

gathered here today, junior in length of service to all our graduating seniors, of course, junior also to all the members of the faculty, and to all the Trustees.

So I can speak almost as an outsider in saying to our faculty and students that in four years you have created for the Commonwealth a public university that sets as its goal the excellence of our excellent neighbors and that has already moved toward the goal. It is no slight to all our departments to say that in the gossip of the profession in this area one already hears our biology and German departments singled out for special praise. We had sensed our obligation to the city from the beginning, long before -- at least two years before -- programs for poor people, and black people, and educationally slighted people became fashionable, UMass/Boston was in the business, recruiting actively in every section of the city as well as in surrounding cities, sequestering dollars that were not plentiful for tasks that seemed to us close to the essential purposes of our life here. Some faces absent here today, some faces that have not in fact been around for two or three years, remind us that we ^{lacked} ~~lack~~ the skills and the manpower and the services that were necessary to bridge the gap between poor high schools and the work