

**Fall Convocation**  
**St. John's, October 25, 2013**  
**This is the consolidated text of the Reports to Convocations delivered in**  
**St. John's by Dr. Gary Kachanoski, President and Vice-chancellor**

---

Welcome to fall convocation.

We are so pleased that you have joined us this morning for what is always a special time in the life of a university, a time when we celebrate the success of our students.

So, of course, a special welcome and congratulations to our graduating students.

Graduands, convocation is a time for your personal reflection and celebration, a time to recognize your talents, years of study and hard work. We hope when you look back at this time in your lives you will see it as a time of transformation, a time when you discovered your own special gifts, your own ingenuity and your own passion for learning.

You walked into this hall today as students who have successfully completed the requirements for your degrees. You will leave as graduates of Memorial University, as alumni, joining a family of almost 80,000 strong.

I know that your parents, families, friends and professors all played a supporting role in your success, and they are all here to cheer your success. But make no mistake – ultimately it was your dedication, hard work and talent that brought you here today, so congratulations.

---

## Honorary Degree Recipients:

We are joined on stage by special guests whom we are all pleased will soon join the ranks of those named as honorary graduates of Memorial University.

I am speaking of Thomas Alexander Hickman – a man who was responsible for major changes in the administration of justice in Newfoundland and Labrador.

He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree in recognition of his service and the contributions he has made as a lawyer, as a former minister of justice and attorney general, and as chief justice of the Supreme Court of the province, which places him in the top ranks of the legal profession in this country. We will hear more about and from Mr. Hickman later.

I am also speaking of Captain Sid Hynes, marine industry and community leader and currently executive chairman of Oceanex Inc. Through his inspiring vision and accomplishments he has made an important and positive difference in a very complex and competitive industry.

He recognizes the great potential in Newfoundland and Labrador and is active in fostering continued growth and prosperity.

He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree in recognition of his outstanding contribution as a pioneer and innovator in the development and evolution of the marine industry in this province, which is without parallel. We will hear more about and from Captain Hynes later.

---

Professores *emeriti*:

We are also pleased to welcome Drs. David Bell, Gordon Jones, Ronald Rompkey, Lan Gien, Shannon Ryan and Steven Wolinetz who will join the ranks of distinguished faculty members named as *professores emeriti* of Memorial University.

Our *professores emeriti* have given their academic, scholarly and professional lives in service to Memorial University's mission. They have inspired generations of students and helped build this fine institution.

On behalf of the entire Memorial University community, I offer sincere congratulations to them all. And you will be hearing a little more about them later as well.

I would also like to acknowledge and welcome the Board of Regents representative who joins us on stage this afternoon.

Ladies and gentlemen, every degree awarded today is the result of a personal journey requiring significant commitment and work, and is worthy of considerable accolades as an important milestone in each of our students lives.

In particular, however, I would like to acknowledge our doctoral graduating students here today. In addition to our Ph.D. graduands, we are pleased to welcome the first graduates of our new doctor of psychology program who are joining their Ph.D. peers for the first time.

The attainment of these degrees is a singular accomplishment – an extraordinary commitment of time, emotional energy, financial resources and the fulfillment of a life-long quest.

---

We have invited our Ph.D. and Psy. D. graduands to join the faculty on-stage as a small gesture of recognition, and I ask that you please join me in extending our congratulations to each and every one of them for their remarkable achievement.

Every year our students, faculty and staff amaze us with leadership and achievements above and beyond their required work that distinguishes them at a national and international level.

So just as we celebrate our graduating students, convocation is also a time for us to reflect on all of the accomplishments and successes we have experienced across the university that serve to bolster Memorial's reputation nationally and internationally.

Many of these exciting initiatives and accomplishments have been summarized throughout the year in the president's report, our *Gazette* publication, our *Research Matters* magazine, our alumni magazine, *Luminus*, and of course on our web site.

And I encourage you to learn more about the exceptional people at Memorial University, our faculty, staff, students and alumni, and what they all do as active engaged citizens to make the world a better place to live – safer, more prosperous, more interesting.

Of course, a key part of our success is the sustained and unwavering support from our partners. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community, municipal and private sector leaders, and other partners for their unwavering commitment and support of Memorial University.

---

And in particular, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary support of the provincial government for university education, and welcome the honourable minister who is representing the provincial government at this convocation session.

Minister, once again I extend my sincere thanks to you and your government for the continued tremendous support for Memorial.

Support from all of our partners ensures Memorial has the stability and the resources necessary to deliver on our mandate and achieve our vision to be one of the most distinguished public universities in Canada and beyond.

Our new vision is designed to underpin and inspire all of our activities on all of our campuses.

And together with our new frameworks in teaching and learning, research and public engagement, our new vision, mission and values reflect our global pursuit of excellence, while at the same time demonstrating the deep understanding of the university's importance to the province, and Memorial's responsibility to fulfill its special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Our vision, mission and core values paint a picture of who we were, who we are and what we aspire to become, and with continued support from our partners and the people of this great province, we are positioning Memorial University, and Newfoundland and Labrador, for great things to come.

I truly believe that even greater things are in store for Memorial.

Graduands, you have already had a role in this, and you have a role yet to come as alumni to help build that future.

---

You are about to write a new chapter in your lives, and just like your *Alma Mater*, I see tremendous success on the horizon for each of you.

This is your time to take to heart the responsibilities and privileges that come with your degree and make your mark in Newfoundland and Labrador, and across the country and the world.

As Lord Rothermere, Memorial's first chancellor, said at the opening of the then-new St. John's campus in 1961:

"The natural resources of Newfoundland are vital to her prosperity. But whatever the natural resources of a country might be – and we are blessed with many – the most important asset will always remain the ingenuity and skills of her citizens."

Graduands: your ingenuity, your talent – our collective future.

I know you'll do us proud.

Best wishes to each of you as you leave here today to begin the next adventures in your lives.

Thank you.

---