

President's Message – June 2010

What an exhilarating year it has been for our campus community! The introduction of new academic programs, the impressive contributions of our researchers across all faculties, the daily demonstration of our commitment to teaching and service, and above all, the outstanding achievements of our students – these are all markers of a successful year.

A good university can clearly demonstrate it has fulfilled its academic mission by pointing to the success of its students. A great university fully understands that all people matter, and that the academic mission is only fully realized when we, as a community, progress and offer hope for a greater future. Throughout our history, the University of Regina has evolved as a significant participant in and contributor to the cultural, social, and economic progress of our province and the world beyond our borders.

Convocation is the “official” time of year where we celebrate and recognize our students who have achieved their academic goals and who are about to go forward and make a difference in the world. This spring Convocation, we will also recognize Dr. Don Lee with the Board of Governors Distinguished Service Award for his lifetime of service to the University of Regina, and Dr. Scott Thompson, who is receiving the Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Teaching. As well, we will present honorary degrees to educator Anne Luke, singer/songwriter Connie Kaldor, and journalist Craig Oliver.

You have heard me speak many times about the University of Regina as a community. We all bring different expertise, knowledge and understanding to the University. That difference – our diversity and the respect we hold for each other – makes our campus community strong. It is a strength that is founded in our history, that is realized in the present, and that guides us forward into a promising future.

As summer approaches, some of you will be leaving campus – as graduates or simply for summer holidays, summer employment or travel, you are heading out into the world. I encourage you not to leave us behind. Please stay connected by dropping in regularly over the coming months via our News & Events website at <http://www.uregina.ca/news/> where you can read wonderful stories of achievement, of contribution, and of community building that emanate from our campus. These stories demonstrate our attributes, the values we hold, and the things we do as individuals, as groups, and as an institution.

The first story you will read is an interview with one of our new graduates, Cassandra Opikokew, who obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism this spring and is an outstanding leader and mentor for Aboriginal students. I know you will enjoy reading her story.

When you visit the website, please take some time to tell us about other University of Regina stories still waiting to be told. Click the “Tell us your U of R stories” button on the site and let us know about your achievements as alumni, or about others who work, study or teach here and contribute to our community. And if you are a student, faculty or staff member, we want to hear about your classmates and colleagues – about their successes, contributions and new initiatives. Your ideas will help us share the University of Regina story with others.

Please bookmark the News & Events website and drop in frequently to read about and stay connected to your University – and the great value we offer to each other and those in the larger community.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful summer. To our graduating students, your efforts have now come to fruition and you have earned your success. We want to hear from you again. And to everyone, please stay in touch!