



Memorial
University of Newfoundland

CONVOCATION

October 2011

CORNER BROOK



O CANADA

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.

*God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

O Canada! Terre de nos aïeux
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits!

*Et ta valeur, de foi trempée
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.*

ODE TO NEWFOUNDLAND

When sun rays crown thy pine-clad hills,
And Summer spreads her hand,
When silvern voices tune thy rills,
We love thee smiling land.
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee, smiling land.

When spreads thy cloak of shimm'ring white,
At Winter's stern command,
Through shortened day and starlit night,
We love thee, frozen land.
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee, frozen land.

When blinding storm gusts fret thy shore,
And wild waves lash thy strand,
Through sprindrift swirl and tempest roar,
We love thee, wind-swept land.
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee, wind-swept land.

As loved our fathers, so we love,
Where once they stood we stand.
Their prayers we raise to Heaven above:
God guard thee, Newfoundland!
God guard thee, God guard thee,
God guard thee, Newfoundland.



MEMORIAL'S MISSION

Memorial University is an inclusive community dedicated to creativity, innovation and excellence in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and to public engagement and service. We recognize our special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Memorial welcomes students and scholars from all over the world and contributes knowledge and shares expertise locally, nationally, and internationally.

For more information on Memorial's plans and activities, view the Strategic Plan at www.mun.ca/strategicplanning and the *President's Report 2010* at www.mun.ca/2010report.

Official Visitor to the University
His Honour the Honourable John C. Crosbie, P.C., O.C., O.N.L., Q.C., B.A.(Hons.), LL.B., LL.D.
Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador

FALL CONVOCATION
Corner Brook
October 7, 2011

PRESIDING OFFICERS

General Rick J. Hillier (Retired), C.M.M., M.S.C., C.D., B.Sc.
Chancellor

Gary Kachanoski, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.Sc., Ph.D.
President and Vice-Chancellor

David M. Wardlaw, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Provost/Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor

VICE-PRESIDENT (GRENFELL CAMPUS)

Mary Bluehardt, B.P.H.E., M.Sc., Ph.D.

UNIVERSITY MARSHAL

Chris Sharpe, B.A.(Hons.), M.A., Ph.D.

MARSHALS

B. Paul Wilson, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed., Ed.D.

Ed Andrews, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Sc.

Matthew Janes, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

Glenn Collins, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Sc.

REGISTRAR (GRENFELL CAMPUS)

Sharon Noftall-Bennett, B.S.W., M.Ed.

ORATOR

Holly Pike, B.A.(Hons.), M.A., Ph.D.

MACE BEARER

Carolyn Parsons, B.B.A., M.Ed.

PIANIST

Gary Graham, O.N.L., L.Mus., B.Mus., B.A.(Mus.)

TRUMPETER

Darren Hancock

This ceremony is the first of four sessions of Memorial University's Fall Convocation 2011.

While most students receiving their degrees at this session have completed their programs of study at Grenfell Campus, a number have completed programs offered at other campuses or through distance education.

For the purposes of publicly celebrating the success of our students and updating university marketing materials, Memorial University's photographer will take photos of the Convocation ceremony and capture candid shots before the ceremony and during the reception. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this activity, please contact the Convocation co-ordinator, Paula Eddy-Shea, at (709) 864-3990 or paulaes@mun.ca.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

Other university officials participating in the Convocation ceremony may include:

Mr. Robert Simmonds
Chairman, Board of Regents

Dr. Christopher Loomis
Vice-President (Research)

Mr. Kent Decker
Vice-President (Administration and Finance)

Dr. Doreen Neville
Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Dr. Grant Gardner
Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Dr. Ray Gosine
Associate Vice-President (Research)

Dr. William Iams
Associate Vice-President (Grenfell Campus) (Academic)

Dr. Ivan Emke
Associate Vice-President (Grenfell Campus) (Research)

Mr. Gary Bradshaw
**Associate Vice-President (Grenfell Campus)
(Administration and Finance)**

Dr. Lisa Rankin
Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts

Dr. Wilfred Zerbe
Dean, Faculty of Business Administration

Dr. Kirk Anderson
Dean, Faculty of Education

Dr. Ramachandran Venkatesan
**Dean Pro Tempore
Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science**

Dr. James Rourke
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Mark Abrahams
Dean, Faculty of Science

Dr. Noreen Golfman
Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Dr. Ellen Waterman
Dean, School of Music

Dr. Judith McFetridge-Durdle
Dean, School of Nursing

Dr. Linda Hensman
Dean, School of Pharmacy

Dr. Antony Card
Dean, School of Human Kinetics and Recreation

Dr. Alean Al-Krenawi
Dean, School of Social Work

Dr. Robert Shea
Dean Pro Tempore, Student Affairs and Services

Mr. Glenn Blackwood
Executive Director, Marine Institute

Ms. Mary Sparkes
Co-ordinator of Student Services, Grenfell Campus

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The Academic Procession heralds Convocation, the most significant gathering of the university community.

The Academic Procession will enter the hall at ten o'clock in the morning.

The audience is requested to stand while the Procession enters and leaves the hall, during the anthems, and at other times as noted in the Proceedings.

Entering the hall, the Procession may include:

Marshal

Students

Staff

Faculty

Marshal

Members of the Board of Regents

Professores Emeriti

Honorary Graduates

University Marshal

Heads

Directors

Student Leaders

Honorary Graduated

Orator

University Registrar

Registrar (Grenfell Campus)

Associate Deans

Deans

Associate Vice-Presidents

Vice-Presidents

Representative(s) of Provincial Government Cabinet

Chairman, Board of Regents

Heads of Sister Institutions

President and Vice-Chancellor

Mace-Bearer

Chancellor

**Lieutenant Governor, the Official Visitor to
the University**

While the order and composition of the Procession generally remains the same for each session of Convocation, certain officials may not attend all ceremonies.

PROCESSIONAL

Ceremonial Music, Opus 62; Michael Parker, Composer

ANTHEM *O Canada*

THE CHANCELLOR WILL DECLARE CONVOCATION OPEN

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Gary Kachanoski, President and Vice-Chancellor

REPORT TO CONVOCATION

Mary Bluehardt, Vice-President (Grenfell Campus)

CONFERRING OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

The Registrar (Grenfell Campus) will present the candidates

The Chancellor will confer the degrees

The Vice-President (Grenfell Campus) will place the hoods

CONFERRING OF GRADUATE DEGREES

The Registrar (Grenfell Campus) will present the candidates

The Chancellor will confer the degrees

The Vice-President (Grenfell Campus) will place the hoods

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY GRADUAND

Holly Pike, University Orator

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE UPON

Kevin Gerald Edward Major

The Degree of Doctor of Letters

DR. MAJOR WILL SIGN THE REGISTER AND ADDRESS CONVOCATION

THE CHANCELLOR WILL DECLARE CONVOCATION CLOSED

ANTHEM *The Ode to Newfoundland*

RECESSIONAL

Ceremonial Music, Opus 62; Michael Parker, Composer

Reception:
Arts and Culture Centre, Main Lobby

The academic dress for matriculated undergraduates of the university shall be similar to the scholar's gown of the University of Oxford. It shall be worn whenever the president so directs.

The gowns of the Bachelors shall be of black stuff. The gowns of the Masters shall be of black stuff or silk. The gowns of the Doctors shall be of fine scarlet cloth or silk, or of black stuff or silk.

The pattern of the Bachelor's gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Bachelor's gown. The pattern of the Master's gown and the Doctor's black gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Master's gown, except that the Doctor's gown shall have an edging of black silk braid at the opening of the sleeve. The Doctor's scarlet gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Doctor of Divinity's gown.

The hoods of the Bachelors shall be made of black stuff, the hoods of the Masters of black silk, and the hoods of the Doctors of scarlet silk. They shall be full in shape and lined with the university colours of claret and white. The hoods of the Bachelors shall be trimmed with white fur, the tippets with velvet in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree. The hoods and tippets of the Masters shall be edged with velvet in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree. The hoods and tippets of the Doctors shall be edged with silk in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree; however, the hood of the Doctor of Philosophy shall be of claret silk, lined and edged with claret silk.

The University hood, designed to be worn by representatives of Memorial participating in official ceremonies, shall be made of black stuff and lined and edged with claret and white silk.

The distinctive colours for the degrees shall be:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| B.A., M.A., B.A. (Police Studies) | White |
| B.B.A., B.Comm., B.Comm.(Co-op.), I.B.B.A., M.B.A., M.O.G.S..... | Tan |
| B.Ed., B.Ed.(Elementary), B.Ed.(Intermediate/Secondary), B.Ed.(Native and Northern), B.Ed.(Primary), B.Ed.(Post-secondary), B.Ed.(Primary/Elementary), B.Mus.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., B.Voc.Ed., M.Ed. | Light Blue |
| B.Eng., M.Eng. | Orange |
| B.F.A.(Theatre), B.F.A.(Visual Arts) | Amethyst |
| B.Kin., B.Kin.(Co-op.), B.P.E., B.P.E.(Co-op.), B.Rec., B.Rec.(Co-op.), M.P.E., M.Sc.(Kinesiology) | Sage Green |
| B.M.S., B.Tech., M.M.S.(Fisheries Resource Management) | Navy Blue |
| B.Mus., M.Mus. | Pink |
| B.N., M.N. | Coral |
| B.R.M. | Citron |
| B.Sc., M.A.S., M.A.Sc., M.A.S.P.(Co-op.), M.Env.Sc., M.Sc. | Gold |
| B.Sc.(Pharmacy), M.Sc.(Pharmacy) | Clover |
| B.S.W., M.S.W. | Ruby Gem |
| M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc.(Medicine) | Green |
| M.E.R. | Chocolate Brown |
| M.Phil., Ph.D. | Claret |
| M.W.S. | Purple |

The caps of Bachelors and Masters shall be black and of the square shape, with black tassel. The caps of the Doctors shall be similar to the Oxford Doctor's bonnet.

The academic dress for the Officers of the University shall be as follows:

Chancellor – a silk gown heavily embroidered with gold braid

Vice-Chancellor – a silk gown embroidered with gold braid

Pro Vice-Chancellor – a silk gown embroidered with gold braid

University Registrar and other Officers of the University – gowns of a pattern approved by Senate

HONORARY DEGREE

Candidates for honorary degrees may be nominated by any member of the community to the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial which, after due consideration, forwards its recommendations to Senate for approval.

To be considered for an honorary degree, candidates must normally have been benefactors of the university, or persons who have achieved eminence in learning or in the arts, or those who have otherwise distinguished themselves by outstanding public service.



KEVIN MAJOR

For his writing and for his contributions to Memorial University, Kevin Major will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree during Fall Convocation at the Grenfell Campus session.

Mr. Major was born and grew up in Stephenville, N.L. He graduated from Memorial University and then taught school for a number of years. Since 1989 he has been a full-time writer.

He is the author of 16 books, for both young people and adults. The first, *Hold Fast*, published in 1978, won several awards in Canada, including the Governor General's Award for Children's Literature, and was placed on the Hans Christian Andersen Honour List.

The second, *Far From Shore*, was the winner of the first Canadian Young Adult Book Award. Others which followed include *Blood Red Ochre* and *Eating Between the Lines*, which was winner of the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians Book of the Year Award.

In 1992 Mr. Major was given the Vicky Metcalf Award for an outstanding body of work of significance to young people.

The languages into which his work has been translated include French, Danish, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Hebrew.

An adult novel, *No Man's Land*, about the Newfoundland Regiment in the First World War, was published in 1995. Mr. Major adapted it for the stage, and it has been performed each summer for the past 10 years by Rising Tide Theatre during their summer festival in Trinity.

His more recent books include the Christmas classic *The House of Wooden Santas*, and a history of Newfoundland and Labrador, *As Near To Heaven By Sea*, a Canadian best-seller and finalist for the Pearson Non-Fiction Prize.

His latest adult novel, *New Under the Sun*, was released by Cormorant Books in 2010.

In 1997, Mr. Major was named Memorial University's Alumnus of the Year, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council's Artist of the Year.

In June of 1950 Memorial University held its first Convocation, which was a fairly simple affair. Led by Engineering Dr. Jack Facey (who would later perform the role of Convocation marshal for 46 years), the students and faculty moved from the Parade Street campus across to St. Patrick's Hall School for the conferring of undergraduate degrees. The university presented its first graduate degrees in May 1956 and its first honorary degree in May 1960.

The ceremony for that first honorary degree, presented to Monnie Mansfield, who had been Memorial's registrar for 30 years, served as a dress rehearsal for the most elaborate Convocation the university has ever held – that for the opening of the Elizabeth Avenue campus in October 1961. Overseeing the arrangements were Dr. Facey as the marshal of Convocation, responsible for the organization, direction and decorum of the occasion, and Dr. G.M. Story as the public orator, responsible for the delivery of the orations about the honorary graduands, a special feature of Memorial's Convocations. Nineteen honorary degrees were conferred on a galaxy of dignitaries local, national and international. That day the public orator and his deputy each had to deliver as many as 10 orations, each a concise but rhetorically lively account of the rationale for conferring the degree.

From 1961 to 1968 Convocation was held in the gymnasium of the Physical Education Building. With the opening of the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre, Memorial in effect acquired a new Convocation hall, which became the regular site of the ceremonies after 1970. Designed partially on the ideas of then-Premier Joseph Smallwood, the back of the stage with its descending staircase was developed specifically for Memorial's Convocation. Fall Convocation was inaugurated in 1970 to accommodate increasing numbers of graduates and to support the three-semester academic calendar.

In May 1992, 23 graduates received degrees in the first regular session of Convocation held at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial's Corner

Brook campus (now Grenfell Campus). The ceremonial trappings of Convocation began to be developed in the early 1960s. Our academic robes are based on those of Oxford University. The silver mace – the symbol of the university's authority and the presence of which signals the official opening of Convocation – and the marshals' staves were donated by Chancellor Lord Thomson in 1961. The original chancellor's chair and a lectern were presented in 1963 by then-Lieutenant Governor Campbell Macpherson. Other complementary birch wood furniture pieces were subsequently commissioned from the St. John's firm of Clarmanis and Son Ltd.; the chairs bear the university's coat of arms, hand carved and painted bas-relief. The signing table, gift of the former marshal Dr. Jack Facey, was added in 1996.

In 2002 plans were made to create a second Convocation furniture suite so that a complete set would permanently reside at each of the St. John's and Corner Brook campuses. The design of the new suite, intended to reflect the culture and traditions of the province, was undertaken by retired Memorial University designer Ian Stewart; Paterson Woodworking of Upper Amherst Cove was commissioned to construct the set. The first piece completed in this suite, a black walnut Convocation table with a fish-splitting table motif, was presented by then-Lieutenant Governor Edward Roberts in 2003. The kneeler was donated in 2005 by honorary graduate Alan Perry. Hon. Dr. Roberts and his brother Douglas Roberts sponsored the signing table and bench, completed in 2005, as well as the chancellor's chair and the four companion chairs, which were completed in 2006. They also donated the two speaker's lecterns, which were completed in 2007. The Roberts' contributions to the suite of furniture were undertaken in memory of their father, Dr. Harry D. Roberts, a graduate of Memorial University College ('31), an honorary graduate of Memorial University and for many years a member of the Board of Regents.

In 2009, on the occasion of the 100th regular session of Convocation, composer and retired professor of classics at Grenfell Campus, Dr. Michael Parker, was commissioned to create a special suite of music for Convocation ceremonies. The suite premiered at Spring Convocation 2009 and is dedicated to the late Ferriss Hodgett, vice-principal of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, 1975-1992.

The desire to share the ceremonies beyond the audience seated in the Convocation hall led to television coverage of the ceremonies beginning in the 1970s and, more recently, web-casting (by the university's Distance Education, Learning and Teaching Support unit) which virtually brings the ceremony to the whole world via the university web site at www.mun.ca. Other university units that play a role in Convocation include the Office of the Registrar and the School of Graduate Studies, which ensure that students have completed their programs and are certified for their degrees; the Division of Marketing and Communications, which coordinates the logistics of this special event and assists the graduands with preparations for the ceremony and the celebrations surrounding it; and the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, which welcomes graduates into the Memorial University Alumni Association.

Convocation has been a day of pride for thousands of students and more than 500 honorary graduates, resulting in more than 70,000 alumni members worldwide. While our Convocation, as a ceremonial occasion, has grown from the practices and procedures of older universities, after more than half a century it has become a distinctive event for all who attend, be they distinguished guests or faculty, honorary graduates or our students who are, as they should be, the focus of the event.



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MACE BEARER

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PIANIST

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Vice-President (Administration and Finance)

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Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Dr. Grant Gardner
Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Dr. Ray Gosine
Associate Vice-President (Research)

Dr. William Iams
Associate Vice-President (Grenfell Campus) (Academic)

Dr. Ivan Emke
Associate Vice-President (Grenfell Campus) (Research)

Mr. Gary Bradshaw
**Associate Vice-President (Grenfell Campus)
(Administration and Finance)**

Dr. Lisa Rankin
Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts

Dr. Wilfred Zerbe
Dean, Faculty of Business Administration

Dr. Kirk Anderson
Dean, Faculty of Education

Dr. Ramachandran Venkatesan
**Dean Pro Tempore
Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science**

Dr. James Rourke
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Mark Abrahams
Dean, Faculty of Science

Dr. Noreen Golfman
Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Dr. Ellen Waterman
Dean, School of Music

Dr. Judith McFetridge-Durdle
Dean, School of Nursing

Dr. Linda Hensman
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Dr. Alean Al-Krenawi
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Students

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Members of the Board of Regents

Professores Emeriti

Honorary Graduates

University Marshal

Heads

Directors

Student Leaders

Honorary Graduand

Orator

University Registrar

Registrar (Grenfell Campus)

Associate Deans

Deans

Associate Vice-Presidents

Vice-Presidents

Representative(s) of Provincial Government Cabinet

Chairman, Board of Regents

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President and Vice-Chancellor

Mace-Bearer

Chancellor

**Lieutenant Governor, the Official Visitor to
the University**

While the order and composition of the Procession generally remains the same for each session of Convocation, certain officials may not attend all ceremonies.

PROCESSIONAL

Ceremonial Music, Opus 62; Michael Parker, Composer

ANTHEM *O Canada*

THE CHANCELLOR WILL DECLARE CONVOCATION OPEN

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Gary Kachanoski, President and Vice-Chancellor

REPORT TO CONVOCATION

Mary Bluehardt, Vice-President (Grenfell Campus)

CONFERRING OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

The Registrar (Grenfell Campus) will present the candidates

The Chancellor will confer the degrees

The Vice-President (Grenfell Campus) will place the hoods

CONFERRING OF GRADUATE DEGREES

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PRESENTATION OF HONORARY GRADUAND

Holly Pike, University Orator

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE UPON

Kevin Gerald Edward Major

The Degree of Doctor of Letters

DR. MAJOR WILL SIGN THE REGISTER AND ADDRESS CONVOCATION

THE CHANCELLOR WILL DECLARE CONVOCATION CLOSED

ANTHEM *The Ode to Newfoundland*

RECESSIONAL

Ceremonial Music, Opus 62; Michael Parker, Composer

Reception:
Arts and Culture Centre, Main Lobby

The academic dress for matriculated undergraduates of the university shall be similar to the scholar's gown of the University of Oxford. It shall be worn whenever the president so directs.

The gowns of the Bachelors shall be of black stuff. The gowns of the Masters shall be of black stuff or silk. The gowns of the Doctors shall be of fine scarlet cloth or silk, or of black stuff or silk.

The pattern of the Bachelor's gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Bachelor's gown. The pattern of the Master's gown and the Doctor's black gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Master's gown, except that the Doctor's gown shall have an edging of black silk braid at the opening of the sleeve. The Doctor's scarlet gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Doctor of Divinity's gown.

The hoods of the Bachelors shall be made of black stuff, the hoods of the Masters of black silk, and the hoods of the Doctors of scarlet silk. They shall be full in shape and lined with the university colours of claret and white. The hoods of the Bachelors shall be trimmed with white fur, the tippets with velvet in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree. The hoods and tippets of the Masters shall be edged with velvet in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree. The hoods and tippets of the Doctors shall be edged with silk in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree; however, the hood of the Doctor of Philosophy shall be of claret silk, lined and edged with claret silk.

The University hood, designed to be worn by representatives of Memorial participating in official ceremonies, shall be made of black stuff and lined and edged with claret and white silk.

The distinctive colours for the degrees shall be:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| B.A., M.A., B.A. (Police Studies) | White |
| B.B.A., B.Comm., B.Comm.(Co-op.), I.B.B.A., M.B.A., M.O.G.S..... | Tan |
| B.Ed., B.Ed.(Elementary), B.Ed.(Intermediate/Secondary), B.Ed.(Native and Northern), B.Ed.(Primary), B.Ed.(Post-secondary), B.Ed.(Primary/Elementary), B.Mus.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., B.Voc.Ed., M.Ed. | Light Blue |
| B.Eng., M.Eng. | Orange |
| B.F.A.(Theatre), B.F.A.(Visual Arts) | Amethyst |
| B.Kin., B.Kin.(Co-op.), B.P.E., B.P.E.(Co-op.), B.Rec., B.Rec.(Co-op.), M.P.E., M.Sc.(Kinesiology) | Sage Green |
| B.M.S., B.Tech., M.M.S.(Fisheries Resource Management) | Navy Blue |
| B.Mus., M.Mus. | Pink |
| B.N., M.N. | Coral |
| B.R.M. | Citron |
| B.Sc., M.A.S., M.A.Sc., M.A.S.P.(Co-op.), M.Env.Sc., M.Sc. | Gold |
| B.Sc.(Pharmacy), M.Sc.(Pharmacy) | Clover |
| B.S.W., M.S.W | Ruby Gem |
| M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc.(Medicine) | Green |
| M.E.R. | Chocolate Brown |
| M.Phil., Ph.D. | Claret |
| M.W.S. | Purple |

The caps of Bachelors and Masters shall be black and of the square shape, with black tassel. The caps of the Doctors shall be similar to the Oxford Doctor's bonnet.

The academic dress for the Officers of the University shall be as follows:

Chancellor – a silk gown heavily embroidered with gold braid

Vice-Chancellor – a silk gown embroidered with gold braid

Pro Vice-Chancellor – a silk gown embroidered with gold braid

University Registrar and other Officers of the University – gowns of a pattern approved by Senate

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KEVIN MAJOR

For his writing and for his contributions to Memorial University, Kevin Major will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree during Fall Convocation at the Grenfell Campus session.

Mr. Major was born and grew up in Stephenville, N.L. He graduated from Memorial University and then taught school for a number of years. Since 1989 he has been a full-time writer.

He is the author of 16 books, for both young people and adults. The first, *Hold Fast*, published in 1978, won several awards in Canada, including the Governor General's Award for Children's Literature, and was placed on the Hans Christian Andersen Honour List.

The second, *Far From Shore*, was the winner of the first Canadian Young Adult Book Award. Others which followed include *Blood Red Ochre* and *Eating Between the Lines*, which was winner of the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians Book of the Year Award.

In 1992 Mr. Major was given the Vicky Metcalf Award for an outstanding body of work of significance to young people.

The languages into which his work has been translated include French, Danish, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Hebrew.

An adult novel, *No Man's Land*, about the Newfoundland Regiment in the First World War, was published in 1995. Mr. Major adapted it for the stage, and it has been performed each summer for the past 10 years by Rising Tide Theatre during their summer festival in Trinity.

His more recent books include the Christmas classic *The House of Wooden Santas*, and a history of Newfoundland and Labrador, *As Near To Heaven By Sea*, a Canadian best-seller and finalist for the Pearson Non-Fiction Prize.

His latest adult novel, *New Under the Sun*, was released by Cormorant Books in 2010.

In 1997, Mr. Major was named Memorial University's Alumnus of the Year, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council's Artist of the Year.

In June of 1950 Memorial University held its first Convocation, which was a fairly simple affair. Led by Engineering Dr. Jack Facey (who would later perform the role of Convocation marshal for 46 years), the students and faculty moved from the Parade Street campus across to St. Patrick's Hall School for the conferring of undergraduate degrees. The university presented its first graduate degrees in May 1956 and its first honorary degree in May 1960.

The ceremony for that first honorary degree, presented to Monnie Mansfield, who had been Memorial's registrar for 30 years, served as a dress rehearsal for the most elaborate Convocation the university has ever held – that for the opening of the Elizabeth Avenue campus in October 1961. Overseeing the arrangements were Dr. Facey as the marshal of Convocation, responsible for the organization, direction and decorum of the occasion, and Dr. G.M. Story as the public orator, responsible for the delivery of the orations about the honorary graduands, a special feature of Memorial's Convocations. Nineteen honorary degrees were conferred on a galaxy of dignitaries local, national and international. That day the public orator and his deputy each had to deliver as many as 10 orations, each a concise but rhetorically lively account of the rationale for conferring the degree.

From 1961 to 1968 Convocation was held in the gymnasium of the Physical Education Building. With the opening of the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre, Memorial in effect acquired a new Convocation hall, which became the regular site of the ceremonies after 1970. Designed partially on the ideas of then-Premier Joseph Smallwood, the back of the stage with its descending staircase was developed specifically for Memorial's Convocation. Fall Convocation was inaugurated in 1970 to accommodate increasing numbers of graduates and to support the three-semester academic calendar.

In May 1992, 23 graduates received degrees in the first regular session of Convocation held at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial's Corner

Brook campus (now Grenfell Campus). The ceremonial trappings of Convocation began to be developed in the early 1960s. Our academic robes are based on those of Oxford University. The silver mace—the symbol of the university's authority and the presence of which signals the official opening of Convocation—and the marshals' staves were donated by Chancellor Lord Thomson in 1961. The original chancellor's chair and a lectern were presented in 1963 by then-Lieutenant Governor Campbell Macpherson. Other complementary birch wood furniture pieces were subsequently commissioned from the St. John's firm of Clarmanis and Son Ltd.; the chairs bear the university's coat of arms, hand carved and painted bas-relief. The signing table, gift of the former marshal Dr. Jack Facey, was added in 1996.

In 2002 plans were made to create a second Convocation furniture suite so that a complete set would permanently reside at each of the St. John's and Corner Brook campuses. The design of the new suite, intended to reflect the culture and traditions of the province, was undertaken by retired Memorial University designer Ian Stewart; Paterson Woodworking of Upper Amherst Cove was commissioned to construct the set. The first piece completed in this suite, a black walnut Convocation table with a fish-splitting table motif, was presented by then-Lieutenant Governor Edward Roberts in 2003. The kneeler was donated in 2005 by honorary graduate Alan Perry. Hon. Dr. Roberts and his brother Douglas Roberts sponsored the signing table and bench, completed in 2005, as well as the chancellor's chair and the four companion chairs, which were completed in 2006. They also donated the two speaker's lecterns, which were completed in 2007. The Roberts' contributions to the suite of furniture were undertaken in memory of their father, Dr. Harry D. Roberts, a graduate of Memorial University College ('31), an honorary graduate of Memorial University and for many years a member of the Board of Regents.

In 2009, on the occasion of the 100th regular session of Convocation, composer and retired professor of classics at Grenfell Campus, Dr. Michael Parker, was commissioned to create a special suite of music for Convocation ceremonies. The suite premiered at Spring Convocation 2009 and is dedicated to the late Ferriss Hodgett, vice-principal of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, 1975-1992.

The desire to share the ceremonies beyond the audience seated in the Convocation hall led to television coverage of the ceremonies beginning in the 1970s and, more recently, web-casting (by the university's Distance Education, Learning and Teaching Support unit) which virtually brings the ceremony to the whole world via the university web site at www.mun.ca. Other university units that play a role in Convocation include the Office of the Registrar and the School of Graduate Studies, which ensure that students have completed their programs and are certified for their degrees; the Division of Marketing and Communications, which coordinates the logistics of this special event and assists the graduands with preparations for the ceremony and the celebrations surrounding it; and the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, which welcomes graduates into the Memorial University Alumni Association.

Convocation has been a day of pride for thousands of students and more than 500 honorary graduates, resulting in more than 70,000 alumni members worldwide. While our Convocation, as a ceremonial occasion, has grown from the practices and procedures of older universities, after more than half a century it has become a distinctive event for all who attend, be they distinguished guests or faculty, honorary graduates or our students who are, as they should be, the focus of the event.