



MEDIA ADVISORY

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UMASS DARTMOUTH COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND DETAILS

GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 23 – 2:30 p.m.

Vietnam Veterans Peace Memorial Amphitheater

Rain Location: Tripp Athletic Center (with College ceremonies at various locations.)

Total numbers of graduate degree recipients: approximately 308

Commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient: Henry Grattan Gill, Jr., architect who played lead role in construction of UMass Dartmouth campus.

Other speakers: UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Jean F. MacCormack, UMass Trustee Kerri Osterhaus-Houle, College of Nursing Professor Gail Russell, PhD candidate Akhilesh Shrestha, and Director of Northeast Maritime Institute and alumnus Sid Martin.

Ceremony will include first awards of doctorate degrees in bio-medical engineering (1) and marine science (3); first masters in public policy (9), first degrees awarded by the new School of Education, Public Policy and Civic Engagement (31 – 22 in teaching and 9 in public policy).

UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, May 24, 2009 -- 10:15 a.m.

Vietnam Veterans Peace Memorial Amphitheater

Rain Location: Tripp Athletic Center (with College ceremonies at various locations.)

Total numbers of undergraduate degree recipients: approximately 1,506



Commencement Speaker: Sara J. Bloomfield, director of the [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), will speak to undergraduates at UMass Dartmouth's [109th undergraduate Commencement exercises](#) on May 24 and receive an honorary degree from the University.

Other speakers: Chancellor Jean F. MacCormack, UMass System President Jack Wilson, Trustee Kerri Osterhaus-Houle, Student Trustee Tamara Endich, Class of 2009 President Stephanie Gibson, Alumni Association President Judith Lima.

Honorary Degree Recipient: New Bedford entrepreneur William Whelan will also receive an honorary degree at the undergraduate ceremony while architect Grattan Gill, who led the construction of the UMass Dartmouth campus, will receive an honorary degree and speak at the May 23 graduate Commencement where approximately 350 master's and doctoral candidates will receive their diplomas.

Facts about the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Class of 2009

Total number of degree candidates: Approximately 1,814 (1,506 undergraduate, 308 graduate)

Number of countries represented: 4 (United States, China, Germany, India)

Number of states represented: 19 (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, California, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont)

Number of Massachusetts communities represented: 276

Selected numbers of graduates (undergraduate and graduate) by field: Business (554), Engineering (289), Visual and Performing Arts (181), Nursing (113), Sociology/Crime and Justice (107), Psychology (99), English/Professional Writing (78), Humanities/Liberal Arts (70), History (55), Marine Science (14 – not including related activity in engineering, biology, chemistry, etc.)

More on Sara Bloomfield

Sara Bloomfield joined the Museum in 1986 when it was a project in development, grappling with the complex issues of building a "living memorial" to the Holocaust on the National Mall. She served in a number of positions before becoming director in 1999. Under her direction, the Museum created a series of innovative leadership training programs for law enforcement, the military and diplomats, and launched its Academy for Genocide Prevention. She also established the National Institute for Holocaust Education and the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.

Ms. Bloomfield has led several complex negotiations on behalf of the Museum, including diplomatic efforts to open the largest closed archive in the world, the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany. She also negotiated sensitive agreements to rescue endangered artifacts and archives that document the Holocaust in Croatia. For the Museum's 10th Anniversary, she secured the first-ever loan of a variety of Anne Frank's original writings, including parts of her world-famous diary. Some of these historic manuscripts have never been on view; none had been displayed outside the Netherlands.

More on William Whelan

William Whelan, the former chairman of Spaulding & Slye Colliers International and chairman of [Whelan Associates](#), has been one of the region's leading commercial real estate developers and managers, shaping the physical landscape of the SouthCoast since 1973. An avid flyer, Mr. Whelan is founder and president of Sandpiper Air at the New Bedford Airport. As a board member of the Nativity Prep School and Wentworth Institute, Mr. Whelan has devoted his time, expertise and energy to creating educational opportunity for people, and he has been a steadfast advocate for opening the Ocean Explorium in downtown New Bedford, which is designed to inspire young people about science and environmental issues.

More on Grattan Gill

Grattan Gill played a crucial role in the physical development of the [UMass Dartmouth campus](#) as the lead on-site architect, or "job captain," implementing the concepts of noted design architect Paul Rudolph. Compelled to re-design some buildings, most notably the library and campanile, Mr. Gill played a key role in making the campus an architectural treasure and one of the few campuses in the country designed and built on a unified plan. Mr. Gill began his architectural education with a fellowship under famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin East and West.

More on Gail Russell

Professor Gail Russell is Graduate Program Director for the College of Nursing and directs the UMass Dartmouth Center for Gerontology. Her research specializations include health care systems, health policy, and management competency development. This spring she received the "Living Legend" award from New England Sinai Hospital and she has been inducted into the Teachers College Columbia University Hall of Fame.

More on Akhilesh Shrestha

Akhilesh Shrestha, a native of Kathmandu, Nepal, has distinguished himself as a student at UMass Dartmouth, where he received his master of science degree in computer engineering in 2005. As a doctoral student in electrical engineering at the university, Mr. Shrestha's research interests include fault tolerant and dependable computing, wireless sensor networks, data mining, and artificial intelligence.

More on Sid Martin

As director of technology for Northeast Maritime Institute in Fairhaven, Sid Martin oversees the development of technical improvements and advances for mariner safety systems. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1981 from UMass Dartmouth and a year later received his master's degree in that field from the university.