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University of Maine 198th Commencement

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University of Maine News

University of Maine 198th Commencement

May 19, 2001

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

[Text of Andrew M. Mead's Commencement Address.](#)

[Photos from University of Maine Commencement](#)

ORONO, Me. – Before an audience of 7,500 family members and friends, members of the University of Maine Class of 2001 graduated during today's commencement ceremony on Morse Field at Harold Alfond Stadium.

More than 1,300 degrees were conferred at the ceremony. Three hundred thirty-six of those are graduate degrees, with 21 at the doctoral level. UMaine also awarded nearly 500 degrees at a commencement ceremony in December.

Because of a persistent morning rainstorm, the start of the ceremony was delayed by three hours. It began at 1:30 p.m., rather than the scheduled 10:30 a.m.

Andrew M. Mead, chief justice of the Maine Superior Court, was the commencement speaker. As the president of UMaine's Class of 1973, the New Jersey native spoke at his own graduation, held in the same place, 28 years ago.

Mead spoke of the law and justice, noting that the “minimum basic rules (that) are necessary for a good life in an orderly society” are embodied in the concepts of respect and responsibility.

“If all of us lived our lives guided by the standards of respect and responsibility, what a wonderful world it would be,” he said. “As you move forward today, take a moment to reflect on what you are taking with you. I ask you to embrace these notions of respect and responsibility. Take them with you and let them steer your life's course.”

Mead, who practiced law in Bangor for 14 years before his appointment to the bench in 1990, offered two suggestions “to make a good life better.”

“First, learn to recognize a constellation in the winter sky and, secondly, learn to identify a particular type of tree in the forest,” he said. “Long after your cell phone is obsolete and your VCR is in the landfill, you will still own your constellation and your tree. Well, you won't actually own them...you will share them with the ages. But they will be with you for all your days.”

Honorary doctor of humane letters degrees were awarded to two internationally prominent members of the Maine arts community – writer Doris Grumbach and artist Jamie Wyeth. Grumbach, one of America's most distinguished writers, has produced works in fiction,

literary criticism, memoir and essay during her career. Grumbach has lived in Maine for the past ten years. Wyeth is a member of one of the world's most famous and successful families of artists. His wide-ranging career has featured works in watercolors and oils, as well as sketches and illustrations for children's books. Wyeth's best-known works include a posthumous portrait of President John F. Kennedy. He is also recognized for his commitment to causes like the preservation of Maine lighthouses.

UMaine President Peter S. Hoff presided over the ceremony, at which the name of each graduate was announced as he or she crossed the stage. Keith Hutchison of the UMaine biochemistry faculty, honored in April with the 2001 Distinguished Maine Professor Award, delivered the Celebration of Academia. Ryan Anderson, a member of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, brought greetings from the board. University of Maine Alumni Association Board of Directors Chair Gregory Jamison welcomed the graduates to the ranks of the 87,000 UMaine alumni.

Four graduates share the honor of being valedictorian of the UMaine Class of 2001. They are Kristi Carver of Beals Island, a landscape horticulture major; engineering physics major Scott Cookson of Glenburn; Jill Fuller of Dixfield, who majored in communication sciences and disorders; and Gerti Pellumbi of Tirana, Albania, a business administration major. Rebecca Rozario, a mathematics major from Bangor, is the class salutatorian.

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