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UNH's Thompson School Holds Commencement May 17

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May 6, 2003

DURHAM, N.H. -- The Thompson School of Applied Science at the University of New Hampshire will hold its Commencement Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m. in the Lundholm Gymnasium.

Among its 124 students earning the degree of Associate in Applied Science is the first group graduating from the Thompson School's new Community and Leadership program. Other graduates will have completed a two-year course of study in either applied animal science, applied business management, civil technology, food services management, forest technology or horticultural technology.

Professor J. Donald Silva, faculty marshal, will lead the procession and open the ceremonies. Julie-ann Edwards, graduating from the Community Service and Leadership program, and Jennifer Mock, graduating from the Horticultural Technology program, will serve as co-student marshals for the Class of 2003. The platform party will include University System of New Hampshire trustees, senior university officials and alumni.

The commencement speaker will be David Stevens '82, plant manager for International Paper at McDavid, Fla. His address is titled, "Success After Graduation."

Stevens is a native of Lee who now manages operations at one of the newest and largest sawmill and chipping facilities in the country. In addition to holding an AAS degree from the Thompson School, he earned a bachelor's degree in forestry and a master's degree in forest economics with a concentration of business optimization from the University of Maine.

Regina Smick-Attisano, director of the Thompson School, assisted by Andrew Rosenberg, dean of the UNH's College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, will announce student recipients of several awards, including the Scholastic Achievement Award, Student Achievement Award, Leadership and Scholarship Award, the Stacey and Mildred Cole Award and the Director's Nontraditional Student Award.

Rebecca Fish, student representative, will announce the recipient of the 2003 Outstanding Educator Award, Associate Professor of Applied Animal Science Dwight Barney. She also will speak on "Reflections of a Thompson School Student."

A music selection will be sung by Leyna Cianci, Class of 2003. The alma mater will be led by the Not Too Sharp Singers of UNH.

Following the presentation of the candidates by Smick-Attisano, UNH President Ann Weaver Hart will confer the degrees.

To conclude the ceremony Maria Verdone '99, Thompson School of Applied Science alumna, will welcome the graduates into the Thompson School Alumni Association, a chapter of the UNH Alumni Association.

The Rev. Robert Biron, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Durham, will offer the invocation and benediction.

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