

## RIVIER CONFERS 670 DEGREES AT 77TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

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Office of Marketing & Communications, Rivier College



Rivier College celebrated its seventy-seventh commencement today at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, Mass. A total of 670 students participated, including the college's first doctoral graduate, Audrey Green Rogers, who has earned her doctorate degree in Learning and Leadership, 257 students received master's degrees or graduate certificates, 280 students received bachelor's degrees and 132 students earned associate degrees.

During the ceremony which marked Rivier's last commencement as a college and the first year for **Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM**, as president, an honorary degree was presented to the 48th President of Georgetown University, **Dr. John J. DeGioia**. Dr. DeGioia offered a welcome from America's oldest Catholic University to Rivier as its soon to be newest American Catholic University. Rivier received approval last week for the change to university status on July 1, 2012.

In his remarks, Dr. DeGioia concluded, "We need you. You are prepared with one of the great gifts—an undergraduate or graduate education from a wonderful academic community. You bring with

you another incomparable gift—a tradition that will serve as your touchstone for the rest of your lives. And you have each other—forever connected by the experiences you have shared together here. Go set the world on fire.”

Dr. DeGioia, a graduate of Georgetown, earned both a bachelor’s degree in English and his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University. Upon his appointment as President on July 2, 2001, he set a path to ensure that Georgetown would expand and deepen its engagement with both the local and global communities. Beyond the Georgetown hilltop, Dr. DeGioia is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves as chair of the Board of Directors of the Forum for the Future of Higher Education, the Consortium on Financing Higher Education and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metro Area. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

Sister Buley, IHM, invited the graduates to stand up to honor those who had stood by them and supported them including their families and the faculty and staff of the Rivier community. “I invite you to stand to honor those who have stood by you, with you and for you. Now is your chance to show your appreciation for this celebration.”

In what has become an annual tradition, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs **Regina Shearer** performed “Rivier Graduate” sung to the tune of “Rolling in the Deep” by Adele and concluded with a beautiful rendition of “Amazing Grace”. The words of “Rivier Graduate” were all Rivier and were met with tremendous applause. “You’re going to have it all with your Rivier degree. I’ll transform hearts and minds and change the world. Cuz I’ve made it, I’ve made it and I’ll succeed!” ■

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