

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

1983-1991, News & Views

University Publications and Campus
Newsletters

6-18-1984

News & Views - Vol. 02, No. 14 - June 18, 1984

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_newsandviews



Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

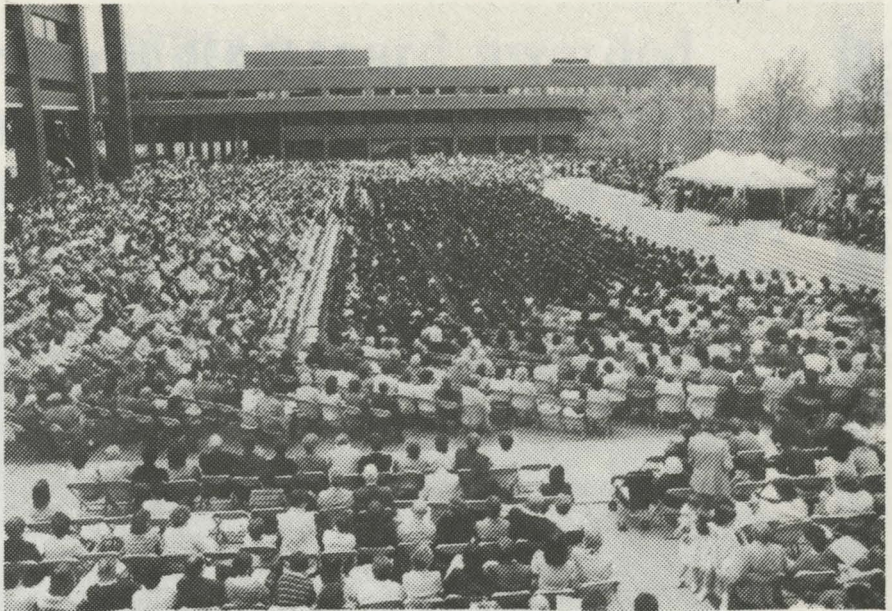
University of Massachusetts Boston, "News & Views - Vol. 02, No. 14 - June 18, 1984" (1984). *1983-1991, News & Views*. 25.

https://scholarworks.umb.edu/university_newsandviews/25

This University Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications and Campus Newsletters at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1983-1991, News & Views by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.

News & Views

Newsletter of the Office
of Public Information



UMass/Boston graduates 19th class in Commencement '84

The sun was reluctant for UMass/Boston's 1984 Commencement exercises. It hid itself a good deal behind some persistent clouds. But there was nothing hesitant about the enthusiasm of the nearly 2000 graduates who were joined by faculty, staff, family and friends for the occasion.

This graduating class was special. It's Commencement was being held as the University celebrated its 20th anniversary and the event held a festive air as well as a strong message of hope and challenge.

Boston Federal District Court Judge David S. Nelson was Commencement

speaker as well as an honorary degree recipient. He urged the graduates to use their college and life experiences to examine carefully what the world's priorities should be and then to make their contributions accordingly.

For example, he said, we can hardly expect the world's poor and neglected millions to care about the terror of death by nuclear catastrophe when their daily existence is so depressing it makes the possibility of death no threat at all.

Judge Nelson said he did not demean the relevance of nuclear danger. But, he stated, there is "another requirement for survival"... the desire to stay alive because the quality of one's life is good.

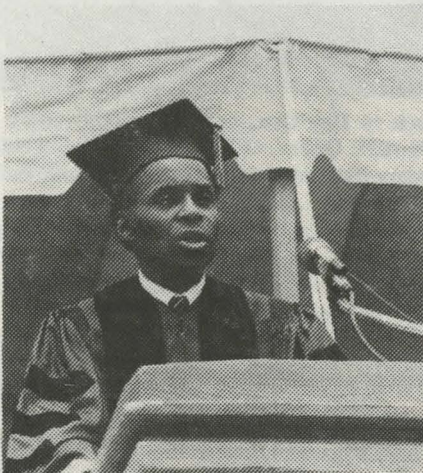
"If we are to want to live—to want to survive—to want to keep back the threat of nuclear holocaust, we must, of course, have strong appreciation for the value of life," Nelson declared.

"The challenge we face, simply put, is to achieve the quality of life that makes life worth living," Nelson continued, claiming, "there are millions upon millions who sense a greater weight to existing on this earth than they think it is worth...who survive on the hope that life will get better...that the burdens of life will support...and that, graced with health, jobs and decent wages, opportunities for better lifestyles can be forthcoming and they then can give fuller attention to the world's survival."

Judge Nelson was one of six noted Greater Bostonians who were presented by UMass/Boston Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan to UMass. President David C. Knapp for the conferral of honorary degrees.

The others were former Boston Red Sox General Manager Richard H. (Dick) O'Connell, MBTA General Manager James O'Leary, a UMass/Boston

• continued on page 4



Judge David S. Nelson addresses the Class of 1984 during Commencement.



Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, center, is flanked by honorary degree recipients. Left to right: Rev. James K. Allen, pastor, First Parish Church, Dorchester; James O'Leary, General Manager of the MBTA; Roderick MacDougall, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of New England; Chancellor Corrigan; Dean Ellen S. Jackson of Northeastern University; Federal Judge David S. Nelson, who delivered the address, and Richard H. (Dick) O'Connell, former Vice President of the Boston Red Sox.

At age 79, Tony Gamboa graduates from UMass/Boston

The man was retired—and bored. So Anthony (Tony) Gamboa decided to take the advice of his professor son and “add to his education.” Sunday he received his degree at UMass/Boston...at age 79.

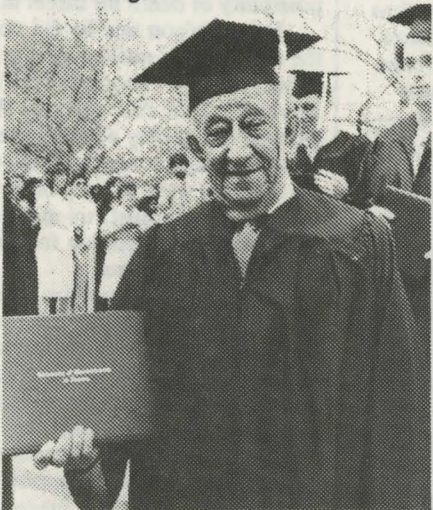
Gamboa is believed the oldest graduate in the school's 20 year history.

Gamboa, a resident of Blue Ledge Drive, Roslindale, retired in 1974 from a custodian's job with the Boston Housing Authority. His son, Anthony, Jr., has a Ph.D. and teaches psychology at the University of Louisville.

“I'm bored,” said the father.

“Why don't you do what you told us—further your education?” suggested his son.

“I'm not sorry I did,” said Tony, Sr. “I learned a lot—especially from the kids in the classroom. I like younger people and I'm interested in the way they talk and see things.



Anthony “Tony” Gamboa

“Just being in the classrooms with those kids was an education in itself,” said Gamboa, who took a heavy academic load each semester.

Martha Collins of the English department was Gamboa's academic advisor.

“Tony always took a full load—and not the easy courses, either,” said Collins. “He met all his requirements on time.

“I know he says he learned from the students, but they learned from him, too. Why we didn't even know he was an amputee until I was teaching a poetry

UMB honors Dr. Paul Gagnon with Outstanding Service Medal



Dr. Paul A. Gagnon, who goes back to Day One, accepts the University Medal for Outstanding Service from Hon. Robert H. Quinn, Chairman, Board of Trustees, while Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, center, watches at 16th Commencement at the Harbor Campus.

One of the highlights of Commencement was the presentation of the University Medal for Outstanding Service to Dr. Paul A. Gagnon, who helped organize the opening of UMass/Boston in 1965 and recruited most of the founding faculty.

Robert H. Quinn, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, made the presentation amidst prolonged faculty applause. Dr. Gagnon, in turn, turned and waved to fellow faculty members. It was a nice scene.

Dr. Gagnon's original statement of purpose, written as Dean in 1965, is interesting to recall:

“UMass/Boston is to serve all and, by doing that, to serve particularly well those who have been denied access to a higher education. And what is held true for race and class is true for age as well...

course and the subject came up in class. He noted that he'd had his left leg amputated some 40 years ago. He walks only with a slight limp.”

Gamboa took courses in history, creative writing, anthropology, political science, philosophy, law and justice, French and Portuguese, the language of his forebears.

He has lived an interesting life, raised in Roxbury, a resident of Roslindale for over 40 years. He spent time as a merchant seaman and also tried his hand at flying airplanes in their earliest days.

“I was a member of the U.S. Junior Volunteer Air Service in 1927-28,” he recalled.

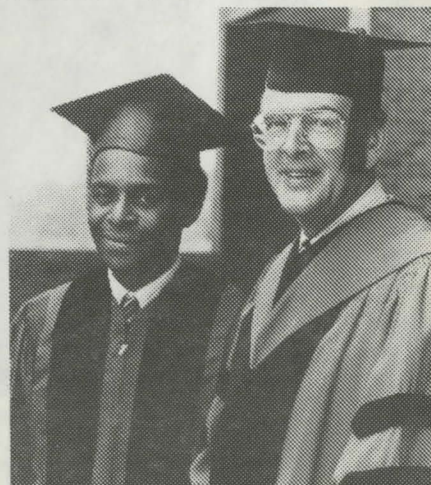
Gamboa and his wife Emma have been married for 48 years. She was on hand to see him accept his diploma from Chancellor Robert Corrigan on Sunday afternoon.

The University was founded for everybody, from all classes on the notion that the more varied the student body, the better.”

On the quality of education, he noted:

“Hundreds of parents in Boston, Quincy, Cambridge, Chelsea, Somerville and elsewhere scrimp and save and deny themselves everything, then go into debt, in order to send their children to private colleges...the irony is that most of the private colleges they chose for their children offer a lower quality undergraduate education than we do.”

Born in Springfield, Dr. Gagnon served four years in the U.S. Navy. He attended UMass/Amherst and received his Master's and Ph.D. (1960) degrees from Harvard. He taught at Amherst for 12 years. He now lives in Cambridge.



Honorable David S. Nelson, who delivered the Commencement Address, paused for the cameraman with Provost Robert A. Green.

Evonne Hill-Shepard of Hyde Park received the Dean's Award at UMass/Boston's College of Public and Community Service. The award was presented by Dean James Jennings.

Ms. Hill-Shepard's award is given annually to the graduating student thought best to represent and to reflect the mission of CPCS. Ms. Hill-Shepard was selected because of the ability to merge a strong academic record with a deep commitment to public service.

Ms. Hill-Shepard is currently employed as the Associate Director of Constituent Services for U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas. She is the first black woman to hold professional staff positions in the offices of two United States Senators from Massachusetts, having worked for Sen. Edward Brooke prior to Sen. Tsongas. She was the lone staff person carried through the transition.

"Evonne is a very mature woman with keen insight into the realities of life," said Dr. Richard Hogarty of the CPCS faculty who served as her academic advisor. "She drew from a wealth of political experience for her CPCS curriculum. She's very astute politically and is a good judge of people. Evonne also has a good sense of community."

She has served on several boards and

Evonne Hill-Shepard awarded annual CPCS Dean's Award



Dean's Award winner Evonne Hill-Shepard of Hyde Park is flanked by CPCS Dean James Jennings, right, and Dr. Richard Hogarty, her academic advisor. Ms. Hill-Shepard is on the staff of U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas.

will advance to the CPCS Advisory Board. She has been active in projects such as the Model Cities Program.

Evonne was born in New York City. She attended public schools in Ocala, Florida. After moving to Boston, she

attended Boston Clerical School of Business in Roxbury. She is married, the mother of two and sings with the Divine Revelations Gospel Ensemble, a well-known group of vocalists.

Leslie Colello receives JFK Award for Academic Excellence

Leslie Colello of North Quincy, a single parent who overcame great obstacles, was presented the John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence at the recent commencement of UMass/Boston at the Harbor Campus.

Ms. Colello, who lives on Vane St., compiled an amazing 3.92 average in the difficult College of Management.

She also taught Sunday school, worked under a cooperative program with the Internal Revenue Service and represented Parents Anonymous on the Governor's Task Force on the Review of the Dept. of Social Services Regulations.

Ms. Colello also served on the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention. She is an effective speaker and has made many appearances on behalf of Parents Anonymous.

In 1982 she was named Accounting Student of the Year by the Mass. Society of Certified Public Accountants.

"My GPA of 3.92 resulted from four hours of study a night at least four nights a week," said Ms. Colello.

"Parents Anonymous is very special to me," she continued. "It is an organization designed to improve, alleviate or end emotional or physically destructive relationships between parents and their children."

Ms. Colello plans to continue her



Leslie Colello accepts JFK Award from Dr. Robert A. Greene

education either via Law or graduate school. She has a son Chris and a daughter Dee.

Briefly . . .

"Skills for an Aging Society," a four-day series of workshops involving UMass/Boston's Gerontology Program directed by Dr. Scott Bass will take place June 19-22 at the University.

The institute is co-sponsored by CPCS, Boston College, The Planning Office of the Archdiocese of Boston, the Mass. Ass'n of Older Americans and the Mass. Dept. of Elder Affairs. For information: Marian Saunders, 957-1078.

Kudos to Mary R. Barrett, Associate Director of Athletics who was featured on Page One of the NCAA News' recent edition. She is a leading figure in NCAA Women's sports committees. Mary was a good sport when N&V erred with a typo headline above a recent article.

John J. Conlon, CAS Associate Dean, is part of an international team of 28 scholars from the U.S., Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan who have recently produced Thomas Hardy: An Annotated Bibliography of Writings about Him (Vol. II) published by Northern Illinois University Press. For Conlon and the others this represents a long-term effort in a 735-page reference work, a milestone in access to Hardy scholarship.

• continued on page 4

Judge Nelson addresses UMB Class of 1984

• Continued from page 1

graduate in 1970, Rev. James K. Allen of the historic First Parish Church, Dorchester, Roderick M. MacDougall, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of New England, and Dean Ellen S. Jackson of Northeastern University, co-founder of Freedom House and a pioneer in the Metco program.

Chancellor Corrigan said the lives of each of the six honorary degree recipients "make a difference." And he challenged the class of 1984 to have their lives make a difference too. "A university is judged by its graduates," he said. "And UMass/Boston will be judged by how well the class of 1984 performs."

He noted that many of the students were the first in their families to graduate from college.

"You have worked and saved and struggled to reach this day. For most of you the social and economic pressures have been unbelievably high. Your university congratulates you," Corrigan said.

Judge Nelson praised UMass/Boston for its service to the community in providing an education to students who might otherwise not get one and for the high academic standards it maintains even as it helps disadvantaged high schoolers with a desire to go to college and the non-traditional older student, even senior citizens, who enter its portals to fulfill their desire for higher education.

One of these senior citizens was enthusiastically applauded when he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in a lineup of generally much younger students. Anthony "Tony" Gamboa of Blue Ledge Drive, Roslindale, is 79. He returned to school after his family was grown and he had retired.

Others roundly cheered were: Leslie G. Colello who was presented the John F. Kennedy Award given each year to a graduate for academic excellence; and Professor of History Paul A. Gagnon, a founding faculty member, who was presented the University Medal for Outstanding Service.

Judge Nelson noted the dedication of UMass/Boston faculty and the superb training of its students. He said it was now time for the students to repay society.

"You have pulled yourselves up by your bootstraps," Nelson said. "You



The Most Reverend Bernard F. Law, Archbishop of Boston, joined with Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan at the recent graduation exercises of the Gerontology Program of UMass/Boston's College of Public and Community Service held at the JFK Library.

cannot now fail to see the sufferings of those whom you have outstretched and who are without boots."

He told the students that as a judge he sees people who do not believe they will survive because "what encompasses their personal world makes life too difficult to understand why they should..."

"The threat of nuclear destruction is too esoteric for their day-to-day concerns," he stated.

"Does it matter what world powers do to each other if your own individual existences are beset with trouble and worthlessness?" he asked. "What attention can individuals give to the more cosmic problems of survival if their life's daily struggles are too overwhelming to care?"

Bringing the desperateness of life close to home, Nelson said "it is hard to believe that in our great society there should yet exist the need for soup kitchens, not just in Roxbury and Dorchester, but in downtown Boston, too. And isn't it pitiful," he added, "that lacking appropriate wear, some cannot even make their way to those kitchens during inclement weather, and thus simply go without."

He cited joblessness in the city as its businesses employ those who live in the suburbs; crime that traps old folks in their homes; and inadequate, inconsistent health care for many.

"Lest you forget: You owe something..." Judge Nelson reminded the 2000 graduates. "You owe more than you borrowed in education loans. You owe more than money, he stated. "You owe a part of yourself and your future fortune. Now that you take responsibility for yourselves, you must take responsibility for some others."

Briefly . . .

• continued from page 3

Yan Hai-yank, who was graduated from the College of Management, is the niece of Economics Professor Dr. Winston Chiong, and is believed the first native of Mainland China to earn a UMass/Boston diploma. Winston and Jane Chiong persuaded Yan to come to America. Yan is a native of Canton, northern China, and couldn't speak English when she came here. Now she is very fluent. She lived with the Chiongs in their Auburndale home.

This year Enrollment Services has honored Caroline Cappuccio of the Office of Systems and Development with its Classified Staff Distinguished Service Award. She received the award for her professional level of performance, attitude and dedicated service.

Caroline has been here since 1979. Dean Douglas Hartnagel made the presentation.

The 5th annual UMass/Boston golf tournament will be held June 30, rain or shine, at Presidents' Golf Course, Wollaston. Contact Don Costello, 929-7084.

Dr. Ray Torto of College of Management and Marcia P. (Marcy) Crowley, CPCS' Director, Career Planning, have been named to the MBTA Advisory Board.