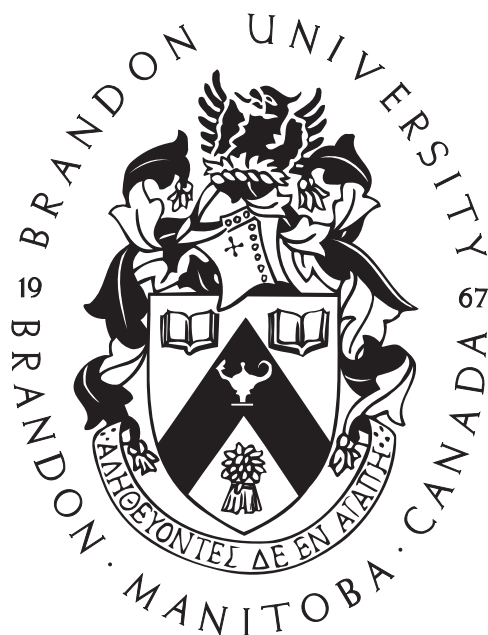




Annual Convocation

and

PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION



MAY 28 AND 29, 2026

CONVOCATION 2026

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GUIDELINES FOR GUESTS



Thank you for joining us at Brandon University's Annual Convocation. During this special moment in the academic journey, we recognize the deep commitment that each graduate has made, and the success of their accomplishment. As you join in the celebration, we offer a few guidelines to help everyone enjoy these special moments as much as possible.

There are many great seats at Convocation, whether you choose to be as close as possible or sit up high to take in the fullness of the ceremony. Some floor area has been set aside as accessible seating. To meet the need, please limit use of this area to those who require accessible seating and to one or two companions.

Convocation is for celebration! Show your pride and enthusiasm by waving and cheering during moments of joy, such as when degrees are presented or tassels are moved. However, please avoid disrupting solemn moments, such as speeches and award presentations.

Please only take photos or video from the stands or from the upper area. **No friends or family are permitted on the floor.** We have a lovely space set aside in Harvest Hall for you to take photos with your grad after the ceremony, and our official Convocation photographers and videographers are taking as many photos as they can to share with you.

Flowers, gifts, mementoes, and official Brandon University degree frames are available for purchase on the upper level. These should be given only after the ceremony, as graduates will need free hands to receive their degrees.

It is fun to share special moments with others, and we encourage you to post about Convocation online. Please tag @BrandonUni on social media.

Have friends or family members who couldn't make it? A Convocation livestream is broadcast online, linked from [BrandonU.ca/Convocation](https://brandonu.ca/convocation) and an archive will also be available for future viewing.



WELCOME TO CONVOCATION

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Congratulations! Convocation is the culmination of an academic journey of learning and discovery. We celebrate with a highly ceremonial occasion that is filled with tradition, ritual and symbolism. This reflects the honour and heritage that are associated with an academic education and with a Brandon University degree.

At Convocation, degrees are officially conferred, awards are presented, and academic achievement is celebrated. At its essence, the Convocation ceremony is simple, yet its meaning is profound. As they proceed in, students are referred to as “graduands.” They have fulfilled all the requirements for graduation, but haven’t yet had their degrees conferred. With a pronouncement from the stage, the Chancellor will officially confer those degrees, and graduates will move the tassels on their caps from one side to the next, symbolizing their graduation. They will then each be called to the platform in turn, to receive their degree parchments. After degrees are presented, there are special award presentations and speeches, as graduates receive some final pieces of thoughtful advice and guidance, before the Chancellor concludes Convocation.

Convocation is founded on many traditions, including symbols, formal language, academic regalia and processions. Each element has history and meaning behind it, although often these are reinterpreted and reinvented by new generations. All participants in Convocation are encouraged to observe the occasion with joy and solemnity. Guests are welcome, as the whole community joins together and celebrates the newest Brandon University alumni.



GREETINGS



Convocation is a sacred moment, a meeting place between what has shaped you and all that still lies ahead. It is my profound privilege to stand beside Brandon University graduates and to witness the courage, growth, and promise of each new graduating class.

This Convocation is special for me, as it is my final ceremony as Chancellor. I began this role by conducting a virtual Convocation during the early pandemic. Since then, distance has turned to closeness, and I have had the honour of serving with two Presidents and of returning often to this campus community. Here, I have noticed what endures: the passion of students, the dedication of faculty and staff, and the thoughtful spirit that defines a Brandon University education.

Education is more than gathering knowledge. Education requires we deepen our understanding — of ourselves, of one another, and of our responsibilities to the wider world. None of us walks this path alone. Family, friends, teachers, communities, and ancestors all travel with us, offering strength and guidance along the way.

May you carry your learning forward with humility, compassion, and courage. Listen deeply, lead wisely, and honour the connections that sustain you.

Warmest congratulations and heartfelt thanks for welcoming me to share in this journey with you.

Dr. Mary Jane McCallum
Chancellor



The celebration of Convocation concludes one chapter and begins your next. We come together here to recognize the degrees you have earned, as well as the experiences, relationships, and perseverance that it all required. We are also here to cheer you on as you turn the page to your next challenge.

On its surface, a university education may look like lectures and assignments. More deeply, it is about discovery. At BU, you have discovered new ideas, and likely made some discoveries about yourself and even your life's purpose. These discoveries come from learning alongside classmates who challenged and encouraged you, faculty and staff who supported you, and friends who helped make this campus a community.

Every graduate here today has faced obstacles along the way. Some moments may have tested your confidence, your patience, or your sense of direction. Yet you continued forward, step by step, and that persistence is worthy of recognition and pride.

As you leave Brandon University and begin to write your next chapter, I know you take with you the knowledge discovered here, along with the compassion, resilience, and curiosity to guide you through a changing world.

Congratulations, graduates, and welcome always to the Brandon University community.

Dr. Christine Bovis-Cnossen
President and Vice-Chancellor

GREETINGS

It is my great honour, on behalf of the Board of Governors, to congratulate our graduates on this momentous occasion. The Board of Governors are trustees for the people of Manitoba, stewarding Brandon University's long-term vision of being Canada's finest regional university and ensuring excellence in teaching, research, creation, and scholarship. BU must remain a place where future generations can grow, discover, and thrive. It is deeply rewarding to see that mission reflected in your success today.

Convocation is a celebration of academic achievement, but also of perseverance, adaptability, and hope. Your graduating class has travelled a path through years shaped by disruption, uncertainty, and profound change, and today we celebrate not only what you have accomplished, but what you have overcome.

Congratulations, graduates!

Today, you join a network of Brandon University alumni that extends across Manitoba, across Canada, and around the world. Wherever life takes you next, you will always share a connection with fellow graduates through the experiences, friendships, and memories formed during your time at BU.

The relationships built here often become one of the most meaningful parts of the university experience. Many of us have forged connections which will become a lifelong source of support, encouragement, and opportunity.

Your fellow alumni understand the commitment and perseverance it took to reach this day. I encourage you to

As you leave this campus, remember that education is not simply preparation for a career. It is preparation for citizenship, service, and lifelong learning. Use your knowledge generously. Stay curious. Listen carefully. The world ahead may at times feel turbulent, but your experiences have already shown that you are capable of meeting uncertainty with resilience and purpose. Your compassionate, educated, and principled leadership is needed more than ever.

You will always be part of the Brandon University community. We are proud of you, confident in you, and honoured to celebrate alongside you today.

Kevan Sumner
Chair, BU Board of Governors



support each other, and to seek out support from those who came before.

Please stay connected with Brandon University and with one another by attending alumni events, returning to campus, sharing your experiences, and helping future generations of students feel welcomed and supported.

We especially hope to see many of you back for Homecoming this fall, where alumni gather to reconnect with classmates, faculty, and friends.

On behalf of the Brandon University Alumni Association, congratulations once again. We look forward to all that lies ahead for you.

Christopher Hunt
President, BU Alumni Association



BRANDON UNIVERSITY'S DISTINGUISHED HISTORY

Brandon College was founded in 1899, and the history of higher education in the Brandon area can be traced back even earlier. In 1871, the signing of Treaty 2 permitted the settling of areas that are the traditional home and shared territory of the Dakota Oyate and the Anishinaabeg, as well as the homeland of the Red River Métis. Soon thereafter, early Baptist missionaries founded a small college in Rapid City. In 1890, the McKee Academy followed the railroad to Brandon.

Brandon College absorbed McKee Academy in 1899 and began instruction that year. In 1900, the original Brandon College building was constructed, followed by Clark Hall in 1906 and then a neighbouring Science Building. The institution weathered economic hardship and two world wars to thrive and prosper.

Following decades as a college, Brandon University received its own charter on June 5, 1967, during a royal visit, and the charter was officially dated July 1 to mark Canada's centennial. The first Brandon University degrees were awarded in 1968. Today, BU is home to five faculties and schools, thriving graduate programs, and a vibrant community committed to learning, growth, and connection.

Special Convocation of McMaster University at Brandon College • **1911 – 1938**

University of Manitoba at Brandon College • **1939 – 1967**

Brandon University • **1968 – today**



UNIVERSITY COAT OF ARMS

Steeped in the deeply symbolic meanings of heraldry, the Brandon University Coat of Arms was originally drawn in 1948 for Brandon College. The full heraldic achievement, including coat of arms, crest, mantling and motto, is reserved for highly ceremonial use, including occasions such as Convocation and Presidential Installation ceremonies.

On the coat of arms, which decorate the shield portion, the two open books represent both the learning and the arts of humankind. The wheat sheaf below represents the bounty of the earth, and takes on special resonance in the Wheat City. The lit antique lamp represents life and spirituality.

Above, the crest is what sits atop the helmet. Brandon University's crest is the mythological phoenix: a bird that was fabled to live for hundreds of years in the desert, then to burn itself to ashes in a funeral pyre before emerging from the ashes with renewed life to live. The phoenix represents immortality.

Underneath, the motto is taken from the Bible, Ephesians IV:15. Translated from Greek, "Aletheuontes de en Agape" means "Speaking the truth in love" and it reminds all members of the Brandon University community of our twin responsibilities of honesty and respect.

Brandon University's current, modern logo is based on a simplified version of the coat of arms.



CEREMONIAL OBJECTS



MIGIZII MITIK – EAGLE STAFF

Brandon University has been honoured to be presented with a migizii mitik, or Eagle Staff, which has helped the university include an Indigenous element in important ceremonial occasions and celebrations like Convocation.

An Anishanaabek artisan from Ebb and Flow First Nation created the Eagle Staff out of natural elements that have spiritual significance and symbolic value to the university as well as to Indigenous communities in the region.

The staff is about five feet tall, with a curve at the top, and made from a young tamarack tree. Wrapped around the wood are deer leather near the bottom, and river otter fur along most of the length of the staff. In the centre of the curve is an inclusive version of the traditional medicine wheel, painted on both sides of a two-sided leather shield.

Five bald eagle feathers, symbolizing knowledge and community, are strung from the top of the staff. Tucked behind the feathers is a medicine bag with tobacco, sage, and cedar and sweet grass inside.

From the side of the staff, a large banner projects out, featuring the Brandon University logo, name, and graphic elements like the chevron on both sides. And, from the side of the banner, 10 bundles of horsehair are attached, representing the history of plains horsemen. Every part of the staff was crafted by hand.

The Eagle Staff is given a place of honour during important BU ceremonies. At Convocation, it is carried in earliest in the procession, held by the BU Chancellor, and the Eagle Staff serves to officially open the proceedings.



KANDODO

The Brandon University Mace, handcarved in Malawi of African king ebony, is a kandodo, or walking stick, traditionally carried by a chief to signify authority.

Ceremonial maces are carried in many processions and ceremonies around the world. In academic contexts, they typically represent the university's independence from external authority.

The kandodo was a gift to Brandon University from Domasi College of Education in Malawi, where Brandon University had a six-year project to train secondary school teachers.



GONFALON

A gonfalon is a long flag or banner that is suspended from a crossbar on a pole. As a symbol of state or office, the use of a gonfalon dates to medieval Italy, and they have also long been associated with ecclesiastical ceremonies.

Many universities and other academic institutions use gonfalons for identification and ceremonial purposes at large functions.

Brandon University first adopted a gonfalon in 2009 to increase the ceremonial aspects of Convocation. In 2019, new faculty-specific gonfalons were also introduced.



LECTERN

For about a hundred and twenty-five years, this historic lectern has been a central part of Convocation ceremonies.

The lectern, which was originally donated by students at McMaster University around 1900 to mark the founding of Brandon College, was also used for many years in the College Chapel.

At Convocation, this lectern stands at the very centre of the stage, and is the focus of attention for most of the ceremony, including award presentations, honorary degrees, and speeches.



CHAIRS

There are two ornate wooden chairs on stage at Convocation. They are symbols of the authority of the Chancellor and the President.

The Chancellor's chair was presented to Brandon College nearly a century ago, by the Class of 1927, and has been used ever since. The President's chair was donated by a number of faculty and staff to commemorate the service of Dr. John Mallea, who was BU President and Vice-Chancellor from 1985-90.

UNDERSTANDING ACADEMIC REGALIA

The distinctive cap, gown and hood of the present-day academic regalia is known worldwide to represent academic achievement. The style, believed to have originated at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in the 1300s, derived from the common religious and academic garb of the time. As universities passed from ecclesiastical control, brighter colours began to distinguish the academic robe from more modest clerical gowns. Until as recently as a century ago, some universities required academic dress be worn throughout the year, whenever attending lectures or classes, although they are now generally reserved for special occasions like Convocation.

In Canada today, academic regalia continues to be based on the British tradition, but each university establishes its own style and colours. Brandon University determines particular hood colours to mark different degrees, although many follow larger traditions.

The tassel affixed to the top of the mortarboard cap also holds a special significance. During Convocation, graduands will move their tassels from the right-hand to the left-hand side, symbolizing the moment of their graduation.

Of the regalia's three components, the hood is the most interesting. Originally it had three uses: as a head covering, as a shoulder cape, and as a bag in which alms could be collected. It is mentioned as early as 1480 in clerical literature. However, when large wigs were in vogue in Britain, the cape part of the hood was split in front and a narrow neckband inserted. The entire cape and hood was allowed to fall back as it is today, and it was never restored to the original style.



COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

Graduates from Brandon University this year will receive a print of specially commissioned artwork that reflects on their experience at BU and serves as a lasting memento of their time on campus.

While Convocation celebrates academic achievement, the university experience is also shaped by the friendships, discoveries, and moments of inspiration that happen along the way. The annual Convocation artwork tradition offers an opportunity to capture that broader experience through artists' eyes.

This year's piece, 'Under the Northern Lights, Crowning over a Century of Discovery,' was created by Manitoba artist Betty Sawatzky. Featuring BU's iconic Clark Hall illuminated beneath vivid northern lights, the work uses flowing alcohol inks on ceramic tile to create a dreamlike scene filled with colour, warmth, and wonder. The artwork reflects both the enduring traditions of Brandon University and the sense of possibility and discovery that defines higher learning.

This year marks the seventh piece of commissioned Convocation artwork since the tradition began in 2020, when Brandon University sought a meaningful way to recognize graduates during the pandemic-era virtual ceremonies. The overwhelmingly positive response inspired BU to continue the tradition, with each year's artwork offering a unique artistic interpretation of the university community and student experience.

Brandon University also plans to unveil a permanent Convocation Art gallery during Homecoming celebrations this fall, bringing together all commissioned pieces from the series in a shared public display celebrating BU's history, creativity, and graduates.



INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT



DR. CHRISTINE BOVIS-CNOSSEN

President Christine Bovis-Cnossen brings to Brandon University more than 30 years of leadership experience from universities in Canada and the United Kingdom — but she is equally passionate about people, community, and building an inclusive future together.

Her career has taken her across the globe: she has been Acting Vice-Chancellor at the University of East Anglia in England, Interim President at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia, and Vice President Academic at OCAD University in Toronto. Along the way, she has led major projects to strengthen student success, expand research, and grow international opportunities. At UEA, she helped guide the institution back to financial health and expanded

recruitment into new markets. At TRU, she championed open learning, supported Indigenous education, and helped secure accreditation that put the university on the world stage.

Christine is also a sociologist by training, with research focusing on equity, gender, and military service. She has been recognized as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and is a lifelong advocate for transparency and collaboration in academic leadership.

Outside the office, Christine has a love of theatre, film, and art, and is happiest when exploring a new exhibition. She also has a soft spot for classic cars and motorcycles. Whether she's at a graduation ceremony, walking through campus, or joining a community event, she brings warmth, openness, and a genuine interest in the people around her.

THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Installation is the name given to a formal ceremony at which one assumes the office of President and Vice-Chancellor at Brandon University.

Presidents at Brandon University are appointed by the Board of Governors, and generally begin their duties before an official Installation ceremony. Very early in their tenure, the formal ceremony is held as a public celebration where the incoming President takes the oath of office, and shares their vision for the future of Brandon University. Installation is also a time for the community to participate in welcoming them to the institution.

Like other formal ceremonies, Installation is distinguished in part by the wearing of academic garb. During an Installation, the incoming President will be robed for the first time in the official gown of the office.

At Installation ceremonies, it is a common tradition for other post-secondary institutions to send formal greetings. Many will also take the opportunity to send a representative — often, their President if he or she is able to attend. In this way, Installation is also an occasion for the wider post-secondary community to come together in celebration.

HONORARY DEGREE

VERNA DEMONTIGNY

Isabelle Verna DeMontigny grew up as a fluent speaker of Michif in a small Métis community known as Li Kwaen, near Binscarth, before eventually moving to Brandon.

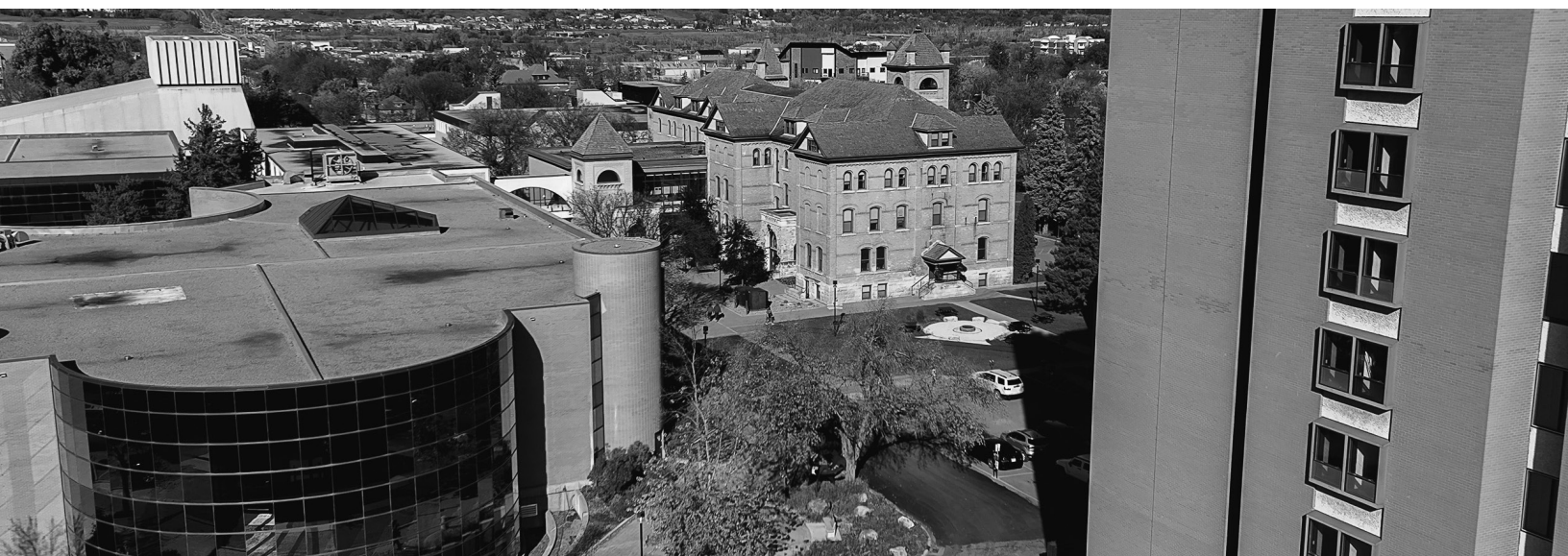
Verna has been at the heart of many Métis language and culture projects in the area and beyond, including service for the Brandon Friendship Centre, Brandon School Division, Brandon University and Assiniboine Community College and the Manitoba Métis Federation, South-West Region.

She co-founded the Prairies to Woodlands Indigenous Revitalization Circle (P2WIRL), with whom she worked on the digitization of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree dictionary, the development of an online introductory course to Southern Michif, and the translation of multiple archived recordings. She has worked as a Mentor in the Mentor Apprentice Program (pair

and house programs) for many years with both P2WIRL and the Louis Riel Institute.

Verna has also been a key leader and contributor to arts and media projects by Métis artists and creators, including Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North, Andrea Menard's album *Anskoonamakew lii Shasoon*, Wookey Films projects, the Amelia Douglas Institute, First Voice Media and her own children.

She continues to engage the larger community in language policy (e.g. the Indigenous Languages Act and the Commission of Indigenous Languages), community events, conferences as an Elder, panelist and invited speaker (including past Mawachihitotaak conferences in Winnipeg), as well as guiding extensive research work by Métis and non-Indigenous scholars. Verna also supports learners of Michif in her community and across the country through the use of technology.



AWARDS



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BILL AND LANA MYERS

Bill and Lana Myers share a close and longstanding relationship to Brandon College and Brandon University.

Lana received a Bachelor of Arts from Brandon University in 1968 and a Bachelor of Education from BU in 1991. She has maintained a close affinity to BU and has served as a member of the Board of Governors and the BU Foundation. She was an active member of the Alumni Association from 1994 to 2011, including two years as President. In recognition of her outstanding dedication, she received its Exceptional Service Award in 2014.

Bill attended Brandon College for two years (Pre-Med) before receiving his MD from the University of Manitoba in 1971. In 1978 he received his Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada from Dalhousie University and received his Certificate of the American Board of Surgery in 1980.

He has been a member of the BU Foundation since 2011 including service on the Foundation's Management Committee and as President of the Foundation from 2017 to 2021. He was an active member of BU's BUILD Campaign and, in 2014, he received the Foundation's Outstanding Fundraiser Award.

The couple has also made innumerable contributions to the wider community.



SENATE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

CANDICE WADDELL-HENOWITCH

Candice Waddell-Henowitch is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatric Nursing at Brandon University. She holds a PhD in Community Health Science from the University of Manitoba and master's and undergraduate degrees in Psychiatric Nursing from Brandon University. She has been a registered psychiatric nurse in Australia, New Zealand, Manitoba, and remote communities in Nunavut. She was acknowledged nationally by the Canadian Alliance of Mental Illness and Mental Health with a Champion of Mental Health Award for her work in Nunavut improving community wellness through youth and

community engagement. She has also been recognized for her teaching, service, and research since she started at BU in 2015.

Candice leads the Rural, Remote, and Northern Gendered-Violence Research program with colleagues and friends from a variety of disciplines. This work focuses on examining gendered-violence, the experiences of those who have survived it and the ways in which health-care practitioners and systems can better support survivors.

Candice is unable to attend Convocation this year because she is currently in Mechelen, Belgium presenting her work at the European Congress of Psychiatric Nurses.

AWARDS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

MEGUMI MASAKI

Megumi Masaki is a Japanese-Canadian pianist, multimedia performing artist, educator, and curator of international distinction. She has performed in more than 25 countries at leading venues and festivals and co-created over 80 interdisciplinary works. Her work engages environmental and human rights issues, positioning research-creation and performance as catalysts for dialogue and change.

She has served with the Canadian Music Centre (CMC) Board of Directors and has

contributed to advisory and adjudication roles with the Manitoba Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, the JUNO Awards, the Western Canadian Music Awards, and major music competitions. She is part of the National Witness/Structural Change Group, contributing to dialogue and action around decolonization, inclusion, and cultural responsibility.

As Professor of Piano at BU and Artistic Director of the E-Gré National Music Competition, Megumi has created platforms that connect artists, students, and communities across Manitoba and Canada. She is also the founder and director of the Brandon University New Music Festival.

Megumi is unable to attend Convocation this year as she is participating in a research project in Japan.



Photo Credit: Robert Hechler



AWARDS



BUAA EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

DR. CHRISTOPHER J. SCHNEIDER

Dr. Christopher J. Schneider received his PhD from Arizona State University. He is Professor of Sociology at Brandon University where he has taught since 2015. His teaching and research have focused largely on information technologies and related changes to police work.

Christopher has written or collaborated on nine books and published more than 100 scholarly papers and essays, including numerous pieces related specifically to teaching and learning. Christopher is a previous recipient of the Brandon University Senate Award for Excellence

in Research as well as the BU Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Community Service.

As a teacher-scholar, he incorporates his research into the classroom where his primary focus is teaching students how to think by critically assessing information that is presented for consideration.

Thinking is like any other art: it must be taught and practiced. Learning is an on-going teaching enterprise, and teaching students how to think enables a lifetime of learning.



SENATE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

DR. WENDY ZANDER

Dr. Wendy Zander, Instrumental Music Education Specialist and director of the Symphonic Band at Brandon University, is a member of the Joint Department of Music Education.

Wendy values the creation of learning communities that facilitate professional development in both music education and performance. She is Faculty Advisor for the Brandon University Student Music Educators Association and organizes an annual summer workshop. Additionally, she provides clinics across Canada for

provincial music education conferences and targeted divisional development.

Wendy was Lead Writer of the Manitoba Grade 9-12 Music Curriculum Framework and a regular contributor to the research series Teaching Music Through Performance in Band. A former President of the Manitoba and Canadian Band Associations, she is both an Educational Clinician with the Conn-Selmer Division of Education and a Teaching Affiliate with the BU Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology.

Wendy investigates rehearsing and learning, conducting, and instrumental literature as a meaningful source for doing, knowing, and understanding in the music classroom.

AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

KELSEY ZIMMERMAN

Kelsey Zimmerman is a passionate and dedicated music educator who has made a meaningful impact on students and the broader community through her commitment to music education. A graduate of Brandon University, she earned her Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education (concurrent) in the Instrumental Stream, equipping her with both the artistic and pedagogical skills to inspire learners of all ages.

Kelsey currently teaches Kindergarten to Grade 12 music and band at Morris School, where she has been instrumental in building a strong and successful music program within a rural community. Her

teaching is rooted in the belief that music education fosters creativity, teamwork, and confidence, and she strives to create an inclusive environment where every student can thrive. Through her leadership, students are encouraged to develop their musical abilities while also gaining valuable life skills through collaboration and performance.

In addition to her work in the classroom, Kelsey is actively involved in school and community life. She has coached various school sports, planned travel experiences for her students, supported student growth in the arts beyond school, and remains deeply connected to her own musical practice by conducting and performing in a local community band. Outside of her professional life, she is a mom to a vibrant two-year-old and is eagerly anticipating the arrival of another child this summer.



VALEDICTORIANS



FACULTY OF ARTS

HAILEY ANDERSON

Hailey Anderson is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics, with minors in Philosophy and Political Science. Born and raised in Brandon, she has remained committed to her community as a BU student leader, member of the BU Legal Studies Association, youth mentor, and youth music director. Her academic journey reflects curiosity and discipline, leading to her induction into the President's

Honour Society each year. Motivated by a passion for improving the lives of the vulnerable, Hailey used her honours thesis to explore the potential of microfinance institutions to alleviate poverty through a multidimensional framework. Moving forward, she plans to pursue a career in law, where she hopes to provide support and make tangible impacts in others' lives. Hailey is very grateful to her loved ones for always encouraging her and providing many invaluable opportunities.



FACULTY OF EDUCATION

CYDNEY BJERKE

Cydney Bjerke is a PENT Indigenous Education graduate. Her teacher education journey began in Cranberry Portage in 2020 when she became an Educational Assistant before transitioning to a PENT Student Teacher.

Living and teaching in Cranberry Portage has been a full circle experience

for Cydney as her parents and family have strong ties to the community and land. Through her studies and experiences, she became committed to supporting students in northern Manitoba.

She is grateful for the mentors, family, and community who have supported her, and she looks forward to continuing this journey in education.



FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES

MORGAN BURR

Valedictorian for Brandon University's Faculty of Health Studies, Morgan Burr brings a diverse academic and professional background to nursing. She previously earned a degree in Kinesiology from the University of Alberta and has extensive experience working in behavioural management and crisis intervention with individuals living

with intellectual disabilities. Morgan has accepted a position as an Emergency Nurse at Selkirk Regional Health Centre, where she looks forward to beginning and expanding her nursing career.

Beyond work, Morgan enjoys spending time at the cabin, cooking and exploring new recipes, staying physically active and searching for the perfect cup of coffee. Above all, she treasures any time spent with friends and family.

VALEDICTORIANS

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

LEEANNE GERRY

Leeanne Gerry is a 2026 graduate of the 5-year concurrent Bachelor of Music/ Bachelor of Education (A.D.) program at Brandon University, where she has focused her studies in the secondary instrumental route.

During her time at BU, Leeanne has enjoyed performing with various ensembles including the Brandon University Symphonic Band, Clarinet

Choir, and the Brandon Conservatory Community Choir.

Furthermore, she has spent four years serving as an executive member of the Brandon University Student Music Educators Association (BUSMEA). Initially Secretary, Leeanne is proud to have served the last two academic years as BUSMEA President.



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

KENDAL GIESBRECHT

Kendal Giesbrecht was born and raised in Brandon. She is graduating with an honours degree in Chemistry. Her honours thesis involved development of instrumental methods to study brain cancer mechanisms.

Beyond BU, Kendal has participated in international research, earning the prestigious RISE-Globalink scholarship,

which sent her to Dresden, Germany, to research selenium enrichment in the beer brewing process.

Kendal is an active member of the BU community, serving as president of the BU Chemistry Club, acting as a teaching assistant in chemistry labs, and program coordinator of Let's Talk Science.

She looks forward to starting her career as a laboratory analyst at Pfizer.



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 10:00 A.M.

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE & SCHOOL OF MUSIC
(INCLUDING BMUS/BED CONCURRENT)**

PROCESSIONAL

Rolling Thunder Singers

O CANADA

Brandon University's Lower Voices Ensemble: Invicta

KNOWLEDGE KEEPER GREETINGS

Susie McPherson-Derendy, Ininew

OPENING OF CONVOCATION

Mary Jane McCallum, Chancellor

CHANCELLOR'S GREETINGS

Mary Jane McCallum

PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

Installed by: Mary Jane McCallum and
Quintin Pearce, Vice-Chair, Board of Governors

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S GREETINGS

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Andrea McDaniel, University Registrar

SENATE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Wendy Zander

Presented by: Greg Gatien,
Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Megumi Masaki

Presented by: Quintin Pearce,
Vice-Chair, Brandon University Board of Governors

ALUMNI GREETINGS

Chris Hunt, President,
Brandon University Alumni Association

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Kendal Giesbrecht

Introduced by: Christophe LeMoine,
Dean, Faculty of Science

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Leeanne Gerry

Introduced by: Leanne Zacharias,
Acting Dean, School of Music

CLOSING REMARKS

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

HONOUR SONG

Waniska

CLOSING OF CONVOCATION

Mary Jane McCallum

RECESSIONAL

The audience is requested to remain standing until the
academic procession has left the stage.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

AWARDS

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S GOLD MEDAL

Awarded to the undergraduate who achieves the highest academic standing in their Bachelor's degree program.

Reid Morgan Opperman

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S GOLD MEDAL

Awarded to the undergraduate who achieves the highest academic standing in their Bachelor's degree program.

Shane Lyndon Sangster

BRANDON UNIVERSITY GOLD MEDALS

Awarded for the highest standing in the degree program.

Bachelor of Science (3-Year)

Charles Adamu

Bachelor of Science (4-Year)

Onyedikachukwu Anthony Onyia

Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Shane Lyndon Sangster

Master of Science (Environmental and Life Sciences)

Braydon Darryl Nault

CERTIFICATES OF HONOURABLE MENTION

Awarded, upon recommendation, to students whose grade point average (GPA) is within 0.05 of that of the medal award winner.

Bachelor of Science (4 Year)

Franzlex Bantolin Listauro

Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Jonah Henry Jarvis

BRANDON UNIVERSITY SILVER MEDALS

Awarded to those students deemed by the departments to have the best academic performance and who obtain a 3.50 grade point average (GPA) or better in their major or minor area of study.

Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies

Emma-Gail Elizabeth Woike

Biology

Maria Jade Bomford Vreeman

Chemistry

Jonah Henry Jarvis

Environmental Science

Madison Ember Leticia Leforte

French

Geneviève Catheryn Marie Pearce

Geography & Environment

Carter Wayne Baranyk

Mathematics

Paige Brooklyn DeVliegere

Philosophy

Noah Raynard Monk

Physics and Astronomy

Brenna Sawchuk

Rural and Community Studies

Carter Wayne Baranyk

CERTIFICATES OF HONOURABLE MENTION

Awarded, upon recommendation, to students whose grade point average (GPA) is within 0.05 of that of the medal award winner.

Biology

Geneviève Catheryn Marie Pearce

Chemistry

Marco Wahba Hanna

Physics and Astronomy

Sarah Gwen Ramage

Psychology

Elizaveta Polyakova

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Award Winners for the 2026 Convocation.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

GRADUATES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (3-YEAR)

Light Green hood

Charles Adamu
Mudiaga Steve Adamu
Okeoghene Great Adamu
Johnpaul Adakole Apeh
Jayden Aymont
Dua Binte Badr
Anya Choy
Zheng Fang
Allison Ginger Gadsby
Jadyn Marie Grift
Munachiso Brian Ibeawuchi
Danielle Meloni Isfeld
Oluwatoyosi Olatunde Kehinde
Armi Buenviaje Manjares
Elizabeth Paige Olson
Anee Pareshkumar Patel
Haylee Dawn Plaisier
Louise Franchesca Mariano Poblal
Cesar Andres Santos Espinoza
Larry Stetsiuk
TianYu Wang
Meiyi Wu

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (4-YEAR)

Light Green hood

Oluwanifemi Eniola Adejumo
Josephine Emma Black
Jordana Catherine Boychuk
Colin Cook
Neil Kenneth Daniels
Elizabeth Charis Dueck
Daphne Brooklyn Ellis
Kristine Angela Estremos
Thomas Jarrett Friesen
Mackena Marie Gaudry
Kellen Francis Giilck
Callum Blake Greenwood

Rhett Hay
Megan Janelle Hildebrand
Melissa Ann Kerik
Cole Thomas Arthur Kinney
Samuel Matthew Krahn
Carlee Leduc-Bewley
Garrett Donald Lindsay
Franzlex Bantolin Listauro
Kassidy Jade Loewen
Raychel Leeann Meyer
Anezka Beatriz Garcia Niones
Onyedikachukwu Anthony Onyia
Garron Ross Park
Krina Nileshkumar Patel
Chris Allen Pirie
Hailey Jean Rempel
Joel Anthony Schoonbaert
Anneke-Kathrin Schwennesen
Owen Richard Scott
Muhammad Maaz Shabbir
Aden John Sinoski
Devin Daniel Snow
Samuel Berihun Solomon
Emma Sul
Kayleigh Roberta Tanner
Emily May Tesarski
Emma-Gail Elizabeth Woike

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (4-YEAR HONOURS)

Light Green hood

Ava Joan Jennie Acevedo
Ayodele Oluwatobi Deborah Adeniyi
Angela Mackenzie Atwater
Athena Marie Terso Balajadia
Carter Wayne Baranyak
Christyna Marion Caldwell
Lukas Alexander de Vries
Paige Brooklyn DeVliegere
Kendal Lynne Giesbrecht
Alison Lauren Gray

Jonah Henry Jarvis
Yanfeng Ji
Sydney Leigh Manko
Noah Raynard Monk
Gina Lynn Musgrave
Geneviève Catheryn Marie Pearce
Nhi Yen Phan
Elizaveta Polyakova
Bree Oda-Linea Herbjørg Thorvik
Pringle
Sarah Gwen Ramage
Shane Lyndon Sangster
Brenna Sawchuk
Emma Christina Sinclair
Alexa Stang
Morolaoluwa Favour Temitope
Maria Jade Bomford Vreeman
Marco Wahba Hanna
Lin Xu

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Light Green hood

Okikiola Emmanuel Ayoola
Lisa Marie Crede
Gaybrielle Joy Venturado De Castro
Madison Ember Leticia Leforte
Josie Victoria Forrester Sallows
Alex Jayden Smith
Raian Jaren Jimenez Tuazon

MASTER OF SCIENCE (ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIFE SCIENCES)

Scarlet hood, bound in Light Green

Ramlah Oshuwa Abdulmalik
Braydon Darryl Nault
Reid Morgan Opperman

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Graduates for the 2026 Convocation.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

AWARDS

BRANDON UNIVERSITY GOLD MEDALS

Awarded for the highest standing in the degree program.

Bachelor of Music / Bachelor of Education (A.D.)

Kendalyn Jade Penner

Bachelor of Music

Haoyuan Mei

Master of Music

Boyang Zhang

CERTIFICATES OF HONOURABLE MENTION

Awarded, upon recommendation, to students whose grade point average (GPA) is within 0.05 of that of the medal award winner.

Bachelor of Music/ Bachelor of Education (A.D.)

Leeanne Victoria Gerry

BRANDON UNIVERSITY SILVER MEDALS

Awarded to those students deemed by the departments to have the best academic performance and who obtain a 3.50 grade point average (GPA) or better in their major or minor area of study.

General Music

Seraphina Gabrielle Gilbert

Music Performance

Jessica Marie Kovachik

DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Awarded to students deemed by the Faculty of Education to have demonstrated exceptional academic performance, excellence in the practice of teaching, outstanding leadership qualities, collegial behaviour, self-directed learning and appropriate application, commitment to ongoing professional improvement, demonstrated integrity and diligence, and demonstrated professional responsibility.

Bachelor of Music / Bachelor of Education (A.D.) Concurrent

Kendalyn Jade Penner

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Award Winners for the 2026 Convocation.



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

GRADUATES

BACHELOR OF MUSIC/ BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (A.D.)

Pink hood, bound in Mauve

Keegan James Agema-Doiron
Derick Gilles Bedard
Kaylee Elizabeth Carlson
Leeanne Victoria Gerry
Jackson Edward Hacault
Mya Eleanor Kristjanson
Carlen Robertson MacFarlane
Kendalyn Jade Penner

BACHELOR OF MUSIC (4-YEAR)

Pink hood

Yuting Cong
Seraphina Gabrielle Gilbert
Jessica Marie Kovachik
Boyue Li
Haoyuan Mei
Bennett Dale Radcliffe
Sunqiaoyi Zhang

MASTER OF MUSIC

Scarlet hood, bound in Pink

Gregory Conway
Yuefeng Du
Kurtis Andrew Johnson
Junxin Ye
Boyang Zhang

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Graduates for the 2026 Convocation.



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 2:00 P.M.

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION
(INCLUDING BA/BED INTEGRATED)**

PROCESSIONAL

Rolling Thunder Singers

O CANADA

Brandon University's Lower Voices Ensemble: Invicta

KNOWLEDGE KEEPER GREETINGS

Joan Church, Métis

OPENING OF CONVOCATION

Mary Jane McCallum, Chancellor

CHANCELLOR'S GREETINGS

Mary Jane McCallum

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S GREETINGS

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Andrea McDaniel, University Registrar

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARDS

Kelsey Zimmerman, Morris School (Morris, MB)

Presented by: Alysha Farrell,
Dean, Faculty of Education

ALUMNI GREETINGS

Chris Hunt, President,
Brandon University Alumni Association

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Cydney Bjerke

Introduced by: Alysha Farrell,
Dean, Faculty of Education

CLOSING REMARKS

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

HONOUR SONG

Waniska

CLOSING OF CONVOCATION

Mary Jane McCallum

RECESSIONAL

The audience is requested to remain standing until the
academic procession has left the stage.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

AWARDS

BRANDON UNIVERSITY GOLD MEDALS

Awarded for the highest standing in the degree program.

Bachelor of Physical Education Studies

Tessa Marie Burt

Bachelor of Education (A.D.)

Leigh Robin Hunt

Master of Education

Carla MacMillan

CERTIFICATES OF HONOURABLE MENTION

Awarded, upon recommendation, to students whose grade point average (GPA) is within 0.05 of that of the medal award winner.

Bachelor of Physical Education Studies

Katelynn Marie Visser

BRANDON UNIVERSITY SILVER MEDALS

Awarded to those students deemed by the departments to have the best academic performance and who obtain a 3.50 grade point average (GPA) or better in their major or minor area of study.

Bachelor of Education (A.D.) (Early Years)

Olivia McKenna Northam

Bachelor of Education (A.D.) (Middle Years)

Cydney Rose Bjerke

Bachelor of Education (A.D.) (Senior Years)

Jonathon Wollmann

DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Awarded to students deemed by the Faculty of Education to have demonstrated exceptional academic performance, excellence in the practice of teaching, outstanding leadership qualities, collegial behaviour, self-directed learning and appropriate application, commitment to ongoing professional improvement, demonstrated integrity and diligence, and demonstrated professional responsibility.

Early Years

Brianne McKenzie Stott

Early Years

Jared Gross

Middle Years

Jaydyn Lucas Daniel Hutsal

Middle Years

Kaylee Amy Hatley

Senior Years

Jonathon Wollmann

Senior Years

Felicity May Nepinak-Hart

Integrated/Concurrent

Haylee Florette Henderson

PENT

Angela Louise Christian

PENT

Cydney Rose Bjerke

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Award Winners for the 2026 Convocation.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

GRADUATES

BACHELOR OF ARTS/ BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (A.D.)

Mauve hood

Danielle Shae Lynn Annetts
Ashlynn Rychelle Barron
Cydney Rose Bjerke
Danielle Ann Brykaliuk
Alyssa Mae Cadeleña Bughao
Heather Dawn Burns
Jillian Celeste Chalmers
Angela Louise Christian
Alicia Jade Cook
Julie Grace Easter
Jonathan Allan Flatfoot
Daniela Tatiana Flores Chavez
Lerinda Caitlin Garrioch
Emma Kaylee Gertz
Nicole Ann Haney
Bernadette Harper
Haylee Florette Henderson
Alice Hofer
Johnelle Vera Houle
Samuel Amadeus Leslie Houle
Serena Christy Anne Kematch
Cally Lillian Rae Ledoux
Hailey Joelle Marie Love
Larissa Joy Luptak
Katie Emily Maendel
Brandi Danielle Meeches
Raegan Taylor Miller
Emma Elise Eisner Mooney
Jessica Rayne Neal
Hannah Alice Olson
Carly Cassandra O'Rourke
Maddie Renae Pennell
Lauren Anne Rosling
Alyssa Rachel Elizabeth St. Jacques
Cassidy Rayne Steele
Krystle Tamara Leigh Turner
Tammy Linda Turner-Moneyas
Tanis Hope Unrau
Donell Joseph Whitehead
Jocelyn Marie Zimmer

BACHELOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDIES

Royal Blue hood

Tessa Marie Burt
Ryder Les Ellsworth
Jennifer May Lee Forsyth
Travis Hamberger
Brogan Leigh Henry
Mya Sarah Hlady
Kenadie Brooklyn Janzen
Damian Lambe Leal
Makena Jean Lawless
Grant Tyler Duane Maluga
Diamond Lexus Mckenzie
Ryleigh Janelle McPhail
Silas Kwame Appiah Owusu-Acheaw
Megan Victoria Pickford
Rylee Rae Reiersen
Kale Monroe Rushing
Katelynn Marie Visser
Zachary Wood

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (A.D.)

Mauve hood

Halimat Odunola Abdulsalam
Sarah Oluwayemisi Ajayi
Kaylee Rebecca Anderson
Kierstyn Bakker
Kaitlynn Barr
Cameron Joseph Beaupre
Mathieuw Merlin Douglas Blakely
Kale Nicholas Raymond Bomback
Chloe Marie Boulet
Jordan Nicholas Brown
Charity Jeanette Brugger
Kennedy Kelann Charles
Ariel Eveline De Ruyck
Janelle Roselyne Delaquis
Christian Chinedu Dim
Lyndsey Lee Dunning
Kristen Sharon Fortune

Jaelyn Rae Frykas
Courtney Lee Ganske
Franchesca Mareen Ramos Garcia
Sarah Elizabeth Gerdis Filipchuk
Elizabeth Lena Glenn
Magan Allyn Griffin
Jared Gross
Weston Rylee Harder
Kaylee Amy Hatley
Tanner Hepp
Juliana Hiebert
Phoebe Lynn Hofer
Leigh Robin Hunt
Jaydyn Lucus Daniel Hutsal
Nelson Ryan Lepla
Lauren Kelly Letexier
Jana Kendal McTavish
Jolene Dorothy-May Medwid
Tyrell Medwid
Albertine Germaine Miller
Francesca Rae Murphy
Felicity May Nepinak-Hart
Deja Michelle May Newell
Olivia McKenna Northam
Ruth Abosedo Odewale
Ashley Lynn Palumbo
Jayda Marie Payette
George Laurel Phillips
Tisheena Rae-Anne Roels
Arushi Sapra
Cheyanne Callie Seaton
Isabel Mavis Stevenson
Brianna McKenzie Stott
Adra Gardner Thiele
Carly Thomson
Luke Lyle Wildeboer
Cameron Edward Wollmann
Janae Ruth Wollmann
Jonathon Wollmann
Courtney Belle Wotton

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Scarlet hood, bound in Sky Blue

Kristy Leanne Agnew
Tristan Dominique Allain
Laurel Brooke Appell
Amanda Ann Asham
Shane Nelson Baranyk
Robert Michel Beaudry
Nathalie Céline Chantal Beerman
Kelsy Jordyn Black
Carla Marjorie Marlene Bonar
Jennifer Bracken
Twila Dawn Brinkman
Jocelynn Martha Bryant
Leah Corrin Bryant
Stacey Anne Busch
Cara Lynn Butler
Audrey Christine Cable
Nadia Giovanna Cantafio
Chelsea Jacqueline Carrigan
Patricia Ann Dreolini
Stephanie Rose Drysdale
Shannon Rae Marie Dube
Andrew Charles Esson
Diandra Etkin
Cameron Clifford Flamand
Nicole Lianne Frykas
Karyn Renee Gagnon
Darren Ray Gerbrandt
Alyson Chelsea Giroux

Kirsten Jayne Glen
Avery Ernest Griffith
Pathirathnage Kumudu Kaushalya
Gunarathna
Teresa Diane Hampton
Blaine Lindsay Harder
Brittany Jen Hiebert
Babatunde Peter Johnson
Donna Louise Johnston
Humera Saalim Khan
Jillian Whitney King
Tracey Dawn Kirby-Savard
Natasha Lynn Kirkpatrick
Karissa Ann Kirkup
Jeff Robert Kriski
Shannon Rae Leflar
Tabitha Ashly Love
Carla MacMillan
Darcy Alan Cole Manns
Jana Lynn Martens
Kellie Rae Marvin
Jennifer Lee Metelski
Amy Jeanine Neufeld
Ohi Godfrey Ojo
Jodi Lynn Pawlachuk
Janna Dineen Personius
Karen Michelle Peyton
Danessa-Rose Poiron
Amy Katherine Portey
Michael James Rainnie

Kaitlyn Brooke Ramsey
Emma Louise Rathgeber
Sandra Resendes
Carmen Gael Schaak
Brittany Schettler
Annika Dawn Sherwin
Brady Elizabeth Skinner
Sashani Shanelle Sullivan-Dawkins
Colin Rene Talbot
Alyssa Lyne Watson
Robyn Nicole Woytowich

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Graduates for the 2026 Convocation.



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026 10:00 A.M.

FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES

PROCESSIONAL

Rolling Thunder Singers

O CANADA

Brandon University's Lower Voices Ensemble: Invicta

KNOWLEDGE KEEPER GREETINGS

Barb Blind, Anishinaabe

OPENING OF CONVOCATION

Mary Jane McCallum, Chancellor

CHANCELLOR'S GREETINGS

Mary Jane McCallum

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S GREETINGS

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Andrea McDaniel, University Registrar

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Bill and Lana Myers

Presented by: Christine Bovis-Cnossen

SENATE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Candice Waddell-Henowitch

Presented by: Bernadette Ardelli,
Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)

ALUMNI GREETINGS

Chris Hunt, President,
Brandon University Alumni Association

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES

Morgan Burr

Introduced by: Linda Ross,
Acting Dean, Faculty of Health Studies

CLOSING REMARKS

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

HONOUR SONG

Waniska

CLOSING OF CONVOCATION

Mary Jane McCallum

RECESSIONAL

The audience is requested to remain standing until the
academic procession has left the stage.

FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES

AWARDS

BRANDON UNIVERSITY GOLD MEDALS

Awarded for the highest standing in the degree program.

Bachelor of Nursing

Divina Martinez Suazo

Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing

Jeffrey Charles Dojack

Master of Psychiatric Nursing

Megan Jane Hadley

CERTIFICATES OF HONOURABLE MENTION

Awarded, upon recommendation, to students whose grade point average (GPA) is within 0.05 of that of the medal award winner.

Master of Psychiatric Nursing

Karen Dawn Burgess

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Award Winners for the 2026 Convocation.



FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES

GRADUATES

BACHELOR OF NURSING

Maroon hood

Oluwaseyi Elizabeth Akinola
Precious Olufunke Awoyode
Oluwajomiloju Ayanwale
Samantha Baker
Kailley Brook Smith Banfield
Amber Lucille Boulet
Haylie Grace Bryant
Leanne Dawn Burnell
Morgan Riley Burr
Elizabeth Anne Christie
Jainmierz Earljoy Bernabe Dela Cruz
Helene Dilk
Emilie Dornez
Risikat Ekundolapo Falode-Arije
Kori Ashlyn Gilliland
Rachelle D Golaiy
Dylan Patrick Gordon
Emily Marja Gudbjartson
Fahimo Mohamud Ismail
Sukurat Boluwatife Lawal
Amy Marie Lovas
Janelle Nicole McIvor
Jayla Lauren Miller
Jayde Emily Nakonechny
Christal Dawn Nicholson
Precious Adaeze Okeke
Ibijoke Comfort Olayinka
Aishat Olubodun
Oluwatimilehin Paulson Omidiran
Esosa Victoria Omoarukhe
Hannah Patingan
Lucia Alejandra Prieto Medina
Breanna Raye Sakal

Jorja Lynne Paige Siemens
Jessica Southgate
Divina Martinez Suazo
Kelly Lynn Swereda
Edidiong Mfon Udoh
Alyssa Lia Marie Van De Spiegle
Sonia Lucille Van Den Bosch
Sydney Dawn Vanhove
Samantha Irene Warren
Xiaowei Zhang

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHIATRIC NURSING

Teal hood

Celia Rose Boganes
Sydney Alexandria Coopland
Irene Emma Crosthwaite-Fidler
Phoebe Andrea Cuenco
Hann Narielle Dinoy
Jeffrey Charles Dojack
Hilary Christine Dufort
Oluchi Marvel Erobuikeze
Meagan Deanne Gomercic
Patricia San Juan Gonzales
Madison Rileigh Graham
Kim Dawn Harrison
Michael John Robert Hull
Andrea Jasmine Jimeno
Courtney Jade Kszywiecki
Itohan Sylvia Lawrence
Silindile Mabaso
Jonalyn Marcelino

Achieng Onam Mastura
Janna Mae Merino
Janelle Milette
Rhianna Elaine Nelson
Mimidoo Kehinde Omirin
Larissa Nicole O'Neil
Kelsie Dawn Paulic
Maricar Porcioncula
Sarah Irene Pearl Rice
Ashley Robinson
Nicole Brielle Roy
Kristina Blair Sharman
Zoe Bella Suffield
Megan Elizabeth Van De Spiegle
Kelsey Marie Vandenberghe
Bless-Mae Vedoya
Mackenzie Alexander Wood
Aishat Ayomide Zakariyah

MASTER OF PSYCHIATRIC NURSING

Scarlet hood, bound in Emerald Green

Karen Dawn Burgess
Brittany Claire Chisholm
Meaghan D'Mello
Annette Mary Elizabeth Greaves
Megan Jane Hadley
Ashley Liese Lemus
Jordyn Julie McBride
Alison Scholes Pham
Heather Marie Stephen

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Graduates for the 2026 Convocation.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026 2:00 P.M.

FACULTY OF ARTS

PROCESSIONAL

Rolling Thunder Singers

O CANADA

Brandon University's Lower Voices Ensemble: Invicta

KNOWLEDGE KEEPER GREETINGS

Barb Blind, Anishinaabe

OPENING OF CONVOCATION

Mary Jane McCallum, Chancellor

CHANCELLOR'S GREETINGS

Mary Jane McCallum

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S GREETINGS

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Andrea McDaniel, University Registrar

HONORARY DEGREE

Verna DeMontigny

Presented by: Greg Gatien,
Acting Provost & Vice-President

BRANDON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Christopher J. Schneider

Presented by: Chris Hunt,
President, Brandon University Alumni Association

ALUMNI GREETINGS

Chris Hunt, President,
Brandon University Alumni Association

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, FACULTY OF ARTS

Hailey Anderson

Introduced by: Gregory Kennedy,
Dean, Faculty of Arts

CLOSING REMARKS

Christine Bovis-Cnossen

HONOUR SONG

Waniska

CLOSING OF CONVOCATION

Mary Jane McCallum

RECESSIONAL

The audience is requested to remain standing until the
academic procession has left the stage.

FACULTY OF ARTS

AWARDS

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S GOLD MEDAL

Awarded to the graduate student who achieves the highest standing in their Master's degree program.

Hailey Elizabeth Ann Anderson

BRANDON UNIVERSITY GOLD MEDALS

Awarded for the highest standing in the degree program.

Bachelor of Arts (3-Year)

Faith Janelle Hernando

Bachelor of Arts (4-Year)

Anissa Ember Lamerz

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Hailey Elizabeth Ann Anderson

Bachelor of Business Administration

Ethan David Sanders

Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours)

Jasmine Gabrielle Autumn Penner

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours)

Haylee Janai Roesch

Master of Arts (Rural Development)

Akua Afrakoma Osei

BRANDON UNIVERSITY SILVER MEDALS

Awarded to those students deemed by the departments to have the best academic performance and who obtain a 3.50 grade point average (GPA) or better in their major or minor area of study.

Anthropology

Mason Michael Francis De Ruyck

Business Administration

Mariia Lytvynenko

Economics

Hailey Elizabeth Ann Anderson

English

Lily Mae Isabel Hodgson

Gender and Women's Studies

Dorothy Megwunais Courchene

History

Carson Zavitz

Music (Arts)

Ethan David Sanders

Native Studies

Phoenix Mackenzie Rockley

Political Science

Lukas William Frykas

Psychology

Molly Ruth MacPherson-Blair

Religion

Bethany Frances Dawn Leslie

Sociology

Maya Linov

CERTIFICATES OF HONOURABLE MENTION

Awarded, upon recommendation, to students whose grade point average (GPA) is within 0.05 of that of the medal award winner.

Sociology

Xuan Cao

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Award Winners for the 2026 Convocation.

FACULTY OF ARTS

GRADUATES

BACHELOR OF ARTS (3-YEAR)

Pale Blue hood

Tarin Ballan
John Michael Crystal Bautista
Anita Edman Biney
Madelyn Ava Bootsman
Rowena Catalan
Jacob Brent Craig Cote
Mason Michael Francis De Ruyck
Karis Opemipo Edet
Gavin Kyle Bernard Green
Rose Jean Harrison
Faith Janelle Hernando
Folayemi Adesakin Iyiola
Alyssa Brianne Keeble
Hannah Yaa Konadu
Charlie Mae Lee
Taryn Ashley McConechy
Courtney Amber Dawn McKinney
Mackenzie Michelle McLennan
Riley Arthur Miller
Evan Michael Nachtigall
Benita Onyinyechi Ogbodo
Emmanuella Chidera Okike
Jameson Miles Edwin Parr
Carson James Richards
Phoenix Mackenzie Rockley
Eve Elizabeth Routledge
Iyiola Olabowale Sanya
Mercedes Katheryn Schmidt
Christine Alonte Soterio
Carter Daniel Wiebe

BACHELOR OF ARTS (4-YEAR)

Pale Blue hood

Liberty Anne Lynette Bachewich
Jillian Marie Barrett
Lauren Elizabeth Bell
Jesmy Verence Benitez Merino

Sandy Louise Bunn
Xuan Cao
Kalin James Contois
Dorothy Megwunais Courchene
John Carl Mamuric Cruz
Zoe Faith Elliott
Abbygail Maria Glenn
Justin Kyle Head
Lillianne Joyce Hiller
Jeremy Roy Hobson
Carter Thomas Hynes
Ziarah Marley Rose Kroeker
Anissa Ember Lamerz
Maya Linov
Reese Kaylyn Mayer
Andrea Rebecca Rose McIvor
Jennifer Leanne McKay
Joel Frederick Neumier
Reannah Lillian Elizabeth Oberlander
Ifechukwude Stephanie Onyia
Susana Carolina Osegueda Alas
Annastasia Catharine Pendykoski-Lewis
Alexandra Maria Phillips
Michele Lee Soldier
Bradley Roy Stevenson
Katrina Anne Jean Switzer
Jocelyn Lee Terhoch
Kayla Rose Turton Thelander
Kirsten Maria Cecilia Tripp
Mackenna Rae Weatherald
Nichelle Renée Wilk
Cali Nicole Yates

BACHELOR OF ARTS (4-YEAR HONOURS)

Pale Blue hood

Kees Allen Adriaansen
Hailey Elizabeth Ann Anderson
Gemma June Barcellona

Arthur Gilbert Fernand Blakely
Fallon Rose Brook
Kora Lee Evans
Lukas William Frykas
Brooke Alma Janet Graham
Elizabeth Jean Greig
Lily Mae Isabel Hodgson
Bethany Frances Dawn Leslie
Molly Ruth MacPherson-Blair
Drayden Vincent McKay
Emily Nicole O'Greysik
Brooklyn Beth Perrett
Timothy James Singh Shackel
Carson Zavitz

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Red hood

Sultan Bhatti
Jake Blazeiko
Danielle Rianne Bossert
Jenna Michelle Bray
Rommero Amir Shamon Brome
Janine Dayna Campbell
Alycia Michelle Canada
Cassandra Elizabeth DeBaets
Shawna Lee Ducharme
Chidubem Favour Ekechukwu
Gregory Ziwen Eu
Dominic Flannery
Jerry Flett
Aidan Joshua Froese
Joshua Dean Hardy
Glenda Lee Mary Houle
Faith Ann-Marie Manulak
Trent Bradley Martin
Majd Mehio
Gela Mae Morales
Vimbainashe Charlene Mwale
Ethan Anthony Poirier
Brett Allen Riehl

Ethan David Sanders
Sarah Rose Sharpe
Benjamin Xavier Slomiany
Dustin Todd Bailey Strasser
Leigh Barbacena Tubelleja
Jessica Gwendoline Voth
Katrina Florence White

**BACHELOR OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
(HONOURS)**

Red hood

Faith Abiola Akinbode
Tiffany Mirekuah Asante
Aishat Olokunbi Bamidele
Kendal Marie Campbell
Jasmine Mae Davidson
Tasha Nicole Gray

Mariia Lytvynenko
Arrin Curtiss Pederson
Jasmine Gabrielle Autumn Penner
Nicolaas Johannes Rudolph Roets
Bien Jo Anne Van Berkel

**BACHELOR OF FINE
ARTS (4-YEAR)**

Black hood, bound in Red

Juanita Ada Louise Cook
Colton Smith

**BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS
(4-YEAR HONOURS)**

Pale Blue hood, bound in White

Lee Anne Beaton
Annette Therese Dianne Henderson
Haylee Janai Roesch

MASTER OF ARTS
Scarlet hood, bound in White

Francis Agyemang
Adewale Azeez Ajenifuja
Kwabena Owusu Amoateng
Alamin Ademide Dada
Melody Kwonu Fagelogo
Denese Simone Francis
Adwoa Asantewaa Kankam
Rendy Asiedu Kwakye
Awall Mustapha Osabutey
Akua Afrakoma Osei
Derrick Kwadzo Selorm

Note: The foregoing does not necessarily constitute the Final List of Graduates for the 2026 Convocation.



INDIGENOUS INFLUENCE

While the legacy of Brandon University, Brandon College and our forerunner institutions dates back a hundred and twenty-five years to the late 19th century, the history of knowledge-keeping in this area draws on thousands of years of Indigenous traditions. Today, Brandon University is proud to celebrate our presence in Treaty 2 and Treaty 1 territory. We acknowledge Brandon is on shared territory between the Dakota Oyate and the Anishinaabeg, and is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis. Today many other Indigenous people call Brandon their home, including the Ininew, Anisininewuk, Denesuline and Inuit.

Our commitment to Indigenous services and Indigenous education was formalized as early as 1975 when we became the first university in western Canada (and only the second in Canada) to establish a Native Studies Department. Our engagement with First Nations, Red River Métis and Inuit programming continues today, and we have a firmly renewed commitment to reconciliation.

Since 2023, Convocation has been graced with the inclusion an Eagle Staff, or migizii mitik, which is carried in a place of honour to lead the procession. The Eagle Staff indicates the official beginning and conclusion of Convocation. The ceremonies also include a host drum that welcomes graduands during the processional, greetings from an elder or knowledge-keeper, and a traditional honour song.



BRANDON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The knowledge you've earned at Brandon University will last you a lifetime, and so will the connections you've built here. The Brandon University Alumni Association nurtures those connections between and among all who share Brandon University degrees.

Your privileges as a BU alumnus include access to this vast network of fellow grads, including through fun social evenings that the Alumni Association regularly organizes in cities across Canada. You are always welcome back on campus, whether for a Bobcats game or special events like our annual fall Homecoming. It's also easy to stay connected to BU through regular e-newsletters and social media groups, so you can learn about the latest research, be inspired by standout students, and share your own successes in the future.

As you know, earning a BU degree requires hard work and dedication, as well as much support. The Brandon University Foundation is a charitable organization that supports the University through fund-raising and endowment stewardship. Money raised by the BU Foundation directly supports students through bursaries and scholarships, as well as enhancing the University experience through research, equipment, and facility support.



PREVIOUS HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

1967

Dr. W.G. Bigelow, D.Sc.
Douglas L. Campbell, LL.D.
Milton C. Holden, LL.D.
Dr. Stanley H. Knowles, LL.D.
Rev. Dr. H.L. MacNeill, D.D.
Wilfred F. McGregor, LL.D.

1968

Stuart Criddle, D.Sc.
Maurice F. Strong, LL.D.

1969

Samuel Bronfman, LL.D.
J.W. Grant MacEwan, LL.D.
Christopher Riley, D.Sc.
W.L. Wright, D.Mus.

1970

Sophie Carmen
Eckhardt-Gramatté, D.Mus.
Paul Henrik Thorbjorn
Thorlakson, D.Sc.
Thomas Clement Douglas, LL.D.

1971

Sarah Persis Darrach, LL.D.
John Lane, LL.D.
Philippe Andre Renaud, LL.D.

1972

Helen Clara Riesberry, LL.D.
Murray Adaskin, D.Mus.
Dr. Martin Wesley Johns, D.Sc.

1973

Chief Dan George, LL.D.
Beatrice Bridgen, LL.D.
Maurice Stanton Donovan, LL.D.
Maurice Joseph Cooney, D.D.

1974

Henry Heard Marshall, D.Sc.
Robert Dudley Howland, LL.D.
John King Gordon, LL.D.
Dr. John Everett Robbins, LL.D.
James Henry Gray, D.Litt.
Paul Gerhardt Hiebert, D.Litt.
William Ormond Mitchell, D.Litt.

1975

Margaret Laurence, D.Litt.
Andrew Hill Clark, D.Sc.
Frank Henry Epp, LL.D.
Laurence Gladwyn
MacPherson, LL.D.
Harry B. Hawthorn, LL.D.
Grettir Leo Johannson, LL.D.

1976

James Harvey Tolton, D.Sc.
Laurence Harold Cragg, D.Sc.
Jon Vickers, D.Mus.

1977

Walter Gilbert Dinsdale, LL.D.
Betty Margaret Gibson, LL.D.

1980

August James Henzel, D.Sc.

1982

Dr. Henry Edmison
Duckworth, D.Sc.

1984

Audrey Engle Hawthorn, LL.D.

1985

Gerald A. McKinney, LL.D.

1987

Dr. John Warkentin, LL.D.
Bishop Remi DeRoo, LL.D.
Dr. Thomas H. McLeod, LL.D.

1988

Dr. Robert Beamish, D.Sc.
Dr. Norma Walmsley, LL.D.

1989

Dr. Kenneth Winters, D.Mus.
Dr. Wilfred McCutcheon, D.Ed.

1990

Lewis Whitehead, LL.D.
Dr. Ferdinand Eckhardt, LL.D.

1992

Dr. Donald A. Robertson, D.Ed.
Dr. David. B. Stewart, LL.D.

1993

George Gooden, LL.D.
Dr. Lorne Watson, D.Mus.

1994

Arthur Amiotte, LL.D.
Charles Gordon, D.Litt.

1995

Benjamin Schacter, LL.D.
Lydia Makhubu, LL.D.

1996

Tomson Highway, D.Litt.

1997

Fred McGuinness, LL.D.
Lawrence Stuckey, LL.D.

1998

Eli Taylor, LL.D.
Peggy Sharpe, D.Mus.

1999

Donald Penny, LL.D.
Leo Pettipas, LL.D.

2000

Yvon Dumont, LL.D.
Dr. John R. Wiens, D.Ed.
Westley G. Wong, LL.D.

2001

Leonard Evans, LL.D.
 Ian Cormack Palmer Smith, D.Sc.
 Norma A. Wylie, D.Ed.
 Burton Cummings, D.Mus.
 Randy Bachman, D.Mus.
 Garry Peterson, D.Mus.
 Don McDougall, D.Mus.
 Bill Wallace, D.Mus.
 Jim Kale, D.Mus.

2002

Matthew Choptuik, D.Sc.
 Robert Prus, D.Litt.
 Clement Chang, D.Ed.

2003

Victor Sharpe, D.Sc.
 The Honourable
 Sharon Carstairs, LL.D.

2004

The Honourable
 Peter M. Liba, LL.D.
 Dr. James S. Brown, D.Sc.

2005

Tom Cochrane, D.Mus.
 James Ehnes, D.Mus.
 Shirley Douglas, LL.D.
 Henry Champ, LL.D.

2006

Miriam Toews, D.Litt.
 Ronald Bell, LL.D.

2007

William R. Morrison, D.Litt.
 Justice Warren Winkler, LL.D.
 Diedre Irons, D.Mus.
 Frederick Ralph Cornelius
 Penner, D.Mus.

2008

Tom Breneman, D.Sc.
 Kenneth Dortor, D.Litt.
 Erin Moure, D.Litt.
 Lorne Munroe, D.Mus.
 Shirley Josephine Paine, D.Sc.

2009

Marlene Fitzsimmons, D.Sc.
 Brian Keating, D.Sc.
 Elizabeth Grant, D.Mus.
 Basil Johnston, LL.D.

2010

Larry Phillip Fontaine, LL.D.
 Stephen Lewis, LL.D.

2011

Gary Doer, LL.D.
 Dr. Ray Bollman, LL.D.
 Buffy Sainte-Marie, D.Mus.
 Heather Bishop, LL.D.

2012

Annette Thorimbert Osted, LL.D.
 Anton Kureti, D.Mus.

2013

Lloyd Robertson, LL.D.

2014

Eric "Lyle" Dyck, LL.D.
 Christopher Summerville, LL.D.

2015

The Honourable Philip S. Lee, LL.D.
 Theoren "Theo" Fleury, LL.D.
 Lisa de Wilde, LL.D.
 Mitch Podolak, LL.D.

2016

The Right Honourable
 Paul Martin, LL.D.
 Eric Friesen, LL.D.

2017

Andy Murray, LL.D.

2018

Linda Hutcheon, D.Litt.

2021

Dr. Brent Roussin, LL.D.
 Tom Jackson, LL.D.

2024

Norman Fleury, LL.D.
 Phyllis Webstad, LL.D.
 Weiming Zhao, LL.D.

2025

Tom Allen, D.Mus.
 Elin Rombo, D.Mus.



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

No ceremony as large, as important, and as complex as Convocation could possibly happen without the dedication of a huge contingent of staff and volunteers. Some you will see around today, in black robes, helping direct graduates and guests to ensure that everyone is where they need to be, when they need to be there. Others have been working behind the scenes, helping with robes, hoods and caps, handing out programs, and even fixing hair. They have helped with setup, and they will help clean up. Many have worked for weeks or even months on behind-the-scenes preparation. Thank you to all who have given time to take on all the tasks you have to make today a special one for everyone involved.

Every seat in the house gets a great view of all our graduates thanks to the outstanding video work and the camera operators. Westman Communications Group also provides complimentary wireless internet access in the Healthy Living Centre so all Convocation participants and guests can share this special moment around the world with ease.

Thank you to the Brandon University faculty and staff who supported each and every student on their journey to reach Convocation. Thank you to the very many friends and family who came out to cheer for the graduates, and who also were key members of each student's support network.

And finally, thank you to the students we celebrate here today. You have fully earned your degree, and we are all proud of your hard work and your accomplishment. Brandon University will forever be your alma mater!

