6-2-1983

News & Views - Vol. 01, No. 08 - June 2, 1983

University of Massachusetts Boston

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Commencement '83

A kindly, rain free sky favored nearly 6000 graduates and guests who filled the Plaza at UMass/Boston for its 15th commencement exercises. They heard Dr. Helen M. Caldicott (right), commencement speaker, lash out at government leaders who have "pre-nuclear thinking".

Commencement speaker Dr. Helen M. Caldicott called upon the 1900 members of the graduating class to take over the running of their country. "President Reagan and Secretary Weinberger are men who admit no mistakes, who show no fallibility, who show no emotion and hide behind the military while they build missles... Let's open up the trade doors with Russia and fill it up with MacDonald hamburgers and blue jeans. I'm sure the Russians would love both."

The weather was, in a word, beautiful, especially considering the ominous forecasts. All went well at the 15th Commencement on the sun-splashed Plaza of the Harbor Campus of UMass/Boston on Sunday, May 22.

Commencement speaker Dr. Helen M. Caldicott, noted pediatrician and national president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, was on the 6 p.m. TV news after lashing President Ronald Reagan and his military chief Casper Weinberger in her 25-minute address.

And it was a homecoming for honorary degree recipient and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker. Back in 1972, when she was a struggling young writer living in Cambridge, she taught a one-semester course on black women writers at the Park Square Building.

Walker, Dr. Caldicott and two others received honorary degrees as Doctors of Humane Letters: Dan Huntington Fenn, Jr., Director of the John F. Kennedy Library, and George V. Kenneally, Jr., former State Representative and Senator from Dorchester and longtime friend of public higher education.

Special awards were given to Professor Irvin Stock of the English Department, Edward A. Zaleskas of Enrollment Services, juniors Diane M. Kelliher of Norwood and Margaret M. Herman of Dorchester, senior Jill J. Chaplin of Jamaica Plain — bound for medical school — and graduate student Alice G. Lang of Cambridge.

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan opened the three-hour program and was followed to the podium by UMass President David Knapp, Provost Robert Greene and Deans Richard Freeland, Arts and Science; Houston Elam, College of Management, and James Jennings, College of Public and Community Service.

Dr. Caldicott, speaking ad lib, was dynamic. She called upon the 1900 members of the graduating class to
UMB commencement is a family affair for Swallows

Huzzahs come from Ms. Deborah Swallow, right, and her oldest daughter, Diana, 22, after they'd receive business management degrees at 15th Commencement ceremonies. Another daughter Denise, 21, will be a senior in the Fall, majoring in physics.

If onlookers noticed a resemblance between two women graduates from the School of Management during UMass/Boston commencement exercises May 22, it's because the ladies sporting the blue-tassled mortar boards are mother and daughter. Mrs. Deborah Swallow and her oldest daughter, Diana, 22, both of Melrose, received business management degrees at UMass/Boston's 15th commencement on May 22.

The senior Swallow majored in public policy through her four years in college and plans to work in the field of gerontology. Before entering UMass/Boston after her daughter in 1979, she was a real estate broker in Melrose. While in school she worked two jobs, one in property management and the other as a typesetter.

Diana Swallow made her area of concentration private financial management. However, her extra-curricular activity as executive editor for The Mass Media, UMass/Boston's student newspaper, and her latest part-time jobs, one with a non-profit television production company and the other as an intern with Warner Cable in Somerville, have kindled an interest in communication.

"I just don't think I'll be going into banking with my financial management degree," she said. "I'll probably go back to school for a masters' degree and then use my education in the communication business, perhaps as a financial analyst."

Both mother and daughter agreed it was a pleasant experience attending college together. "She helped me in the math department and I helped her in the English department," Mrs. Swallow said. "Math was tough. I had a terrible time with it, but it was all necessary if I wanted to upgrade myself professionally and financially."

"It was nice having her there," Diana said of her mother's presence on campus. "We shared three classes although we mostly had different schedules. And, although I live away from home, we are close and I went home all the time to help her with homework."

"My mother did very well," Diana said with a touch of admiration. "She made it through a tough management program that involved a lot of math. She had to take statistics and quantitative analysis . . . but she made it through."

Helping to celebrate the double degree feat of the Melrose mother and daughter were three additional daughters of Deborah Swallow. They are Denise, 21, who will be a senior physics major at UMass/Boston in the Fall, Lisa, 20 and Donna, 18.

Co-workers and friends say good-bye to Grace Muscarella

Some 60 friends and co-workers tossed a farewell party to Grace Muscarella, Director of Student Financial Management, who left for a position with the New England Regional Office of The College Board.

Grace starts her new assignment July 5 after nearly nine years at UMass/Boston. She was one of the most popular figures on campus and not just because she dispensed funds. All who knew her will miss her. "It was an opportunity I couldn't dismiss," said Grace, who recently became a homeowner in Newton and will work in nearby Waltham.

Muscarella worked her way through Simmons College ('72) and received an MA in English in 1980. She occasionally writes play and movie reviews for suburban newspapers.

Grace also completed unfinished business, her mixed doubles championship tennis match that traced to the spring of 1979. Alas, Muscarella and partner Vice Chancellor Charles Desmond lost 6-2, 6-1 to Duncan Nelson and Marybeth O'Keefe.
Briefly...

Edward A. (Ed) Zaleskas was honored at the 15th Commencement with the Chancellor’s Distinguished Service Award. A $500 stipend accompanied the prestigious award. Zaleskas, a native of South Boston and a resident of West Roxbury, is a member of the professional staff in the Office of Enrollment Services.

He attended Boston Latin high school (1949), Boston State Teacher’s College and obtained his Masters degree from Boston University in 1956. He is the father of six: Kristine, 14; Virginia, 12; Kara, 11; Donna, 9; Janice, 7, and John, 5.

Alice G. Lang, 30, of Cambridge was presented the Alvan S. Ryan award for distinguished graduate study in English. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Greene made the presentation for a scholarly research paper she did on Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*.

The award commemorates the distinguished service of English professor Emeritus Alvan S. Ryan, the first teacher retiree from UMass/Boston to be designated Emeritus.

Lang has pursued a literary career since graduation from Watertown High School in 1970, despite an interruption in her schooling for eight years.

The daughter of Mrs. Alice G. Lang, Sr. attended a small college in Hiram, Ohio for a brief spell in 1970, then dropped out to work and test her skills with poetry and short story writing. She entered UMass/Boston in 1978, earning her B.A. in three years. She immediately entered the Master’s Program and the Creative Writing Program simultaneously.

Jill J. Chaplin, 26, of Jamaica Plain, received the John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence at UMass/Boston commencement.

Chaplin plans to continue her education at UMass Medical School in Worcester.

The young woman was born in Frankfurt, Germany and raised in Minnesota and Eugene, Oregon. She wants to be a doctor involved in general family practice as well as in research into psycho-social preventative techniques and cures for health problems as an alternative to drug therapies and high tech medicine.

A mother of two who returned to study after an eight-year absence won the John W. Ryan Award for academic excellence. Margaret M. Herman, 29, of Dorchester, was honored.

Herman, who carries a double major (Art, English), graduated from high school in 1972. “I was married with two kids when I returned,” she said. “The day care program at the Harbor Campus was very helpful to me.”

Mrs. Herman was honored as the junior who has attained the highest cumulative average. The Ryan Award honors the University’s first chancellor.

Bruce Herman, a teacher at Beaver Country Day School, and wife Margaret purchased an old Victorian home in Dorchester and are in the process of renovating it. They have a son Benjamin, 8, and a daughter Sarah, 4.

Dianne M. Kelliher, 21, a junior from Norwood, was presented the UMass/Boston Alumni Association Award for academic excellence.

John Comerford, President of the Alumni Association, made the presentation which includes payment of tuition and mandatory fees for Kelliher’s senior year at the Harbor Campus.

Kelliher was a National Honor Student at Norwood High School, Class of 1979. She finished seventh in her class. She is in the College of Management with a concentration in accounting. Her most recent cumulative average was 3.97.

Some 18 students in the 60-plus age range participated in the formal graduation and dinner of the Gerontology Program in the Faculty Lounge on May 26.

The keynote address was delivered by Senate President William M. Bulger.

The Gerontology Program, run by Dr. Scott A. Bass, is widely known. Special guests at the well-attended ceremony included Richard Rowland, Secretary for Elder Affairs; Frank Manning, President, Massachusetts Association of Older Americans; Phil Johnston, Director, Governor’s Office of Human Resources; Rev. Michael Groden, Director, Archdiocesan Planning Office for Urban Affairs; and Mrs. Euterpe Dukakis, mother of Gov. Michael Dukakis.

by Robert A. Corrigan

This summer, the University will mount the pilot program of an exciting new academic initiative, the Urban Scholars Program. Aimed at gifted and talented public high school sophomores and juniors, the program will provide challenging academic and career-related experiences to help students develop their potential.

The pilot program will include five students each from Dorchester High School, Jeremiah Burke High School and South Boston High School. It will be made up of three components: a one-day assessment workshop, a six-week academic institute focused primarily on “Reading, Writing and Critical Thinking” and on Computer Literacy, and a career internship either on-campus or in Boston-area businesses or community agencies.

The continuation of the Urban Scholars Program during the academic year 1983-84 will involve students from other city schools as well and will include such activities as research projects, career seminars and college counseling.

I think this program marks a real step forward in University efforts to engage our considerable expertise and academic resources toward the purpose of helping promising urban high school students to enhance their skill and to clarify their educational goals.

Word from Amherst and Ray E. Heiney, Jr., Assistant Treasurer: All payments and transfers to be made in a foreign currency must be arranged through the University Treasurer’s Office. This office makes the necessary banking arrangements and obtains the costs to be incurred. The Amherst office number: 413-545-1387.
step in and take over the running of their country from leaders who have "pre-nuclear thinking."

"Einstein said splitting the atom changed everything," Caldicott said. "He was right. Do you understand we cannot fight any more? It will destroy God's creation."

Dr. Caldicott told the graduates not to be afraid to act on their emotions: "Pres. Reagan and Weinberger are men who admit no mistakes, who show no fallibility, who show no emotion and hide behind the military while they build missiles . . . Let's open up the trade doors with Russia and fill it up with MacDonald hamburgers and blue jeans. I'm sure the Russians would love both."

Chancellor Corrigan, introducing Alice Walker, said: "We honor one, like the University, who is dedicated to the causes of humanity and personal dignity."

Walker, now living in San Francisco, became the first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for her novel, "The Color Purple." The book also won the 1983 American Book Award for fiction in hardcover.

Rebecca Walker, 14, the writer's daughter, attended the ceremony.

Professor Irvin Stock was cited for "the high quality of published work" especially his collection of essays, Fiction as Wisdom: From Goethe to Bellow. A stipend of $500 accompanied the award.

There were the usual trappings of graduations, the proud parents in the audience, a few graduates tugging children along as they claimed diplomas. It was a proud moment for all concerned.

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News & Views

News & Views is a bi-weekly publication of the UMass/Boston Office of Public Information. News items should be addressed to:
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