

University of Alaska awards 350 degrees this year

FAIRBANKS—"Ours may well be the first generation that knows in a truly profound sense what we are," said Dr. Philip Handler at the University of Alaska's 55th Commencement here Sunday.

Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences,

was main speaker at the ceremonies. Addressing some 160 graduates present, he added, "Today we have a clearer vision of the human condition and of the problems which must be addressed vigorously than in any other previous period in history."

Handler mentioned the need for the present generation to utilize new scientific understandings as tools to improve the "world's recurring themes" of energy production and utilization, discovery of mineral sources, enriching education, achieving full employment, raising the nutritional status of the world's populations and protecting the natural environment while utilizing the natural resources.

The ceremonies saw some 48 associate (two-year) degrees, 83 bachelor degrees, 65 master's, one educational specialist and five doctoral degrees conferred on graduating students who

chose to participate in them. More than 350 degrees were awarded at Fairbanks this year.

U.S. Senator Gravel received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. Dr. Philip Handler received an honorary Doctor of Sciences Degree, and Robert E. McFarland, labor leader and former member and president of the University's Board of Regents, received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.

Presiding at the ceremonies was Dr. Howard A. Cutler, chancellor of the Fairbanks campus.

Dr. Hugh B. Fate Jr., president of the Board of Regents,

and Charles O. Ferguson, interim president of the university, conferred the degrees.

Graduating senior Allen Wilson Valentine III delivered remarks on behalf of the graduating class of 1977. Speaking on the uniqueness of the University of Alaska, he said,

"The whole state has been our campus, with all its natural resources, diversity and knowledge. The opportunity to explore so many things without being inhibited by class size, unavailable examples or limited resources, has been ours."



ROBERT E. McFARLAND, center, of Anchorage, a member of the Board of Regents for 12 years and its president for 2 years, is congratulated by President Charles O. Ferguson on his receiving an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree. At left is Dr. Howard Cutler, chancellor of the Fairbanks campus. (UA photo by SABRA McCRACKEN)



U.S. SENATOR MIKE GRAVEL is honored with honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alaska. Placing hood around his shoulders are Dr. Howard Cutler, left, chancellor of the Fairbanks campus, and Dr. Charles O. Ferguson, president of the university. At right is Hugh B. Fate Jr., president of the Board of Regents who presided at degree ceremony. (UA photo by SABRA McCRACKEN)