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# The UMass Boston Friday Report

Volume 2, Number 24  
June 11, 1993

News and information about and for the  
University Community from the Chancellor's Office

## South Africans Meyer and Ramaphosa Address 2,400 Graduates During 25th Annual Commencement Exercises

More than 2400 students received degrees during the University's 25th annual commencement on Saturday, June 5th. The principal speakers, **Cyril Ramaphosa** and **Roelof Meyer**, the two main negotiators in multi-party talks aimed at bringing about an end to white minority rule in South Africa, urged the United States and other countries to drop economic sanctions that have been imposed against their nation. Ramaphosa, secretary general of the African National Congress, said, "Following the setting of an election date we now need to install the transitional executive council to enable us to call for the lifting of all remaining sanctions. It is in this regard that we call upon the international community to once again come to our assistance by investing in South Africa. South Africa can only succeed on its march toward democracy if that democracy is underpinned by a strong and vibrant economy. The United States, President Clinton, and the people of this great country have a duty and responsibility to support democracy in South Africa, and we call upon you, our tried and tested friends and supporters, to stand by us as we begin this process of building a new nation." Meyer, South Africa's minister of constitutional affairs and communication, said that it will be harder for South Africa to attain economic success than to institute changes in the country's constitution. "The socio-economic reconstruction in South Africa is going to be a difficult task. Apartheid is gone -- it was wrong -- and after creating a new constitution we will still have to overcome many of its other consequences."

During the commencement ceremonies, a total of 1,852 undergraduate degrees were awarded by the University. It also awarded 588 graduate degrees and 17 certificates of advanced graduate study. The **John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Achievement**, the top honor given a UMass Boston graduating senior, went to **Margaret Adams**, a Cuban-born Chelsea resident who attained a 3.9 grade point average and will pursue a teaching career. Adams delivered the student address. "We have taught each other about cultures, experiences, ideas and political beliefs," she told the audience. "The richness of UMass Boston comes across because we have had the chance to learn from all kinds of people, people from all types of economic spheres and from all corners of the earth. Now it is our turn to share these experiences with others." Another graduating senior, **David Loh**, the student member of the University's Board of Trustees, also addressed the gathering. "UMass Boston is no ordinary four-year institution of higher learning," he said. "Here, we are committed to the quality education of not only the bright 18-year old, but also the middle age person seeking a second career, and the 80-year grandparent who's smitten by the desire to learn. Here, we are engaged not only in teaching a white student from the suburbs about Malcolm X, but to teaching a homeless veteran about Confucius, and teaching an immigrant student to appreciate Shakespeare ... let us never take such diversity for granted." The annual Chancellor's Distinguished Scholarship Award went to history professor **Clive Foss**, and the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award was given to CPCS professor **Ann Withorn**, director of the Graduate Program in Human Services and acting associate dean of academic affairs. The Distinguished Alumni Award went to 1983 CPCS graduate **Roger Kineavy**, founder of Our Brother's and Sister's Table, a volunteer program that provides hot meals to residents of the Long Island homeless



shelter, and Project Star, a Roxbury-based support organization for children with AIDS. In addition to Meyer and Ramaphosa, honorary degree recipients were **Ruth M. Batson**, a former executive director of METCO and former president of the Museum of Afro-American History; **Brian Donnelly**, a former U.S. Congressman who retired in 1992 after serving 14 years on Capitol Hill; **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for the Study of African-American Culture at Harvard University and chairman of its Afro-American Studies Department; **Paul C. O'Brien**, president and CEO of New England Telephone Company; and **Louis "Studs" Terkel**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author known for his oral history projects.

## **CPCS Labor Studies Program to Open Center for Labor Research Beginning Next Fall**

A new research center devoted to studying issues of the workplace will open at the campus next fall. The Center for Labor Research will work in concert with the Labor Studies Program at the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS), examining a variety of economic and public policy issues that affect workers. These topics include the status of immigrant workers, union leadership, the merit of various employment and training programs including high school vocational education, and the consequences of privatization. **Andres Torres** will be the center's director. Torres, who is publishing a book on the economic and political status of blacks and Latinos, has been at the University for two years conducting an investigation on the viability of a program that is trying to educate low-level hospital employees so that they can attain better-paying jobs in the health care field. The Ford Foundation is supporting this research.

## **Campus Notes --** A three-day workshop discussion of Vietnam War issues will

be held on campus from June 29 through July 1. Sessions will run each day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Though open to the public, the workshop is designed to help high school teachers who are interested in developing curricula. Registration is \$35.

More information is available by contacting professor **Paul Atwood** at the Joiner

Center at 7-5880. • From June 21 to July 2, the Joiner Center will hold its annual

summer writing workshop. Interested applicants are asked to submit a writing sample to the Center's **Michael Sullivan**. The fee for the two-week long sessions is

\$85. • **Gail Hobin**, director of community relations and special events, is among six

recipients of a 1993 Fair Housing Award, given by the Boston Fair Housing

Commission "in recognition of achievements which encourage fair housing and enhance mutual respect among all people of the City of Boston." Hobin was

honored for her work as acting co-chair of the Dorchester Task Force. • A two-day workshop on implementing Total Quality Management (TQM) programs in higher education will take place June 21 and 22 at UMass Amherst. Cost of the workshop is

\$595. More information is available by contacting UMass Amherst management professors **Alan Robinson** at (413) 545-5640, or **Stephen Demski** at (413) 545-5652.

• **Wilma Marrero-Luna** of Jamaica Plain, a sociology major who is also pursuing an elementary school teaching certificate, has won the third annual Outstanding Student Achievement Award given by Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education, a statewide organization representing the Commonwealth's 29 public

institutions. • The University is planning to introduce this fall a system that will allow students to register for classes by using a touch-tone telephone. • Labor

Studies Program director **Jim Green** is research coordinator for a documentary on The Great Depression that will air on PBS television in September. The seven-part

series is being produced by Blackside, Inc., which produced the award-winning film "Eyes on the Prize," which explored the Civil Rights movement.