

SCHOLARS CONVOCATION FOCUSES ON STUDENT STORIES

Jennifer J. Liskow '02G*
(From: *Campus Forum*, May 11, 2007)


When Dr. Virginia Ryan was invited to speak at Rivier's Scholars Convocation, she decided the best way to give a talk directly addressed to students was to interview some of them and draw on their experiences. On Saturday, April 21, 2007, she addressed the 62 graduating seniors who have attained a 3.5 GPA up to the semester prior to graduation.

Dr. Ryan had asked students how they reached this point in their lives—what obstacles they had encountered and who had supported them, challenged them, or believed in them. She also spoke with two faculty members and with the Dean. "I wanted to get the perspective of people committed to the academic life," she said.


Initially, Dr. Ryan wasn't sure what students would say. She found that while their experiences were varied, all shared common themes central to Rivier being a Catholic college. Students shared stories about their interactions with faculty. Based on their experiences, Dr. Ryan focused her speech on trust, engagement, vocation, and community.

Biology faculty helped Richard Smart realize that faith and reason are not in competition, but rather, they complement one another. Cassie Anganes Van Der Hyde witnessed compassion in action when she accompanied Mary Ann Breen on a service trip to Honduras. Diane Connell's concern has inspired Stacey Reddington to help others; Kristen Magro drew similar inspiration from Dr. Alan Goodman and Kate Ricci. Sr. Lucille Thibodeau and Dr. Jerry Dolan posed questions that helped John Spellenberg to become a more engaged world citizen. Ginny Day's call to vocation came in the voice of Dr. Howard Muscott when he repeatedly asked her when she was returning to school. These faculty and many others frequently modeled students' academic and professional goals.

In closing, Dr. Ryan encouraged students to reflect on the questions, how did you get here today, and how, then shall I live? "Continue to be mindful of your deepest desires and the deepest needs of our fragile and vulnerable world," she said. "Recognize the places where those desires and dreams meet, for it is there that you will find your heart." She encouraged students to be good stewards of their skills by keeping perspective and balance, and urged them to "continue to develop authentic sympathy and compassion." ■



**Rivier Scholars
Convocation**
April 21, 2007



Rivier
COLLEGE
Seven decades of excellence



Welcome

Albert DeCiccio, Ph.D.
Academic Dean of the College

Invocation

Sr. Therese Laroche, p.m., Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Virginia Day
Graduating Class of 2007

Guest Speaker

Virginia Ryan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Religious Studies

Kappa Gamma Pi Investiture

Regina Shearer, M.Div.
Executive Director of Academic Administration

**Proclamation of Inductees
Rivier Nursing Honor Society**

Kathleen Patenaude M.S., R.N.
Instructor, Nursing Department

Honors Proclamation


ACADEMIC HONORS
Albert DeCiccio, Ph.D.
Academic Dean of the College

Closing Remarks

William Farrell, Ph.D.
President

College Song



 2007 Honor Students 

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Cassandra Anganes | Jessica Giuffrida | Stacey Reddington |
| Kara Bayrouy | Ellen Gray | Catherine Ross |
| Rene Beaudoin | Amanda Hall | Rosemary Sampson |
| Danielle Berube | James Harnden | Tanya Sebek |
| Sheila Bishop | Richard Jackson | Richard Smart |
| Sarah Blagdon | Rebecca Jeffery | John Spellenberg |
| Doreen Bonney | Shannon Kelley | Jaymie Stoops |
| Ginette Bouffard | Diane Labonte | Danielle Tilders |
| Kayla Bowker | Kristi Lamb | Melissa Varszegi |
| Cassandra Carvalho | Brittani-Lee Losavio | Jayne Waldman |
| Christine Chouinard | Jonathan Luchette | Heather Walsh |
| Cheri Cimon | Robert Lynch | Mary Wood-Gauthier |
| Jennifer Cluff | Dawn Macomber | Kathryn Yee |
| Scott Cummings | Kristen Magro | Patricia Zink |
| Tamara Curran | Ian Manchester | |
| Christine Dafopoulos | Krystal McDonald | |
| Jessica D'Amico | Erin McGonagle | |
| Virginia Day | Kristen Morey | |
| Amanda Ditzel | Joseph Myers | |
| Alicia Dunham | Kimberly O'Connor | |
| Kimberly Ford | Lynn Oppenheim | |
| Mary Gallant | Kari Osha | |
| Kathryn Georges | Vallerie Parisi | |
| Michael Golf | Dayana Pizani | |



Rivier College Song

Rivier, to you we proudly sing,
Our hearts with love brim o'er,
Our voices rise in praise;
For you we'll make the echoes ring
Faithful forevermore
In mem'ry of these days.

Within your halls we've found a noble, lasting truth,
An ideal great and strong;
For this receive our thanks and accept from our youth
This pledge, our loyal song.

For higher things, then, daily let us pray and strive
No matter what life's frays.
Still through it all, Rivier, we'll ever keep alive
Your lessons of God's ways.



Reception immediately following Convocation

Special Thanks

Maintenance Staff

Barbara Kokoszka & Conference Services Staff

Nashua Symphony String Trio

Special thanks to the Dining Services Staff
for preparation of our Convocation reception
and to the Marketing and Communications
staff for preparation of our Convocation program.

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* **JENNIFER LISKOW** works as a Public Relations and Web Writer in the Office of Marketing and Communications and teaches in Rivier's Professional Communications program. Jenn earned her bachelor's in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master's in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features, and essays published. In her free time, Jenn enjoys practicing yoga, ten-pin bowling, and listening to live music with her husband, Tim.