



## **College of Human Ecology Convocation**

### **Diane Lyden Murphy, Dean**

Graduates, you've done it! I'd like to be among the very first to say congratulations to you—our 335 degree candidates who include: 208 undergraduates, 118 master's candidates, and our 9 Ph.D. students who will receive their hoods later in this ceremony to symbolize the highest level of degree achievement in the academic arena. Our degree candidates in the College of Human Ecology represent seven academic schools and departments, and eight different programs.

I would ask at this time that the entire faculty stand and join me in recognizing all of the graduating students of the College of Human Ecology.

We are fortunate to have a series of speakers who will bring special greetings to the Class of 2009 today. Msgr. Charles Fahey, our featured speaker this afternoon, will be receiving an honorary degree tomorrow. We are delighted he is with us. Your fellow graduates, Allison Watson from Child and Family Studies, and Dan Lehane from Sport Management, will bring you reflections that I know will inspire.

As the dean of the College of Human Ecology, I want to thank the Class of 2009 for spending these past few years with us. Our College, and this

University, are better because of you and the time you have spent here. While your professors have challenged you to think creatively and act boldly—and you have embraced those challenges—know that you have inspired all of us. You have left a lasting mark not only at Syracuse University, but in our community.

The Class of 2009 has registered thousands of hours of community service, helping others and giving back. For hospitality management students, Meals on Wheels has consistently benefitted from your talents, your time and your fundraising. For students in our many recognized student organizations, such as the Society for Public Health Education, the Nutrition Education and Promotion Association, and Social Workers United, your educational programming has touched many lives on critical topics of public health, social justice and healthy nutrition. Just a few days ago, the Sport Management Club presented a check for twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars to the Golisano Children's Hospital from proceeds raised at this year's Sport Auction. For our child and family studies future professionals and marriage and family therapists, your commitment and your willingness to go that extra mile for local agencies have made a tremendous difference to children and families in our neighborhoods.

These are just a few examples of the numerous ways our students have given back to this campus and community. I am impressed. I am proud. And I am grateful. Thank you.

As faculty and staff of the College, we know, as all of you students know, that the significance of this day has not been achieved alone, so we would

like to acknowledge with you, the partners, families, extended families, blended families, friends, and others who have assisted you in the success and accomplishments we are about to recognize.

Students, please rise, turn, and cheer your families and friends:

My last comment on the Commencement weekend activities is to urge you and your families and friends to flourish in the joy of the many celebrations. You all deserve it. This is a magnificent milestone of achievement.

Not only do we celebrate Mother's Day tomorrow, but also at the Carrier Dome, our Chancellor, Nancy Cantor, and the Board of Trustees of Syracuse University, will finally confer your academic degree during the 155<sup>th</sup> Commencement. The Dome is a very large place and will be filled with more than 20,000 celebrating students, families and friends in an immense academic pageant of ten colleges and their faculties. So here are your directions: When your dean of the College of Human Ecology is announced as we process, please feel free 'to give rip' to your enthusiasm and show that the students of this College are very learned and practiced in giving expression to their emotions.

In other words, 'RAISE THE ROOF OF THE DOME!'

Now, onto the program:

Today we will present the College of Human Ecology's inaugural Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award.

In honor of his committed career in mental health service delivery at the local, state and national levels that spanned nearly five decades, the College of Human Ecology has selected James L. Stone, who graduated from SU in 1962 and received his MSW in 1964, as its 2009 Alumnus of the Year. Jim was unable to be with us today, but I would like to share a few words about him.

A nationally recognized leader in the field of mental health services, Jim most recently served as acting director of the Division of Behavioral Health with the Indian Health Service (IHS) until his retirement in March 2009. A licensed clinical social worker, he joined the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2003 as a member of the Senior Executive Service. Prior to this position, he was deputy administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and executive director of the Intradepartmental Council on Native American Affairs.

With a reputation for integrity and leadership coupled with commitment to and compassion for individuals suffering with mental illnesses, he spent the early years of his career in the field of juvenile justice. His career began in New York State where he worked for two state agencies and three counties in the fields of juvenile delinquency and mental health/substance abuse after graduating from SU in 1962.

He has received numerous awards and honors, including the 1995 Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Syracuse University School of Social Work, an Exemplary Service Award from the New York City Department of

Health and Mental Hygiene in 2003 and the 2003 Distinguished Service Award from the Coalition of Mental Health Agencies, Inc. He currently serves as the chair of the College of Human Ecology's Board of Advisors.

Please give a round of applause for the 2009 College of Human Ecology Alumnus of the Year, Jim Stone.

Our distinguished faculty members share my enthusiasm for today's Convocation and what it symbolizes. As we honor the Class of 2009, I would like to thank the faculty who are not only at the forefront of their disciplines but, as individuals, care deeply about the subjects they teach and the students they are teaching. Please join me in a special round of applause for them.

Today I am honored to present one of our outstanding and beloved faculty members with the 2009 Faculty of the Year Award. Students and faculty colleagues, you will be as pleased as I am to learn of this year's recipient.

This individual has served in the Department of Child and Family Studies teaching, advising, mentoring and supporting students. A professor of practice who carries a heavy teaching and advising load, she works closely with numerous students as their supervisor on master's-level research projects and leads the Future Professoriate Program, a program for graduate students interested in a faculty career. Under her stewardship, the CFS Family and Child Practicums have been enhanced significantly in ways that will benefit students. Ask any student who's worked with this professor, and

they will tell you about an individual who truly cares about helping students get the most out of their learning experiences.

Aside from her departmental responsibilities, she is described by her colleagues as ‘an excellent college citizen’ in roles on the Faculty Council and the campus and wider community. She is currently involved in several evaluation projects, including a \$2 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to infuse character education into nine elementary schools.

She exemplifies a student-centered approach in all she does. Her warmth and generosity to students and colleagues have earned their respect and nomination as the Faculty of the Year for 2009.

She is an alumna of Syracuse University’s College of Nursing, where she earned her bachelor and master’s degrees. She received her Ph.D. from her home department of Child and Family Studies. She is an often sought-after expert in youth development, bullying and program evaluation.

Professor Renie Kehres, we thank you for your outstanding contributions to the College of Human Ecology and Syracuse University, and would ask you to step forward to accept the 2009 Faculty of the Year Award.