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UMass/Boston 

# News & Views

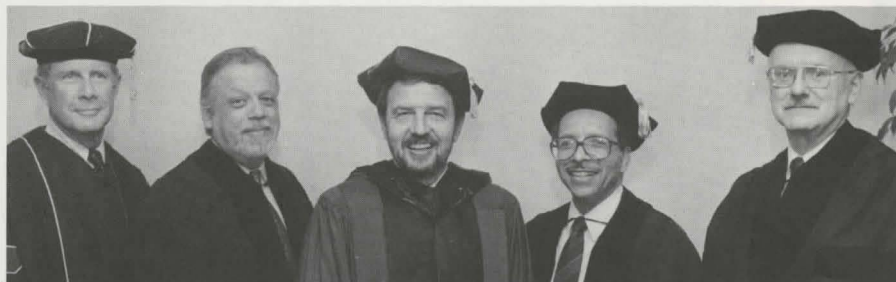
Newsletter of the  
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Dr. A. Bartlett Giamatti

## COMMENCEMENT 1987

*Dr. Giamatti prods Higher Education;  
6,500 jam sunny Harbor Campus Plaza*



Honorary degree recipients pose with Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, center. Left to right: Edward E. Phillips; Dr. A. Bartlett Giamatti; Chancellor Corrigan; Dr. Laval S. Wilson and William V. Shannon.

American institutions of higher education have not adapted to changing times, said Dr. A. Bartlett Giamatti, president of baseball's National League, at UMass/Boston's 19th Commencement before 6,500 on the Plaza at the Harbor Campus.

"They are no longer perceived as leading because the institutions are not necessarily themselves being led," said Dr. Giamatti, former president of Yale University.

Dr. Giamatti was one of five awarded honorary degrees. Also honored:

- Edward E. Phillips, chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company.

- Dr. Laval S. Wilson, Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools.

- William V. Shannon, former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland (1977-81), Professor at Boston University and Boston Globe editorial page columnist.

- Former U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who was feted at the University's Gerontology Program graduation ceremony held previously.

- Ana T. Ortiz of Dorchester, MA, winner of the 1987 John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence delivered the student address at the sun-soaked ceremonies.

The commencement was the largest in the history of the University, established in 1964.

"Dr. Giamatti," said Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan, "is an acknowledged expert on Renaissance literature and is himself a renaissance man. He is a rare and gifted individual who is qualified to be president of two such venerable institutions as Yale University and the National League of Baseball."

Highlights of Dr. Giamatti's address:

"For the last 20 years, the American people's faith in education has been waning. The people are dismayed by what they perceive to be a widening gap between promise and performance. . . . The plethora of commission reports, white papers, books and critiques of public education is a symptom of this eroded faith.

"But the ultimate object of that grass-roots dissatisfaction has not been the public high schools. It is the nation's colleges and universities. . . .

"Is the commercialization of 'students' in athletics for revenue really a legitimate function of a university? In short, is a college education really worth it? . . . And the question beneath all the questions is: 'What is the purpose of your college or university?'

"American institutions in general and those of higher education in particular have been coping, but they have not adapted to changing times and they are no longer perceived as leading because, in fact, the institutions themselves are not being led. . . .

"In the last generation, acts of institutional definition have been largely missing. There is very little consensus about what the role of a given campus or its programs are; about what higher education is and how it links to secondary education.

"There have been very few tough-minded, visionary statements or sustained assertions of how a given campus should be engaging the legitimate public questions of access and selectivity; of equity in treatment and excellence in standards. . . .

"The most pressing need in higher education in the next 10 years is not for management strategies; it is for debate on each campus, led by its leaders, as to what the purposes and goals of each campus are. . . .

"No less dangerous, if far less subtle, is the atmosphere on so many campuses caused by the voices of the Moral Minority—the voices that for every cause—social, political, academic, sexual, religious or ethnic—demand satisfaction—now!

"These voices are scornful of complexity, indifferent to ambiguity, contemptuous of competitive views or values. They are the enemies of give and take, of the conversation that is the process of education.

"American colleges and universities serve neither themselves nor the country if they are unsure of their own principles and purposes or if they cannot speak them to the people at large."



## Joe Lazzaro adds a UMB bachelor's degree to his list of accomplishments

There were many success stories at UMass/Boston's Commencement. One of the best was Watertown's Joe Lazzaro, 29, a blind man who already has his own business—Talking Computer Systems.

Lazzaro carries the same name as the famous blind golfer from Waltham, who spells his name with one less Z.

"Sometimes we're confused, but he's a lot older, a man blinded in World War II," said the recent graduate.

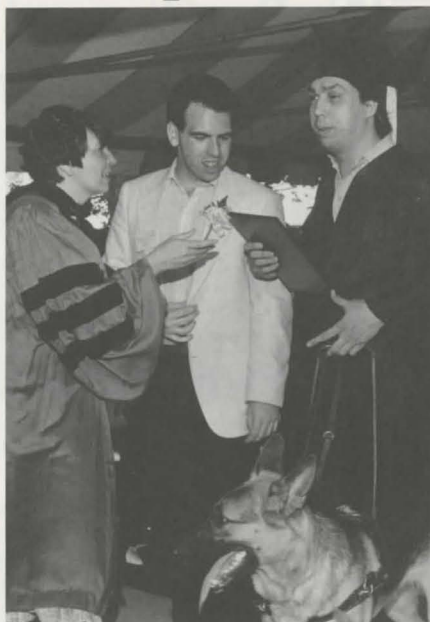
"I lost my sight while a student at Saugus High School. When that happened, I dropped out for a couple of years. But then I got my GED (high school equivalent) from the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and was accepted at UMass/Boston."

The University has more up-to-date facilities and equipment for the handicapped than any in the area.

It took Lazzaro seven years to obtain his degree. He majored in physics for three-four years, but then got an Apple Computer and soon found himself into speech synthesization.

"Professor John Looney was especially helpful to me," said Lazzaro, who found he had a gift in that area.

"I was always interested in writing



Graduate Joe Lazzaro is escorted by unidentified usher and his Seeing Eye dog Esta as he receives his degree from Provost Joan Liem.

and I started getting articles printed in technical magazines," he said.

"Joe is an expert in the field," said Prof. Looney. "His degree was a B.S. in

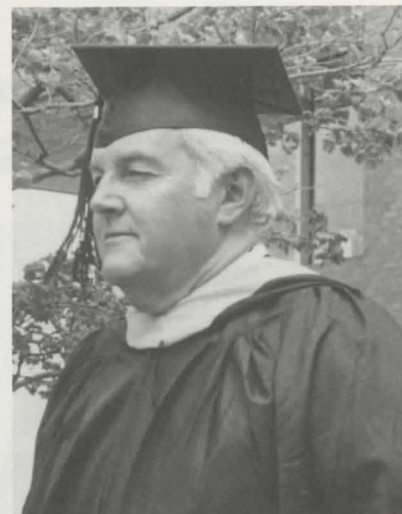
Physical Science—Information Systems. This is a combination of physics, English and computers."

Lazzaro is a consultant to Framingham State College, to the Winchester public schools, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of the Blind and to the State of New Hampshire. He also operates a private consulting business.

"Since I've started my company, I've had all kinds of calls. I've had inquiries from as far as New Zealand."

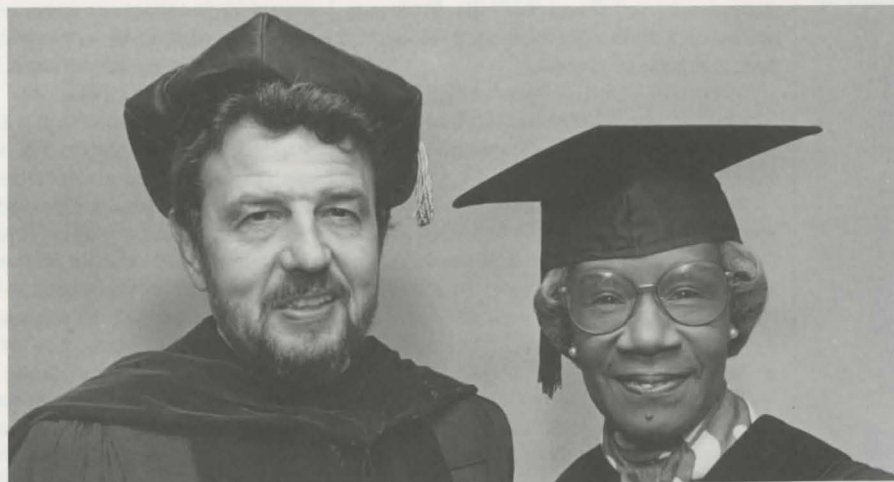
Married and living in Watertown, Lazzaro has a new Seeing Eye dog, Esta, a tan German shepherd.

## Senator Doris receives degree



Senator Francis D. Doris, Revere, received his Masters Degree in Political Science from McCormack Institute.

## UMB honors Shirley Chisholm at Gerontology Program graduation



Former U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm with Chancellor Robert Corrigan at Gerontology Program Commencement held at the John F. Kennedy Library.

Former U.S. Congressional leader Shirley Chisholm, received an honorary degree from UMass/Boston. Presentation of the Doctor of Laws degree from Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan took place as Ms. Chisholm delivered the keynote address at the University's Gerontology Program graduation ceremony, held in the John F. Kennedy Library.

A native New Yorker, Ms. Chisholm was the only woman and the only Black

American to sit on the powerful House Rules Committee. She was a leading member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

In 1972 she made history by seriously campaigning for the Democratic Party nomination for President, the first Black woman to seek the nation's highest office.

"It is an honor and a pleasure to place Ms. Chisholm's name on the list of distinguished honorary degree recipients," said Chancellor Corrigan.

## Rep. Brett honored with Community Service Award

Representative James T. Brett (Dorchester-South Boston) was presented the 1987 Gerontology Community Service Award at the Gerontology Graduation Ceremony.

According to Prof. Scott Bass, Director of the University's Gerontology Institute:

"The award recognized the significant leadership Rep. Brett has taken to encourage the expansion of significant economic or social roles for older people through higher education.

"Further, it acknowledges the important work he has done to establish a living memorial to the late Frank J. Manning by sponsoring legislation to create a Frank J. Manning Chair in Gerontology at UMass/Boston."



# Ana Teresa Ortiz wins JFK Award for Excellence

Ana Teresa Ortiz of Dorchester was named the 1987 winner of UMass/Boston's John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence.

She was feted at the 19th Commencement. Ms. Ortiz has been entered into the medical anthropology program at Harvard University, one of several institutions that accepted her for graduate study.

In addition to her studies, Ms. Ortiz held down a full-time job and has done extensive volunteer work with the handicapped.

"Most unusual of all about Terri Ortiz is her selfless dedication to serving other people, particularly the deprived and disabled," said Professor Richard Horsley, Director, Religion Program.

"In my 17 years of teaching, both here and at Wesleyan University, she is one of the two or three outstanding students I have known," said Dr. Horsley.

"Ana's thinking shows analytical sophistication and originality, and her writing does her thinking justice; her papers are clear, incisive, thoughtful and beautifully written," said Associate Professor R. Timothy Sieber of Anthropology. "Like so many of our students, Ana has been completely economically self-supporting since coming to the University."

"Ms. Ortiz's academic record at UMass/Boston (GPA 3.93) demonstrates a consistent pattern of superior performance in courses that span literature, mathematics, religious studies, biology and anthropology," said Professor Alan Harwood, Anthropology. "She performed at the level of some of the best students I have ever taught."

"Ms. Ortiz best exemplifies the



*JFK Award winner Ana Teresa Ortiz addresses graduating class.*

combination of academic achievements and public and community service the College prizes," said Dr. John J. Conlon, Assoc. Dean, Academic Studies, CAS.

During one year of her study, Ms. Ortiz worked as a counselor/aide in a residential home for mentally retarded adults in Dorchester. She also has worked with organizations serving the blind, AIDS victims, sufferers of cystic fibrosis and other disabled people. For much of the past year, she has worked for the Sickle-Cell/Center at Boston City Hospital.

Ms. Ortiz has donated time helping to

educate and register Hispanic voters in her Dorchester neighborhood. She also is a member of a collective which coordinates the use of the Neighborhood bookstore.

"As a National Science Foundation Fellow," said Ms. Ortiz, I expect to acquire valuable research and teaching experience over the next several years. I hope to encourage other students to improve community services and to take up the challenge of using their university training to make practical contributions to the community."

## Student delivers graduation address



*Student Trustee Christine Saba delivers a speech to the commencement audience.*

## Rachel Tate cited for leadership, receives two awards at graduation

Rachel Tate of Dorchester received two awards at UMass/Boston—The Appreciation Leadership Award from the Black Student Center and a Student Leadership-Service Award from the Black Alumni Committee.

Ms. Tate, mother of three, returned to school in 1982. She enrolled at UMass/Boston's College of Arts and Science where she attained a major degree in Sociology and a minor in Black Studies. She was on the Dean's List throughout her undergraduate career.

A native of Selma, Alabama, Ms. Tate has lived in Dorchester for 19 years. She has three children—sons Kevin, 21, and Derek, 19, and daughter Tanisha, 12.

She has worked in the University's Black Student Center, was a Program Coordinator for the Columbia Point Field Office, and



*Rachel Tate*

was affiliated with the Patriot's Trail Girl Scouts Service Unit of Roxbury. Ms. Tate is a member of the Twelfth Baptist Church.



## Scenes from Commencement 1987



Champagne was the order of the day among some graduates celebrating the day.



Provost Joan Liem addresses 6500 on sun-soaked Plaza, Harbor Campus.



This graduate had her mind on the Celtics-Detroit game that afternoon.



Blowing pretty bubbles...



Graduates of Class of 1937, Teachers College of the City of Boston, forerunner to Boston State, were honored at 19th Commencement exercises. Left to right: Betty Bayard DeSatnick, Mary Landrigan, Rose Fodale, Sara Oginaz Klein, Adele Kaplan Gurman, Helen Snaphy Vasalle, Sr. Marie Therese, O.P., Agnes Marsh Murray, Dorothy Lennon White, Concetta Alibrandi DiCara, Kay Murphy Sullivan, Marie Finn and Mary Hutchinson Ricci.



Mrs. Concetta DiCara, honored with the Class of 1937, poses with proud son Hon. Lawrence DiCara, a University trustee, at President David Knapp's party.

## UMB co-sponsors conference in Provincetown on American Theatre

A conference exploring the artistic, social and cultural issues that led to the birth of the modern American Theatre will be held June 14-17, 1987 in Provincetown, Mass., the birthplace of the renowned Provincetown Players.

The conference will take place at the Provincetown Inn. It is co-sponsored by UMass/Boston and the Provincetown Playhouse and is entitled: "Beginnings 1915: The Cultural Movement."

Adelle Heller, Co-Director of the Conference, said:

"Many of the important issues in today's world have their roots in the Woodrow Wilson era. These same issues came together in the plays of that period,

which replaced the fare of Broadway, forever changing the course of theatre in America."

Conferees will see the one-act plays of the Provincetown Players' first season, 1915: "Constancy," by Neith Boyce, a drama about the on-again-off-again love affair between war correspondent John Reed, the subject of the movie "Reds", and arts patron Mabel Dodge; "Suppressed Desires" by Susan Glaspell and George Cram Cook, a spoof of early Freudian psychoanalysis; "Change your Style," by George Cram Cook, a satire portraying that era's outrage against modern art; and "Contemporaries" by Wilbur Daniel Steele, a drama based on

the actual incident in which a homeless group staged a mass protest.

Keynote speaker Daniel Aaron, Professor Emeritus, English and American Literature, Harvard University, will present an overview of the second decade of the 20th century, a period often called "the little renaissance."

The conference is supported in part through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy, a program of NEH, according to Prof. Lois Rudnick.

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