

COMMENCEMENT 2008

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Ethics and community emerged as themes at Commencement 2008, reflected in remarks by Rivier's student speakers and honorary degree recipient.



Rivier College's 73rd Annual Commencement was held on May 10, 2008. Degrees were granted to graduates who completed their studies in September 2007, December 2007, and May 2008.

By the numbers:

Degrees awarded: **615**

Associate: **109**

Bachelor's: **258**

Master's: **242**

CAGS: **6**

Number of graduates from NH: **452**



Dr. Jamison Hoff, Chair of Rivier's Board of Trustees, and President William Farrell award an honorary doctorate of humane letters to Alyson Pitman Giles, President and CEO of CMC Healthcare System and Catholic Medical Center.
(Photos by Jodie Andruskevich)

Rivier awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters to Alyson Pitman Giles, President and CEO of CMC Healthcare System and Catholic Medical Center, who addressed the graduates. "With a Catholic heritage and mission comes a responsibility to serve the community with high ethical standards," she said. In addition to conforming to accepted standards and principles, acting ethically means doing the right thing in the absence of clear policies, rules, and procedures. "You must ask yourself, what is the fair and honest thing to do?" Giles said. "Citizenship goes hand in hand with being a good protégé and an ethical person."



Amanda Callahan, student speaker for day programs, said that her experience at Rivier helped her become a leader with a passion for service. She encouraged her classmates to "attack the problems of the world by starting small in our present vocations."

The speaker for evening programs, Robert John Zupko II (*pictured at left*), discussed the ancient Chinese curse, "may you live in interesting times." He stated that as technology changes, we must adapt to new situations that have no preexisting answers. He encouraged the audience to consider how their actions in such situations would affect the lives of others. "We need to embrace these challenges confident that we are ready to face them," he said.

Graduate programs speaker Jami Carson said that while each of Rivier's students was brought to the College by a different path, all were part of a community that teaches tolerance and embraces diversity.

Executive Director of Academic Administration Regina Shearer performed a special song for the graduates, rewriting the lyrics of Whitney Houston's "Greatest Love of All" to apply to the Class of 2008. "I believe the graduates are our future—we've taught them well, now let them lead the way..." she sang.

Those who spoke were confident that the Class of 2008 had the character, skills and strength to become ethical leaders, engaged in making their communities a better place. Rivier has truly transformed their hearts and minds to serve the world. ■

"With a Catholic heritage and mission comes a responsibility to serve the community with high ethical standards." —Alyson Pitman Giles



* **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.