

Judge, radio personality to speak at graduations

Radio personality Garrison Keillor and Minnesota's only female federal court judge will speak at two college commencement ceremonies later this week.

There will be no commencement address at St. Cloud State University during ceremonies 10:30 a.m. Friday. A 13-minute slide-tape show on the university's history, titled "St. Cloud State University: The First 115 Years," will replace the speech.

The project is a shortened version of a slide-tape presentation used at President Brendan McDonald's inaugural ceremony. McDonald liked the presentation and suggested a shorter version be put together for commencement exercises, said Anne Fields, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs.

About 920 students will be graduated from St. Cloud State.

Federal District Court Judge Diana Murphy will speak at College of St. Benedict commencement ceremonies at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Murphy, Minnesota's first and only female district judge, will address the 335 graduating seniors in the Benedicta Arts Center. She was appointed to the federal bench by former President Jimmy Carter in 1980, after serving as a state district court judge and a Hennepin County Municipal Court judge.

Murphy is a St. John's University regent, on the board of directors of the Federal Judges' Association and is president of the Hennepin County Bar Foundation.

Keillor will speak at St. John's University commencement exercises at 2 p.m. Sunday. He is host of Minnesota Public Radio's "A Prairie Home Companion." The show is best known for Keillor's reports on Lake Wobegon, a fictitious town in Central Minnesota. The radio show also has been broadcast on National Public Radio since 1980.

Keillor began his career at MPR in 1968 as host of an early morning show originating from KSJR at St. John's. He also is a frequent contributor to "New Yorker" and "Atlantic Monthly" magazines.

About 360 students will be graduated from St. John's.

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