

COMMENCEMENT HONORS ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2020 GRADUATES IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

(From Rivier Today, Fall 2020)



The University celebrated its 85th Commencement on August 16, 2020, awarding 544 degrees to 2020 graduates. Delayed three months due to restrictions on large gatherings, the socially distanced event was held outside at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester.

“Last spring Rivier announced that we would honor the accomplishments of our graduates in person consistent with public health guidelines,” said **Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM**. “On August 16th, it was our privilege to fulfill that Commencement honors accomplishments of 2020 graduates in unprecedented times commitment. While the ceremony looked different than any other, it conveyed the spirit of Rivier and acknowledged the tremendous work of our graduates, especially in these challenging times.”

Student speaker **Hope Cataldo** of North Haverhill, New Hampshire, spoke with pride to the Class of 2020’s perseverance and resilience in the face of change. “We decided that our education was far more important than any strange or unusual predicament the world threw at us,” said Cataldo. “Our time at Rivier has proven that when there is adversity, there is also resilience, acceptance, love, and compassion. Rivier has transformed our hearts and minds to truly go out and serve the world.”

Adrienne Havlicek ’96 of Litchfield, New Hampshire, earned her MBA in Management this year and spoke on behalf of graduate students. She addressed the journeys of adult learners—individual paths connected by academic challenge and marked determination. “The highlight of our journey has been achieved by all of us reaching our destination. This moment. This time. Right here. Right now. Sharing this last moment—one of our most incredible moments—together.”

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The ceremony was livestreamed and can be viewed at www.rivier.edu/commencementlivestream. A gallery of Commencement photos is posted on the University's Facebook page. ■

