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DURHAM, N.H. -- The Thompson School of Applied Science at the University of New Hampshire will hold its Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 18, at 11 a.m. in the Lundholm Gymnasium.

The degree of Associate in Applied Science will be conferred on approximately 140 graduates of the Thompson School. Graduates will have completed a two-year course of study in 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. Jennifer Weimer, graduating from the forest technology program, will be Student Marshal for the Class of 2002. The platform party will include University System of New Hampshire Trustees and senior university officials.

The Commencement Speaker will be Thomas Fairchild, professor of animal and nutritional sciences. Fairchild has a distinguished career with the university, arriving in 1966 as assistant professor in the dairy science department. Since that time he has served as Cooperative Extension Dairy Specialist, dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, director of the N.H. Agriculture Experiment Station, and interim president of UNH.

Fairchild currently directs the CREAM (Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management) Program, a two-semester course in which students have complete responsibility for managing the university's 26-cow milking herd.
Regina A. Smick-Attisano, director of the Thompson School, assisted by Andrew Rosenberg, dean of the 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 W. Cole Endowed Scholarship Award, and the Director's Non-traditional Student Award.

Student Representative Amy King, graduating from the food services management program, will present the Outstanding Educator Award to Charles Caramihalis, associate professor of food services management.

Weimer will speak on "Reflections of a Thompson School Student."

Music will be provided by Leyna Cianci, applied business management student, who will accompany herself on the guitar.

Following the presentation of the candidates by Smick-Attisano, the degrees will be conferred by UNH President Joan Leitzel.

The Invocation and Benediction will be offered by the Rev. Angelo Pappas, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Portsmouth.