# Convocation 2015: June 5, 2015 Afternoon Ceremony part 2

[READING NAMES]

[READING NAMES]

CAROL KELSEY: Please join me in congratulating the recipients of Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degrees.

[APPLAUSE]

CAROL KELSEY: Please be seated. 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. Thank you. I now call upon Provost and Vice President Academic Gary Boire to recognize students who've achieved remarkable success in their studies.

GARY BOIRE: Good afternoon. 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% percent or better in their most recent session and have maintained a cumulative average of 75% percent 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 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]

GARY BOIRE: Mr. Chancellor, Professor David Newhouse will now introduce the honour 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, honoured guests and graduates, in the custom of the first peoples of this land, we offer the sound of the drum and our voices to honour 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 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 honour 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. We offer these words to remind us to live with kindness, honesty, sharing, courage, and respect. We offer this song so that the scars inflicted on all of us by Indian residential schools can heal and that we can find ways to live well together.

We offer these words of praise and honour for Martha Friendly whose tireless work on behalf of all children creates a better world for all of us. And we offer this song to accompany you on your travels. May you travel well and may your lives be filled with grace and dignity. Mr. Chancellor, Mr President, honoured guests, I have the pleasure of presenting Unity.

[APPLAUSE]

DAVID NEWHOUSE: They will sing "Oklahoma Sunny Southern Song". A Cherokee big drum song, a celebration adopted for the hand drum by Unity. The song celebrates life in all of its joys, and pains and achievements. Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask you to stand for the honours song.

[MUSIC UNITY, "OKLAHOMA SUNNY SOUTHERN SONG"]

[APPLAUSE]

DAVID NEWHOUSE: And thank you Unity. May you travel well as you travel through life. Hold hands, make new friends, and keep on the sunny side of life.

[APPLAUSE]

GARY BOIRE: The sunny side of life. Ah, he's a comic. Mr. Chancellor I would like to invite them Mr Bob Taylor-Vaisey, the President of the Trent University Alumni Association to welcome the graduating class. Now yesterday Bob timed it and he told me that he clocks in at three minutes and 10 seconds. So we're going to time him. Bob.

[APPLAUSE]

ROBERT TAYLOR-VAISEY: Mr. Chancellor, President Groarke, members of the Board of Governors and Senate, faculty and staff, honoured guests, and fellow alumni. Surely we all recognize that we do not achieve personal success on our own. Family, friends, colleagues. Professors and advisors, they are our unsung heroes.

A lot of them are here today, either behind me or in the audience. And I invite you to please stand with me, please. This is the day to thank them. It's also your last chance to let loose as an undergraduate. I thought your response to Chancellor Tapscott's response was passively [? fossiliferous ?] So this time, let's recognize with a huge roar of thanks those who have so unselfishly always been there for us and always will be.

[APPLAUSE]

ROBERT TAYLOR-VAISEY: Is that it? Thank you. Today you wear this gown. The gown for 50 years has been the symbol of our individual academic success at Trent, the culmination of years of hard work. Wherever you go from today, whatever path you choose, we have a common thread.

It is the uniqueness of the student experience at Trent of belonging, and community, and acceptance, and interaction, the hallmark of the university of which we are all so proud. This graduation is the last session of the week. How fitting it is that the last group of new alumni is from nursing.

[APPLAUSE]

There are many professionals, engineers, librarians, doctors, accountants, teachers and more, but I believe that yours may be the noblest profession of all. Your fellow alumni distinguished this university around the world in the breadth and contribution of their careers. By the diversity of their participation in a global society, by the personification of courage, integrity, and risk taking.

Now it's your turn to make a difference. Take your considerable skills out into the world and make a difference, and you will. As policymakers, administrators, mentors, practitioners, and yes, lifelong learners.

With the capacity and the capability to collaborate with others, communicate the good and the bad, respond to the needs of others, and enhance health care systems here and worldwide. All with a sense of realism, compassion, candor and heart. Reflecting the pioneering spirit of Florence Nightingale who also recognized that the practice of nursing needed formalized knowledge.

For those of us that have experienced what you bring at every level, you are very special people. And what better ambassadors could this outstanding university ask for?

At Trent, you have made lifelong friends. You've been taught and mentored by dedicated and learned faculty. And who can deny that you did it on the most beautiful campus in the country.

You will take pride in your experience here as Trent will be equally as proud of you. And like your first day on campus, today is a new beginning. So celebrate it, embrace it, savor it, enjoy it, and stay connected wherever you are in the world.

On behalf of 44 and more thousand members of your extended Trent family, the Alumni Association, congratulations on your success and those to come. And now go have some fun. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Bob. As this ceremony draws to a close, I want to ask you to help me in thanking some of the people that made it possible. And one of the things I've been trying to do throughout the week is pick particular people and particular groups on each day to recognize and to thank.

With the first thank you, I actually have a special presentation. And so I'm going to explain the presentation before I recognize the person. I will tell you that every university has its quirks, its traditions, its the little things that give mystique to it. One of the quirks about Trent University is what we call the upside down tie.

And this was a set of ties. Every university has ties. We have ties. We have scarves. At one point when they made the set of ties, the designers made a mistake and they printed the Trent symbol upside down. So it looks like the sword is falling out of the water instead of going into the water.

In any case, like stamps that have errors or coins et cetera, this has become a collected item at Trent University. I will tell you, I still have seven of them and we wait for special moments to recognize special people. And what I would like to do today is I want to recognize our Chancellor Don Tapscott.

All of us who are here, and I want to thank everybody who has volunteered time this week. What I would note is, I was going to say that our Chancellor doesn't work for Trent, but what I'd have to say is, he doesn't get paid to work for Trent. He works ceaselessly for Trent.

He gave up a week of his time to come and stay at Trent so he could be at all eight Convocations and to shake the hands and share the glory with every student who has graduated in the Convocations this year. So please join me in thanking our Chancellor Don Tapscott as I present him with an upside down tie.

[APPLAUSE]

[LAUGHTER]

PRESIDENT: Thank you for telling me that you that you didn't have one.

[LAUGHTER]

PRESIDENT: Just a few other people that I'd like you to help me thank. There are a number of people here who have been at all eight Convocations. Please help me thank David Newhouse, Professor David Newhouse, who introduces the Unity song.

[APPLAUSE]

Provost Gary Boire who is at his last Convocation as Provost. And while we're at that, I believe Jackie Muldoon is here, our incoming Provost. Could we have--

[APPLAUSE]

PRESIDENT: Stand up please. Jackie, you have to get used to standing up.

[APPLAUSE]

PRESIDENT: Thank you to the Unity Singers for the wonderful way in which they always present the honor song.

[APPLAUSE]

PRESIDENT: And last but of course not least, thank you to all Trent faculty, to our staff, to the members of the Board of Governors for all you do for our students.

[APPLAUSE]

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

[APPLAUSE]

CHANCELLOR: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you for that tie. With all these developments with technology, and medicine, and the singularity in robotics and so on, I may in fact live another 50 years to attend the 100th anniversary. And I may need that tie as a asset to sell on eBay later in my life.

No seriously, it's been a great honor to be here. And I'd like to thank all of you for coming. And graduates, I really mean it when I say it's my honor to personally shank-- shake every one of your hands.

[LAUGHTER]

CHANCELLOR: And to try not to shank you, whatever that means.

[LAUGHTER]

CHANCELLOR: And it's also been my honor to be photographed with you. So many of you will be putting these photographs on social media and in particular on Twitter. So there is a very, very important lesson from this experience today and something I'd like you to remember. In fact, I'd like you to write this down. That on Twitter my name is @dtapscott and I need you to include that in the tweet because I'm trying to catch up with Justin Bieber--

[LAUGHTER]

CHANCELLOR: And he's got a lot of followers so it's a real challenge for me. Seriously, I know on behalf of all the parents, the friends, family, faculty, staff, guests here today, that I speak for all of them, that it has been our honor to be part of your ceremony. And you all deserve to feel very, very proud of yourselves.

Now this Convocation marks the end of a chapter of your life, but also the beginning of new ones. And no matter where that chapter, chapters, take you, Trent will always be part of you. In a sense it'll be part of your cognitive DNA, if you like.

And I'd like to just tell you a story in the spirit of what Bob Vaisey said earlier. That when I left Trent I was very thankful for the experience. It was transformative. And I lost touch with the university for a long time actually, almost a couple of decades. And I started thinking, hm, maybe I should get involved again.

And it wasn't just out of a sense of obligation or sense of opportunity, and there's certainly been plenty of those to network and be part of a community. But I think most of all out of a sense that this is an important little institution and it's worth defending, and advancing and cherishing.

And it's been a great satisfaction to me to be part of Trent once again. And I can also speak from experience when I say that it's very rewarding to help the generations behind you to reach this special day for themselves.

Your future is very bright. I said to a number of you as you came across the stage, good luck. And that wasn't just a flippant kind of comment, but I think that you will all receive luck in the sense that luck is the intersection between preparation and opportunity. And you prepared yourselves well, not just in what you know but in terms of your capabilities to learn, and to think, and to solve problems, to communicate and to save lives.

And luck will come your way. Earlier in one of the previous Convocations this week, Peter Raymond, who is now Doctor Peter Raymond because I gave him an honorary degree, and he's a great Canadian filmmaker, said, "Be patient and allow destiny to find you."

And parents, I'd encourage you to be patient as well. That all of these wonderful young people up here are going to do important things in their lives and they will receive luck.

Now a couple of practical comments, and there had been some earlier, but this is kind of my job to complete with some down-to-earth advice. Get a good suit, whether you're a man or a woman. And the shirt and the shoes are so important. Accessories, It's all about the accessories.

[LAUGHTER]

CHANCELLOR: Wear SPF, I mean if today wasn't a lesson in that, it's very, very important. In fact, I think the average tanning level of the audience has gone up a couple of points today. You should know as medical people, always floss. It's important for dental health and also for fresh breath.

You should also know to increase the percent of vegetables in your diet. And this is most important, I would like you to write this down as well. Never show up for job interview drunk.

[LAUGHTER]

CHANCELLOR: So are there any questions? Or can we-- OK, good. No questions. I talked about your future. Just a couple words about the future I think it's no surprise to any of you that my generation is leaving the world in not the best situation. Story about that. The world is too unequal, it's too unjust, it's too conflicted, and it's too unsustainable.

And you have chosen a noble profession and you're going to contribute to solving this problem. As such, you'll be part of a very historic thing that's happening. Your generation is being called forth by history to solve some of the biggest dilemmas and problems ever facing humanity.

And I have great confidence that you'll be able to do that, not just because of your knowledge, not just because of your passion, not just because of your capabilities, but also because at your fingertips, you have the most powerful tools ever for finding out what's going on, informing others, and organizing collective responses.

And you have a powerful, powerful medium of human communications, a vast network made of glass and air that will help you in this challenge. Now for those of you in the audience, if you don't know what I'm talking about, it's this whole thing called the internet. Now this is going to be really big. I mean, I'm going to invest in this thing once it takes off.

Some of you have probably been to the Google. Has anyone here been to the Google? Or you got your whole twitter verse where you twerp stuff. And you can put up your instant grams up there.

Although I honestly didn't understand why some of you parents came up here with an IPad pointed at your child and you're reading a book? Hello? When you should have been photographing your child. I mean, really.

No, seriously, in the spirit of all of this, I would like to just take a selfie if I could with the graduating class. So if I could ask you all to stand up, put your hands in the air, and make a lot of noise.

[CHEERING]

CHANCELLOR: Thank you. That will be going on the whole social media-- sorry? Yeah, I need a selfie stick.

[LAUGHTER]

CHANCELLOR: Bluetooth. I need Bluetooth-controlled selfie stick, OK? It's all about the Bluetooth. No, seriously, it's a time of big change and I'm not suggesting each of you should drop being a nurse to become the prime minister, or the leader of the world, or something like that, but you can bring about change.

And because you're building a life on principles and a life that's consequential, you know that change will happen everywhere. It will happen in your hospital, in your clinic. It will happen in your family as you teach your children well. It will happen in your community, in your organization, and wherever you are as you travel throughout life.

You have an opportunity now to lead in a time of great change. And I'm very optimistic because I can see not just the passion and desire that you'll bring to your next endeavors, but I've studied your generation and I know that the myths about it are not true. And that in fact, you're the smartest generation and you have a great deep sense of integrity as a generation.

So go make your mark on the world, reach for the stars, and make us proud. I'd now like to dismiss the Convocation. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC - "O CANADA"]

[MUSIC PHARRELL WILLIAMS, "HAPPY"]

[MUSIC WIZ KHALIFA, "SEE YOU AGAIN"]