# Convocation 2015: June 2, 2015 Afternoon Ceremony part 2

HOLGER HINTELMANN: [READING NAMES]

Please join me in congratulating the recipients of Bachelor of Science degrees in the honors program.

[APPLAUSE]

Mr. Chancellor, I'm pleased to present for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the general program, candidates whose names will be read, whom the senate has duly declared worthy of the honor that they may receive the degree at your hands.

[READING NAMES]

Please join me in congratulating the recipients of Bachelor of Arts degrees in the general program.

[APPLAUSE]

Mr. Chancellor, I'm pleased to present, for the degree of Bachelor of Science in general program, candidates whose names will be read, whom senate has declared worthy of the honor that they may receive the degree at your hands.

[READING NAMES]

Please join me in congratulating recipients of Bachelor of Science degrees in the general program.

[APPLAUSE]

Mr. Chancellor, I ask you to degrees and diplomas in absentia on candidates whose names are before you, and who are unable to be with us today. I now call upon provost and vice president academic Gary Boire to recognize students who have achieved remarkable success in their studies.

GARY BOIRE: Good afternoon, and welcome to Trent University and our beautiful campus. Mr. Chancellor, I would like to draw attention to the medals and honors section at the back of the convocation program. The dean's honor roll recognizes students who've achieved 80% or better in their most recent session, and have maintained a cumulative average of 75% or higher. In the program, a small double cross identifies those graduates who achieved this distinction-- not double-cross, but double cross.

A small single cross identifies those students who are on the president's honor roll for having maintained a cumulative average of 80% or better. Please join me in congratulating the members of both the deans honor roll and the president's honor roll for their outstanding performance.

[APPLAUSE]

The Symons Medal recognizes students in the honors program who achieve high overall standing on graduation. It's named in honor of Trent University's founding president, Professor Tom Symons. Mr. Chancellor, I call upon you to present the Symons Medal to two students this year-- Ryan Cole, Bachelor of Science Honours in chemical physics, and Eamonn Corrigan, Bachelor of Science Honours in physics.

[APPLAUSE]

Mr. Chancellor, Professor David Newhouse will now introduce the honor song.

DAVID NEWHOUSE: Before all words can be spoken, we bring greetings to all of creation, and we give thanks for another day of life. Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, honored guests, graduates-- on a beautiful sunny day, on the banks of the Otonabee River, underneath a cloudless sky, in the custom of the first peoples of this land, we offer the sound of the drum and our voices to honor or mother the earth. We send our profound and deepest thanks to all of creation.

And we ask that she continue to support life as she has since time out of memory. In our teachings, the sound of the drum represents the heartbeat of the universe. The original sound of creation infuses our being and reverberates still throughout the universe. We sound the drum to connect us with all of creation, to celebrate life, and to honor those among us who have achieved so much.

We offer these words of praise to those who are graduating this day. We offer these words of thanksgiving to those who have made these accomplishments possible. We offer these words of respect to those who come before us, and who brought dignity to our lives.

We offer these words to remind us to live with kindness, honesty, sharing, courage, and respect. And today, we offer the song so the scars of those affected by the Indian residential schools can begin to heal, and we can find ways to begin to live well together. We offer this song to accompany you on your travels, and may you travel well, and may your lives be filled with grace and dignity.

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, honored guests, graduates-- I have the pleasure of presenting Unity. The song that they will sing is called Sacred Fire. It is intended to honour the sacred fire that exists within each of us. And ladies and gentleman, may I ask you to stand for the honor song.

[SINGING]

[APPLAUSE]

And thank you. May you be seated, and may you be well.

GARY BOIRE: Mr. Chancellor I would like to invite now Ms. Lynda Hanley of the Trent University Alumni Association to welcome the graduating class.

LYNDA HANLEY: Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, members of the Board of Governors and Senate, faculty and staff, honored guests, my mom, fellow alumni, and our newest alumni-- well, good afternoon. First, let me offer my congratulations. Pride-- do you feel it? I do.

I feel the pride in your accomplishments, and I feel pride in Trent University. I graduated in 1985, and took a position at IBM, where I still am today. For those parents in the audience, those were the days of software on floppy drives. Today, I want to share with you what I would've wanted to know when I was sitting in those chairs 30 years ago.

It's not a new idea, so I give credit to others for the construct. But here are my six thoughts for you. Be confident that Trent has prepared you well. Don't be intimidated by other academic institutions. Know that you have earned the ability to think broadly, and with fresh perspective. It is our strength-- feel confident to speak up, and know that the companies that hire you are hiring you to think.

Use that knowledge as you prepare for your interviews. As an example, research a new product or service, and prepare your thoughts. Bring those fresh ideas to your interview. You will blow them away. Get enthusiastic and passionate about what you do. Work should be fun, whatever it is.

If you're dog walking, research, finance-- whatever life brings you, you will be much better at it and communicate and contribute more if you love what you do. And travel. Say yes to those new opportunities to explore new places and people. Look for places to expand your understanding and your culture.

Trent has set the table for you. Take this opportunity to taste the flavors of the world. And as Don had mentioned, learning doesn't stop here. Your foundation at Trent is extraordinary. Look for opportunities to learn throughout your life. My colleagues and I, young and old, still dedicate a day a week to learn new skills. And finally, you are way smarter than you think you are.

I spent my first few weeks at IBM waiting to be found out that I was not good enough. Who am I? Who am I to take my place in the working world? Well, after receiving the highest honors that IBM can give a professional, I am proud to say I'm a Trent graduate.

Thank you for your time and attention. On behalf of the Alumni Association, I welcome you to our esteemed group. Congratulations. We look forward to watching and celebrating your success. The pride that Trent has in you will shine with your accomplishments. Thank you.

LEO GROARKE: As this ceremony draws to a close, there are a number of thank yous that I want to share with you. And I hope you will help me thanking some people that made the events today possible. Somewhere here is Joanne Sokolowski. And she's probably hiding, but let's start by thanking Joanne Sokolowski and the team that has planned and organized the events today.

[APPLAUSE]

Next, I'd like to ask you to thank the Unity singers for presenting us with the honor song.

[APPLAUSE]

Now I'd like us to thank all the Trent faculty, staff, and members of the Board for all you do for our students.

[APPLAUSE]

And there's one last thank you here. And for this thank you, I'd like to ask all the graduates to stand for a moment. And I want you to lead us in this thank you. And what I want to note that out there are the people that supported you as you went through your degree. They probably supported you emotionally, I'm guessing they sent a check or two along the way, as well.

It's your families and friends. That's your support team. I'd ask you to lead us in a thank you to them.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you for doing that. Congratulations to all our new alumni. I didn't mean to keep you standing. Please be seated.

Congratulations to all our new alumni. Special congratulations to those who received special recognition today. I'd like to invite everyone here to join us for a reception in the Great Hall of Champlain College, following the ceremony. The precession will leave the stage following the singing of O Canada, and I would ask you to remain standing until the procession has departed. Mr. Chancellor, I now call upon you to dismiss complication.

DON TAPSCOTT: Thank you, Mr. President. As this ceremony draws to a close, I'd like to thank all of you for being here today. And graduates, I know I speak on behalf of all parents, friends, faculty, staff, guests here today when I say that it has been our honor to be part of your ceremony. You all deserve to feel very, very proud of yourselves. This convocation marks the end of one chapter of your life, but the beginning of another.

And no matter where that chapter takes you, Trent will, I hope, always be an important part of who you are. And I'll just tell you a little story. When I hitchhiked to Trent University in 1966, from Aurelia, Ontario, to check out this new, cool little university on the Otonabee River, I fell in love. And I decided to come here. And the four years that I spent here were transformative for me.

And I graduated, and headed out into the world to do all this stuff. And I lost touch with the university for quite a while, for many years. And over time, I began to think that maybe I should become involved again, in a little way. Not out of a sense of obligation, or not out of some kind of benefit to me for networking or whatever. But really, out of a sense that this little university is a precious institution that is deserving of our support, and that needs to be defended and advanced and developed and protected in all of these times of change.

And becoming involved with the universities has been one of the most gratifying things in my life. And so I'd encourage you to not make the mistake that I made-- don't leave it a couple of decades. Try and stay connected. And because we have the whole innerweb now, it's easier to do that. And I can speak from experience when I say that it's very rewarding to help the generations behind you to reach this special day for themselves.

So in my talk today, I did discuss the whole internet. And I would like to memorialize this situation right now with a little selfie. So if you could also just rise, please. Put your hands in the air, and applaud very loudly.

[CHEERING]

Thank you. That will be up on the twitterverse, and the whole-- it'll be an instant gram any minute. To close, I'm optimistic about the future because I can see the passion and desire. And every one of you who came across the stage had your own special gleam. And it's such a heartening thing to see.

And I see that passion, and I'm hopeful that you'll bring it to your next endeavors. Go make your mark on the world, reach for the stars, make us all proud, and live a life that's principled and that's consequential. Convocation is now dismissed.

[APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC - "O CANADA"]