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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 10, No. 38

June 7, 1977

There is always something very special about a UMass-Boston Commencement.

For most of our graduates, they are the first in their families to have gone to college and the day of achievement has arrived, the conferral of their university degree.

As they marched to the podium, filed past their Dean, the President, and the Chancellor and descended the eight steps to the apron of the Plaza the cameras flashed, the parents, wives, children, grandmothers, cousins, aunts, and even neighbors moved in close with congratulations, kisses, cheers, handshakes.

Some snap shots of that special day last week:

Mace Bearer Prof. Pearson Hunt holding the mace proudly, with a special gleam in his eyes for the first graduating class of the College of Professional Studies.....Prof. Richard Robbins, Sociology, robes flapping, not in the faculty section, but in the aisles taking pictures of his students and comrades in collegia.....Corrine DuBose, Financial Aid, beaming with million candlewatts of pride when her husband Tom received his degree....Midge Silvio, Pre-Freshman Programs, walking to the podium for her degree.....the family of Phyllis Wesley, College of Public and Community Service, letting out a lusty roar when Mom got her diploma..... Frank Casey, Registrar, looking skyward for the raindrops he didn't want to fall..... The whole Registrar's Office staff serving as designated pinch hitters for all phases of the ceremony..... Denise Kenneally Cahalane, who is expecting her first baby in a couple of weeks, wondering if she shouldn't have received two diplomas. Her father, Former Senator George Kenneally, very happy on this day, was one of three legislative sponsors for the founding of UMass-Boston..... Prof. Ernest Becker, Chemistry, checking through the program, noting more than a dozen Chemistry majors are going on to grad schools..... Marie James receiving the degree from her husband Assistant Chancellor Herman James..... Joe Bloomstein, Property, saving the day with a screw driver to get the Mace detached from its bearings, so it could be put into Pearson Hunt's arms..... There are 4000 and more snap shots and stories about the people at our Commencement. They've pictures of the joys and happy tears of college years. It was a great day for UMass-Boston and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Special thanks are warmly extended to the entire staff of the University for important roles they played in planning and working on the Commencement arrangements and for the College Convocations. Without the dedicated contributions of each and all of you, it could not have been the happy week that was.

Commencement Week Remarks

President Robert C. Wood:

"So to those of you who graduate today, and to those of you who have come to join the Class of 1977 in this special occasion, I make today an earnest plea: join us in defending and enhancing this University and this campus. Take every opportunity, in every neighborhood dinner, in every gathering, in every service club and union hall and parish hall to testify again and again to the worth of the University."

Chancellor Carlo L. Golino:

"Commencement day is many things for all of us. For you it is a pause. It is the end of one part of your development and the beginning of another. It is a time of pride, of evaluation, and of reflection. Those of us who remain here share the same moment. For us it is also a time to pause, to take pride, to evaluate, and to reflect."

"As you have experienced our university, each of you has changed. In some ways the changes have been subtle, in other ways dramatic. Most of the change has been for the better, most of it has been purposeful, and most of it has been evolutionary. The same can also be said of your university."

Thomas McShane, Student
Speaker, College of Professional
Studies:

"As graduating seniors, we look not to our past or our future, but to our present. We are apprehensive of our individual futures. We are saddened by the breaking of fraternal ties. And we are grateful. Grateful to our families, grateful to our peers, our staff, our faculty--and especially grateful to our school."

William Powers, Student
Speaker, College of Public and
Community Service:

"We found a place in the College of Public and Community Service, a place to give learning another chance. But the school's competency based system cannot be accurately defined as traditional learning. It arises from the assumption that learning is not something that is developed from dispensing things to do, but rather something created by providing a contest, a framework in which things can be done."

"The results of the system are well known by the graduates of CPCS who are here today; a functioning balance of freedom and responsibility in the hands of the student, in whose hands both belong."

Dean Fuad Safwat, College of
Arts and Sciences, at the
College Convocation:

"Somewhere along the line that fine intermingling of the practical and the theoretical--which from the beginning included the notion of value judgements,--somewhere along the line this has been lost: and as a scientist I have a gnawing suspicion that science itself, with its sometimes exclusive interest in either the purely theoretical or the totally practical, may be at fault. A most serious result of this loss is that my generation is now turning over to yours a planet being plundered and devastated by an unrestrained technology that is, after all, one product of intellectual excellence."

Dean Richard Freeland at the
College of Professional Studies
Convocation:

"Remember that our college could have been crushed at several times in our early existence and that in a less immediate sense this is true of any organization with which you will ever be associated; remember that we were allowed to survive--because of the perceived legitimacy of what we were

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Dean Richard Freeland at the
College of Professional Studies
Convocation:

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doing by those who had the power to deny our existence; and remember that we have all together been the custodians of the college's legitimacy for the past two years and that as future managers you will be custodians of the legitimacy of the organizations you serve. This is the practical basis for the ethics of managerial responsibility."

Prof. Franklin Patterson at the
College of Arts and Sciences
Convocation:

"The great, exciting challenge for us lies in the possibility that we may influence the tendencies that exist in society. It is how to use these phenomena and redirect them for individual and collective human ends that is our greatest power and responsibility. Technology, bureaucracy, a service economy, aging, urbanization, middle-class prosperity, and the increasing instantaneity of life--all of these can cut either way. All of these open up for us the opportunity to help educate ourselves, individually and as a society, so that these trends can mean the fulfillment of lives rather than their diminishment.

"The tendencies that I have noted, and others like them, underline the fact that all of us are going to need to be educated continually for all of our lives, and it is clear that this convocation and this commencement for us as individuals cannot usefully be seen as an end, but as an important way-point in an ongoing process of life and education."

Baxter Named Vice Chancellor

C. Thomas Baxter, Jr., has been confirmed by the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts to be Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance for the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Before coming to UMass-Boston in 1971, where he has served as Director of the Office of Budget and Control, he had various financial positions in the business world as a senior cost analyst for the Polaroid Corporation in its color transparency division and in the film division. He was also a senior staff accountant with the international public accounting firm of Coopers and Lybrand.

Baxter earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Northeastern University and his Master's degree in Business Administration from Babson College.

As Budget Director at UMass-Boston, which has a full and part-time enrollment of 7,800 students, he is primarily responsible for the overall preparation, review and submission of the annual operating budget, which is in excess of \$18-million, capital outlay budget requests, and the administration and control of appropriated funds for the \$150-million campus.

Baxter developed a program-type budgeting system to more efficiently allocate and control scarce resources. He has been responsible for developing long-range financial plans, manpower staffing schedules, and forecasting major fixed and variable cost elements.

In addition to budget functions, he has supervised the staffs of the campus controller and computer facilities. He has also supervised relations with the business community and implemented campus cost controls.

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Baxter Named Vice Chancellor
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When he was associated with Coopers and Lybrand, Baxter was responsible for all field work in connection with annual and special audits with heavy emphasis on colleges, hospitals, and other non-profit institutions.

Riccards Dean of A and S

Dr. Michael P. Riccards, a political scientist and former Chairman of the department at the State University of New York at Buffalo, was approved by the Board of Trustees to serve as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

For the past year he has been a research fellow at Princeton University studying the relationships between political values and the American religious culture.

He is the author of "The Making of the American Citizenry: An Introduction To Political Socialization" and is co-editor of "Reflections On American Political Thought: From Past To Present."

Dr. Riccards has written scores of articles on the U.S. Presidency, the Nixon-Kissinger Foreign Policy, Adolescent Values After Watergate, and political and economic values.

He has served as Special Assistant to the Chancellor of Higher Education, Department of Education, for the State of New Jersey.

Over the years he has called upon as a consultant to the Urban Affairs Council, and the White House Council on Childhood and Youth.

He has won many honors including a Fulbright Fellowship to Japan and was named a research fellow at the Henry L. Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif.

At SUNY he was Chairman of the Academic Planning Committee and author of a college-wide report on the reorganization of academic and support services.

His academic degrees are from Rutgers University where he earned his bachelor of arts, majoring in History, Master of Arts and Master of Philosophy in Political Science, and his Ph.D. in Political Science, concentrating in political behavior and American Political Thought.

Graduate Studies

Dr. Robert H. Spaethling, Director of Graduate Studies, will be on sabbatical leave to do research in Vienna and at Widener Library at Harvard University. It will be his first sabbatical since 1963.

Professor J. Lawrence Kamara, Sociology, who has been on the faculty at UMass-Boston since 1969 will be Acting Director of Graduate Studies during the summer. Professor Kamara earned his Doctorate and Master's from Boston University and his Bachelor's and Diploma in Education from Durham University, England. His teaching and research interests are in Comparative Sociology.

Beginning in September Professor Shaun O'Connell, English, will be Acting Director of Graduate Studies for the Academic year. Professor O'Connell, who has been a member of the UMass-Boston faculty since 1965, is widely known for his reviews of American fiction in the Boston Globe and other publications. He is a graduate of UMass-Amherst, where he earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. He was a Teaching Fellow at Harvard University before coming to UMass-Boston as one of the pioneer faculty.