# Convocation 2015: June 3, 2015 Morning Ceremony part 2

[READING NAMES]

MOIRA HOWES: Please join me in congratulating the recipients of Bachelor of Arts degrees in the Honours Program.

[APPLAUSE]

MOIRA HOWES: Mr. Chancellor, I am 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 honour, that they may receive the degree at your hands.

[READING NAMES]

MOIRA HOWES: Please join me in congratulating the recipients of Bachelor of Arts degrees in the General Program.

[APPLAUSE]

MOIRA HOWES: Mr. Chancellor, I ask you to confer degrees 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 morning everyone. Welcome to Trent.

Mr. Chancellor, I would like to draw attention to the medals and honours section at the back of the convocation program. Mr. Chancellor, the Dean's Honour Roll recognizes students who have 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. A small single cross identifies those students who are on the President's Honour Roll for having maintained a cumulative average of 80% or better. Please join me in congratulating the members of both the Dean's Honour Roll and the President's Honour Roll for their outstanding performance.

[APPLAUSE]

The Bagnani Medal recognizes students in the General Program who achieve high overall standing on graduation. Mr. Chancellor, I call upon you to acknowledge the Bagnani Medal going to Victoria Silvera, Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies and English Literature. Victoria can't be with us today. So.

[APPLAUSE]

The next award is named in honor of Trent University's founding president, Professor THB Symons. We are extremely fortunate to have Professor Symons with us here on stage today. Voila. Mr. Chancellor, the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented annually to a member of faculty or staff chosen by a committee of students, professors, and alumni. I now call upon Catherine Ready to introduce the recipient of this year's Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching.

CATHERINE READY: Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, graduates and guests. It's an honor to introduce 2014-15 recipient of the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching. Established in 1976, this award is named for Professor THB Symons, the founding president of Trent University. It continues to be made available through the generous support of Professor Tom Symons and his wife, Christine Symons. Each year this award is conferred to a member of the Trent faculty or staff who demonstrates outstanding teaching and, in the words of Professor Symons, "an exemplary concern for students."

Dr. Margaret Hobbs is an Associate Professor and Department Chair of the Gender and Women's Studies Department, where she has been on faculty since 1990. She completed her B.A. at Trent University and her MA and PhD at the University of Toronto, specializing in Canadian Women's History. Dr. Hobbs' passion for teaching and her dedication to students are evident in the testimonials nominating her for the Symons Award. Students value Dr. Hobbs, or Marg as they often call her, as a challenging and dedicated teacher who's insights and passion motivate them "to be better, to do better, and to have a more positive outlook on life." One nominee stated that Dr. Hobbs is "at once intensely passionate and fearless about her work, as well as humorous and witty, a rarity among people." This person said, "She has empowered me as a woman and challenged me to think more critically about the standards of contemporary society."

To another, Dr. Hobbs is cited as "an extraordinary educator. She is a dedicated student advocate who has exhibited concern above and beyond the call of duty for her students well-being and success. She teaches sensitive and challenging subject matter thoughtfully and with grace and care. She considers a wide variety of perspectives and possibilities in her teaching, giving voice to many opinions on any given subject." One nominee recognized Dr. Hobbs for making herself available for academic guidance and insight to students in and beyond the classroom. This would be affirmed by many students, who have received valuable, astute-- and often multi-page-- comments from her on their papers.

Dr. Hobbs' research focuses on the history of women in relation to feminism, work, poverty, social policy, and the welfare state in Canada. I met Dr. Hobbs in one of her community roles and was later privileged to be one of her students, allowing me to witness the value of her combined academic and community feminist activism and how it inspires her students. It is not surprising that one nominee claimed, "Marg Hobbs is not only a great professor but a beautiful person. She is caring in such a way that inspires one to learn and engage on a positive and thoughtful level. Marg teaches students in such a way because she wants to share her knowledge of the world in hopes that it will spawn ideas that will change the world."

As a result of her outstanding contributions and nominations, Dr. Hobbs was selected as this year's recipient. Today, she will receive the Symons liripipe. The liripipe is an historic part of academic regalia pre-15th century. The Symons liripipe has been designed with the traditional Trent emblem and colors and is exclusive to recipients of the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Hobbs will where the liripipe with her academic regalia as a symbol of achievement and accomplishment in the area of teaching.

Mr. Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present the 2014-15 Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching recipient, Dr. Margaret Hobbs.

[APPLAUSE]

GARY BOIRE: Congratulations, Marg.

At this point I'd like to ask all past winners of the Symons Teaching Ward who are on the podium to stand and please be acknowledged.

[APPLAUSE]

It's like the Oscars. The Eminent Service Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the life and sound effects-- to the life of the University above and beyond excellence in carrying out their employment or volunteer responsibilities. It is presented on behalf of the Board of Governors acting upon the recommendation of the Senate. Mr. Chancellor, I now call upon Professor Emeritus John Wadland to introduce the recipient of this year's Eminent Service Award. John.

[APPLAUSE]

JOHN WADLAND: Mr. Chancellor, President, graduating students, friends and families. It is my privilege to present the citation to Professor James Struthers, recipient of this year's Eminent Service Award.

Every professor is expected to meet exacting standards in three distinct fields of endeavor, research, teaching, and service. While the reputation of our university demonstrates the Trent faculty are remarkable contributors in each of these fields, Professor Struthers has proven to be exceptional. Everyone gathered here today should know that Professor Struthers has previously earned two of the highest honors Trent can bestow, the Award for Educational Leadership and Innovation and the Distinguished Research Award. In other words, his colleagues and his students have singled him out as both an outstanding teacher and an outstanding researcher. Today, we recognize him for his contribution to the third pillar of the academic platform, his outstanding service to the university we all love.

What do we mean by service? Service is the glue of our university. It is the recognition of and willingness to attend to duties that need to be fulfilled but that fall outside the obvious day-to-day more visible demands of research and teaching. Yet acts of service are the sine qua non without which no educational institution worthy of the name can stand. And Trent University does stand out because of faculty leaders like Professor Struthers, who recognize that service is a creative project requiring every bit as much imagination and certainly every bit as much commitment, as either teaching or research. Service is not self aggrandizing. Service is for others, and it usually goes unheralded.

Jim was Chair of Trent's undergraduate Canadian Studies Program for eight years. He was a central player in the development of both the MA and the PhD programs in the Froste center for Canadian studies and Indigenous Studies, of which he became director from 2006 to 2009. He served as Associate Editor of the Journal of Canadian Studies and Co-Editor of the Canadian Historical Review. From 1984 to 1980 to 1989, Jim was a member of the Executive of the Trent University Faculty Association, serving as its president and chief negotiator from 1987 to 1988. He has taught a broad range of heavily subscribed undergraduate and graduate courses during his 38-year tenure at Trent, in addition supervising many PhD dissertations, MA theses, and postdoctoral fellowships.

Jim was a member of the committee creating and administering the Trent Center for Community Research, to which he gave years of dedicated work. He was one of the main organizers of Summer Explorations in Canadian Cultures, an annual two-week program for international faculty and students operating out of the Froste Center from 1998 to 2003, routinely drawing participants from countries like India, Denmark, Brazil, Romania, and Cuba. This program was only discontinued because of the 9/11 crisis, following which the federal government refused to provide visas for foreign scholars admitted to the program.

Jim has constantly been on the lecture circuit, sharing his expertise with social organizations like the YWCA, the Catholic Workers' Association, the Hamilton Self-Help Centre, the London, Ontario Medical History Group, the Peterborough County Council, the Peterborough Social Planning Council, among many others. From 2007 to 2009 he was a member of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group at Veterans Affairs, Canada.

He is a founding member of the Trent Centre for Aging and Society. Jim's reputation in the field of aging and social policy research frequently finds him a featured guest on TVO and on the CBC, radio and television.

Jim Struthers is an outstanding scholar, teacher, and community servant, respected not only for his exemplary contributions of the three spheres of performance we measure as essential to the health of our university, but also for the honesty, integrity, and great dignity, which characterize him as a human being.

Mr. Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present for the Eminent Service Award, my colleague and my friend, Professor James Struthers.

[APPLAUSE]

GARY BOIRE: Mr. Chancellor, 'emeritus' is an honorary title given to professors and librarians upon the retirement from the University. Mr. Chancellor, I ask you to confer the title of Professor Emeritus upon the following colleagues-- Professor Veronica-- and I'd ask you to stand, please when I call out your name. Professor Veronica Hollinger of the Cultural Studies Department, Professor John Molloy of the Canadian Studies Department, and Professor Jim Struthers of the Canadian Studies Department.

[APPLAUSE]

Mr. Chancellor I ask you to confer the title of Librarian Emeritus upon librarian Janice Millard, the Bata Library Archives.

[APPLAUSE]

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

DAVID NEWHOUSE: Before all other words can be spoken, we bring greetings to all of creation, and we give thanks for another day of life. On this beautiful day, Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, Mr. Founding President, honored guests, graduates. In the custom of the First Peoples of this land, we offer the sound of a drum and our voices to honor our 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 have come before us and who have brought dignity to our lives. And we offer these words to remind us to live with kindness, honesty, charity, courage, and respect.

We offer these words to honor, Peter Raymont, who sees the world unseen by us and makes it visible to us so that we might act with justice and kindness. Today, we also offer this song so that the scars of those affected by Indian residential schools can continue to heal, and we can find ways to live well together. These words today we offer to honor the scholarship of Professor John Molloy, whose work exposed a national crime.

We offer this song to accompany on your travels, and may you travel well and may your lives be filled with grace and beauty.

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, Mr. Founding President, honored guests, graduates. I have the pleasure of presenting unity. The song that they will sing and drum is "Mi'kmaq Honour Song," which honors the Earth and all of its inhabitants and all of the achievements, and ask that we live well together.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I ask you to stand for the Honour Song.

[DRUMMING AND SINGING "MI'KMAQ HONOUR SONG"]

DAVID NEWHOUSE: Thank you. You may be seated. May you be well, and may you travel well.

GARY BOIRE: I feel like dancing now. Mr. Chancellor, I would like now to invite Miss Jess Grover of the Trent University Alumni Association to welcome the graduating class. Jess.

JESS GROVER: Mr. Chancellor, Mr President, graduates, honored guests. Good morning. First, I must say to you, our newest alumni, congratulations. Welcome to our family. You have accomplished something truly remarkable. Your work, passion, and dedication has given you a spot on the podium today, and the short

walk you just took was representative of the millions of steps you took to be here. I know it wasn't easy, but I do hope it was worth it.

For those of you who had the support of your family and friends, I hope you thank them for that. And for those who may not have, I want you to know that your alumni family will always support you. You've made the whole Trent community better by being a part of it. Thank you.

Thank you for choosing to grow and learn at Trent. I hope it's an experience you carry with you always, that serves you well, that brings you happiness. Wherever we've come from, wherever we go, our paths crossed here at this amazing university. Trent has become my family. Thank you for choosing to be a part of my family.

The Trent community doesn't and when you leave campus today. We may be a part of your past, but we hope to be a part of your future as well. Trent alumni can be found around the world. We have benefits, awards, and events open to all of our nearly 50,000 members. Let us keep you up-to-date, support you, celebrate you.

Carry us with you in your pocket. Email, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are all ways you can connect with us. Stay involved with Trent and get involved with alumni. We are made better by your presence.

Today, not only is everyone here celebrating you, but the entire alumni family celebrates you. On behalf of the Trent University Alumni Association, it is my honor and privilege to say welcome and congratulations.

[APPLAUSE]

PRESIDENT: Thank you for those words, Jess. As this ceremony draws to an end, it's time to say thanks to some key people that have had a role in it. So I'd like you to help me and join me, first of all in thanking Joanne Sokolowski and the team that planned and organized the events today.

[APPLAUSE]

Them. Thank you to the Unity Singers for presenting "The Honour Song."

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you to all Trent faculty, staff, and members of the Board, for all you do for our students.

[APPLAUSE]

And there's one last thank you that I want to close with, and I want the graduates to lead us in this. I'm going to ask the graduates to stand for a moment. And what I would know is there is a group of people over here in the audience. They're essentially your support team, your family, your friends. They've been supporting you emotionally, I'm sure. As a parent I can say I expect it's not just emotionally, but I think this would be a great time to show your appreciation, for all of us to show your appreciation to your support team and all they've done to help you be here today.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you for that. You may be seated.

Congratulations to all our new alumni. Congratulations to Dr. Raymont. Congratulations to all of those who've received special recognition this afternoon.

I'd like to invite everybody 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 that you remain standing until the procession has departed.

Mr. Chancellor, I now call upon you to dismiss Convocation.

CHANCELLOR: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, as this ceremony draws to a close, I'd like to thank all of you for being here. And I'll tell you one of the unforeseen benefits of being a Chancellor is I get to hear Unity sing that moving, beautiful song. And one thing that you don't know is that every time it's different. I've been at 14 convocations, and every time they come up with this beautiful, amazing, original piece of music.

And it's also been a real honor to shake the hands of each of you and to be photographed with you. Now I'd like you to remember, the single most important thing from today is that when you tweet that photograph, I'm @DTAPSCOTT on Twitter. I've got to get my followers up. Lady Gaga is miles ahead of me.

And, graduates, I know I speak on behalf of all the parents, friends, faculty, staff, guests here today when I say it's been a real honor to be part of your ceremony. And you all deserve to feel very, very proud of yourselves.

Now, I'd like to just close with a couple of thoughts, and I'll be fairly brief in the spirit of the aphorism that the mind can absorb what the seeds can endure.

But this convocation really marks the end of a chapter in your life and the beginning of another. And no matter where that chapter takes you, Trent will be an important part of who you are.

And I began by telling this story of me hitchhiking over here years ago. And when it came time to actually come to Trent, my parents drove me over. And we had a big, not a ceremony, but sherry party to meet the president. I'd heard about this famous guy, Tom Symons. And I was very much looking forward to meeting him. I don't know. There were about 150 of us. new entrants into the school. And I saw him, and I walked up towards him. And he reached out to me, and he said, "Don Tapscott, how was your trip from a Aurelia?" And I thought, well my first thought was, how did he do that? You know, like, in hindsight, there is a theory the Tom Symons invented Google Glass and he had geospatial annotation of the physical world, but--

But I thought, wow, what a great place, that the president would take the time to figure out who I was before I even got here. And I think that it would be appropriate for us to collectively thank Tom again. I don't know how you knowledge someone who's had such a profound and important impact on all of our lives. But let's just give him a around of applause.

[APPLAUSE]

Now the end of that story is that when I graduated from Trent, I had a great experience. And I was very thankful. And I lost touch with the university for about a couple of decades. And I started to think maybe I should reconnect again, maybe I should get involved in the alumni. And it was not