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**Baccalaureate and Commencement, 5/17-18/1970.**

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**Series: University of Alaska Fairbanks commencement addresses and exercises**

F. Patrick Fitzgerald responds to President Wood's speech, opening with a quote of Edmund Burke, "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing." The university community, he says, is a gathering of such good men.

He has been asked to speak on behalf of a segment of that community, the graduating class of 1970. In his view, this is an absurd task as he cannot speak for each individual any more than any individual would be able to speak for him.

Patrick Fitzgerald came to Alaska as a volunteer to live and work in the Arctic, armed with a telegram from the governor of Alaska, assuring him that all doors would be open to Patrick. This was completely true at the local level. Outside of the bush villages, at the state and federal levels, where the dialogue was needed the most, the doors were closed the tightest.

Two years ago, after a lengthy undergraduate sabbatical Patrick applied, was rejected and then reluctantly accepted at the University of Alaska. Patrick found the president of this university very approachable and present.

Patrick quotes Peter Berger, saying, "Society provides us with warm, reasonably comfortable caves, in which we can huddle with our fellows, beating on the drums that drown out the howling hyenas of the surrounding darkness. 'Ecstasy' is the act of stepping outside the caves, alone, to face the night." He hopes that from this gathering today, that enough good men will emerge from the caves.

Patrick Fitzgerald finished speaking and President Wood praises Patrick's speech.

Mr. Wood announces that there are times when a university has in its faculty persons that, upon their retirement, merit special recognition for the service they have rendered. Agnes Sunnell is one of these people. President Wood details her education, service and contributions to the university. He confers upon her emeritus status as Associate Professor of Extension.

President Wood details Charles Sargent's education, service and contributions to the university. Mr. Wood confers upon Mr. Sargent the title of Dean of College of Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Engineering emeritus.

The president of the Board of Regents says that President Wood had done a good job expressing the trust in the capabilities of the graduating class that the Board of Regents feels.

Each year, in honor of the graduating class, the Board of Regents invites to the campus outstanding citizens of Alaska, the nation and even the world. This year outstanding Alaskans have been invited, including Margaret Bell Wiks and Mr. Archie W. Demmert. G. Dallas Hanna, and Elmer E. Rasmuson. Accomplishments of each guest are read and an honorary degree is awarded to each. The honorary degree of Doctor of Letters is conferred upon creative writer Margaret Bell Wiks. The honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities is conferred upon Tlingit educator Mr. Archie W. Demmert. The honorary degree of Doctor of Sciences is conferred upon influential scientist G. Dallas Hanna. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws is conferred upon Elmer E. Rasmuson.

President Wood asks Eva McGown to stand. The Board of Regents wishes to recognize Eva's loyalty and support of the University of Alaska, including her attendance of each and every one of the 48 commencements exercises held on the hill. President Wood announces that the Board of Regents have voted unanimously for the choir practice room in the music building of the new fine arts complex is to be named the Eva McGown Music Rehearsal Hall. A date and time for a ceremony of dedication is to be announced.

The exercises close with the singing of the Flag Song. A benediction is given by Mr. David Crockett(?). The last ten minutes are organ music.