



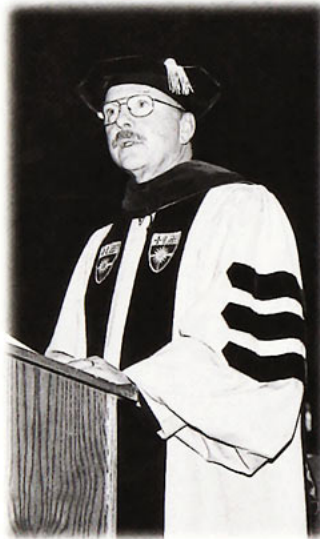
**Commencement: Trustee Schulze receives first college degree, activist priest Flahavan honored**

At its winter commencement exercises, St. Thomas presented an honorary degree to an entrepreneur whose only previous educational credential was a high-school diploma, and honored a well-known Twin Cities priest for outstanding contributions to social justice.

Richard Schulze, the founder, chairman and CEO of Best Buy Inc., was presented with an honorary doctor of laws degree at undergraduate commencement Dec. 18.

Schulze, a 1958 graduate of Central High School in St. Paul, had intentions to enroll at St. Thomas after graduation, but service in the Minnesota Air National Guard and work for his father's electronics distribution company derailed his plans. He opened a small audio-components store, Sound of Music, in 1966.

It expanded and evolved into the Best Buy Co. in 1983 and grew exponentially until 1996, when crippling losses threatened its very existence. Schulze led what Business Week called an "astonishing turnaround" of the company, which emerged stronger and more profitable than ever. Last year operating profits soared 359 percent, to \$187 million on \$8.4 billion in sales.



Richard Schulze

The coast-to-coast chain now has 300 outlets with 40,000 employees in more than 30 states.

The citation that accompanied Schulze's first college degree lauded his uncanny leadership abilities, entrepreneurial sense and business savvy. "St. Thomas has noticed those same qualities in the three years that you have been on our board of trustees," it continued. "You have joked that having a high school graduate on a university board isn't such a bad idea, and frankly, we agree. As an institution proud of its entrepreneurial success, we are pleased to find a kindred spirit."

At winter commencement exercises for graduate students on Dec. 19, the university presented its John A. Ryan Award to the Rev. Edward Flahavan, who served for a decade as executive director of the archdiocesan Urban Affairs Commission, ministered at inner-city parishes throughout the Twin Cities and was a prison chaplain.

The John A. Ryan Award honors outstanding contributions to social justice efforts. Flahavan, 67, was ordained to the priesthood in 1957. Throughout his career he served parishes where he learned firsthand about the challenges of poverty, notably at St. Peter Claver Church, a predominantly African-American St. Paul parish, and at St. Stephen's Church in the heart of Minneapolis' Whittier neighborhood, where he was pastor for 12 years. He was chaplain at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility for nine years.

The citation accompanying Flahavan's award noted his activism in improving the quality of life of the poor and less fortunate: "You built housing for low-income families. You protested unfair policies at city hall. You marched with peace groups. You picketed retailers. You created food and shelter programs in parishes. An acquaintance of three decades recalls your answer to an early question he asked about what kept you going. Your reply: 'The church can be, and is, a wonderful agent of social change, and it really has no other choice. It is there in the Scriptures.'"

**Folz honored: Software program is world's largest**

Dr. Bernice Folz, founder and director of Graduate Programs in Software Engineering, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota High Tech Association in November.

Folz, who holds a doctorate in biology and master's in business, mathematics and education, all from the University of Minnesota, has been part of the state's technology community since 1962. In addition to her role at St.



Thomas, she has taught at the University of Minnesota and Inver Hills Community College, and has worked for IBM and Unisys.

In 1985, when Folz was developing St. Thomas' Graduate Programs in Software Engineering, she surveyed industry needs. Using her many contacts, she convened an advisory board from Minnesota's highest technology companies, including Honeywell, Cray, Unisys, IBM, Control Data Corp. and others.

Folz worked closely with industry professionals to determine the courses and course requirements, and recruited nationally and internationally a faculty that combines full-time professors and expert adjunct instructors from the industry.

Graduate Programs in Software Engineering offers three master's programs, enrolls 578 students who are employees of more than 100 local companies, and is now the largest graduate program in software in the world. In addition, Folz started a Technology Education Center at St. Thomas that offers workshops, seminars and other technical programs.

