

# (in) **edition**

CONVOCATION ISSUE

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## spring convocation 2006 “teach me to care”



The University of Winnipeg community joined family, friends, and the public in honouring the 1,019 graduands of the University's 81st convocation on Sunday, June 4, 2006.

“The purpose of this ceremony is to celebrate learning, out of which grows ideas, imagination, curiosity, judgment, and ideals that are the bedrock of human achievement and understanding,” said President and Vice-Chancellor Lloyd Axworthy in his address to the graduands of the Class of 2006.

“You will always have that sense of critical reasoning, a continuing curiosity about the world, passion for justice, tolerance for difference and a willingness to become involved. This I believe will give you the inner compass to set the standards by which your own life will be measured and by which you will hold to account the actions of others.

“You have an opportunity to have a voice, but you have to feel it, want it, demand and not be satisfied with all the hypocrisy, spin and superficiality that too often passes for information and discourse,” Dr. Axworthy said.

Upon receiving an Honorary Doctor of Science at Morning Convocation, Dr. Allan Ronald, physician and world leader in the battle against the AIDS pandemic in Africa, urged University of Winnipeg graduates to be compassionate.

“I hope that in addition to everything else you have learned at this great University that you have learned to care as you have modelled your life from your teachers and peers and as you have acquired the skills and knowledge that are going to make you fulfilled in the world that you will lead in the decades ahead.”

He called on students to follow T.S. Elliott's “teach me to care” treatise. “We reside in a world where caring has deteriorated,” Dr. Ronald said. “The challenge for each of us today is to take what we have been given with our genes, our environment, the nurturing that we have received, the opportunity to live in a wonderful country like Canada, and to add to it our own potential as individuals so that we offer to our generation and the generations that follow, something more—something worthwhile.

“By being a caring person, we will build into the lives of others and find wonderful rewards for ourselves as we move on to be fulfilled and fulfill our mission in life.”

Rev. Gao Ying, a Chinese church leader and theological educator, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity by The University of Winnipeg at Afternoon Convocation.

Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Sheila Watt-Cloutier was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws at Afternoon Convocation. She called on graduates to recognize the Arctic as the bell weather for climate change and the barometer of the global health of the planet. She advised them to recognize the connectivity between the Inuit hunter falling through ice and the overall environmental degradation of Earth.

“Understand the big challenges of climate change faced by the human collective,” said Watt-Cloutier. “It's easy to become overwhelmed. As students, never forget that the planet and the people are one.”



**WORLD-RENOWNED PHYSICIAN AND EMINENT MANITOBAN DR. ALLAN RONALD IS AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE.**



**SHEILA WATT-CLOUTIER, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST, IS PRESENTED WITH AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS.**



# celebrating outstanding



**Dr. Sohrab Abizadeh**, B.Sc., MA, PhD, Acting Chair of the Economics Department at The University of Winnipeg, was awarded the Robin H. Farquhar Award for Excellence in Contributing to Self-Governance. Over the past 19 years, Abizadeh has served on a wide range of University and department committees including the Board of Regents, Senate, FCAS, UWFA, and Department committees. The impact Abizadeh has had on the University is measured by the respect he has achieved among his peers: he is much sought after for his balanced views and has been elected to virtually every committee for which he has been nominated.



**Dianne Cooper**, BA, B.PED. was admitted as a Fellow of United College. Cooper has been a dedicated activist throughout her lifetime—committed to peace, equality for women, recognition of the plight of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and global justice. In 1984, Cooper helped co-found Project Peacemakers, a group working for peace and justice from a faith perspective. And, she is a proud and longtime member of the Wesmen Basketball Booster Club—a passion she shared with her late husband Keith Cooper (United College Class of '51).



**Brian Keenan**, BA, MA, PhD, Associate Professor in Philosophy, was awarded the Clifford J. Robson Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is respected for his capacity to connect with his students and “inspire in them a love of philosophy inquiry.” As well, students consistently remark on his tremendous breadth of knowledge, and his gift of making classes entertaining and intellectually stimulating. In addition to his dynamic teaching style, students again and again point out Keenan’s influence as a mentor and a friend, in and outside of the classroom.



**Dr. John Krahn**, B.Sc., PhD, (Class of 1968) received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Krahn was until recently the head of Clinical Biochemistry at the St. Boniface General Hospital, and a professor of endocrinology in the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Medicine. Recently, he has taken up the post of joint Head of the Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine for the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Health Region. He embodies a well-rounded excellence that encompasses professional achievements, significant contributions to community, and strength of character.



**Dr. Andy Lockery**, BA (Hons.), PhD was admitted as a Fellow of United College. Lockery, who retired in 1999 as Geography Professor after 30 years, has served The University of Winnipeg with great distinction for many years as an accomplished scholar, beloved teacher and mentor, administrator, founder and coordinator of the Environmental Studies program, and tireless promoter of the University. Despite being officially retired, Lockery returned to UWinnipeg to serve as Director of Enrolment Services, instituting a successful advising program and continuing to act as mentor to alumni and peers.

# Outstanding achievements



**Dr. Allan Ronald**, OC, FRSC, B.Sc. (Med.), MD, FRCPC, MACP received an Honorary Doctor of Science. Dr. Ronald is an eminent Manitoban who has had a long and distinguished career in medicine and public health, and has been a leader in battling the AIDS pandemic in Africa. Dr. Ronald is the recipient of many awards including the Order of Canada, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and F.N.G. Starr Award, the highest honour awarded by the Canadian Medical Association.



**Dr. Richard Staniforth**, B.Sc., PhD, Biology Professor, was awarded the Clifford J. Robson Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching. His students describe Staniforth as “rare and gifted educator,” “an inspiring mentor,” and “able to create a personal learning experience” that inspires a love of the subject at hand. Many students cited how Staniforth’s caring, effective mentorship provided a solid foundation on which to continue their academic journeys.



**Sheila Watt-Cloutier**, International Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by The University of Winnipeg. Her untiring efforts on behalf of Arctic Indigenous peoples, in particular the Inuit of the North, have brought her to the forefront of global humanitarian and environmental activism. In 2005, Watt-Cloutier was awarded the United Nations Champion of the Earth Award, the Norwegian “Sophie Prize” and the inaugural Governor General’s Northern Medal for her ongoing efforts on climate change.



**Rev. Gao Ying**, BA, MA was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity by The University of Winnipeg. Rev. Gao, a church leader in China, was among the first group of students to enter Nanjing Union Theological Seminary when it reopened following the Cultural Revolution. She is Senior Minister at Chongwenmen Church, the leading Protestant church in the Beijing municipality with a Sunday attendance numbering approximately 4000. As well, Rev. Gao is a professor at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary and member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee.



Hon. Diane McGifford, Minister of Advanced Education and Training, brings greetings on behalf of the Government of Manitoba.



UWinnipeg grads celebrated their achievements with family and friends at the street party on Spence Street, which featured live music and refreshments.



The University of Winnipeg Alumni Association sells frames at each Convocation and throughout the year to the delight of proud grads.



Graduates repositioned their cap tassels upon the conferring of their degrees.

# class of 2006 *valedictorians*



**Jennifer Nicholson, B.Ed.** gives the Valedictory Address at Morning Convocation. Jennifer was awarded the University Silver Medal for the second highest standing in Education.

Here is a portion of Jennifer Nicholson's address. To read her complete speech, visit <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/newsflash-060606>

*We are thankful for the diversity of people we have been introduced to in this place. Throughout our studies, we also relied on our professors to leave their doors open which many so graciously did. We are thankful to you for being approachable and for giving us feedback and guidance. Finally, we are thankful for our friends and family whom we've turned to for encouragement and understanding. Let's remember these who affirmed us with their presence, their time, financially and emotionally for us to be able to sit here today.*

*According to the United Nation's Human Development Report of 2003, 25% of adults in the developing world are unable to even read and write. In fact, according to the same report, there are 879 million adults who are illiterate in the world. We have worked hard to be here and can be proud of the opportunity we've embraced, and yet we do have a responsibility to our community both locally and globally. Let's remember we celebrate a rare blessing and privilege in being able to sit here today.*

*Knowledge is boundless. How and what we choose to do with what we do know will impact those around us. Wherever we end up next, however significant or insignificant it may seem, let's not forget to put into it the joy and passion we have in our hearts as we sit here today.*

*As we leave the familiarity of this place to step forward into an unpredictable future, may we forget the material things but be granted courage, community, humility, and love instead.*



**Alana Serena Lajoie-O'Malley, BA (Hons.)** gives the Valedictory Address at Afternoon Convocation. Alana was awarded the O.T. Anderson Award (for distinguished academic and extracurricular performance) and the Gold Medal for Student-Designed Major (Hons. Course).

Here is a portion of Alana Lajoie-O'Malley's address. To read her complete speech, visit <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/newsflash-060606>

*Our university education puts us in an ironic position: it provides us with the kind of economic and social power that seems to make us less susceptible to the same problems we have spent the past few years trying to solve in our minds.*

*Will we use the economic and social power that our education has provided us only for our personal benefit, likely at the expense of other people and ecosystems? OR will we exercise the power each and every one of us has to vote with our energy, and with our time, consciously? Will we commit to confronting our prejudices and to transforming our positions of power .... in an attempt to understand the nature of the social, economic, and ecological relationships every one of our daily choices brings us into? In the years that come, the answers we have to these questions will be reflected in the direction our planet and its inhabitants move in.*

*Before I leave you, I would like us to take a moment to recognize the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, friends, partners, spouses, mentors, role models, and professors who inspired, supported, and encouraged us over the past few years. It is as evidence of the fruit of all of these people's labours that we leave here today with our degrees in hand.*

*We cannot forget, though, that our degrees by themselves are mute. When supplemented by our actions, however, they speak volumes about the kind of people we shall become as we venture further along our respective paths, and about the kind of world we will create together in the process. It is in this spirit, and in recognition of the many people that have supported us along the paths that got us here today, that I wish you all success – success in improving yourselves along with, and not at the expense of, the world which we all share.*