



A University of Maine graduate adjusts her "molecule"-topped mortar board during commencement exercises in Orono in 2012. BDN FILE

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENTS

University of Southern Maine

PORTLAND — Approximately 950 undergraduate and graduate students will gather for the University of Southern Maine's 136th commencement ceremony at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 14, at Cross Insurance Arena, 1 Civic Center Square.

Former U.S. Sen. George J. Mitchell will deliver the keynote address.

Mitchell served for several years as chairman of the global law firm DLA Piper, now chairman emeritus. Before that he served as a federal judge; as majority leader of the United States Senate; as chairman of peace negotiations in Northern Ireland, which resulted in an agreement that ended a historic conflict; and most recently as U.S. special envoy to the Middle East.

For his service in Northern Ireland, Mitchell received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Philadelphia Liberty Medal, the Truman Institute Peace Prize and the United Nations Peace Prize.

Mitchell was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1980 to complete the unexpired term of U.S. Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, who resigned to become secretary of state. Mitchell went on to an illustrious career in the Senate spanning 15 years.

In 2008, Time magazine described him as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Mitchell is the author of five books. The most recent, a memoir titled "The Negotiator: Reflections on an American Life," was published in May 2015.

Mitchell received his undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Economics student Melissa Bell will be the featured student speaker, and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters will be awarded to former Maine Community Foundation president and CEO Meredith H. Jones.

Bell graduated from Deering High School in Portland before arriving at USM where she will graduate with her Bachelor of Arts in economics, plus a minor in English.

Bell was awarded a Maine Higher Education Assistance Foundation \$1,000 Scholarship for the 2015-16 academic year. Her studies in economics led Bell to become a leader in student groups including the Students of Economic Interests, where she served as vice president.

She worked for the Southern Maine Workers' Center as an intern and has continued as an organizer and member of the leadership team.

Bell recently was selected to the Maine National Education for Women Leadership program in June, which stresses the importance of women's participation in public life and developing leadership skills. She also worked at USM's Osher Map Library as a student cartographer and assistant to the education coordinator.

A three-year member of the USM women's outdoor track and field team as a thrower, primarily discus, Bell was recognized in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 as a William B. Wise Scholar-Athlete. Jones recently stepped

down from her post as president and CEO of the Maine Community Foundation, a statewide public foundation that has awarded more than \$220 million in scholarships and grants to individuals and nonprofit organizations.

Before joining the foundation, Jones directed training programs for the Maine Health Care Association and worked for the Maine Development Foundation. She has also volunteered for many organizations and serves as a member of the editorial review committee for the Maine Policy Review, the advisory council of the Margaret Chase Smith Center, the International Women's Forum — Maine Chapter, and the community advisory board of Northeast Bank. She chairs the board of directors of CFLeads, a national organization of community foundation CEOs engaged in community leadership work.

In 2015, Jones received the Kenneth L. Curtis Leadership Award from Leadership Maine for her distinguished statewide leadership in philanthropy. She is the recipient of the Deborah Morton award and was recognized by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center as a Distinguished Maine Policy Fellow.

She is a graduate of Colby-Sawyer College and University of Maine at Augusta and has completed postgraduate work at the University of Maine.

The university's staff will be live tweeting from the event, and people may follow it at @usouthernmaine and join in the conversation #USM2016. Post commencement photos on the USM Facebook page, or share with us on Instagram using #USM2016.

University of Maine at Machias

MACHIAS — The University of Maine at Machias will hold its 105th commencement for 90 graduates at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 14, in Reynolds Gymnasium.

Ron Beckwith, former superintendent of Roosevelt Campobello International Park and a current member of the UMM board of visitors, will be the keynote speaker. He will be joined on the podium by five other guest speakers: Kyle Winslow, Jack Aaron Frost, Elizabeth "Betty" Duzen, Robbi Carver and Mary Squibb.

Beckwith is a Connecticut

native who graduated from the University of Maine at Fort Kent with a degree in environmental studies. He taught school in Lubec until 1985, when he joined Roosevelt Campobello International Park as a computer technician and eventually becoming superintendent in August of 2010. He recently retired from the park and is now chief financial officer at the Regional Medical Center at Lubec.

Winslow is a 2007 UMM graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree and is hatchery manager for the Downeast Salmon Federation. He also works with Project SHARE restoring Atlantic Salmon habitat and providing environmental education and 4-H adventure group leadership.

Frost is a 1989 UMM graduate and holds a UMaine master's degree in public administration. He is director of philanthropy for Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and is responsible for the hospital's fundraising initiatives. He is past president of The Rotary Club of Ellsworth and serves on numerous boards including the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce and Healthy Acadia.

Duzen moved to Machias in 1978 with her husband, Norman, who became pastor of the Centre Street Congregational Church. Duzen was instrumental in establishing the first Elderhostel Program in Washington County at UMM. She was a founder of the Machias Area Food Pantry and the Community Christmas Giving Tree. For more than 15 years she was pastor of the Whitneyville Church and remains active in church and community projects.

Squibb of Eastport writes mystery novels set along the Down East coast under the name Sarah Graves. She has more than a million books in print and is the recipient of the Mystery Writers of America's best first mystery short story by an American author award, and the "Common Good" award by The Commons in Eastport. Her fiction has been published in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, and others.

Carver was elected by the members of the UMM senior class as the Ivy Orator for 2016. Carver is from Beals Island, was valedictorian at Jonesport-Beals High School

in 2012 and received the Maine Principal's Award. She will graduate with a degree in secondary education with a concentration in mathematics and will be teaching at Washington Academy in East Machias.

University of Maine at Fort Kent

FORT KENT — The University of Maine at Fort Kent will hold its 134th Commencement exercise at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14, in the university's Sports Center. UMFK President John N. Short will preside over the day's ceremonies.

Approximately 220 degrees will be conferred during commencement.

Distinguished guest and former UMFK Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert M. Dixon, who will deliver the commencement address, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Dixon's appointment began in January 2014 and ended in December 2015. He has more than four decades of experience in management, research and teaching. He has served in higher education as a professor, provost, vice president, dean, department chair and professor, and as a director of a private sector engineering firm.

His administrative experiences in education and business have given Dr. Dixon insight into problems and differences encountered in managing academic and business organizations. He has maintained an interest and involvement in the field of teacher education through his consulting work with public school systems in different parts of the country.

Dixon has engaged in research on nuclear reactions and he has taught both undergraduate and graduate-level physics courses in a number of colleges and universities. His research on nuclear reactions has primarily been in many-body scattering theory, and has centered on the use of connected kernel equations in the analysis of nuclear reactions.

Dixon received a doctoral degree in theoretical nuclear physics at the University of Maryland; a master's degree in nuclear physics at Rutgers University in New Jersey; and a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and mathematics from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Treasury rejects pension cut plan

Benefits for former truckers targeted

BY JONNELLE MARTE
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department rejected a plan that would have substantially cut pension benefits for nearly 300,000 former and current truckers and their family members.

The proposal from the Central States Pension Fund, one of the largest multi-employer plans in the country, was the first test of a 2014 law that allowed financially distressed multi-employer plans to shrink benefits for retirees even if the fund had not yet run out of money.

The rejection of the cuts buys more time for the retirees who would have seen their income severely cut.

Kenneth Feinberg, the special master appointed by the Treasury to review the proposal, said the plan was rejected because the changes would not do enough to improve the financial health of the pension fund. "We at Treasury do not believe that the plan, as submitted, will reasonably avoid insolvency," Feinberg said during a press call Friday.

In a letter to the pension

fund, he also said he rejected the proposal because the cuts would not have been "equitably distributed" across all participants. And he said that the explanations sent out to retirees about the changes were not clear enough to help members understand how they would be affected.

Leaders of the pension fund, which proposed the cuts last fall, could come up with another proposal to reduce benefits that would also meet the requirements set by the law.

Consumer advocates and members of the plan say they hope lawmakers will rally to support alternative legislation that could help the fund in a way that is less painful for retirees.

One bill introduced on the issue would help retirees by leading to government assistance for the insurance fund supporting multi-employer plans. Another bill would give retirees and workers more power to approve or reject cuts proposed for their plan. But it's not clear how likely it is that either of these solutions will become law.

WHAT IS IT?

Send your answers for this week's What Is It (right) to: Robert Croul, 1095 North Road, Newburgh, Maine 04444. Readers may respond by email to recastate@myfairpoint.net. Be sure to write "What is it?" in the subject line.



ROBERT CROUL



The "What Is It" in the April 23 edition of the Bangor Daily News was correctly identified as an early whale oil lantern, often called a barn lantern, by Fred Otto of Orono, Mike and Della Gleason of Bangor, Virgil Fowles of Brooks and Erwin Flewelling of Northport.

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