

President's Message – June 2012

Every year, the beginning of June represents a milestone for many of our students. After years of dedication to their studies, those who have earned University of Regina degrees, certificates or diplomas cross the stage at the annual University of Regina Spring Convocation ceremonies. This year is our 38th annual Spring Convocation celebration, and it will be my pleasure to recognize the nearly 1,800 students who have come to the University of Regina from all over the world to undertake their post-secondary education.

Convocation will be held daily from June 6-8 at 2:00 p.m. at the Conexus Arts Centre. On June 6, graduates from the Faculties of Graduate Studies and Research, Business Administration, Engineering and Applied Science, and Kinesiology and Health Studies will attend the convocation ceremonies. On June 7, graduates from the Faculties of Arts, Fine Arts, and Science will be recognized. On June 8, the Faculties of Education and Social Work, as well students from the Centre for Continuing Education and Campus for All, will be honoured.

On each day, we will also celebrate a number of students whose academic accomplishments are worthy of special recognition. The University of Regina's President's Medal, for example, is awarded at each Convocation to a student receiving a first degree who has combined academic excellence with strong leadership in and commitment to extra-curricular activities. The recipient of this award this year is Keith Arnstead, who is graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Science with Distinction in Industrial Systems Engineering with a minor in Environmental Systems Engineering. Mr. Arnstead has consistently appeared on the Dean's Honour List, and among his many volunteer commitments, has been actively involved in Engineers Without Borders.

Another award to be presented at Convocation is the Governor General's Academic Gold Medal, which recognizes the most outstanding academic performance by a graduate student. The recipient at this Convocation is Dr. Adam Dubé, who is graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology (Experimental and Applied). Dr. Dubé has been the recipient of numerous graduate awards and scholarships, including a Dean's Scholarship, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada graduate scholarships for both his master's and doctoral programs. He has also been recognized by provincial and national psychological associations, has authored and co-authored papers in high-visibility, peer-reviewed journals, and currently has five manuscripts in preparation.

Additional student award winners who have demonstrated extraordinary academic achievement are:

- Ha Lam - Governor General's Academic Silver Medal and University Prize in Science
- Adam Swift - Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan Gold Medal
- Chase Wood - Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan Gold Medal in Geoscience
- Brittany Karcha - Leon Goldman Scholarship
- Trelle Burdeniuk - James M. Minifie Award in Journalism
- Stéphane Jacques - Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation Prize

- Brittney Gudereit - W.A. Riddell Award in Fine Arts
- Neil Arnstead - University Medal
- Natasha Jaques - S.E Stewart Award in Arts
- Chrisandra Simonson - University Prize in Kinesiology and Health Studies
- Darcy Burbach - University Prize in Social Work

It is also of note that during the Convocation ceremonies, the University of Regina will bestow honorary degrees – the highest honour the University grants – on three very deserving individuals. For more information about the recipients of honorary degrees, please read the official University of Regina news release. [Link to release:

<http://www.uregina.ca/external/communications/releases/current/nr-05302012-2.html>]

I encourage friends, family and loved ones of those receiving University degrees, certificates or diplomas to attend the Convocation ceremonies. As we mark another milestone on our campus, we are proud to recognize the accomplishments of all of our graduating students. Their commitment to higher education, their service to community, and the contributions they are making to our world – are all wonderful things to celebrate!

Thank you for all you have done over the past several years to help our students succeed in their studies. Have a great summer.

Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor