

**University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth  
Commencement and Baccalaureate Service  
Programs, Recordings and Committee Records, 1903-present**

**University Records Collection - URC 17  
Guide and Collection Inventory**

16 boxes (open series)

**Administrative note:** The first UMD graduation exercises were held in 1901 when its predecessor school, the New Bedford Textile School, graduated 10 day students and 92 evening students. NBTS actually graduated its first class of students (3 day and 36 night) in 1900 after instruction commenced October 16, 1899, but there does not appear to have been any formal awarding of diplomas and certificates (see Board of Trustees records URC 1, volume 1, page 46). The first official graduation exercises at the other predecessor school, the Bradford Durfee Textile School, took place in June, 1906. The school graduated its first group of students the previous year, after it opened its doors in the fall of 1904.

Since 1966 all UMD commencements have taken place on the North Dartmouth campus, and since 1973 in the Vietnam Veteran's Peace Memorial Amphitheatre (with the Gymnasium as the alternative site in case of rain). At least as far back as 1964 the Commencement Committee has been charged with planning the event and recommending speakers and Honorary Degree candidates. Up until 1995 this committee consisted of students, staff, faculty members and one trustee. Between 1977 and 1995 a separate subcommittee of the Commencement Committee, the Honorary Degree Sub-committee, has been charged to choose the latter, which were approved for invitation by the SMU Board of Trustees. With the reorganization of the Massachusetts University system in 1992, and dissolution of the SMU Board of Trustees, both the Commencement Committee and the Honorary Degree Committees were left with no clear line of reporting. Therefore, effective with the planning committee for the 1996 UMD Commencement, both came under the umbrella of the Faculty Senate. The current makeup of the committees are as follows: Commencement Committee (6 faculty, the senior class officers and representatives of Facilities, Auxiliary Services, Publications, University Records, Budget, Alumni Affairs, and Security); Honorary Degree Committee (6 faculty, 3 students and 3 administrators). Both Commencement and the Baccalaureate Service, a religious service, take place on a Sunday 2 weeks after the end of finals, the commencement in the afternoon and the Baccalaureate in the morning.

**Scope and contents note:** The bulk of the collection consists of commencement programs, minutes of the Commencement Committee, press files and audio and video tapes of the commencement. There are a few recordings of the Baccalaureate Service. There are a few invitations and tickets, as well as a small selection of speeches, mostly those by UMD Presidents. There are some programs for Baccalaureate Services. Since 1966, the Library's Audio Visual Service has taped the audio of Commencement, and since 1992 they have videotaped it as well. This is a complete set of recordings for all commencements since 1966 with the exception of audio for 1976 and 1977, and video for 1999. Honorary Degree Sub-committee correspondence is included in the Commencement Committee records. Of note are the lists of honorary degree recipients. On the attached list are honorary degree recipients and keynote speakers since 1968, compiled by Archives staff. For records of these committees after 1994, see URC 19, records of the Faculty Senate. The press files contain press releases about the commencement as well as photographs and biographical information on honorary degree recipients since 1985.

The collection is divided into 4 series:

1) Programs, tickets and speeches; 2) Commencement Committee Records and press files 3) Audio recordings; and 4) Video recordings.

**Acquisition:** Audio tapes are transferred to the archives from the Audio Visual Department annually. The videotapes were acquired in 1999 when the head of TV Services retired (Acc. #99-5). Audio reels, programs and other records are retrospective. Many of the records of the Commencement Committee appear to have come from the records of Presidents Walker and Brazil, which were dispersed when originally processed. The press files, in series 2 are from the files of the Director of Public Information, Maeve Hickok, who left the university in 2003 (Acc. # 03-27).

**Access:** Unrestricted.

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**Processing note:** Processed by Judy Farrar, June 1999, with the assistance of Julie Fernandes '99.

## Item list

Box #	Folder #	Description/Date
<b><u>Series I: Programs, tickets and speeches, 1903-present</u></b>		
1	1	NBTS Graduation Exercises, 1903-1904, 1908-1909, 1912-1913, 1915-1918
	2	NBTS Graduation Exercises, 1919-1930
	3	NBTS Graduation Exercises, 1931-1940
	4	NBTS Graduation Exercises, 1941-1946
	5	NBTI Graduation Exercises, 1947-1949
	6	NBTI Commencement, 1950-1954
	7	NBITT Commencement, 1955-1959
	8	NBITT Commencement, 1960-1964
	9	NBIT Baccalaureate, 1960-1964
	10	BDTS Graduation Exercises, 1907-1908, 1910-1915, 1917
	11	BDTS Graduation Exercises, 1919-1935
	12	BDTS Graduation Exercises, 1936-1946
	13	BDTI Graduation Exercises, 1947-1949
	14	BDTI Commencement, 1950-1955 (Baccalaureate included in some programs)
	15	BDTI Commencement, 1956-1957 (Baccalaureate included in some programs)
	16	BDCT Commencement, 1958-1964 (Baccalaureate included in some programs)
	17	BDTS, BDTI, BDCT Invitations to graduation/commencement, 1928-1948
	18	BDTI, BDTC Invitations to commencement, 1950-1959, 1963-1964
	19	BDTI Invitations to President's Reception following Baccalaureate, 1956-1959
2	20	SMTI, SMU Commencement Tickets, 1965-1974
	21	SMU Commencement Speeches, 1981-1983, 1985-1989
	22	SMTI Commencement and Baccalaureate Service Programs, 1965-1969
	23	SMU Commencement and Baccalaureate Service Programs, 1970-1972
	24	SMU Commencement and Baccalaureate Service Programs, 1973-1974
2A	25	SMU Commencement Programs, 1975-1977
	26	SMU Commencement Programs, 1978-1980
	27	SMU Commencement Programs, 1981-1982
3	28	SMU Commencement Programs, 1983-1984
	29	SMU Commencement Programs, 1985
	30	SMU Commencement Programs, 1986
	31	SMU Commencement Programs, 1987-1988
	32	SMU Commencement Programs, 1989-1990
	33	SMU, UMD Commencement Programs, 1991-1992
	34	UMD Commencement Programs, 1993
	35	UMD Commencement Programs, 1994
	36	UMD Commencement Programs, 1995
	37	UMD Commencement Programs, 1996
	38	UMD Commencement Programs, 1997
	39	UMD Commencement Programs, 1998
	40	UMD Commencement Programs, 1999
	41	UMD Commencement Programs, 2000
	42	UMD Commencement Programs, 2001 (101 <sup>st</sup> )
	43	UMD Commencement Programs, 2002 (102 <sup>nd</sup> )
	44	UMD Commencement Programs, 2003 (103 <sup>rd</sup> )
	45	UMD Commencement Programs, 2004 (104 <sup>th</sup> )

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Description/Date</b>
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**Series II: Commencement Committee Records, 1964-1996**

4	1	Commencement Committee, 1964-1979
	2	Commencement Committee, 1981
	3	Commencement Committee, 1982
	4	Commencement Committee, 1983
	5	Commencement Committee, 1984
5	6	Commencement Committee, 1985
	7	Commencement Committee, 1986
	8	Commencement Committee, 1987
	9	Commencement Committee, 1988
	10	Commencement Committee, 1989
	11	Commencement Committee, 1990
	12	Commencement Committee, 1991
	13	Commencement Committee, 1992
	14	Commencement Committee, 1993
	15	Honorary Degree Recipients (Lists), 1954-1989
	16	Honorary Degrees, Revalidation, 1975
	17	Honorary Degree Recipients (Photographs and Citations), 1982
	18	Honorary Degree Recipients (Photographs), 1983
	19	Honorary Degree Recipients (Photographs), 1986
	20	Honorary Degree Recipients (Group Photographs), 1982, 1989-1990
	21	Honorary Degree Recipients (Photographs and Citations), 1991
	22	Honorary Degree Recipients (Photographs), 1996
	23	Honorary Degree Recipients (Speeches), A-G, 1954-1964
	24	Honorary Degree Recipients (Speeches), H-M, 1954-1964
	25	Honorary Degree Recipients (Speeches), M-S, 1954-1964
	26	Honorary Degree Recipients (Speeches), S-Z, 1954-1964
	27	Honorary Degree Committee, 1985-1986
	28	Honorary Degree Committee, 1987-1989
	29	Honorary Degree Committee, 1990-1991
	30	Honorary Degree Committee, 2000
	31	Commencement Gala, 2000
	32	Commencement Committee, 2001
	33	Ceremony to confer Harold Bloom, 2002

**Office of Public Information, press files on the commencement**

5a	27	Mary Fonseca, Press Files – Commencement 1974
	28	Press Files – Commencement 1986
	29	Press Files – Commencement 1987
	30	Press Files – Commencement 1988
	31	Press Files – Commencement 1989
	32	Press Files – Commencement 1990
	33	Press Files – Commencement 1991
	34	Press Files – Commencement 1992
	35	Press Files – Commencement 1993
	36	Press Files – Commencement 1994

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Tape #</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Format/# of cassettes/reels</b>	<b>length</b>
5b	37	Press Files – Commencement	1995	
	38	Press Files – Commencement	1996	
	39	Press Files – Commencement	1997	
	40	Press Files – Commencement	1998	
	41	Press Files – Commencement	1999	
	42	Press Files – Commencement	2000	
	43	Commencement Photos,	n.d.	

**Series III: Audio recordings of Commencement exercises and Baccalaureate ceremonies**

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Tape #</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Format/# of cassettes/reels</b>	<b>length</b>
6	1	1966 SMTI Commencement	1 reel	
	2	1966 SMTI Baccalaureate	1 reel	
	3a-b	1967 SMTI Commencement	2 reels	
	4	1967 SMTI Baccalaureate	1 reel	
	5a-d	1968 SMTI Commencement	4 reels	
	6a-c	1969 SMTI Commencement	3 reels	
	7	1969 SMTI Baccalaureate	1 reel	
6-7	8a-c	1970 SMU Commencement	3 reels	
7	9	1970 SMU Baccalaureate	1 reel	
	10a-c	1971 SMU Commencement	3 reels	
	11	1971 SMU Baccalaureate	1 reel	
	12a-c	1972 SMU Commencement	3 reels	
	13	1972 SMU Baccalaureate	1 reel	
	14a-b	1973 SMU Commencement	2 reels	
8	15	1973 SMU Baccalaureate	1 reel	
	16a-c	1974 SMU Commencement	3 reels	
	17a-b	1974 SMU Baccalaureate	1 reel	
	18a-b	1975 SMU Commencement	2 reels	
9	19	1975 SMU Commencement	1 cass.	
	20a-d	1978 SMU Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
8	21	1979 SMU Commencement	1 reel	
9	22a-d	1979 SMU Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
9	23a-b	1980 SMU Commencement	2 cass.	3 hours
8	24	1981 SMU Commencement	1 reel	2 ½ hours
9	25a-d	1981 SMU Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies, + one is speech only)	
8	26	1982 SMU Commencement	1 reel	3 hours
9	27a-c	1982 SMU Commencement	3 cass.	
8	28	1983 SMU Commencement	1 reel	
9	29a-b	1983 SMU Commencement	2 cass.	
8	30	1984 SMU Commencement	1 reel	
9	31a-b	1984 SMU Commencement	2 cass.	
	32a-d	1985 SMU Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
	33a-b	1986 SMU Commencement	2 cass.	
	34a-c	1987 SMU Commencement	3 cass.	
	35a-d	1988 SMU Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
9-10	36a-d	1989 SMU Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
10	37a-d	1990 SMU Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Tape #</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Format/# of cassettes/reels</b>	<b>length</b>
10	38	1991 SMU Commencement	1 cass. (tape 1 is missing)	
	39a-d	1992 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
	40a-d	1993 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
	41a-d	1994 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
	42a-d	1995 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
	43a-d	1996 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
	44a-d	1997 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
10-11	45a-e	1998 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (3 copies)	
11	46a-d	1999 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
11	47a-d	2000 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
11	48a-d	2001 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
11	49a-d	2002 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
11	50a-d	2003 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	
11	51a-d	2004 UMD Commencement	2 cass. (2 copies)	

**Series IV: Video recordings of Commencement exercises and Baccalaureate ceremonies**

12	1a-b	1992 UMD Commencement	2 vhs	
	2	1993 UMD Commencement	1 vhs	
	3a-b	1994 UMD Commencement	2 vhs	
	4	1995 UMD Commencement	1 vhs	
	5a-b	1996 UMD Commencement	2 vhs	
	6	1997 UMD Commencement	1 vhs	
	7	1998 UMD Commencement	1 vhs	