



UPT CELEBRATES 2009 OPENING CONVOCATION

The University of Pittsburgh at Titusville celebrated Opening Convocation on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in Henne Auditorium.

Grand Marshall, Dr. Herbert Kitson, led the processional to begin the 2009-2010 academic year.

UPT President, William A. Shields welcomed faculty, staff, students, members of the advisory board and honored guests, including Titusville Area High School Assistant Superintendent Terry Kerr, Sixth District Republican Rep. Brad Roae, and THS trustee Jean Spence.

In his opening remarks, Shields commented that the new academic year brings with it the largest full-time class in the history of the institution. “Opening Convocation is a tradition well worth continuing to introduce new students to the academic culture, mission, and scholarship of the University,” Shields affirmed.

With the formal beginning of a new academic year, the theme introduced to the campus community during the convocation was *Celebrating Diversity*, particularly the diversity of UPT's academic community.

Focusing on this idea, Shields stated that UPT boasts:

- 31% of the student body are students of color (the highest minority percentage of any of the Pitt campuses).
- 10% Out-of-state students (representing 13 states from Florida to Washington).
- 20% Non-traditional students (average age of 35).
- 65% of the students are women.

Dr. Kathy Humphrey, Vice Provost and Dean of Students, was the featured speaker during the celebration. Humphrey greeted the audience and thanked them for the opportunity to speak at the beginning of a new school year that is full of new opportunities, new challenges, and new students. When preparing her speech, Humphrey asked herself, "what do the students need to hear and how can I assist and equip them?"

It was with this in mind that Humphrey discussed "Getting Into Your Pitt Experience." She advised students that "you have to get into this experience what you came to get and more."

Humphrey went on to challenge students to seize opportunities, manage their own life, and believe and encourage themselves. In closing Humphrey advised students "You are a light in which your family is depending on to shine."

A reception was held immediately following the ceremony.