

President's message – October 2014

Despite the inevitability of dropping temperatures at this time of year, things are definitely heating up this month for graduates of the University of Regina!

It starts with the annual Fall Convocation ceremony that takes place at the Conexus Art Centre in Regina on Friday, October 17. This will be the largest Fall graduating class in our history, and at its conclusion, 655 graduates will have received their degrees, diplomas and certificates. The ceremony begins at 2 p.m., and can be seen live online at:

www.uregina.ca/student/registrar/convocation/webcasts.html.

Among the academic award recipients at the Fall Convocation is Denine Peterson, who is earning a Bachelor of Education degree with Great Distinction. Denine will receive the President's Medal, which is awarded at each Convocation to a student receiving a first degree who has demonstrated academic excellence as well as leadership and commitment to extra-curricular activities.

This Fall's President's Distinguished Graduate Student Award will be shared by two deserving graduate students – a strong indication of the quality of our doctoral graduates. Dr. Amber Fletcher, who graduated in Spring 2014 with a Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies, and Dr. Darryl Hunter, who graduates with a Doctor of Philosophy in Education at Fall Convocation, will be the two recipients of the award.

Fall Convocation is also the time when we bestow an honorary degree on a worthy recipient. I am pleased to announce that this Fall's honouree is Malcolm Lowe, Concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO).

Malcolm is closely connected to our province and the University of Regina. He moved to Regina with his family from Hamiota, Manitoba at age nine, when his father was hired to teach at the University's Conservatory of Performing Arts. Soon after, Malcolm began taking violin lessons at the Conservatory from the inimitable Dr. Howard Leyton-Brown. After nine years studying with Dr. Leyton-Brown, Malcolm then studied under a series of influential teachers in Philadelphia and New York State.

Malcolm served as Concertmaster of the Regina Symphony Orchestra in 1975-1976, and of the Quebec Symphony from 1977-1983. After a season as Concertmaster of the Worcester (Massachusetts) Symphony, he successfully auditioned for the prestigious post of Concertmaster of the BSO, where he has served since 1984. Malcolm is one of the most distinguished graduates of our Conservatory programs, and a shining example of the quality of education our students receive on our College Avenue campus. It will be a pleasure to see him receive an honorary doctor of fine arts degree.

Only a few days after the Fall Convocation, we will honour this year's most distinguished alumni at the 2014 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards. The 10th annual celebration will be held on October 22 at the Conexus Arts Centre. Again this year, we will be honouring five extraordinary University of Regina alumni who after graduating from our University have continued to make important contributions in Saskatchewan and beyond.

This year's Alumni Crowning Achievement Award recipients are:

- Leonard Schein MA'73, Lifetime Achievement Award;
- Dr. Barry Pittendrigh BSc (Hons)'90, Luther College, Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement;
- Sel Murray BA (Hons)'74, BSW'76, Award for Distinguished Humanitarian and Community Service;
- Sean McEachern BEd'03, Dr. Robert & Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service; and
- Courtney Keith BA'04, Champion College, Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

These five individuals are outstanding representatives of the more than 64,000 University of Regina alumni who live in every corner of the globe, are involved in every imaginable enterprise, and contribute in meaningful ways to make ours a better world. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner program begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.uregina.ca/external/alumni-relations/events/aaa/celebration.html>.

On behalf of everyone at the University of Regina, congratulations to our Alumni Crowning Achievement Award recipients, and to all of our graduates and honourees who will be recognized at Convocation. Your achievements make us proud and shine a positive light on our institution – and we look forward to seeing the wonderful contributions you will continue to make in our community, throughout our province, and around the world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor

