during commencement exercises held on the Harbor Campus June 1.

Additionally, retiring Prof. Alvan S. Ryan of Boston was designated the first Professor Emeritus of Faculty in the university's history and there were a number of special awards.

The College of Arts and Sciences conferred 962 bachelor's degrees and 27 master's; the College of Professional Studies, 92 bachelor's; and the College of Public and Community Service, 75 bachelor's degrees.

University President Franklin Patterson delivered the greetings of the University-wide system; Chancellor Claire Van Ummersen gave the main address; and Mrs. Judith Baker, a former student trustee on the Board of Trustees, spoke on behalf of the graduates.

The exercises marked the 10th annual commencement for UMass-Boston which was founded by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1964 to provide an opportunity for the people of the Commonwealth to earn a quality education at a reasonable cost.

## PROF. RYAN NAMED PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Prof. Alvan S. Ryan, a founding father of UMass-Boston, received during commencement the first Professor Emeritus title bestowed by the campus on a retiring professor for his professional achievements. He also was cited for his dedication to teaching, humanistic example and contributions to the university.

A former chairman of the English Dept. at Notre Dame, he came to UMass-Boston in 1965. In his honor, UMB also will present annually the "Alvan S. Ryan Award" to an outstanding graduate student in English.

## TOP FACULTY AWARDS

The "Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award," newly established by Chancellor Van Ummersen and carrying a stipend of \$500, was awarded to both Prof. Neil Bruss of the English Dept. and Patricia Jerabek of CPCS. Students submitted some 100 nominations for this award presented at Commencement.

Prof. Ethan Bolker, Math Dept., and Prof. Taylor Stoehr, English, received the "Chancellor's Distinguished Scholarship Award," which includes a stipend of \$500 each, for the high quality of their published work in 1977.

## KEY STUDENT AWARDS

Anne E. Verdon of Malverne, NY, received the "John F. Kennedy Award," UMass-Boston's highest student honor for academic achievement and outstanding service. Achieving a perfect 4.0 grade average while earning a BA in Psychology, she has accepted a scholarship to attend Yale Law School in September.

Susan Duffy of West Somerville, a junior studying for a BA in History and French, was presented the "John W. Ryan Award" for attaining the highest cumulative average at the end of the sophomore year, a 4.0. This award is named to honor the first chancellor of UMB who is now the president of the University of Indiana.

The "Adrian Jill Barnett Award," established to honor the memory of a 1977 alumna who was fatally injured in a highway accident, went to Laura J. Friedman of Lexington and Eydie Kasendorf of Malden. This prize is given to graduating Psychology majors who demonstrate academic excellence.

## COMMENCEMENT

"The first step, my son, which one makes in the world, is the one on which depends the rest of our days."  
--Voltaire



## CHANCELLOR'S COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

The 1978 UMB graduates were told by Chancellor Claire Van Ummersen that they have an "important and difficult task -- that of projecting a proper image of the University of Massachusetts at Boston to the world outside our institution."

The Chancellor said to the gathered class of 1978 on a sun-swept Plaza that "no matter how much we make others more aware of us -- and we are moving quickly to make that occur -- the image of the university will be shaped ultimately by its graduates -- you, who go forth to a myriad of different opportunities for a richer life -- to graduate school, to professional schools to positions in industry, businesses, human services, education.

"You are our ambassadors," the Chancellor said. "Go forth and use the education you have obtained here. Show that we are helping to develop persons with talent, sensitivity, and commitment to engage in the process of making our lives better and our society stronger."

Dr. Van Ummersen said that it seems the university has answered the call of UMB's first chancellor, John W. Ryan, "to evolve into a public urban center of learning. UMB is providing the opportunity of an education of a very high quality to the citizens of the Commonwealth and others who seek its offerings. And while our growth has been limited from what was originally expected, our mission has been diversified beyond the initial conception of our university, not just with the founding of the College of Public and Community Service and the College of Professional Studies, but with the imaginative combination of traditional majors and interdisciplinary concentrations within the College of Arts and Sciences."

She emphasized that "important shifts in demands for higher education and political cultural attitudes towards higher education, which have affected all institutions have particularly been felt by us since they came at a time when the organism, our university, was in a stage of rapid development and not one of stability. We must now think of ourselves, not as in a stage of rapid growth, but as an institution that in terms of size and resources is approaching maturity."

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

In his Commencement remarks, President Franklin Patterson spoke of "present realities," the most important of which is that "this University exists as a meeting ground for faculty and students."

Speaking as a faculty member and also a Trustee, he cited the Trustees determination "to stop the steady and damaging erosion of the economic position of the University's most important resource, the faculty."

Over the past several years, he noted, the University "has lost some of our most distinguished colleagues" to other institutions, while at the same time "It has been very difficult to fund the appointment of outstanding scholar-teachers to fill serious gaps in our departments."

"We must be able to say to forces outside the University -- which would ask us to look upon members of our faculty as mere numbers in a budget -- that the people of the Commonwealth will not tolerate a retreat from the excellence created here," he said.

## THE 1978 GRADUATES -- QUO VADIS?

Many of UMB's 1978 graduates have been accepted at a number of prestigious graduate and professional schools -- especially here in the Northeast.

Among the schools to accept the new UMB alumni/ae are: Harvard and Yale Law Schools, Oxford University, Harvard Business School, MIT, Harvard and Tufts Medical Schools, Tufts and Boston University Dental Schools, Brandeis, Boston College, Boston University, New York University, Northeastern, Harvard Arts & Sciences, Iowa University, Toronto University, SUNY-Buffalo, University of California Medical School and the University of Washington.

## MOTHER AND SON GRADUATE

Mrs. C. Diane Purdy, 45, and her 24-year-old son, Michael Jay Purdy, of North Weymouth were among the 1978 graduates. Mrs. Purdy, also the mother of three daughters, earned her BA magna cum laude in Theater Arts and English. Michael received a BA cum laude in English. Both of them also completed their training in UMB's Teacher Certification Program.

As for the future, Mrs. Purdy hopes some day "to write a great play" and Michael is thinking of graduate school.





# RESEARCH DIRECTOR AT AGING CONFERENCE

Dr. Lawrence G. Branch, director of the Center for Survey Research at CPCS, spoke recently at a conference on the aging in Springfield. Following a talk by Gov. Michael Dukakis, he focused his speech on the theme that it is possible to identify the elderly who are in need, thereby enabling the community to mobilize its resources to begin meeting the needs of this segment of the population.

Dr. Branch again will be the keynote speaker on a similar program with Gov. Dukakis in East Bridgewater on June 16. He will share the speaking program also with Maggie Kuhn, the founder of the "Gray Panthers."

For the uninitiated, the Center for Survey Research was established in the fall of 1971 and is a facility also of the Joint Center for Urban Studies of MIT and Harvard.

## UMB STUDENTS PRESENT CHEMISTRY PAPERS AT BC

Three students from UMB's Chemistry Dept. presented papers at the 18th annual College Research Symposium held at Boston College in mid-May.

Mary B. O'Riordan (whose advisor is Prof. J.P. Anselme) spoke on "1-METHYL-3, 4-DIPHENYLPIRAZOLE AND TETRAHYDROPIRAZINE FROM THE HYDRAZINE." Larry B. Pearce (advisor, Prof. Anselme and Instructor K.F. Cerny) presented a paper entitled "FORMATION OF PHENYLALAZIDE FROM THE REACTION OF PHENYLHYDRAZINE WITH THIONYL CHLORIDE," and Lawrence J. Murphy Jr. (advisor, Prof. L.J. Zompa) spoke on "A KINETIC STUDY OF ACID HYDROLYSIS OF CYCLIC TRIAMINE NICKEL (II) COMPLEXES."

After the Symposium the students and their advisors were the guests of the Northeast Section of the American Chemical Society for the annual awards banquet.

## UMB'S FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The Job Development Center, located in the Financial Aid Office on the Harbor Campus, says it provides a free employment service to all businesses in the Greater Boston area seeking to hire our dependable and hard-working students. If you know any business person trying to fill full-time summer jobs, pass the information on to Darlene Perkins at ext. 2311 or 2312.

# GRANT ACTIVITY STATISTICAL INFO

During the month of April the Office of Grant and Contract Administration reviewed and submitted to funding agencies eleven (11) proposals and/or contracts, according to director H. Todd Eachus. The numbers brought the total of new submissions for FY78 to 91.

Eachus also reports that during April six awards were received by UMass-Boston -- adding \$60,133.90 to the FY78 total award money. So by the end of the third quarter of FY78, the total of new money stood at \$1,357,287.55, Eachus said.

## UMB TO AWARD HONORARY DEGREES IN '79

UMass-Boston will be awarding honorary degrees at Commencement exercises for the first time next year. With the permission of the Board of Trustees, the Boston Campus has permission to bestow up to four such degrees beginning with the 11th Commencement program of UMB in 1979.

Chancellor Claire Van Ummersen and the Faculty Co-Chairman of the Assembly have asked members of the faculty to forward nominations for the honorary degrees to the Chancellor's Office by Sept. 13, 1978. The names of the nominees, in turn, will be submitted by the Chancellor to the appropriate Assembly Committee.

Chancellor Van Ummersen says UMass-Boston now has the opportunity "to give recognition and honor to persons we feel have made significant contributions to aspects of our lives. I hope each of you will give serious consideration to this matter."

## NATIONAL AAUP MEETING AT YALE

Yale University will be the site of the 64th annual meeting of the American Association of University Professors on June 9-10. Workshop topics include: "Accommodating the New Retirement Law," "The Carter Administration and Higher Education," "Bakke -- Assessing the Impact," and "The Economic Status of the Profession." All members of the Association are invited.

## SUMMER VACATION

"Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun."

--Ecclesiastes XI. 7



## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

An expanded version of German Dept. Prof. Peter Ott's article, "Tradition and Innovation: The Prose Theory of Arno Schmidt," (German Quarterly, January 1978) will be published in Spanish in Espiral (Madrid), a post-Joycean journal edited by the avant-gardist Julian Rios.

A shorter article by Prof. Ott about one of Schmidt's early novels (recently translated into Spanish) will also appear in Spain.

Prof. Harold P. Mahon of the Physics Dept. recently had an article, "Electric Fields in Diffuse Aurora," published in Planetary and Space Science. It describes research based upon rocket-born measurements in the aurora above Fort Churchill, Manitoba.

Aurora are caused by electrons from the sun following the earth's magnetic field that collide with its rarefied atmosphere and cause it to glow. The electric fields measured were sufficiently large to provide one explanation for the source of energy for the electrons.

Prof. Mahon's research was done with co-authors Rita Sayalyn and Mike Smiddy of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory. The instrumentation developed is now being used for similar measurement from a satellite.

Another article, "Energiespanen Jetzt! Arbeitsmethoden und Checklisten zum Kosten-senken in bestehenden Gebauden und Industrie-anlagen," which was published by Bauverlag, Wiessbeden, describes energy saving methods for communities and businesses. Material on district heating and methods to improve industrial and commercial energy use were obtained during the author's sabbatical year in Switzerland.

## CHEMICAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSE

Prof. Ernest I. Becker of the Chemistry Dept. will teach a short course on "Chemical Health and Safety for Small Colleges and Small Businesses" to early arrivals before the official opening of the 8th Northeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (NERM-8) in Boston on June 25. Becker says the course, which he devised with a colleague, Eric W. Spencer, a consulting engineer, of Marsh-McNenon, is already oversubscribed but added that he hopes to make more room for any one still interested. He is the secretary-treasurer of the Division of Chemical Health and Safety, the Society's 29th and newest division. Now seven-years-old, the division has 270 members nationwide and "growing at a fast clip," according to Prof. Becker.

## GWEN GIBSON EARNS DEGREE

Mrs. Gwen Gibson of Roxbury, a secretary for the past five years in the Community Services Dept., on the Harbor Campus, is set to receive her BS in Education from Boston State College on June 10. A 45-year-old mother of five children, she went to college for five nights a week to earn the degree.

She says, "When I decided to get a college education everybody thought I couldn't do it. But I didn't pay any attention to them because I enjoyed going to school and I wanted to succeed for myself, to have a better chance to get ahead. Getting an education meant something important to me and I worked very hard and applied myself."

Mrs. Gibson says she hopes to teach full-time eventually because she enjoys it and enjoys children. Meanwhile, she's receiving the congratulations of her co-workers and the numerous friends she has made at UMB because of her wonderful sense of humor and positive outlook on life.

## RECIPIENT OF FIRST ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Ms. Janis Munnis of Malden, a junior majoring in Psychology, is the first recipient of the new UMass-Boston Alumni Association Scholarship. The scholarship, which pays full tuition for one year, will be awarded annually hereafter to a junior on the basis of academic achievement and financial need.

Ms. Munnis, 31, graduated from Malden High School in 1965 and worked as a bookkeeper and office manager before deciding three years ago to attend UMass-Boston "because I hope to become a social worker involved with children." Her grade average is 3.7.

The Alumni Board of Directors decided at its early May meeting that Alumni funds should be used in part for such a scholarship.



THE SPECTATOR is a University-wide newsletter designed to keep you informed about relevant activities on campus and to engender a sense of community among us. Deadline for copy is the first and third Tuesday of each month. Editorial contributions are welcome and should be forwarded to Jim Ryan, director of Public Information, Campus Relations, ext. 2147.