

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

April 9, 2009

THE REPORTER

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Reporter's

People

News about people
in & around
our Neighborhoods

U.S. Senator John Kerry will deliver the principal address at UMass-Boston's commencement on May 29, the university announced last week.

Sen. Kerry will be joined by honorary degree recipients Joseph Kennedy, former U.S. Representative and founder of Citizens Energy; Sister Margaret Leonard, founder of Project Hope; and Edwin Moses, former Olympian, champion of drug-free athletics, and motivational speaker.

"The university is pleased to honor Senator Kerry with the Chancellor's Medal and to welcome him as our principal commencement speaker. We look forward to celebrating his longstanding commitment to the values of our university and honoring his lifetime of service to veterans and



Sister
Margaret Leonard

the poor," said Chancellor Motley. "And we are so pleased to also honor Joe Kennedy, Sister Margaret, and Edwin Moses for their leadership and dedication to service."

Sister Margaret will be presented with the degree of doctor of humane letters, honoris causa, for her considerable neighborhood-development work as the leader of Project Hope since 1985. Since

then, Leonard helped transform the Little Sisters of the Assumption's convent into a vibrant multi-service center offering homelessness prevention, educational and economic empowerment programs serving Boston's Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods. A catalyst in forging strategic alliances, partnerships, and collaborations at local, city, and state levels to support low-income families in moving from crisis to stability, Leonard is the former co-chair of the City of Boston's Homeless Planning Committee and cofounded two innovative and highly effective organizations: Homes for Families, a statewide advocacy organization, and One Family Scholars, an organization that provides college scholarships to formerly homeless and low-income mothers.