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JOHN A. DI BIAGGIO

It's DiBiaggio

By MARIL STRATTON

An overflow crowd in the Board Room of the Administration Building yesterday welcomed the University's newly named President John A. DiBiaggio with a standing ovation.

Unanimously endorsed by the presidential search committee and the Board of Trustees, DiBiaggio will begin his office July 1, 1985.

DiBiaggio thanked Trustee Chair Barbara Sawyer and the search committee for "the very, very professional manner in which you've gone about these deliberations. It's been a model of how a presidential search should be conducted and it serves indeed as an auspicious beginning for what we hope will be a long and very productive relationship.

"We (DiBiaggio and his wife Carolyn) would also like to take this opportunity to thank Cecil and Clare Mackey for their graciousness and to inform you they'll continue to provide dedicated leadership at this university throughout the remainder of this academic year."

Said Carolyn DiBiaggio: "I look forward to the challenge with great enthusiasm. I've always been involved in academics and I want to thank the board very strongly because they treated me as a person. I was treated sensitively. They were well aware of my needs and they responded to those so generously."

President Cecil Mackey, presenting DiBiaggio with a green sports coat, shared his favorite Mark Twain quotation: "Twain once said that the man who's held the bull by the tail knows four or five things more than one who hasn't. Being presumptuous enough to speak for

three of us who've held one particular bull by the tail — Ed Harden, Walter Adams and myself — I'd like to welcome you and Carolyn.

"You'll be coming to a university that's blessed with an outstanding faculty: it has a lively, excited, talented student body; it has a remarkably able staff who are loyal and dedicated; it has a strong alumni group who are anxious to continue being a part of the University as it strives for excellence....It has come through difficult times with a foundation that will make it possible for you to lead it to greater things. You'll have strong support from all those who care about the institution."

Comments from search committee members included:

●Charles Krupka, student representative: "John DiBiaggio has an open door attitude toward leadership. He understands the students of the '80s."

●Janet Topolsky, alumni representative: "He's the kind of person who takes great, dynamic and well-reasoned action. I ask the community to give him time, understanding, and good will in helping the University realize its great potential."

●Patricia Barnes-McConnell, faculty representative: "The committee sought the person who, by activities, scholarship and philosophy is ready for (the University's) time. Now is our time, this is (DiBiaggio's) moment."

●G.J. Karabatos, faculty representative: "I'm confident he'll earn the trust and support of the academic community. He is indeed a charismatic leader."

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