After the processional, the grads, faculty, staff, families, and friends settled in for a brisk, but meaningful ceremony.

The crowd applauded the newly tenured members of the faculty (John Chung and Keeva Terry), the Teachers of the Year (John Chung and John Grasso), the Support Staff Person of the Year (Manny Tavares), and the award of a Distinguished Service Award to retiring Assistant Dean of Career Services Tony Bastone. The audience heard from the Dean and the University President before the hooding of the two winners of Honorary Degrees, Maureen McKenna Goldberg, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court (hooded by her RI Supreme Court Colleague Francis Flaherty), and legendary Federal Judge Jack Weinstein. Judge Weinstein delivered the Commencement Address and true to his reputation he spoke directly and forcefully about the need for the legal system to protect the most vulnerable among us, followed by comments from the class valedictorian, Kate Newby Kishfy. Then came the what everyone was waiting for: the awarding of the degrees. Here is coverage from the ProJo and below are some pics.