



Shirley Render

The Distinguished Alumni Award

Shirley Render's motto is a simple one: "Follow Your Dream."

It's a phrase she takes to heart, one that has led her to careers as diverse as pilot, politician and cabinet minister, author of two ground-breaking books (with a third underway), social worker, international public speaker, and one of the few women in the world who has flown an F-18—one of the world's top military aircraft.

Render is also one of the few aviation historians in Canada and for years was the only professional female aviation historian in Canada. As such, she was the only woman on many projects in the aviation industry. For example: Render was the only woman member of the Royal Canadian Mint Panel; the only woman member of the International Civil Aviation Organization's 50th Anniversary Committee; the only woman Patron of the Canadian Bush Plane Heritage Centre in Ontario.

She has also led the way for women as the first woman Director of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame. Render was the first woman elected as a Director on the Western Canada's Aviation Board, the first female President, and is considered the first woman Executive Director of a major aviation museum in North America.

Render has won many awards recognizing her skill as a pilot, her academic prowess, and her community service. Render received the James Gray Medal in History upon receiving her master's degree, the Governor General's Commemorative Medal for recognition of her public service in her community as a volunteer and Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), and numerous awards for her work in preserving and promoting Canada's aviation heritage, such as the YM-YW Woman of Distinction Award and the International NW Aviation Council President's Award.

The award she receives today—The University of Winnipeg's Distinguished Alumni Award—is presented at each Convocation to a graduate of exceptional achievement, and who has demonstrated loyal and dedicated service to the community or the University. Shirley Render, a member of the Class of 1964, is clearly one such distinguished alumnus. The University is proud that she is among our family of alumni, and pleased to present her with the Distinguished Alumni Award today.