A day to celebrate

Approximately 674 students were awarded degrees Friday at the Wagner College commencement on the Grymes Hill campus. Former NFL player, attorney and politician Richard Negrin was the guest speaker. Negrin received an honorary doctorate degree, as did Dr. Warren Procci, Class of 1968, who is chairman of Wagner’s board of trustees. For a story on the day’s events and a list of graduates, see Page A 7.
ADVERSITY WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER. Wagner President Richard Thompson, welcomed graduates and said he expected them to become “better versions of themselves.”

“Nearly 50 years after Wagner days, my liberal arts education remains the single most valuable educational experience I have had,” Thompson said. “A total of 446 bachelor’s degrees and 215 master’s degrees were awarded. The college also awarded its first doctorate degree; 21 earned doctor of nursing practice degrees.”

“I know that Wagner has provided each and every one of you with the tools, knowledge, and understanding to go out there, forge our own path, and do great things,” said Traut, a biology major from Lansdale, Pa.

Graduates were elated about obtaining their degrees. Lauren Hattemen, of Stonington, Conn., who received a bachelor of science degree, showed off her mortarboard that proclaimed “Done with this B.S.” — but said she’ll be back in 10 days to begin studies for her master’s degree. She wants to become a physician’s assistant.

Sean Warralath of Fair Haven, Conn., was happy to receive his bachelor’s degree in business administration and marketing. He said he plans eventually to get a master’s degree in business administration, but said he plans to begin job hunting first.

Twin Mark and Chris Ruoci of Sunnyville both earned bachelor’s degrees. Mark earned a bachelor of business administration, with a concentration in finance and marketing. While Chris earned a bachelor of arts degree in theater. Both said they were eager to show off their mortarboards. Chris, a fan of the Guardians of the Galaxy, had “I am Groot” on his cap.

His brother had a quote in Italian from astronomer Gaetano Arcimboldo: “You cannot teach man anything; you can only help him find it within himself.”