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Commencement features good weather, great crowd



Participating in Commencement ceremonies on June 1st, graduates and friends literally filled the Plaza, the catwalk, and just about everywhere else.

More than 7,000 members of the UMass/Boston community—the largest audience ever—thronged a sunny Harbor Campus plaza on Saturday, June 1. On hand to celebrate Commencement 1991 were graduating students, friends and relations, faculty and staff, honored guests, and numerous alumni representing a full range of colleges and classes.

Undergraduate and graduate degrees were conferred on more than 2,500 students. College of Education graduate John M. Fossa delivered the student address and was presented with the

John F. Kennedy Award for Academic Excellence, the highest distinction given to a UMass/Boston senior. Professor Paul Tucker, curator of the "Monet in the '90s" exhibit at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and author of two books on Monet, received the Chancellor's Distinguished Scholarship Award. The Distinguished Alumni Award went to James F. O'Leary, Class of 1970, a transportation consultant, University trustee, and former head of the MBTA.

Gordon M. Oakes, Jr., chair of the University of Massachusetts board of trustees, urged the new graduates to become supporters of public higher education. "You must act now," he said, "for those who are waiting to enter, for your younger brothers and sisters, for your children, yet to be born, so that they will have an opportunity to excel and achieve as you have done."

In the main address, physicist Leon M. Lederman, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a winner of the Nobel Prize, warned that American schools are failing to educate students adequately in science and mathematics, and that such failures are threatening the health of the planet.

Lederman cited recent studies showing that many students cannot define what a molecule is or do not know that the earth revolves around the sun. Rapid economic expansion and lack of scientific understanding have combined, he said, "to create major, unintended, and harmful changes in the quality of the earth's water, soil, and atmosphere." He outlined several schemes for bringing about improvements in education—for example, a new science and math academy for teachers in Chicago—but lamented a lack of critical federal support. "There are too many agencies and too many bureaucrats that are clogging the arteries of education. Nothing can get through," he said.

Lederman, a faculty member at the University of Chicago, shared the 1988 Nobel Prize in Physics with two colleagues for work in detecting the muon neutrino, a tiny and elusive subatomic particle.

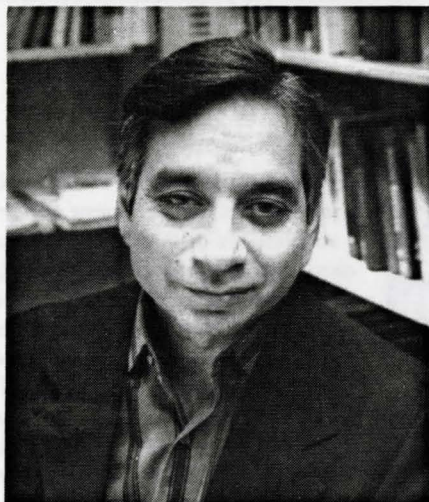
Chancellor Sherry H. Penney told the graduates that through celebrating their achievements, the occasion of Commencement "is also celebrating the future of Massachusetts. Seeing you here today, and knowing what you have accomplished," the Chancellor said, "I know our future is in good hands."

The Chancellor presented honorary doctorates to Lederman and to five other distinguished visitors:

- Philosopher Sissela Bok, whose books include *Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life*; *Secrets: On the Ethics of Concealment and Revelation*; and *A Strategy for Peace*.
- Wayne A. Budd, the first African-American to hold the position of U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts.
- Abba Eban, Israeli politician, statesman, and scholar, former chief of Israel's ministries of education, culture, and foreign affairs.

Professor Kamaljit Bawa of the Biology Department is one of ten environmental scientists to be awarded a \$150,000 "no strings attached" grant by the Pew Scholars Program in Conservation and the Environment. The scientists, selected from among 60 nominees nationwide, will each receive \$50,000 annually for three years. Professor Bawa's current research focuses on the loss of biodiversity in the tropical rain forests of southern India. He has also studied deforestation in Latin America and elsewhere in Asia. Professor Bawa is an associate editor of the journal *Conservation Biology*, and was recently named one of UMass/Boston's first Research Professors (see related article on page 2).

New research professorships and grants awarded to faculty members



Professor Kamaljit Bawa, chair of the Biology Department, who recently received twin honors: University Research Professorship and Pew Scholars Grant.

Three members of the University's faculty have recently been designated Research Professors, and a number of others have received research grants this summer, from the University and from its institutes and centers.

In a process that began with nominations for Research Professorships several months ago, a review committee has selected Professors Feroz Ahmad (History), Kamaljit Bawa (Biology), and Hans van Willigen (Chemistry) for this honor. These designations, created through the Annual Fund, recognize "exceptionally productive faculty members who have achieved national and international recognition," according to Chancellor Penney's announcement of the program and request for nominations last fall. The recipients carry the title of Research Professor for three years, during which they are provided with funds and release time for their research.

Professor Ahmad studies contemporary Turkey and the Middle East. Professor Bawa's work is in tropical rain forest ecology, and plant population biology (see box on page one). Professor van Willigen's research has focused on photo-induced electron transfer reactions for the conversion and storage of solar energy.

The review committee included retired UMass/Boston professors Ernest Becker (Chemistry), Robert Spaethling (German), and Robert Weiss (Sociology); and Pauline Maier of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Thirty-one summer faculty grants were given to faculty members as part of a new initiative to stimulate research and scholarly activities. Twelve of these grants were given for research directly related to the mission of the institutes and centers. They are listed below.

- Randy Albelda, Louis Esposito, Irving Gershenberg, Economics: "On the Margin: the Feminist Impact on Economics"
- Melvyn Colon, Marie Kennedy, CPCS: Summer Seminar in Community Planning; Havana, Cuba
- James Green, CPCS: "Labor Struggles During the Great Depression: The Pullman Workers and the Ford Workers"
- Cathy Lindenberg, College of Nursing: "The Social Stress Model: Resiliency and Substance Abuse"
- David Lisak, Psychology: Men's Sexual Trauma Research Project
- Allan MacQuarrie, Accounting and Finance: "Health Care Cost Containment in Massachusetts Hospitals: The Implications for the Accounting and Financial Function"
- Henry Raimondo, Economics: "Introductory Class Size and Student Performance in Intermediate Courses"
- Russell Schutt, Sociology: "Shelter Staff and Deshelterization"
- Jack Spence, Political Science: "War and Electoral Democracy in Central America"
- Lee Teitel, Graduate College of Education: "School-University Partnerships for Teacher Preparation: a Literature Review"
- Barbara Turner, Graduate College of Education: "Occupational Discrimination Against Women and Minorities: Perceived and Actual"
- Paul Watanabe, Political Science: "Congress and the Middle East: the Last 25 Years"

Another nineteen faculty members received grants for research in a wide range of areas. They are:

- Steven Ackerman, Elizabeth Davis, John Freeberg, Biology: "Transcription Initiation by RNA Polymerase in Plants"
- Marvin Antonoff, Physics: "Electron-Phonon Interactions in Magnetic Metals"
- Fiora Bassanese, Italian: "Understanding Luigi Pirandello"
- Lawrence Blum, Philosophy: "Multicultural Value Education"
- Ruth Butler, Art: "Rodin, the Shape of Genius," a biography
- Kathleen Hartford, Political Science: "Determinants of Entrepreneurship in Transitional Socialist Systems: China and Eastern Europe"
- Priscilla Jaggia, Accounting and Finance: "The Impact of Firm-Specific Human Capital on Optional Takeover Protection: An Empirical Investigation"
- Joan Liem, Psychology: "The Effects of Separation and Divorce on Fathers and Their Children"
- Thomas O'Grady, English: "Important Places, Great Events: Exile and the Epic Imagination in Carleton, Kavanaugh, and Kiely"
- Ronald Polito, Art: "A Directory of Massachusetts Photographers, 1840-1900"
- Martin Quitt, History: "Commerce and Statesmanship in the South, 1620-1820"
- Michael Rex, Biology: "Ecological Implications of Body Size in Deep-Sea Gastropods"
- Vivian Schmidt, Management: "The New Europe, Incorporated: The Rise of Business and the Decline of the Nation-State"
- Daniel Simovici, Mathematics and Computer Science: "Database Object Histories and Complexities of Hybrid Bio-Circuits"
- R. Malcolm Smuts, History: "Culture and Society Around the English Court, ca. 1590-1640"
- Robert Stevenson, Biology: "Muscle Structure of the Hawkmoth, *Manduca Seca*"
- Manickam Sugumaran, Biology: "Prophenoloxidase Activation and Insect Immunity"

Faculty Notes

Several members of the UMass/Boston faculty have had books and essays published recently. **Edward Strickland** of the Psychology Department has a new book from Arts and Science Publishing called *Documents for the Psychology of Creativity in the Visual Arts*. Houghton Mifflin has just issued the 5th edition of the textbook *Images of Women in Literature*, by **Mary Anne Ferguson** of the English Department. **Jean Humez** of the Women's Studies Program and **Lois Rudnick** of the American Studies Program both have essays appearing in a new book edited by Florence Howe, and published by the University of Illinois Press, called *Tradition and The Talents of Women*.

Elsa Auerbach of the English Department is the 1991 winner of the Mary Finocchiaro Award for Excellence in Development of Pedagogical Materials, given by TESOL (Teaching of English as a Second Language) for her book *Making Meaning, Making Change*. Professor Auerbach is associated with the English Family Literacy Project of UMass/Boston's graduate program in Bilingual/ESL Studies.

Flora A. Bassanese of the Department of Modern Languages recently served as chair of a committee awarding scholarships to New England undergraduate and graduate students in Italian Studies. The awards are from the Pirandello Lyceum, a Massachusetts-based institute that seeks to encourage an appreciation of Italian culture.

Ceremonies at Rutgers University's Livingston College in New Jersey were held on April 30th honoring Commonwealth Professor of Physics **Ernest Lynton**, who was the College's first dean from 1965 to 1973. The North and South Towers residential complex was renamed Lynton Towers. Professor Lynton served as vice-president for academic affairs of the University of Massachusetts before coming to UMass/Boston in 1980. He is a co-founder of the New England Center for Research in Higher Education at UMass/Boston's Graduate College of Education.

News & Views invites the UMass/Boston community to submit news items for possible publication, and particularly requests news of faculty activities appropriate for "Faculty Notes."

Please address all items to:
Walter D. Littell, Chancellor's Office
University of Massachusetts at Boston
Harbor Campus
Boston, MA 02125-3393.

Joiner Center active in broad spectrum of projects involving veterans' concerns

The William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences has recently been involved in a number of academic and public service activities. The Center conducted a survey of more than 15,000 Massachusetts veterans, held its 10th annual conference in Washington on veterans issues, and sponsored a two-week summer writing workshop at the Harbor campus.

The survey was based on responses to a questionnaire completed in the summer of 1988 by 17,844 Massachusetts residents who are either Vietnam veterans or Vietnam-era veterans. Currently more than 170,000 Vietnam-era veterans live in Massachusetts, of whom about 60,000 served in Vietnam.

The survey found numerous problems growing more acute for the state's Vietnam War veterans, and in some cases for their children. Findings in the report include these:

- Veterans who served in Vietnam are twice as likely as other veterans to have children with birth defects.
- Nearly one-third of all Massachusetts veterans who served in combat or combat support units still suffer from some form of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Rates are considerably higher among veterans who are members of minority groups.
- The unemployment rate among veterans at the time of the survey was two percentage points higher than the state average.
- Previous studies suggest that the majority of homeless veterans nationwide are men and women who served in the armed services during the Vietnam War. In Massachusetts, according to another study, 59 percent of the state's homeless veterans served during Vietnam.

According to the Joiner Center report, the survey's findings are alarming given the fact that many of the programs introduced over the past decade to address veterans' problems have been eliminated or radically reduced. The report makes several specific recommendations for dealing with these problems at both the federal and state level.



For the fourth year, a Joiner Center workshop brought writers together to share their work.

The 10th annual conference on the concerns of Vietnam veterans was held May 6th and 7th, in Washington D.C. The two-day conference was attended this year by about 100 leaders of Vietnam veterans organizations nationwide and legislators from a dozen states.

Directed by the Center's associate director, Paul R. Camacho, the conference's co-sponsors included Rep. Lane Evans (D.-Illinois), co-chairman of Vietnam Era Veterans in Congress; Massachusetts Representatives John J. Moakley and Joseph P. Kennedy II; and Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry.

The conference provided an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas about programs benefiting their constituents, and to rally support for legislation aimed at easing the difficulties many Vietnam veterans have endured.

The Center's fourth annual Writers Workshop, coordinated by staff member T. Michael Sullivan, brought 60 writers to the Harbor Campus from June 17th to 28th, where they participated in seminars with six guest writers in residence: Poets Yusef Komunyakaa and Bruce Weigl, National Book Award winners Larry Heinemann (fiction) and Gloria Emerson (non-fiction), novelist Wayne Karlin, and Toan Do, a Vietnamese poet living in Montreal. The workshop also featured readings and working groups that attracted community audiences.

Environmental researchers examine ways to clean up harbor and oil spills

Faculty members and staff associated with the Environmental Sciences Ph.D. Program and the Department of Biology have been pursuing a number of research projects focusing on two very practical matters: dealing with oil spills and cleaning up Boston Harbor.

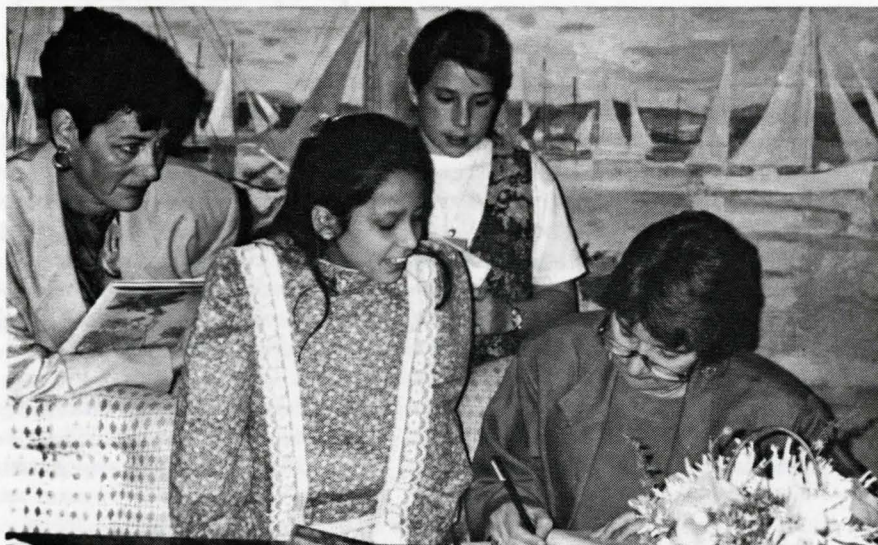
In a three-year project funded by the federal Office of Naval Research, a group headed by professor Joseph J. Cooney will be looking at how certain microbial fungi and bacteria that thrive along salt water beaches are able to decompose oil by turning it into food.

Associate professors Eugene D. Gallagher and Gordon Wallace, who is also the Environmental Sciences Program director, are currently working on research, funded by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, that seeks to measure the circulation of contaminants from the overflow pipes that empty raw sewage into the harbor, and to determine the rate at which potentially toxic contaminants cross sediment boundaries in the harbor.

In a project supported by the National Cancer Institute, associate professor Anne McElroy is examining how some of the toxic carcinogens abundant in Boston Harbor affect the metabolism of marine organisms.

Two other projects involve research being funded by the federal Massachusetts Bays Program. On one of them, McElroy is working with associate professor Michael Shiaris to examine the rate at which toxic substances in Boston Harbor are absorbed by various organisms. Environmental Sciences Program research associate George B. Gardner is working on another, which involves analysis of the circulation pattern of waters in Massachusetts Bay, in hopes of finding out how contaminants circulate and where they eventually wind up. This project is a collaboration involving UMass/Boston, the United States Geological Survey, the University of New Hampshire, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

ILT groups focus on literature for children



Newbery Award winner Katherine Paterson autographing her books for young fans at Davis Fellows in-service program.

Two groups associated with the Graduate College of Education's Institute for Learning and Teaching were active this spring in events aimed at helping teachers teach literature to children.

An April 27th conference at the Harbor Campus, "A Place for Poetry," was co-sponsored by the two programs, the Boston Writing Project and the Davis Educational Foundation Children's Literature In-Service Program.

The Boston Writing Project is part of a national network of groups focusing on intensive writing workshops for teachers. The Children's Literature In-Service Program has been collaborating since 1989 with the Foundation for Children's Books to recruit about 40 Massachusetts public school teachers to work as "Davis Fellows," taking part in a series of events aimed at encouraging the use of high-quality children's literature in the classroom. A number of Davis Fellows were among the more than 100 attending the poetry conference, now in its second year. Noted author and teacher of writing Donald Murray gave a keynote address to the participants, who met with teaching specialists and poets in workshops throughout the day.

A May 11th Davis Fellows in-service program at the JFK Library included a visit by Newbery Award-winning children's book author Katherine Pater-

son, while a May 18th celebration of the Davis Fellowship Program's second year brought participants together for panel discussions. The featured speaker was Rudine Sims Bishop, author of *Shadow and Substance: Afro-American Experience in Contemporary Children's Fiction*.

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- High school teacher Jaime Escalante, whose success in inspiring academic excellence among disadvantaged students was chronicled in the 1988 movie "Stand and Deliver."

- Maxine Hong Kingston, novelist and short story writer, author of *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book*, *China Men*, and *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*.

In addition, Arthur Flemming—former secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and a widely respected civil rights activist and advocate for the elderly—received an honorary doctorate at Gerontology Institute graduation ceremonies on June 5, at the John F. Kennedy Library.