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

[READING NAMES]

SPEAKER 1: Please join me in congratulating the recipients of both in the Bachelor of Arts degrees in the honors program and the Bachelor of Science degrees in the honor program.

[APPLAUSE]

Mr. Chancellor, I'm pleased to present for the degree Bachelor of Arts in the general program candidates whose names will be read of 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 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 Science degrees in the general program.

[APPLAUSE]

Mr. Chancellor, I ask you to confer degrees in absentia on candidates whose name 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, everyone. Mr. Chancellor, I would like to draw attention to the metals and honors section at the back of the convocation program. Mr. Chancellor, the deans honor 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 signal 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 governor general's silver medal is awarded to an honor student with the highest academic standing on graduation. Mr. Chancellor, I call upon you to present the governors general silver medal to a very, very special undergraduate who's been with us for four years and is now going off to the University of Toronto to pursue a PH.D. In economics. It is my great personal pleasure to present [? Duheam Noyam ?], winner of the governor general's silver medal Bachelor of Arts honors in economics.

[APPLAUSE]

He's very popular. The Simon's Metal 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 Simon's, who was with us this morning and, unfortunately, wasn't able to make it this afternoon. So Mr. Chancellor, I call upon you to present the Simon's Metal to another very special student, Jennifer [? Rowden ?], Bachelor of Arts honors in business administration and economics. Jennifer?

[APPLAUSE]

The Trent University Distinguished Research Award recognizes significant contributions to scholarly research. I now call upon professor emeritus, David Morrison, to introduce the recipient of this year's distinguished Research Award. David?

DAVID MORRISON: Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, graduates, and guests. The international studies department was very fortunate when we hired Dr. Haroon Akram-Lohdi as a full professor in 2006. He was already an internationally acclaimed scholar on the political economy of agrarian relations. And his research record, since coming to Trent, has been consistently distinguished.

An economist by training, Haroon has undertaken work that is impressively interdisciplinary and global in perspective, yet well grounded in field work in Pakistan, Vietnam, and other countries. His monographs, his edited books, his more than 60 book chapters and articles, and numerous reviews in commentaries have focused on several challenges in developing countries.

Among them, real livelihoods, food security, poverty and vulnerability, and development planning that is participatory, environmentally sound, and gender sensitive. He has been widely cited. And many of his publications are considered landmarks for their depth of analysis, rigor, and practical significance.

He's on the editorial and advisory boards of several academic journals and is currently editor in chief of the Canadian journal of development studies. Haroon's intellectual and organizing capacities have been recognized by numerous international agencies and governments that have sought his expertise as a consultant.

But much more, he is a public intellectual who believes strongly in communicating his scholarly work to the wider community. In addition to giving guest lectures and participating in academic conferences in university settings, he has been active in policy oriented gatherings of decision makers and practitioners and has spent time in the global south offering United Nations courses and other services.

Haroon has not just been globe trotting. He has made great contributions to our students and to the university. His teaching has been highly regarded and inspirational, both, in the large introductory course in international development studies, and in the course on food and agrarian relations. He has chaired the department for several years.

He has also been instrumental in bringing to Trent, and the broader Peterborough community, outstanding speakers for the annual David Morrison lecture in international development. When asked to comment on Haroon's nomination, several well known scholars and practitioners responded enthusiastically.

One of them wrote, quote, "He is fully committed to an active, academic life and to the betterment of the well being of the disadvantaged, marginalized, and poor. The fertility and quality of his research will certainly enhance Trent University's international reputation." Mr. Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you for the Distinguished Research Award, Professor Haroon Akam-Lohdi.

[APPLAUSE]

He's very popular, too. At this point, I'd like to ask that all past winners of the distinguished Research Award who are on the podium to please stand and be acknowledged.

[APPLAUSE]

Mr. Chancellor, emeritus is an honorary title given to professors upon the retirement from the university. Mr. Chancellor, I ask you to confer the title of professor emeritus upon professor Alena Heitlinger of the sociology department. Dawn?

[APPLAUSE]

DAVID MORRISON: Mr. Chancellor, professor David Newhouse will now introduce the honor song. David?

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, honor guests, elders, graduates. In the customer of the first peoples of this land, we offer the sound of the drum and our voices to honor our mother, the Earth. We send our profound and deepest thanks to all of creation. And we ask her to continue to support life as she has since time [INAUDIBLE] memorial.

In our teachings, the sound of the drum represents the heartbeat of the universe. The original sound of creation infuses our being and reverberate still throughout the universe. We sound the drum today 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 made these accomplishments possible. We offer these words of respect to those who had come before us and who have brought dignity to our lives.

We offer these words to remind us to live with kindness, honesty, sharing, courage and respect. We offer these words to honor elder, Michael Thrasher, who brought traditional, and knowledge, and wisdom to the Academy so that new generations might learn.

Today, we offer this song so that the scars inflicted on all of us by any of the residential schools can heal and we can find ways to live well. And 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, honor guests, elder, graduates, I have the pleasure of presenting unity. They will sing a song called "Horse Giveaway." A Cree honor song, which is said to cause horses and grass to tremble. This song is sung at the time of given away of one's best horse. I ask you to stand for the honor song.

[MUSIC - "HORSE GIVEAWAY"]

GARY BOIRE: Mr. Chancellor, I would like to invite Ms. Shelley [? Notpfiph ?] of the Trent University Alumni Association to welcome the graduating class. Shelley?

[? SHELLEY NOTPFIPH: ?] Bonjour. [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]. Hi, there. I'm Shelly [? Notpfiph ?], [NON-ENGLISH] unity. Ah, done my heart good. Foremost, today I speak in honor in remembrance of the [INAUDIBLE], the children, the students who experienced Canada's residential school system.

My father's four oldest sisters and brothers went. And it still impacts us today and in honor, also, of the [INAUDIBLE], the missing sisters, [NON-ENGLISH. I want to begin by thanking Bob Taylor-Vaisey, the president of the Trent University Alumni Association, for this opportunity and honor, today, to be here to welcome the class of 2015 to the Alumni Association of Trent University.

[NON-ENGLISH]. That's what we would say at home. Welcome, come on in. I grew up on Curve Lake First Nation just down the road. And growing up on a first nation on the res, at least two wisdom's are instinctive, if not instilled.

The first is that you must give back to the community as you go on your life's journey. Second, learning and I know you don't want to hear this, but learning is a lifelong process at this point. I spent a good part of my professional life, so far, working just to give back to my community, especially through the field of education.

I was in the first class of teachers to graduate from Trent's part-time Bachelor of Education program at the young age of 44. And that was 10 years ago. So I don't mind telling you. I was mother of two. And I was managing full-time the education department at Curve Lake First Nation. So yeah, you sweat.

Learning does take a lifetime. I hope you never lose that lust for learning. Today, the term community can encompass the city or village of your youth, of your current residence, of your profession, or even one within a social media page.

Wherever your community finds you, I ask that you remember your Trent community. And maybe come back and continue that lifelong learning process. [NON-ENGLISH]. Thank you.

LEO GROARKE: Thank you, Shelley. As this ceremony draws to an end, it's time to thank some people. I want to mention some people. And I'll ask everybody here to help meet thank them. Let me begin by thanking Joanne Sokolowski and the team that planned and organized the events today. Joanne?

[APPLAUSE]

Secondly, I'd like to thank the Unity Singers for presenting the honor song.

[APPLAUSE]

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

[APPLAUSE]

And I have one last thank you. And I'm going to ask the graduates to stand for a moment. And I want them to lead this thank you.

And what I want to know to the graduates is that there's another group of people. And they're all sitting out there. And this is your support network. It's your family. It's your friends.

They provided emotional support when you needed emotional support. Being a parent, I'll say they probably provided even more than emotional support when it was necessary. You're here because of what they've done. So I want you to lead us in a round of applause for your parents, friends, and family who are here today.

[APPLAUSE]

That's great. Thank you. You can be seated. Congratulations to all our new alumni who are sitting here, including Dr. Thrasher. Congratulations to all of those who've received special recognition this afternoon.

I'd like to invite everybody here to join us for a reception in the Great Hall of Champlain College following the ceremony. After the convocation ends, the procession will leave the stage following the singing of "O Canada." I'd like to ask you to remain standing until the procession has departed. Mr. Chancellor, I call upon you now to dismiss convocation.

DON TAPSCOTT: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, as the ceremony draws to a close, I'd like to thank all of you for being here today. And I don't know. It may just be me, but this entire audience is looking a little better tanned then when we started out a couple of hours ago.

And graduates, on a very personal note, it's been a real honor to see are shining faces come across the stage, and to shake your hand, and to be photographed with you. Now a very important thing to remember about these photographs is, should you put them on Twitter, remember, my name is @dtapscott on Twitter. I'm trying to catch up with Ashton Kutcher for followers, so I need your help.

[LAUGHING]

Now graduates, I know I speak on behalf of all parents, and friends, and family, faculty, staff, and guests here today that it has been an honor to be part of your ceremony. And you all deserve to be very, very proud of yourselves. And this convocation marks the end of one chapter in your life and the beginning of another.

And no matter where that chapter takes you, Trent will always been an important part of who you are. It's, kind of, in your DNA now, in a sense. And I'd just like to tell you a story about that.

You see, after I hitchhiked over here and I decided to go to go to Trent, after four years, I graduated. And I was well equipped. And I went out into the workforce. And eventually, I succeeded, in some ways. But I lost touch with the university.

And it was a couple of decades, really, before it occurred to me. You know, this little institution on autonomy has actually been really, really critical in the success and the impact that I've been able to have in life. And I decided to become involved again.

Not out of a sense of obligation or out of a sense of opportunity for which there had been many networking and experiencing things like today, but more out of the sense that this is an important little institution. And it deserves being defended, and advanced, and developed, and cherished. And I decided to get involved. And it's been a great joy to me.

So I hope you won't make the same mistake that I did it to drop off the face of the earth, as far as Trent was concerned, for a while and that you'll continue your relationship. And we do have this wonderful thing called the internet now that some of you parents may not know about this. But it's going to be very big. And I am going to invest. I'm just waiting for it to take off but that it helps you collaborate and to keep in touch. And it's a wonderful thing.

Let me close with a couple of thoughts. First of all, this morning, Doctor Peter Raymont, one of the great documentary filmmakers of all time, received an honorary degree. And he said something that I thought was quite profound. He said to the graduates, I know you're all wondering about jobs, but don't worry. Allow destiny to find you.

And I like to think of that as create the conditions whereby you can get lucky. And I mean that in a straight up kind of sense. What is a luck? Luck is really the intersection of preparation and opportunity. And you've begun this process of preparation. And over time, opportunities will appear.

And I'd encourage all the parents, be patient. You've made a good investment not just in the time you spent raising this extraordinary class but in helping them get an extraordinary education. And they're all going to get lucky. And they're all going to end up doing something fulfilling.

You know, I was musing that, when I graduated from Trent, I didn't really get a job for about five or six years after I graduated. Now I do understand that times are different. And we weren't under the same kind of financial pressure that all of you are under.

But strangely, my parents just, kind of, believed in me. And they created the conditions for me to, kind of, find my passion. And eventually, things worked out well.

So beyond your future, I'd like to say one word to close about the future. It's no surprise to any of you that the world that my generation is leaving you is not in the best shape, honestly. Kind of sorry about that. The world is too unequal, unsustainable, unjust, and unstable. And it's too conflicted too.

And your generation is being called upon by history, really, to do something about this. So indeed, be prosperous, as I said, but we need more from you. We need you to help solve many of the big problems that are facing.

Every community, every country, and that are facing the world as, really, we're moving into a whole new period in human history. The end of the industrial era. And the rise of a knowledge economy. And Canada is moving, right now, from being a resource-based economy-- extraction of resources from the ground-- to being an economy that's based on human capital and that's based on innovation.

And I'm not suggesting that each of you become prime minister or try and be leader of the world to improve the situation. The change will happen everywhere. It will happen in each of your families. It'll happen if you go and teach somewhere, in your organizations, in your community, in your research laboratories, and all of you will need to teach your children well.

And I'm enormously optimistic, actually. The World seems to be a troubled place. But I've never had greater hope. And it's because of you that you're a generation that is the smartest generation ever. You've got extraordinary capabilities.

And at your fingertips, you have the most powerful tools ever for innovation, for problem solving, for finding out what's going on, for transparency, for organizing collective responses, to problems. And this equips you well to bring about the kind of change of we need in the world. So in the spirit of that, what I'd like to do, if I could, is just take a little selfie with you guys, if that's OK. I'll just have to-- OK.

So could you all rise, please? And then, clap your hands in the air and go, like, woo, woo, woo, woo, woo. Awesome. That's going on the interweb. If you want to find it, parents, you go to the Google. It's this place. You ask it questions and stuff. I may put an "Instant Gram" up, too. The twitterverse for sure.

So seriously, I am optimistic about the future. And in you, today, I can see your passion, your desire that will bring you your next endeavors. And hopefully, enable you to live that principled life of consequence. Go proud. Go make your mark in the world. Reach for the stars. And make us proud. Convocation is now dismissed.

[APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC PHARRELL WILLIAMS, "HAPPY"]