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Youngstown State University News Service Youngstown, Ohio 44555 Telephone 742-1704

FOR RELEASE:

HOLD FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON SATURDAY, MARCH 28

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Youngstown State University's commencement speaker planted a magnolia tree in the minds of the graduates today (3/28/87).

Dr. William H. Lippy, renowned ear specialist, used a story about a courageous friend and a magnolia tree to make sure the 774 receiving degrees at Winter Commencement couple their achievements with humanitarian commitment.

The Warren physician/surgeon, known world-wide for his achievements in otology and reconstructive ear surgery, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree during the program in Beeghly Center.

As for his own scientific and medical work, Dr Lippy said he was most pleased with teaching at Tel Aviv University in Israel, where he is a consultant for the Israel Air Force. In the past two years, in that capacity, he did successful ear operations on the two chief test pilots of Israel Air Craft Industries, who three months ago flew the world's most advanced fighter plane, the Levi.

This, he said, gave him an opportunity to contribute to the security and future scientific knowledge of both countries.

"But science alone, without its humanitarian aspect, has no real meaning. Nazi Germany proved that."

He told the graduates to make the word "scientific" interchangeable with their field (engineering, teaching, music, etc.), and pointed out while each one's scientific achievement would vary, "the humanitarian aspect would remain the same and be obligatory."

"The fact that you have made an additional step in your scientific achievement now puts you in a better position to pursue humanitarian endeavors, and actually obligates you to do so. . . My concern is that you will put an equal effort into being a successful humanitarian."

Then Dr. Lippy told the story of Lou Sternberg of Boston, "who epitomizes the ultimate in the pursuit of humanitarian achievements."

Stricken with bulbar polio at 27, the former Penn State athlete has spent the last 32 years in a "rocking bed" that moves his diaphram and breathes for him. He is in constant pain and can move only the little finger of his left hand.

Yet he conducts a business, has obtained two more university degrees, is consultant to the Boston Red Sox, Celtics and Patriots, and spends many hours counseling and helping others.

Lou Sternberg also felt it was his obligation to help Dr. Lippy and others add handicapped children to the free national tennis program in Israel in which Dr. Lippy has personally been involved for many years. Now youngsters who are deaf, in wheelchairs and have other handicaps are part of some 80,000 children with over 100 coaches participating in this vast humanitarian effort.

Outside Lou's window is a magnolia tree, planted by some friends.

"Every spring the magnolia blooms," Dr. Lippy said. "Every year Lou, from his rocking bed, sees the tree bloom and has the feeling that as the magnolia tree lives, so will he. It further renews his commitment to himself, his family, and to others . . . I would hope that some of you, when you see the magnolia tree bloom each year, would think of your "scientific" achievement and renew your humanitarian commitment."

Dr. Lippy has an international reputation in reconstructive hearing surgery, including stapedectomy, and since 1978 has been an instructor for head and neck surgery for the American Academy of Otolaryngology. He is chief of otology

at St. Joseph's Riverside Hospital, otologist with the Warren Otologic Group, Inc., founder and advisor of the Warren Hearing Research Foundation and advisor to the Halsey Taylor Rehabilitation Center in Warren.

He became interested in the field of hearing while serving as flight surgeon with the Air Force's Strategic Air Command.

Graduates at this commencement included those who completed degree requirements in December plus those who completed their work last week.

During the commencement, 170 received associate degrees, 525 bachelor's degrees, and 80 master's degrees.

Associate degrees awarded were: 3 associate in arts; 54 associate in applied business; 106 associate in applied science; and 2 associate in labor studies.

Bachelor's degrees: 100 bachelor of arts; 48 bachelor of engineering; 12 bachelor of fine arts; 9 bachelor of music; 56 bachelor of science; 103 bachelor of science in applied science; 143 bachelor of science in business administration; 51 bachelor of science in education; and 3 bachelor of science in nursing.

Master's degrees awarded were: 4 master of arts; 16 master of business administration; 2 master of music; 4 master of science; 34 master of science in education; 20 master of science in engineering.

Officials participating in the Winter Commencement included YSU President Neil D. Humphrey, who introduced the University Board of Trustees and conferred the various degrees on the graduates; Paul M. Dutton, trustee chairman who introduced Dr. Lippy; and Dr. Bernard T. Gillis, YSU provost, who recognized graduates who attained University honors and also presented Dr. Lippy with his honorary degree.

Graduates were presented by the deans of the schools and colleges of the University: Dr. Victor A. Richley, College of Applied Science and Technology; Dr. Ernest R. Nordtvedt, acting dean of the Warren P. Williamson, Jr. School of Business Administration; Dr. David P. Ruggles, School of Education;

Add Three

Dr. Timothy J. Lyons, College of Fine and Performing Arts; Dr. Bernard J. Yozwiak, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. George E. Sutton, William Rayen School of Engineering; and Dr. Sally M. Hotchkiss, associate provost and dean of Graduate Studies.

The invocation and benediction were by the Rev. James E. Ray, director of Cooperative Campus Ministry.

Music was by the YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble directed by Joseph Edwards.

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NEWS SERVICE 86-414 1a,b,g,d,e

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ROTC Cadet Timothy C. Walter of Boardman was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army today (3/28/87) at Youngstown State University and has been assigned to Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. He majored in accounting and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree at commencement. He is a son of William and Judith Walter, Valley View Drive.

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NEWS SERVICE 86-416 mailed wed March 25, 1987

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FOR RELEASE:

HOLD FOR 12 NOON SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1987

BY PAMELA GAY
YSU News Service

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - The tables were turned Saturday at YSU's Winter Commencement when six children beamed with pride as their 50-year-old mother graduated with honors.

Gale Baytosh of Liberty received a Bachelor of Science Business Administration, cum laude, after juggling four years of school work, involvement in student organizations, raising seven children and running the household.

How did she manage to do it? "It's just a matter of balancing home and family and establishing priorities," she said. (That balancing act almost collapsed when her husband suddenly died, but she kept on toward her goal.)

Baytosh said her family has been very cooperative, but in the beginning they had to acknowledge that new priorities meant "Mom" had to devote a lot of time to school. "They realized I needed my quiet time to study and that my involvement in their school had to be set aside."

"I didn't feel guilty, though, "she said. "I had devoted so much time before to all of their activities."

Baytosh said her desire to begin college at her age "was typical" of many other people in her age bracket. "I reached a point in my life where my kids were getting older and going to school and I saw that my friends who had rejoined the work force were only getting minimum wage," she said. I wanted more of a challenge."

Baytosh had worked as a secretary for six years before marrying but, she said, she was now "thinking of a career, not just a job."

She doesn't think her family took her very seriously at first. "Once they realized I was serious about going back to school, they were extremely cooperative," she said.

So Baytosh began the day-to-day grind of her new life in 1982 and decided a major in accounting was what she wanted. She went to the campus four days a week and handled a 16-hour course load each quarter. Her family was supportive and she was happy.

Then tragedy struck. Her husband of 24 years, Joseph, died suddenly of a heart attack. "Mentally it was very, very difficult." His death caused her to give her schooling serious thought. "At first I just wanted to give up," she said. Then she decided that keeping busy was the best thing for her.

"Thank God I was through two years. If this had happened two years before,
I wouldn't have had the courage to start. But by then I was halfway through
and I thought I could hold together and finish," she said.

Six months later her best friend of many years died of cancer. Baytosh credits her children and her other "wonderful friends" with helping her through more rough times.

Baytosh continued with her schooling and also became actively involved in YSU's honorary accounting fraternity, Alpha Tau Gamma. But her greatest involvement came in helping to establish an organization designed specifically for students just like her--the nontraditional student--students 24 and older who never went to college or who started and had to stop.

The Nontraditional Student Organization (of which she is a charter member)
"is a peer support group designed to attract and retain nontraditional students
at YSU," she said.

The organization, which currently boasts 75 members, "is one of the greatest things to happen to older students," she added.

"When I first came to school, I thought I would be the oldest one on campus.

I was surprised to find other people my age and older here. There's no age
barrier here."

Currently, one third of YSU's students are nontraditionals. In order to help incoming nontraditionals or returning students feel at home on campus, Baytosh designed an orientation program in 1984 for nontraditionals. "It was so successful, it has been used every year since."

The program consists of the students spending one day meeting with other incoming and prospective students, touring the campus, attending workshops conducted by current nontraditionals, and having lunch with University administrators.

"The program draws on moral support," she said. "We saw the need for an orientation to teach the ropes and provide a network of students. We saw too many nontraditionals who became frustrated."

For her efforts, her program was honored as "Best Project by an Organization" in 1985.

Awards are not uncommon to Baytosh. She was on YSU's Dean's List as well as the National Dean's List; won YSU Scholastic Honors in 1984 for being in the top 10 percent of her class; received the YSU Education Foundation Scholarship for three years; was awarded "Outstanding Leadership by an Undergraduate Student in 1985," and was listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges in 1986.

But, she said, her greatest honor was receiving the YSU Pin for "Outstanding Graduating Senior" in 1986.

"My greatest joy is that it gave a great deal of recognition to the nontraditional student," she said. She was told that she was also the oldest student to ever receive that honor, although she laughingly said, "I'm not sure I want that distinction!"

Baytosh is currently working for a local CPA firm and eagerly awaiting three other graduations—those of her children. Her oldest, Joseph, 25, will graduate in June from Ohio State University's dental school. Diane, 21, will graduate that same month from John Carroll University, and Jennifer, 17, will also accept her diploma that month from Liberty High School.

Kenneth, 24, is currently a part-time student at YSU. Barbara, 23, works in a food market. David, 20, goes to YSU full-time, and Jerry, 13, is in the 7th grade at St. Edwards School.

"Plenty of times, especially in the last two years, I wanted to throw in the towel. But I knew if I left, it wouldn't be temporary. Fortunately, I was always talked out of it."

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