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University of Massachusetts Boston
World-renowned Opera Singer Jessye Norman Will Address Graduates

Jessye Norman, world-renowned opera singer, will receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree and deliver the keynote address at the University's 1996 Commencement ceremony. Commencement will be held for the first time at the Bayside Exposition Center on Saturday, June 1 at 11:00 a.m. Approximately 1800 undergraduate degrees and 575 graduate degrees and certificates of advanced graduate study will be conferred.

"Because Commencement provides us with the opportunity to show everyone what we are all about, moving to the Bayside Exposition Center will ensure that the inclement weather will not interfere with our ceremonies," says Chancellor Sherry H. Penney. "In addition, we've grown tremendously, and the plaza will no longer fulfill our needs. We want the most comfort for our graduates, their families and friends, and the new location will certainly help us accommodate those needs."

Ms. Norman has been the recipient of many prizes and awards throughout her career, including first prize from the National Society of Arts and Letters in 1968; was awarded France's Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1984) and Legion of Honor (1980), and received the U.S.S. Outstanding Musician of the Year award (1982).

Ms. Norman first achieved prominence in Europe, where she has performed in the major opera houses of Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy. She has performed nearly every year since 1983 at New York City's Metropolitan Opera. In addition, she has performed with major orchestras, including Berlin, Vienna, New York, Boston, London, Dresden, Leipzig, Tokyo, Taipei, and Hong Kong.

Ms. Norman has recorded extensively, and has won numerous prizes, including three Grammy Awards in 1980, 1982 and 1985.

Born in Augusta, Georgia, Ms. Norman received her bachelor of music degree with honors from Howard University; a masters degree from the University of Michigan; and pursued post-graduate studies in music at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore.

Also receiving honorary degrees on June 1 will be: Entertainer and Producer Harry Belafonte; Dr. Alan Brightman, President & CEO of Apple Computers; World-Wide Disabilities Solution Group; Lawrence S. DiCara, attorney and partner with Peabody & Brown, Boston, MA.; Rosabeth Moss Kanter, NORMAN, top of back page
Innovative Internet Project First in the State

In the first research collaboration between a Massachusetts university and a presidential library, UMass Boston’s Mathematics and Computer Science Department has recently completed a World Wide Web version of the John F. Kennedy Library’s Guide to Historical Materials. This comprehensive guide, the only one of its kind on the internet, provides easier access to the library’s material, facilities, and holdings, with nearly 3,000 electronic cross references, which are known as hypertext links.

The Guide to Historical Materials lists over 34 million documents, noting the author and the library’s archive office location. In the past, the library would send the paper Guide to colleges and universities for historians and other professionals to view. Today, having the Guide available on the internet, allows for non-professionals and students to access this information.

Under the supervision of Professor Robert Morris, graduate student and Computer Science masters degree candidate Jinglei Duan, wrote the Guide software. "Previously, the Guide was only available in paper text or a WordPerfect version and the user would have to manually cross reference," explains Morris of the Computer Science Department. "These methods are slower and more time consuming than the web version, which has thousands of hypertext links. Now, in a matter of seconds, information can be retrieved," he adds.

Graduate students working in the Software Engineering Research Laboratory (SERL) of the Math and Computer Science Department, have been creating and publishing some of the library’s electronic documents for the web page through the Public Interest Document Server. "The Math and Computer Science Department’s advanced technical expertise has provided broad access to documents that are public property but that are often not easily accessible to the public," states Morris.

According to JFK Head Librarian Ronald Whealan, "The Guide is the library’s primary means of sharing information about its holdings to the public. The last two print editions were chosen for nationwide distribution by the U.S. Government Printing Office." Whealan believes that the internet edition will be the centerpiece of the library’s web page and will be accessed by more people than the traditional print edition.

UMass Boston joins a small number of universities across the nation that are collaborating with presidential libraries on research and public service initiatives. In a similar project to UMass Boston and the JFK Library, the University of Texas is currently working on electronic documents for the George Bush Library. Other collaborations include Marist College and the Roosevelt Library, and the University of Texas and the Johnson Library.

The JFK Guide has been viewed by 2,240 browsers from March 13 to May 7. This includes worldwide inquiries from 120 U.S. universities, 110 U.S. businesses, and 13 inquiries from foreign countries which include: Norway, the Netherlands, Chile, the UK, Japan, Canada, France, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Sweden, and Singapore. Nine requests also originated from non-profit organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the Heinic Endowment Fund, and the Miami Science Museum. The guide can be viewed at: http://www.caumb.edu/casl/guide.htm

Norman Will Speak at UMass Commencement

Professor of Business Administration at Harvard University and Ruth S. Morganthau, Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Politics at Brandeis University.

Annual commencement awards to students and alumni will also be presented during the graduation ceremony. These are the John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence to an outstanding senior, the Chancellor’s Distinguished Scholar Award, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Following the university’s commencement exercises, degrees and certificates will be conferred by individual colleges at locations throughout the Bayside Exposition Center.

Nursing Program Helping Local Communities

An innovative College of Nursing community health clinical program is addressing the public health needs of approximately 1,000 elementary and 1,000 high school students at South Boston’s Condon School and South Boston High School.

Nursing students assigned to South Boston High School teach up to five forty-minute periods a day. They teach a myriad of health education subjects and skills, including first aid, CPR, AIDS and teen pregnancy prevention, parenting skills, nutrition, hygiene, and drug, alcohol, and violence prevention. They also provide one-on-one mentoring, and test students for hearing and vision problems, tuberculosis, and scoliosis, or curvature of the spine.

"The UMass Boston student nurses have given us a network of resources," says Ellen Nikas, Student Support Coordinator at South Boston High School. "Many of our students do not have health insurance, so the information and testing the student nurses provide for our students is invaluable." Nikas adds that vision testing was made available to all South Boston High students with the help of the student nurses. "The vision testing would not have gotten done without them," states Nikas. "Because of the testing, many of our students who needed glasses were able to get them."

Under the supervision of Dr. Margaret Edmands, who directs the program for the College of Nursing, student nurses receive course credits and an opportunity to develop their interests in clinical and classroom settings.

Nursing student and court advocate for battered women Catherine Badeaux initiated a violence prevention class for South Boston High students. "I began the first class by initiating a discussion of anger and ways to handle it," says Badeaux. "By the end of the semester, some students were discussing domestic violence in their own homes." Badeaux explains that because of student responses she received, she volunteered to continue the violence prevention classes this year.

At the Condon school, two student nurses work with school nurse Irene Ryan. Together, they screen and treat children for routine health problems. Because the Condon school has a population of developmentally delayed children, the student nurses also provide specialized care services, such as tracheotomy care and nebulizer treatments for asthma.

Dr. Edmands and the student nurses will continue to provide services at these schools when classes resume in the fall. "Without a doubt, this is a challenging and interesting undertaking," says Edmands. "We will continue to develop the program with South Boston High and the Condon School to address the needs of their students, and ours."