

RIVIER CONFERRED 626 DEGREES AT 76TH COMMENCEMENT 2011 (Rivier's News Report, May 14, 2011)*

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Gary Hirshberg's Commencement address

Rivier College's 76th Commencement Exercises, held on Saturday, May 14, 2011, at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, featured a Commencement address by **Gary Hirshberg**, President and CEO of Stonyfield Farm. Hirshberg was recognized for his socially responsible business practices and was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters.

Hirshberg offered advice to the graduating class including: "1) Always endeavor for superior quality; 2) Believe in yourself even when the chips are down; 3) Make evidence-based decisions; 4) Be determined and take risks; 5) Challenge conventional wisdom; and 6) Never underestimate the value of performing service and doing good."



Doing "good" was reinforced in an inspiring, original song performed by **Regina Shearer**, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs. Shearer sang a version of Katy Perry's hit Firework, with recreated lyrics written for the Class of 2011. Her song urged graduates to "fight, fight, fight...to make the wrong in this world right, right, right." The song was met with a standing ovation and several teary eyed graduates.



With more than 5,500 in attendance, the College conferred degrees to 626 students in Rivier's two schools: The School of Undergraduate Studies and the School of Graduate Studies. Three student speakers represented the Class of 2011: **Elizabeth Cathryn Casey** for Undergraduate Day Programs; **Patricia Jane Duffett** for Undergraduate Evening Programs; and **Rachel Elizabeth Belmont**, for Graduate Programs.

Retiring President **William Farrell** presided over his last Commencement ceremony at Rivier. Last fall, President Farrell announced his plans to retire after a decade of service to the College. Rivier's Board of Trustees elected Dr. Farrell to President Emeritus status, and a search for the next Rivier College President is underway. ■

- View Commencement 2011 photo gallery: <http://www.rivier.edu/photogallery/default.aspx?id=22>
- Read coverage of this event in the *Nashua Telegraph* (May 15, 2011): <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/919367-196/dwc-rivier-graduates-commence.html>
- The manuscript of Gary Hirshberg's Commencement address is available from <http://www.rivier.edu/uploadedFiles/Hirshberg%20Commencement%20Address.pdf>

* Retrieved May 15, 2011, from <http://www.rivier.edu/news/Default.aspx?ID=18974>

** **KAREN COOPER** is the Executive Director of Development and Marketing in Rivier College. As a Senior Staff member, she directs the Office of Development & Alumni Relations and the Office of Marketing & Communications. Karen has been with the College for seven years. Cooper is a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, with a degree in English and Psychology. She earned her M.B.A. with a marketing concentration from Rivier in 2003. In addition to her responsibilities at Rivier, she serves on the steering committee for IUGO, an organization for young professionals in the Greater Nashua area, and was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts.