

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, May 12, 1986

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. Are you planning to attend a graduation ceremony this spring? If not, you may be in a minority. The voice of "Pomp and Circumstance" is throughout the land. This is, indeed, the time for Commencement.

Today we'll be talking with Ann Forkin at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Ms. Forkin directs the preparations and the execution of commencement on her campus and, as we'll soon discover, such activity takes on all the grandness, all the big numbers of a military maneuver.

Let's start off, Ann, with a bit of an historical perspective. Commencement marks the ending of a scheduled course of study, yet it is called a beginning. Why is that?

INTERVIEW ANN FORKIN:

-- Traditions of commencement:

Caps and gowns

Tassels

Marshal (in some states, the local sheriff)

Mace bearer

Commencement speakers

Honorary degrees

Diplomas ("Have a nice day")

-- Commencement's purposes

Reward - for students

- for faculty

- for parents, relatives and friends

Establishing a record of achievement, discipline

Providing a record: diplomas, grades, record of

extra curricular activities at some schools

A campus celebration

-- Trend to more than a single ceremony annually?

-- What's in future?

~~14:00~~

MORE MORE MORE

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14:15



~~14:00~~ 17:15

We'll take a short break now. When we return with Ann Forkin we'll be talking about preparations made for Stony Brook's May 18 commencement and about a couple interesting innovations. Please stay with us.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Ann Forkin, director of Conferences and Special Events at Stony Brook. The most special of the many events that Ann Forkin's office arranges each year is Commencement. For most of us, Commencement is a once-a-year activity, if that. For you and your staff, Ann, Commencement is a year-round activity.

INTERVIEW ANN FORKIN:

-- Some numbers:

- candidates for degrees
- total number of seats planned
- convocations and receptions

-- This year's honorary degree recipients

-- This year's Commencement speaker

-- Innovations:

- Introducing the Alma Mater
- Balloon launch

-- Planning for 1987 begun?

-- Any changes coming for Stony Brook Commencement?

~~29:00~~ 28:00

OUTRO

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