

# Campus. Connection

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Mount Saint Vincent University

Convocation Spring 1989

## Mount celebrates sixty-second Convocation



*Mount Chancellor Sr. Louise Bray confers a Bachelor of Public Relations degree on co-operative education graduate Amy Thurlow, valedictorian at May 12 afternoon Convocation ceremonies.*

Mount Saint Vincent University celebrated its 62nd Convocation on May 11 and 12. Close to 500 students received degrees, diplomas and certificates conferred by Senate on Oct. 24, 1988 and May 8, 1989. Another 200 students received their degrees in absentia.

Convocation ceremonies marked the culmination of a Grad Week which included

the traditional Grad Ball, Halifax harbor cruise, Home Economics Yellow Rose and Professional Induction Ceremony, and Baccalaureate Mass. Newer traditions include the ceremony for graduates' children, the MANUS (Mount Association of Non-Traditional University Students) banquet for graduating students, the sealing of a

*continued on page 8*

## President Hersom's report to Convocation

In her year-end report, delivered during Convocation ceremonies, Dr. Naomi Hersom described 1988-89 as "a coming-of-age year" for the Mount. "It is the first year under a new Charter for the University, and the first time we welcome our new Chancellor in these ceremonies." She mentioned the Mount's agreement with the Nova Scotia Teachers College as another highlight.

She said that rapid change isn't new to the Mount, where total enrolment 25 years ago was about the size of this year's graduating class. She noted that in addition to adapting and adjusting to changes in numbers, the Mount has developed new programs and strengthened teaching and research activities. "We would like the opportunity, however, of being inventive under less arduous circumstances," she added, referring to the recent Faculty Association strike and funding shortages.

She thanked the Mount community for pulling together, even through the difficult times, paying special tribute to the registrar's office for its role in making Spring '89 Convocation possible. She also thanked recently retired members of the Mount community, including Dr. Mairi Macdonald, Mary Moore Uhl, Mary O'Connor and Pat DeMont.

Dr. Hersom emphasized the Mount's outreach, through Distance University Education via Television (DUET) and off-campus courses like those in the Master of Education program in Reading Education under the leadership of education faculty member Dr. Andrew Manning.

"The Mount is not limited to this city or region, or even to this country. People come from many parts of the world to study here," she said, naming the Africa 2000 program, linkage programs with Nigeria and Malawi, development projects focusing on women, and last summer's Women and Economic Development conference as examples of the Mount's

international focus.

"The Mount is a pioneer in providing programs for women and in pushing at the frontiers of opportunity," said Dr. Hersom. She noted the role of the Centre for Continuing Education in making the Mount accessible to mature and part-time students, the development of Canada's first co-operative education program in dietetics, the research initiatives of the gerontology program, and the establishment of the new Jeanne Sauvé Chair for Women in Science.

The E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre, opening in October, is a sign of the Mount's physical growth, she said. "But all of this is not without its costs. We need help," she said, mentioning the recent launch of the Mount's Learning and Leading capital campaign.

Dr. Hersom assured graduates that the Mount will continue to develop initiatives, "just as we count on you to develop initiatives as you touch others through your lives; initiatives that will confront oppression and injustice everywhere; initiatives that will reflect the strength you have drawn from the education you have received here at the Mount."



Joan Kolane was valedictorian at morning convocation ceremonies, May 12.



Ruth Baxter (left) and Louise Ardenne (centre) receive the President's Prize from Dr. Naomi Hersom (right).



Rita Ingenmey, Governor General's Gold Medal recipient, poses with her proud family after Convocation ceremonies.

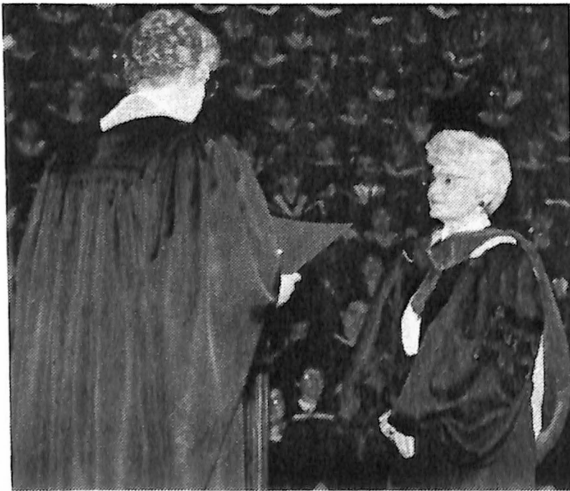


## Mount confers five honorary degrees

At Spring Convocation ceremonies May 11 and 12 the Mount conferred honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, on: educator Margaret Swan, feminist-philanthropist Nancy Jackman, sociologist and former Mount women's studies chair Thelma McCormack, the Honourable Rosalie Abella and businesswoman Sonja Bata. Swan, Jackman and Abella addressed the graduates.

*Inspirational words for teachers-in-the-making*

Margaret Swan began her address to education graduates by applauding the recent affiliation agreement between the Mount and the Nova Scotia Teachers College as "a major step in strengthening teacher education in the province."



Honorary degree recipient Margaret Swan

Swan, retiring principal of the Teachers College, noted that through the affiliation, "Teachers College students will gain from the Mount's academic strengths, while Mount students will avail themselves of some of the College's professional offerings." She predicted, "life hereafter for teacher candidates at both will be richer."

She reminded graduates that being a fine teacher takes both good training and intuitive understanding of students, and stressed the need to nurture in students, from elementary school through university, an ability to think critically. "How else can teachers help students deal with contemporary problems of AIDS, suicide, drug and alcohol damage, marriage breakdowns, greed, racial discrimination, cynicism."

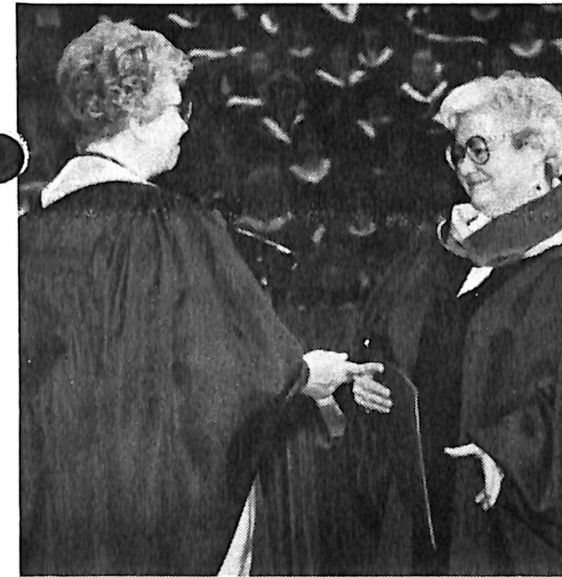
Swan noted in closing, "some jobs are confining, impersonal, with no heart or spirit -- but not teaching. Teaching allows the spirit to soar." She left graduates with the challenge, "every student has a right at least once in life to come within the influence of a great teacher."

*More to life than aspiring to the status quo*

"I feel special!"

With these words, Nancy Jackman, in typical flamboyant style, began her address to graduates. She spoke of her amazement and pride at having "joined the distinguished company of other women who are getting honorary degrees today." Yet, she confided, "there are other sides to me, beside this side of accomplishment," acknowledging insecurity and times of great struggle. "...And all of you here this morning know about struggling; the struggle of life, the struggle to complete your final exams."

She commented on graduates' struggle through the recent strike. "Always remember this experience of being disadvantaged. It will help you be aware and care for those who are less advantaged than you, less powerful than you." She paid tribute to graduates, faculty and administrators for all pulling through, noting that the commitment, culminating in Convocation, proves that the Mount is "a caring university."



Honorary degree recipient Nancy Jackman

Jackman noted the need to balance the desire for a good job and material rewards with higher aspirations. "This tension between wanting the status quo and knowing that we must move beyond it to save our planet, lies within us all."

Causing social, political, economic and spiritual change, she said, is "like learning to swim. You leave the dock slowly, stroke by stroke, where it's not too deep ... and in time you swim further and further until you're off -- across the Atlantic!"

"Be engaged in life, and care for the disadvantaged," Jackman concluded. "Trust and desire change, and don't be afraid of it. It's only a gap between things."

*"the first of your many glorious achievements"*

"The reviewing parade is over," the Honourable Rosalie Abella told graduates, "and now what is out there is complicated, simple, exhilarating, depressing, joyful, frustrating, magnetic, or mundane -- but always worth the effort!"

She assured graduates that "most of what you want will be possible. Take the

time now before you start the voyage to figure out where you want to end up and what you want to be like when you get there. Then work backwards from your vision and resist all barriers to it."

She complimented graduates at the Friday afternoon ceremony for choosing professions with a strong human component. To child study graduates "who have chosen to work with this country's most important product," she urged, "don't be shy about demanding recognition for the importance of your work." To gerontology graduates, she remarked, "the safety net your concern represents reflects our understanding that we do not, as civilized people, abandon those whose active service has ended, but we reward them with our genuine care for the service they have donated to us."

"To those in office administration, teach the men and women in your offices that they are part of a collaborative effort, that sensitive human relations are the keys to a healthy workplace."

She urged business and public relations graduates to "challenge the myth of economic insularity, and use your success to aid in the solutions your creativity and influence can develop."

Speaking to the broad range in ages of graduates and the audience, she summarized the experiences and values characterizing each decade following World War II. "If there is something to struggle for in the decades ahead, it is to continue the momentum towards fairness."

"The extent to which we are willing to rest on our rung or be prepared to make room for others to join or surpass us, is what will determine how fair and just our society will be."

In closing, Abella said, "both this generation and the next are counting on your example, and everything about your past indicates that you will perform magnificently. Thank you for the privilege of participating today in the first of your many glorious achievements."



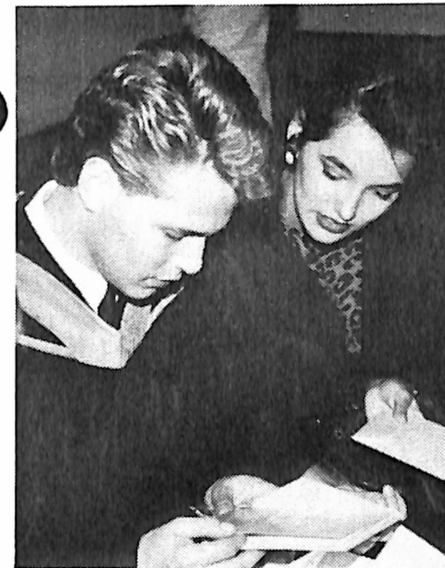
Shirley Power (left), president-elect of the Canadian Dietetic Association (CDA), presents a CDA professional pin to Carol Jean Butts, a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics graduate in the co-operative education program, at the Yellow Rose ceremony. Susan Roberts, co-operative education coordinator, looks on.



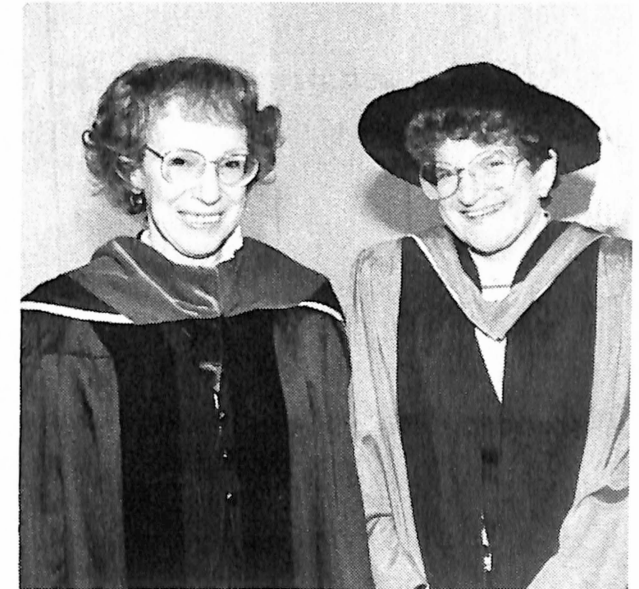
Honorary degree recipients Sonja Bata (left) and The Honourable Rosalie Abella



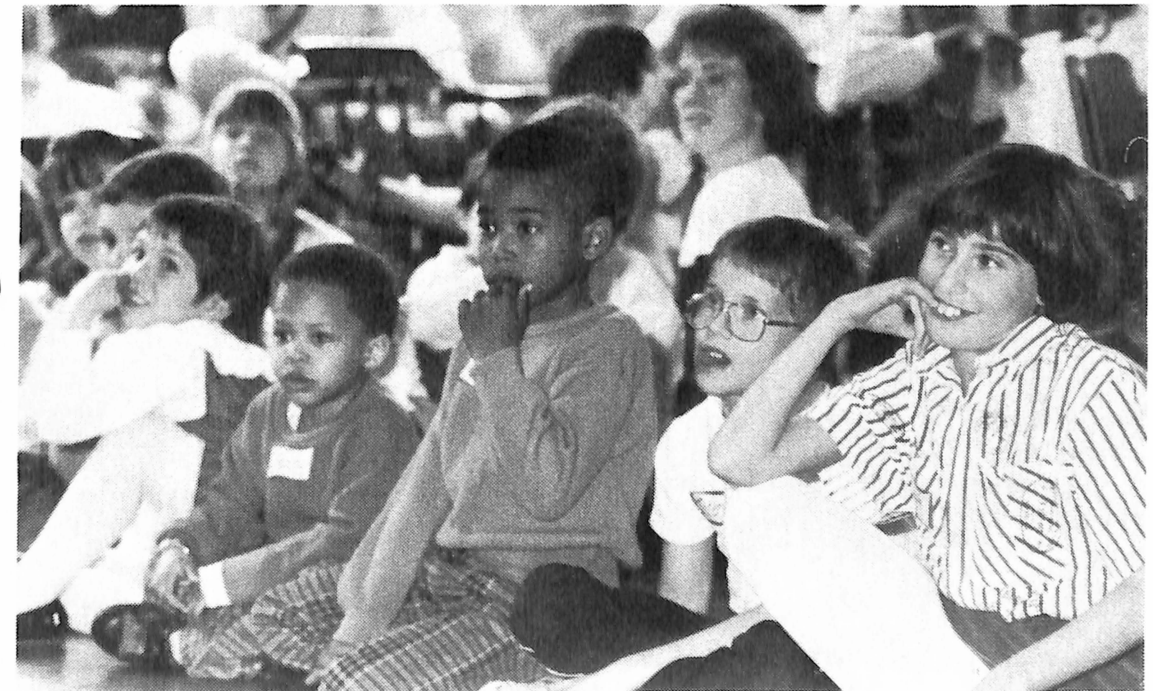
Barry Wheaton, religious studies department, was mace bearer for Spring Convocation ceremonies.



Tim Dorey, of Halifax, a Bachelor of Business Administration graduate, shares a special moment with a friend.



Honorary degree recipient Thelma McCormack (left), with Dr. Sheva Medjuck, sociology department.



The ceremony for graduates' children was a hit again this year.

*Convocation continued from page 1*  
time capsule and the presentation of a class gift. The Class of 1989 initiated a Graduating Class Bursary, with a gift to the university of \$200. It is hoped that future graduating classes will add to the fund.

The May 11 Convocation ceremony was the first official function at which Sr. Louise Bray presided as Chancellor. Sr. Bray, as Superior General of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, was named Chancellor of the Mount in its new charter last summer. She was introduced by Board of Governors chair, Dale Godsoe. The Most Reverend James M. Hayes, past chancellor and Archbishop of Halifax, presented the dedication to the new chancellor.

At the May 11 ceremony, undergraduate and graduate degrees were awarded in education, arts/education, science/education and home economics/education integrated programs. Dr. Judith Newman, education department, presented Margaret Swan as the honorary degree candidate. Dr. Swan, retiring principal of the Nova Scotia Teachers College, addressed the graduates. Valedictorian was Michelle Wilson of Riverview, N.B., who received a Bachelor of Education degree with distinction.

At Convocation ceremonies the following morning, graduates received bachelor degrees in arts, home economics and science, and honours certificates. Honorary degrees were conferred on feminist-philanthropist Nancy Jackman and sociologist Thelma McCormack. Jackman addressed the graduates. Citations for Jackman and McCormack were presented by Dr. Joyce Kennedy, assistant director of continuing education, and Dr. Sheva Medjuck, sociology department.

Valedictorian was Joan Kolane of England who received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics degree with distinction.

Friday afternoon ceremonies included certificates, diplomas and bachelor degrees

in business administration, child study, office administration and public relations. The Honourable Rosalie Abella, jurist, addressed the ceremony at which she and businesswoman Sonja Bata received honorary degrees. Bata was presented by Ann MacGillivray, business administration department, and Abella by Dr. Frances Early, women's studies department. Amy Thurlow of Digby, a Bachelor of Public Relations graduate in the co-operative education program, was afternoon valedictorian.

Two Governor General's Medals were presented for highest aggregate in the graduating class. Rita Ingenmey of Dartmouth, a Master of Arts in Education graduate, was awarded the Gold Medal. The Silver Medal was awarded to Michael Houlihan of Lower Sackville, who received a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology, with first-class honours.

President's prizes were awarded to: Louise Ardenne of Tantallon, who received a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction and highest aggregate; Ruth Baxter of Lower Sackville, also a Bachelor of Arts graduate; Bachelor of Home Economics graduates Heather Coffin and Christine Gallant, both of Halifax; Bachelor of Public Relations graduate Paul Card, Bedford; Bachelor of Business Administration graduate Catherine Gardin of Lower Sackville; and Bachelor of Education graduate Mary Anne Dow Grant, Milford Station.

Kappa Gamma Pi awards went to Joan Kolane of England, and to Natalie MacLean of Lower Sackville.

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