

# Campus. Connection

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Mount Saint Vincent University

Convocation Spring 1988



*Convocation is photograph time . . . a time to capture memories that will last a lifetime. Nearly 600 graduates received certificates, diplomas and degrees on May 13.*

## A packed auditorium for the Mount's 61st Convocation

Nearly 600 graduates received certificates, diplomas and degrees at Mount Saint Vincent University's 61st Convocation ceremonies May 13.

During the morning ceremonies, undergraduate and graduate degrees were

awarded in arts, science and education. Honorary degrees were conferred on neuropsychologist Dr. Brenda Milner and lawyer Mary Eberts. Eberts gave the address to the graduates.

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## President Hersom's report to Convocation, Spring 1988

Mount President Naomi Hersom spoke of many innovations and changes at the university in her year-end report, delivered during the Convocation ceremonies.

She praised the contributions of those retiring after many years: Sister Paule Cantin, who has reached the end of her term as general superior of the Sisters of Charity; Sister Patricia Mullins, who retires as dean of humanities and sciences to assume duties as general treasurer of the Sisters of Charity; Dr. Lillian Wainwright, who has been named Professor Emeritus of Biology; Professor Joan Ryan, who will continue in the office administration program on a post-retirement appointment; and Art Landry, "who has helped us maintain and extend the use of our facilities over the years."

Turning to the subject of the new university charter, Hersom explained that the 1966 charter has been reviewed and rewritten, and that a bill to adopt the new charter has received first and second reading in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. It was presented as a private member's bill by Joel Matheson, Minister of Health and Fitness and MLA for Halifax-Bedford Basin, who attended the Convocation ceremonies.

Matheson's efforts on behalf of the university were also evident at the Chancellor's Dinner the evening before, when he announced a \$60,000 grant to the university for research in gerontology.

Hersom introduced the recipients of this year's Alumnae Award for Teaching Excellence, Drs. Josette Deleas-Matthews and John Sayre. The result of good teaching, she said, is demonstrated by students such as the three graduands who won major Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council awards for graduate study this year.

Partnership with government and the

private sector has created another avenue for supporting research at the Mount, in the establishment of the Office Automation Centre, she said. And the university is "anxiously awaiting" the opening of the new E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre, funded mainly by the provincial government.

Other ways in which the university strives to fulfil its mission, she said, include international development projects in Africa and the Caribbean, new programs for ElderLearners, and a centre for women in science which is in the planning stages.

Accessibility for women is one of the Mount's key concerns. Hersom reported that scholarship and bursary endowment funds are growing and four new Presidential Scholars Awards -- which cover the cost of tuition, residence and meals -- have been created.

Another kind of accessibility is provided for employees through a tuition remission program, and Hersom noted that both deans' secretaries were among the graduands this year.

Hersom said it was often difficult to translate ideals into reality in curriculum and employment practices. She cited examples of two very different types of efforts in this regard: the conference organized by the Distinguished Chair in Women's Studies, Dr. Marguerite Andersen, which looked at how our use of language affects attitudes toward women; and the implementation of a pay equity program for Mount staff.

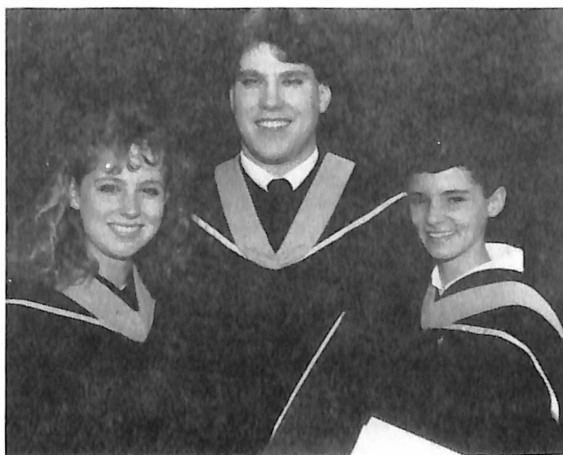
With regard to support of the university, Hersom recognized the generosity of parents and alumnae in the recent SOS (Stock Our Stacks) campaign for book acquisitions. She also commended the government of Nova Scotia for implementing a program of equalization funding for the university



Waiting to capture the big moment . . .



Dr. Lillian Wainwright, who was named Professor Emeritus of Biology, was mace bearer for this year's Convocation. Dr. Wainwright retires after 31 years at the Mount.



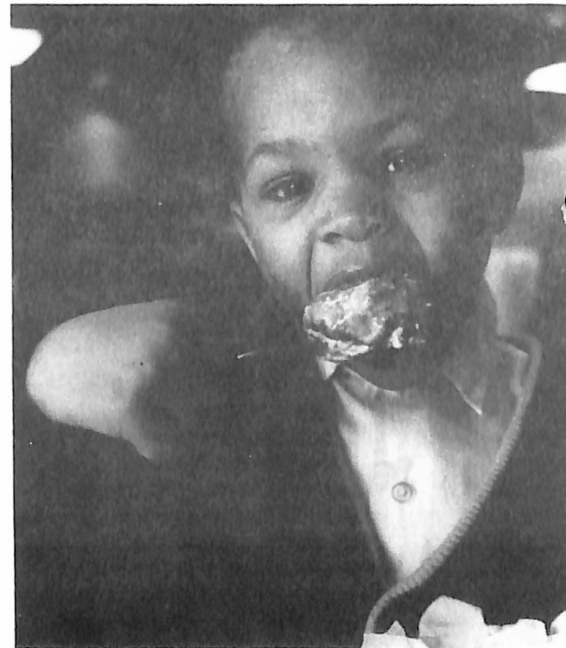
Mount grads are winners . . . Dana Bryant, John Chiasson and Charlene Winchcombe, all of Halifax, were recipients of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council awards for post-graduate studies. Winchcombe won the 1967 Science and Engineering Scholarship, awarded to only 60 students across Canada. Bryant and Chiasson both won Post-Graduate Scholarships.



*The Baccalaureate Mass, held at the Motherhouse Chapel, is a popular tradition of Grad Week. Nearly 700 graduates, faculty and family members attended this year's service.*



*Dr. Brenda Milner*



*A celebration for all*



*A time to think back, and to look forward . . .*

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Sandra Ray, a Bachelor of Science graduate from Bermuda, was morning valedictorian.

Afternoon graduates received certificates, diplomas and undergraduate degrees in business administration, child study, gerontology, home economics, office administration and public relations.

Nita Barrow, permanent representative of Barbados to the United Nations, received an honorary degree and addressed the graduates.

Tamara Connors, a child study graduate from Bras d'Or, gave the afternoon valedictory address.

Two Governor General's Medals were

presented for highest aggregate in the graduating class. Arts graduate Kate McKenna was awarded a silver medal and Kim Travers, graduating with a Master of Arts in Home Economics Education, was awarded a gold medal. Both graduates are from Halifax.

President's prizes were awarded to Sandra Cook, Halifax, and Wendy Kinney, Freeport, N.S.

Kappa Gamma Pi awards went to Charlene Winchcombe, Halifax, graduating with a Bachelor of Science (honours) with first-class honours; and Janey Hughes, Lower Sackville, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics (honours) with first-class honours.



## Women's work is just beginning, Eberts tells graduates

Mary Eberts urged graduates 'to foster and defend the Mount and institutions like her' in her address at the morning Convocation ceremony.

Eberts, a women's rights activist, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. She is a partner of the Toronto law firm Tory, Tory, DesLauriers and Binnington, and teaches constitutional litigation at the University of Toronto.

Eberts said the critical work of the women's community is just beginning. "It needs, if I may borrow a term from your founders, important 'motherhouses' like this one to infuse it with hope and energy." <sup>93</sup>

Eberts praised her husband and daughter, who attended the ceremony, and two sons for having "made an enormous contribution of their own to the work which you <sup>120</sup> acknowledge today, for it is done in time that otherwise might be theirs and with energy that I might otherwise bring to my life with them." <sup>146</sup>

She said that for women today, balancing work and family life continues to be difficult. "Women today who want both families and fulfilment in work face a difficult choice," she said. "They can have their children on the same terms as men who work -- by having other women raise them -- or they can try to transform the institutions of work and family to accommodate both of their goals."

Eberts said women are still not equal to men in real terms, although they have won many rights in the past century. She quoted from a United Nations report: <sup>245</sup>

"Women constitute half the world's population, perform nearly two-thirds of its work hours, receive one-tenth of the world's income and own less than one-hundredth of the world's property."

Even the small achievements of women would not have been possible except for the essential support of the family and the

women's community, Eberts said.

She described how learning was transmitted both formally and informally throughout the centuries, and how convents and teaching orders such as the Sisters of Charity have played key roles in women's education through the years.

In recent years, members of the women's academy "have taken enormous risks to open up for us our history," she said. "We see already, in legislative lobbying, in litigation under the Charter of Rights . . . how the insights of the woman's mind and eye are proving effective ways of dispelling stereotypes and error. Women scholars writing about women's reality are even now being cited in and by the Supreme Court of Canada in landmark constitutional cases on women's rights."

Eberts said that the Mount, concerned primarily with the education of women, is "close to being a national treasure." And she urged the newest alumnae to continue the work of the women's academy.

*Barrow: true leaders seek equity*

Dame Nita Barrow, addressing the afternoon Convocation ceremony, told graduates that leaders have a vision of equity and social justice for all.

Among true leaders, she said, there is a desire 'to empower those who do not (have power). . . . We need to build self-reliance in other people.'

Barrow, the permanent representative of Barbados to the United Nations, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. She was convener of the 1985 women's conference in Nairobi and a member of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons' Commission to South Africa in 1986.