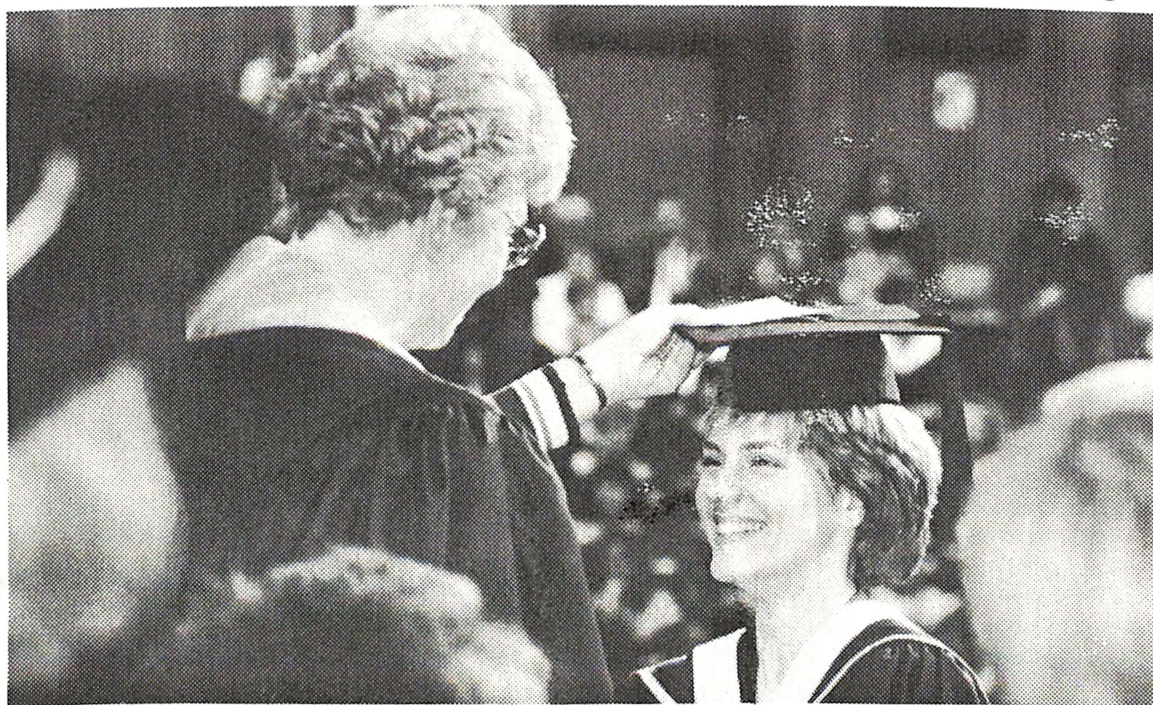


# Campus Connection

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Mount Saint Vincent University

Convocation Spring 1990



*Chancellor Sr. Louise Bray confers a Bachelor of Arts degree on Mary Spurr, who gave the afternoon valedictory address.*

## Convocation: 500 graduates celebrate

Five hundred students received degrees, diplomas and certificates at the Mount's Spring Convocation on May 11.

Convocation ceremonies marked the culmination of a busy Grad Week that included the Grad Ball, Home Economics Yellow Rose Ceremony, Baccalaureate Mass, and MANUS (Mount Association of Non-Traditional University Students) banquet for graduating students. A grad and faculty

wine and cheese party was also held, for the first time.

At morning Convocation ceremonies, graduates received certificates in business and gerontology; diplomas in business and office administration; and bachelor degrees in business administration, child study, public relations, office administration, home economics, and science in home economics.

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## President Hersom gives highlights of the year



President Naomi Hersom delivers her year-end report.

"We have come together today to rejoice in the accomplishments of the graduands and to acknowledge the achievements of the whole university near and far," Mount president Dr. Naomi Hersom began her year-end report delivered during Convocation ceremonies. "We are privileged to recognize the outstanding contributions made by the women who will be receiving honorary degrees...We welcome all of you present."

Dr. Hersom noted that Convocation is also a day of remembrance. "While we take great pride in the many ways we are fulfilling our mission as a university primarily dedicated to the education of women, we remember with deep sadness the fate of the women murdered in Montreal. Such a tragedy is a reminder that as a society we have yet to achieve the goal of ensuring, in words taken from Article 7 of the Convention on Human Rights, that: 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof...'"

She then proceeded to outline highlights of the past academic year. "Thanks to the support of the Government of Nova Scotia and other generous donors we have opened the E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre. The use of the library by students, faculty and members of the community has increased markedly; computing services have been improved; and our distance education facilities have been transformed. We are prepared to meet the changes coming in an age of information; are able to

participate globally in technology and research through such links as the Commonwealth of Learning; and are equipped to become actively engaged in networks of scholars and researchers which span geographical boundaries and dissolve the barriers of distance."

Dr. Hersom thanked Nancy Rowell Jackman and the Naruth Foundation for funding the Chair in Women's Studies, currently filled by Dr. Krishna Ahooja-Patel, a lawyer and expert on women in development. "Thanks also to the leadership of the Honourable Flora MacDonald and the Board of Governors, the Sisters of Charity, members of the faculty, alumnae and parents, students, staff, and many, many volunteers, for enabling our capital campaign to surpass the halfway mark toward our goal of \$8 million in its first year of a five-year campaign."

She added a "special tribute to Sr. Greta Conrad, who, after 25 years of teaching in the Department of Home Economics, will be taking up other duties with the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity..."

"And now we look forward to 'next things'. We have been heartened by the reassurance of the Minister of Advanced Education and the commitment that he has made to completing the program of equalization funding in the province... We look forward to finding opportunities to increase our strengths and to finding ways to enhance the liberal arts and science education we believe to be basic to this university."

"Mount Saint Vincent University wants to be better able to offer the kind of environment which makes it possible for women to be encouraged by their professors and other mentors, to develop the nascent gifts into active talents in the sciences as well as in other fields of knowledge."

In closing, Dr. Hersom stressed that the Mount "is committed to creating wholeness of purpose as a university. Our students, our faculty, our graduates will be the leaders needed for the twentieth century in whatever sphere they enter because of our commitment to equipping them fully to become knowledgeable, responsible, thoughtful contributors to a healthy, safe world, and to a society characterized by fairness and peace."

## Valedictorians offer parting words to classmates

Morning valedictorian Caroline Wolfe, who received Bachelor of Science in Home Economics degree with distinction, spoke to graduates about service.

She began by quoting Canadian writer Emily Carr. "It is not important to do extraordinary things; what is important is to do ordinary things with intensity," she noted, adding, "For me, to be a graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University is to live with passion and intensity."

Wolfe paid tribute to "the intensity that drove Chinese college students to face tanks and bullets in Tianamen Square...to sacrifice themselves for others..." Canadian students, she said, should be thankful that they are not called upon to make such overwhelming sacrifices.

But, she said, "service has a wider component," reminding graduates that there are many ways to be of service. "To serve others is to forget self, and most of us can look at our parents as prime examples of people who have lived for others."

Wolfe noted that the world in which graduates are stepping is far different from that of their parents.

"Some of us will achieve great things. But most of us will remember Carr's words...and take on the ordinary things in life—the care of our children, our volunteer work, and our friendships—with intensity."

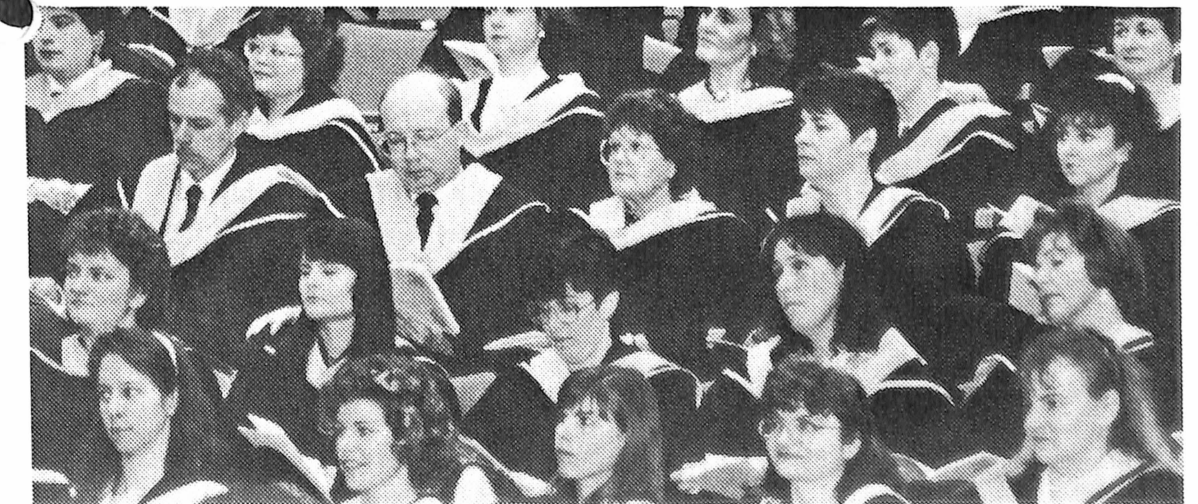
Bachelor of Arts graduate Mary Spurr, who

gave the valedictory address in the afternoon, emphasized that Convocation is both "an occasion to celebrate accomplishment" and "a turning point". She noted that while some graduates know exactly what their next step will be, others are less sure. She compared her own experience facing graduation as one of "very mixed emotions": relief at the completion of exams; disbelief that a long-awaited goal had finally arrived; reluctance to let go of university days; and anxiety about what lay ahead."

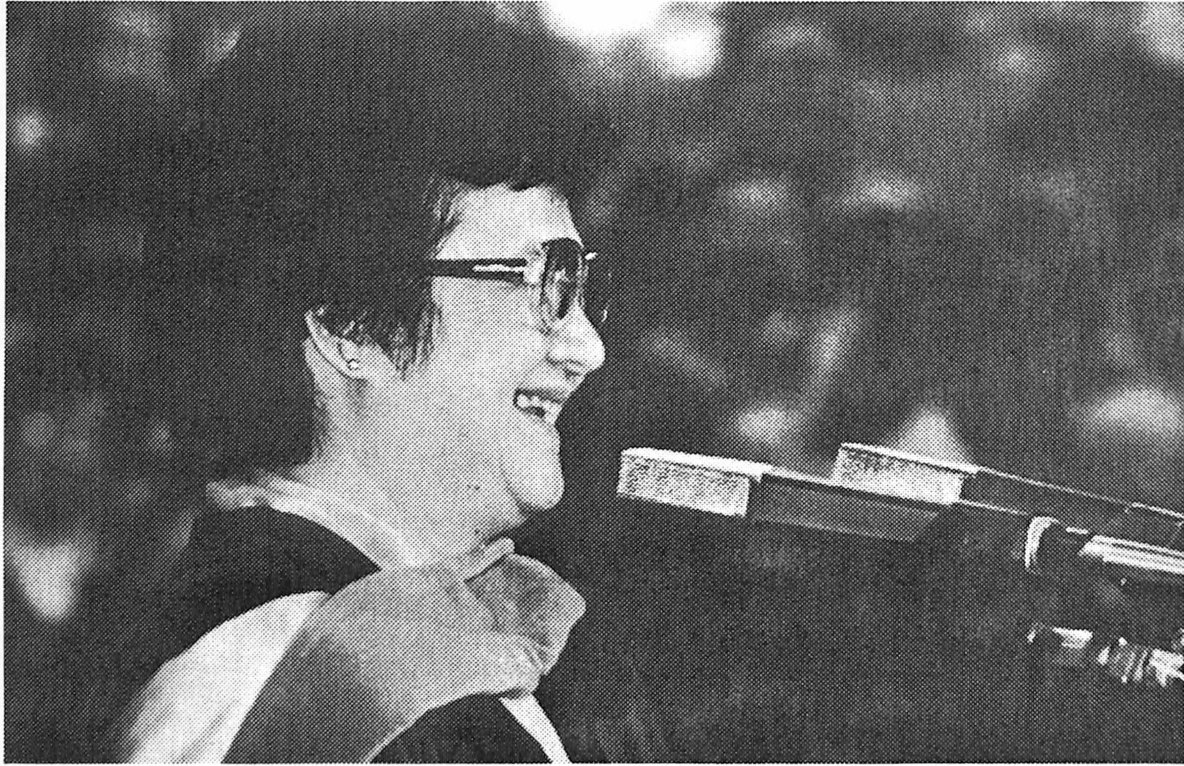
She acknowledged that she had experienced these same mixed feelings before, when, four and a half years ago, she'd decided to go to university. "I entered as a mature student, a single parent, bringing other commitments with me, other demands, other priorities. Would I be able to cope with the new ones, to find a balance? I was given the opportunity to try."

She recalled that in the process, she found the friendship of other mature students, and the support of faculty. "What I began to see was that virtually everyone juggled conflicting demands, worked within limitations and did the best they could."

She noted that the greatest challenge of all may be "learning to develop an inner security and sense of self-worth, which can allow us to meet other challenges and to progress... I have taken comfort from the example of this adventure's passage."



## Mount confers four honorary degrees



Honorary degree recipient Dr. Verna Kirkness is full of high spirits as she addresses graduates at morning Convocation.

At Spring Convocation ceremonies the Mount conferred honorary degrees on four outstanding Canadian women: scientist, astronaut and neurologist Dr. Roberta Bondar; international development specialist Margaret Catley-Carlson; Verna Kirkness, director of the University of British Columbia's First Nations House of Learning and a leader in native education; and Dr. Julia Levy, a scientist and immunologist in the field of cancer research.

Kirkness addressed the graduates at morning ceremonies, and Dr. Levy, in the afternoon.

*"Today is when you join the ranks of those prepared to meet global challenges"*

"Today we are here to celebrate achievement," Verna Kirkness began her address to morning gradu-

ates. "My most sincere congratulations to the graduates. Convocation has finally arrived and your hard work, commitment and sacrifices are being rewarded. Today is your day! Today is when you join the ranks of those prepared to meet global challenges."

She compared the Mount's goals to those of native peoples. "The Mount...is a university that adheres to the principle of education as a preparation for life, and aims for full equality for women in society. We, too, are committed to meeting the special educational needs of a very important segment of society — Canada's first people. We adhere to the principles of education as a preparation for life, and to equality."

Kirkness stressed that meaningful First Nations education must be based on the traditions and cultures of native peoples. "Indian education is a thing

of its own kind and we are in the process of defining it," she quoted a colleague, Dr. Eber Hampton, University of Alaska.

"This is...an optimistic statement, because in the process of defining it we have made great strides," she said, noting that First Nations teachers, for example, now number more than 1,600 compared to 200 in 1972, while the number of First Nations lawyers has grown from a handful 20 years ago to more than 200 today. Education, she stressed, is the most powerful weapon available to fight for the causes in which we believe.

"Those of you who are graduating today recognize that your success is shared by your family, your friends, your community," Kirkness said. "Without their love and support, today may not have been possible. Our people believe that 'the honor of one is the honor of all'. So your honor today extends to your family, friends and community. Likewise, the honor bestowed on me at Mount Saint Vincent University is shared by my family, my friends, my colleagues, my teachers and my cultural heroes. My honor is their honor."

Kirkness closed her address by quoting the late Robert Sterling, one of her teachers: "I have learned that I am a product of two worlds and my survival and the survival of my people depends on me being the best of both worlds. I have learned not just to look, but to see; not just to touch, but to feel; not just to take steps, but to stride; not just to listen, but to hear; not just to talk, but to say something; not just to dream, but to do something; not just to take, but to give; not just to exist, but to be!"

*"Each of us has a lot of work to do."*

At afternoon Convocation ceremonies, Dr. Julia Levy talked to graduates about career choices. Dr. Levy cited three factors affecting why people choose the career paths they do: personal history, the expectations others place upon us, and possibly, chemical

differences in the physiological makeup of females and males.

"The older I become, the more aware I am of the amount of psychological and cultural baggage each of us carries around," she said, noting that hundreds of years of cultural influence also has an impact on the creation of sexual stereotypes. "I think it is naive to think that a 'liberation' movement of a decade or so is going to accomplish all that is needed in this short time." Citing some everyday examples of how males are seen as 'breadwinners', and females as dependants, she concluded, "Each of us have a lot of work to do."

About expectations, Dr. Levy said, "In general, the expectations placed on a male child are more demanding...This creates stress for young men who are expected to be aggressive, decisive and successful in achieving career goals, and generates fear of failure...Young women, because of the lack of career expectations, may end up not taking themselves seriously when it comes to career decisions, and may be fearful of success and accepting of failure. They may accept being passed over in promotion and job opportunities, and may give up too easily. Neither level of expectation is helpful for the developing individual. We have to strive to identify our own inner expectations of ourselves and to live by them."

Dr. Levy then posed the question, "Is there a difference between women and men?" While noting that there is clearly no difference in intellect, she wondered aloud whether prototypical female and male characteristics could be partly attributed to chromosome differences between the sexes. "We don't know the answer to this but the differences — perceived or real — must be considered and may be a factor in satisfying career decisions."

In closing, Dr. Levy wished graduates well. "The future! You who are leaving the university at this time are facing an exciting decade full of wonderful opportunities. Thankfully, the Second World War appears to be over finally!"





*The joy evident on the faces of these grads sums up the prevailing sentiment at Convocation.*



*Dr. John Portelli, education department, offers warm congratulations to graduates.*



*It's a special moment for Margaret Catley-Carlson (centre), as she is conferred an honorary degree by Chancellor Sr. Louise Bray (right). President Naomi Hersom prepares to place the honorary degree hood over Catley-Carlson's shoulders.*

## Mount's Yellow Rose Ceremony has an added dimension

During Grad Week, 34 graduates of the Mount's undergraduate programs in home economics took part in a professional induction ceremony which has a 20-year tradition at the university.

The Yellow Rose Ceremony includes the presentation of the home economics professional ring and a rose in the symbolic color of wisdom. Rose and ring ceremonies take place during convocation week at all Canadian universities with home economics programs. But the Mount's ceremony also includes the presentation of Canadian Dietetics Association (CDA) professional pins to graduates of the co-operative education dietetics program — the only co-op program in Canada that fulfills the CDA's internship requirement.

CDA president Shirley Power was on hand at this year's ceremony to present CDA pins to five graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Home Economics program: Kathleen Bayliss, Dartmouth; Bethany Court (with distinction), Dartmouth; Janet Gass, Truro; Andrea MacDonald, Westville; and Darlene Webb (with distinction), Bedford.

The ceremony was also attended by Nova Scotia Home Economics Association president Carol Murphy who presented a greeting on behalf of the association; and Debbie Youden of the Canadian Home Economics Association (CHEA), who pre-

sented CHEA Incentive Awards to Barbara Joudrey, Halifax, Bachelor of Home Economics; and Darlene Webb, Bachelor of Science in Home Economics. The award is presented annually to a student from each school of home economics, who shows outstanding professional potential.

Youden also presented the Mount's home economics department with a copy of We are Tomorrow's Past: History of the Home Economics Association, 1939-89.

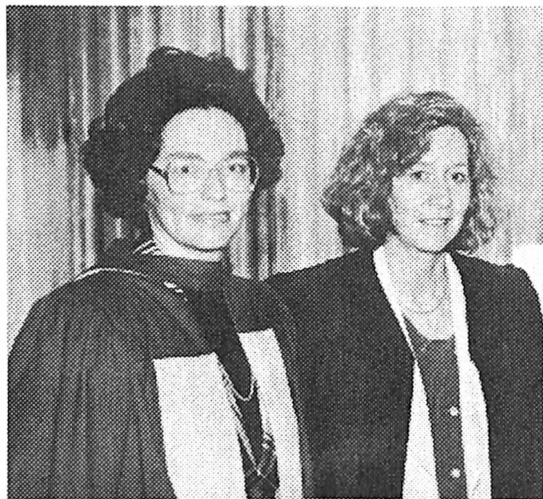
The home economics professional ring is made of yellow gold to represent the warmth of home and family, and is worn on the little finger of the working hand. The ring, with its many facets, represents the multi-faceted nature of the field, while the circular form represents co-operation among all home economics areas in promoting the well-being of the family and home. The presentation of the ring is accompanied by a professional pledge by each graduate.

The Mount's ceremony also includes the lighting of seven candles, each a different color of the rainbow: red for health; orange for fire; yellow for wisdom; green for service; blue for truth, purity and constancy; indigo for courage and perseverance; and violet for beauty.



*The Baccalaureate Mass provides a precious moment to reflect during a hectic Grad Week.*





*Honorary degree recipient Dr. Julia Levy (right), poses with Dr. Susan Boyd, chemistry department.*

*Convocation continued from page 1*

Honorary degrees were conferred on Margaret Catley-Carlson, Deputy Minister of Health, Health and Welfare Canada; and Verna Kirkness, Director of the First Nations House of Learning, University of British Columbia. Kirkness addressed the graduates.

Citations for Catley-Carlson and Kirkness were presented by Dr. Marilyn McDowell, home economics department chair, and Dr. Mary Schoeneberger, education department. Morning valedictorian was Caroline Wolfe of Dartmouth, who received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics degree with distinction.

At afternoon ceremonies, graduates were awarded bachelor and masters degrees in education; bachelor degrees in arts, science, and in the arts/education, science/education and home economics/education integrated programs; and honours certificates in arts and science.

Immunologist Dr. Julia Levy addressed the afternoon graduates, at which she and astronaut Dr. Roberta Bondar received honorary degrees. Dr. Susan Boyd, chemistry department, and Dr. Jennifer McLaren, psychology department, presented the candidates for the honorary degrees. Valedictorian was Mary Spurr of Dartmouth, who received a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction.

Two Governor-General's Medals were pre-



*Honorary degree recipient Dr. Roberta Bondar (left), shown here with presenter Dr. Jennifer McLaren, psychology department.*

sented for highest aggregate in the graduating class. Angela Gillis of Bedford, a graduate in the Master of Arts in Home Economics Education program, was awarded the Gold Medal. The Silver Medal went to Wendy Willms of Halifax, who received a Bachelor of Office Administration degree.

President's Prizes were awarded to: Marla Cranston, Bedford, Bachelor of Public Relations; Lee Anne Forward, New Glasgow, Bachelor of Business Administration; Susan Logan, Saint John, Bachelor of Public Relations; Constance Matheson, Windsor, Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education integrated program; and Susie Verberk, Halifax, Bachelor of Science.

Kappa Gamma Pi awards went to Janet Austin-Pearson, Scarborough, Ont., Master of Education; Melanie Claude, Halifax, Bachelor of Business Administration; and Lesley Hartman, Dartmouth, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in psychology with first-class honours.

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