

COA News, Summer 1991



Trustee Cathy Ramsdell '78 and honorary Master of Philosophy degree recipient Bill Drury pause before the commencement activities begin.

COA NEWS

SUMMER 1991 COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC BAR HARBOR, MAINE

COA Graduates Second Largest Class

Forty-five seniors, the second largest class in COA's history, were awarded the B.A. in Human Ecology at the college's nineteenth commencement ceremonies, held on June 8.

An estimated 700 guests also celebrated the conferral of COA's first honorary Master of Philosophy degrees. The first of these was awarded to Dr. William Drury and the second to former Vermont Governor Madeleine M. Kunin.

Drury, a distinguished biologist and ornithologist, has been a member of the college's faculty since 1976. In presenting Drury for the degree, Trustee Cathy Ramsdell '78 said of him, "Bill has had a dramatic impact on a number of minds, young and old alike. His work has been about the search for the nonfiction in the science of ecology, and his guidance for many of us goes beyond the scientific to the philosophical and the compassionate." Drury was also recognized for his instrumental role in the establishment of the college's advanced studies program, begun in 1990.

Ramsdell spoke for many in the COA community when she told Drury, "Bill, I want to thank you publicly and personally for all that you have meant to me and the community of realists, thinkers and intellects. I'm glad that I know you."

Graduating Senior Ned Ormsby's introduction of featured speaker Madeleine Kunin was marked by admiration and humor. Describing many of her accomplishments in furthering environmental policy, women's rights, and the education and social welfare

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Bucking the Trend

COA's Enrollment Up for Fall

In a year when declining numbers of college-age youth have caused college enrollments to drop around the country, enrollment at College of the Atlantic is holding its own and even appears to be on the increase.

Director of Admission and Financial Aid Steve Thomas says that as of the end of May, the college had registered seventy-eight students for Fall 1991, a twenty percent increase over the sixty-five students who were registered for the incoming fall class at the same time last year. Thomas cited a recent report issued by the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) which concludes that the region's private institutions have been among the hardest hit nationwide by the declining demographics. He commented that COA's positive enrollment picture seems to be counter-trend when compared to the data reported by NEBHE on other private, four-year colleges in New England.

Thomas attributes COA's rise in enrollment of new students in part to the human ecology education offered by the college. "Many of the people who are of college age today have grown up in a time when the importance of environmental issues has been presented to them through the media and education," explains Thomas. "People are more willing to consider spending four years studying these issues and how they are interrelated than they may have been in the past."

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