Utica College Convocation

August 30, 2010

11:00 A.M.

Harold Thomas Clark Jr. Athletic Center
CONVOCATiON 2010

Procession

The Mace Ceremony
Frank Bergmann, Ph.D.
Mace Bearer

Presiding Officer
Judith A. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The National Anthem

Opening Remarks
Lauren E. Bull ’74
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Welcome Message
Keron Alleyne ’12
President of the Student Senate

Convocation Address
Dr. Sherry Anne Lints ’95
Chiropractor, Better Health Chiropractic
Adviser, Utica College Committee for Health Professions

Continuing Education Distinguished Teaching Award
Provost Kirkpatrick

Harold T. Clark Jr. Award
Provost Kirkpatrick

Presentation of New Students
Kenneth E. Kelly, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Welcome and Investiture of New Students
Todd S. Hutton, Ph.D.
President

Recessional
Please remain seated while the platform party, faculty, and new students exit.
TRADITIONS

The Bell

The tolling of the bell atop Bell Hall, one of Utica College’s youngest traditions, signals the beginning and end of the academic year. For that reason, the century-old bell, a gift to the College from alumnus and Associate Professor Emeritus of Accounting Randy Huta and his wife, Carol, is ceremoniously rung to celebrate Convocation and Commencement.

The Mace

The mace is a symbol of the unique mission of Utica College, which is to provide a college education that is accessible to all, liberal and humanizing, practical and purposeful.

The basalt foot is a symbol of our commonality and shared predicament as children of the Earth, mother of all living things.

Strength, endurance, and beauty are characteristics of the black walnut core. These characteristics are symbolic of the peoples who have come to share this culture. The inlays of woods from around the world are symbols of the interdependence of modern civilizations and the enrichment of the human life that results when we learn from one another.

Peaceful common endeavor and its bountiful harvest are symbolized by the shaft of the mace, which has the form of a sheaf of wheat.

Unity, totality, and perfection have been expressed by the sphere since ancient times. It was the shape of the cosmos, a symbol for the totality of vision that the seeker of wisdom pursues.

Four metals are found in the mace. In ascending order, they are iron, bronze, silver, and gold. They were for ancient poets and thinkers images of the capacities and of the perfectibility of man.

Beads of silver shot border the College motto. They represent the multiplicity of disciplines that are pursued in the modern university.

Love and transcending beauty are symbolized by the rose. It appears as a gratuitous asymmetry on the sphere. Made of gold, the most precious of the metals, symbolic of the loftiest aspirations of man, the rose symbolizes the ultimate goals of human activity, wisdom, goodness, and love.

The mace of Utica College is a gift of the class of 1989. It was designed and made by James F. Caron, Professor of Philosophy, with the collaboration of professors Randall Huta, Edward Jones, Stephen Peek, Ralph Fimmano, and David Moore. The mace was adopted in 1990, just as the College was beginning its transition to an independent institution, and its origin as a College of Syracuse University can be seen both on the mace and on the stand.
Academic Procession

It has become tradition at UC that our faculty is welcomed to the Convocation ceremony by marching between our new students. This represents a sign of respect given by the newest members of the UC community. The reverse occurs at Commencement, where our degree candidates are welcomed into the graduation ceremony by marching between our faculty. It is the faculty who now acknowledge with respect and applause the accomplishments of their students.

Academic Dress

Tradition holds that the cap and gown were first used in ancient Greece when only youths of wealthy families or those with patrons attended school. The teachers of the time believed that fine clothing and jewels should not be worn by the scholar, but rather, that they should wear the garments of the workman.

The flowing gowns of today come from the 12th century. They have become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for they completely cover any dress, rank, or social standing.

In the United States, the gown commonly worn for both the associate’s and bachelor’s degrees has pointed sleeves. It is designed to be worn closed. The gown for the master’s degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The gown for the doctor’s degree has bell-shaped sleeves. All gowns are black, without trimming, with the exception of the doctor’s, which normally is trimmed with velvet, has three bars of chevrons on the sleeves, and may be in distinctive color(s) governed by the institution granting that degree.

When Roman law freed slaves, they won the privilege of wearing a cap. The academic cap is a sign of the freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. For the doctor’s degree, the tassel may be of gold bullion.

The hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining of the hood designates the university that granted the degree.
MISSION STATEMENT

Utica College educates students for rewarding careers, responsible citizenship, and fulfilling lives by integrating liberal and professional study, by creating a community of learners with diverse experiences and perspectives, by balancing its local heritage with a global perspective, by encouraging lifelong learning, and by promoting scholarship in the belief that the discovery and application of knowledge enrich teaching and learning.

VALUES

Utica College’s mission rests upon a foundation of values that guide the College community’s decisions and actions. These values include the following:

- commitment to individual attention for our students
- commitment to lifelong learning
- commitment to pragmatic approaches to teaching and learning
- commitment to continual improvement in our educational quality
- commitment to fostering diversity of perspective, background, and experience for education in an increasingly global society
- commitment to community and professional service
- dedication to highest ethical standards and integrity in all that we do
- dedication to freedom of expression and to open sharing of ideas and creativity
- dedication to open, honest, and collegial communication
- dedication to the well being of others