

RIVIER HONORS IMPORTANCE OF ITS CATHOLIC MISSION AT COMMENCEMENT 2006

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Photos by Jodie Andruskevich

Rivier celebrated the rainiest Commencement on record on May 13, 2006, but that didn't stop more than 2,000 attendees from gathering under the tent on the athletic field to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2006.

While honoring its 587 graduates at the 71st annual ceremony, the College also reflected upon the importance of its Catholic mission, continuing a tradition that last year included the acknowledgement of Casa de Esperanza, a charitable organization with a similar mission and focus on service.

Dr. Joseph Kelley, Merrimack College Provost and Vice President for Mission Effectiveness, was honored with an honorary doctor of humane letters for his work to encourage the laity, religious, and clergy to work together to reinforce the importance of mission and the spiritual legacy of the Catholic Church. In the citation read by **Dr. Albert DeCiccio**, Academic Dean of the College, Kelley was recognized "not for telling people what mission means, but for providing a historical perspective of a particular charism and initiating a dialogue among people of various backgrounds about what it means today." Dr. Kelley has held various leadership positions at Merrimack and was the founding director of the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy.



Also speaking at Commencement were the top graduates in Rivier's three areas: Doreen Paula Hutchins of Londonderry, N.H. for Undergraduate Day Programs; Susan P. Coakley of Merrimack, N.H. for Undergraduate Evening Programs; and Carol M. Kilmister of Dunbarton, N.H. for Graduate Programs. ■



* As Rivier's Director of the Marketing & Communication Office, **KAREN COOPER** oversees the College's marketing and advertising, public relations, publications, communications, and the website. She earned her Master's of Business Administration with a concentration in marketing from Rivier in 2003, and this fall she will be teaching graphic design in the College's Professional Communications program. Some of her accomplishments at Rivier include the design of the current College logo; the development of the College magazine, *Rivier Today*, of which she is the editor; and the launch of the new College website in 2005. She also serves as Associate Editor of the Rivier Academic Journal.