



Cape Breton University

Spring Convocation 2024

50

YEARS

1974 - 2024

Music for Convocation

Bagpiper

John Grant

Drumming Ensemble

*African Drummers
Indigenous Drummers*

Honor Song by George Paul

Performed by Graham Marshall

O Canada

Performed by Lucy and Stewart MacNeil

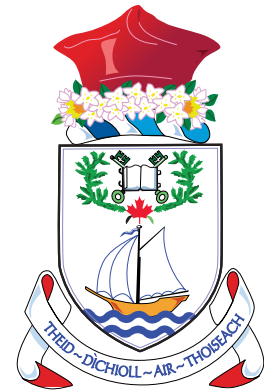
O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.

Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix.
Ton histoire est une épopée,
Des plus brillants exploits.

God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

**Unama'ki espi-kina'matno'kuom etek Mi'kma'ki,
wla na no'kamanaq aq maqamikewminu
mena'qiknmuetuk.**

**Cape Breton University is located in Mi'kma'ki,
the ancestral and unceded territory
of the Mi'kmaw People.**



Cape Breton University

Spring Convocation 2024

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Message from

The President

On behalf of the Senate, the faculty and staff of Cape Breton University, I share with you our warmest congratulations on your graduation from Cape Breton University. We are honoured to celebrate with you today as we mark this monumental occasion in your lives.

Graduation is a significant day. It is the culmination of your hard work, commitment and determination to achieve a goal you set for yourself. These are skills you will carry with you and use in all that you do going forward. Be proud of what you have accomplished. I trust you will use what you have learned to make a difference in your communities, work toward growth and encourage and inspire others to create positive change.

This year, Cape Breton University is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, making you the first graduating class in this milestone year. The story of Cape Breton University is a celebration of the history of our home and the trust the people of Unama'ki-Cape Breton have placed in us. From humble beginnings to global recognition, you have played a significant role in this chapter. As you progress through life, you should always look back fondly on your university experience and know that your graduation will forever be cemented as a part of CBU's 50th Anniversary.

As you celebrate convocation, take the time to enjoy these special moments with your fellow graduates. The time you spent together will be a lasting memory of all you have enjoyed, learned and overcome.

As you commence the next chapter of your life, wherever it may take you, I wish you the very best of luck. Congratulations to the spring graduating class of 2024!

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Dingwall". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

David C. Dingwall, P.C., K.C., ICD.D
President & Vice-Chancellor
Cape Breton University

Message from

The Board of Governors

To the Cape Breton University spring graduating class of 2024,

Congratulations on this exceptional achievement in your educational journey. Earning a university credential is no easy feat, but you have adapted, persevered and employed innovative strategies to overcome any challenges you faced along the way. These are qualities that will serve you well wherever life takes you, and these are qualities that embody the very essence of Cape Breton University.

With this credential, you have proved that you are not only ready to enter today's highly competitive and ever-changing world, but you are ready to thrive in it. As we collectively celebrate Cape Breton University's 50th anniversary, know that your success is a true testament to thought leadership and innovation.

On behalf of the Cape Breton University Board of Governors, we wish you good health, good fortune, happiness and success as you proudly begin your career as a graduate of CBU. We know you will continue to make the CBU community proud, and that you will leave your own unique mark on this world.

Congratulations! You earned it.



Denise Allen
Chair, Cape Breton University Board of Governors





Message from

The Chancellor

My heartfelt and admirable congratulations to each of you – the Cape Breton University spring graduating class of 2024.

This year marks CBU's 50th Anniversary as an independent post-secondary institution, making you the first graduating class of this landmark celebration. Just like you, CBU's roots grew from humble beginnings, a story of dedication and perseverance. As the 50th festivities continue beyond this day, I hope you will look back on this moment fondly, knowing that your graduating class will always be remembered as a part of this unforgettable year for the CBU community.

I want you to know that I am extremely proud of each and every one of you for completing this great achievement. Convocation Day represents your success and acknowledges years of dedication and hard work. This is a day to celebrate what you have worked toward and looked forward to for many years. Today marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

Many of you may be new to Canada and to Cape Breton. I am a first-generation Canadian and believe that your futures are bright. To my fellow Cape Bretoners and to all graduates, no matter where you hail from, know that your options are endless when you aspire to continuously seek out new opportunities, use creativity and strive for innovation in all that you do.

When you leave CBU, some of you will begin your work life, and others will continue your studies. I invite you all to boldly follow your dreams into new horizons. Wherever your paths may take you, I hope you reflect proudly on your time at CBU and are always aware of the ever-changing world around you. Use your resources and tenacity to face challenges and to seize opportunities.

Today is not a goodbye but a time to say "until we meet again." Today is a day to be proud, be strong and to show the world what you are made of.

Theid Dichioll Air Thoiseach – Perseverance Will Triumph.

Sincerely,

Annette Verschuren
Chancellor

Message from

The Alumni Association President

Welcome to the Alumni Community!

Congratulations to the accomplished spring graduates of 2024! As past President of the CBU Alumni Association, it's my honour to extend a warm welcome to you as the newest members of our esteemed CBU Alumni Family.

Your journey at Cape Breton University has been marked by dedication, perseverance and growth. From the moment you set foot on campus, you embraced the opportunities for learning and personal development, and today, you stand as shining examples of what it means to be a part of the CBU Alumni Family.

As you step into this new chapter of your life, know that you are not alone. Our CBU Alumni Family spans globally with members in more than 80 countries. You are part of a diverse and supportive network of 38,000+ individuals who share a common bond of pride and achievement in their CBU education.

Earning your degree, certificate or diploma is a remarkable achievement that deserves recognition and celebration. Your hard work and dedication have brought you to this well-deserved occasion, and we applaud you for your commitment to excellence.

During your time at CBU, you've witnessed the University undergo significant growth and transformation, and the future brings more incredible changes ahead. Your contributions to the CBU community have helped shape its vibrant history and promising future.

As you embark on the next phase of your journey, remember that your connection to CBU doesn't end with graduation; it only grows stronger. Stay engaged with our Alumni community online and keep us updated on your achievements and milestones.

As we celebrate Cape Breton University's 50th Anniversary this year, your achievements have become a part of CBU's growing legacy.

Congratulations, Class of 2024! Your legacy as proud members of the CBU Alumni Family begins today, and we couldn't be more excited to see where your journey takes you.

Warm regards,

Brandon Ellis, BA '16 (Honours in Political Science)
Past President, CBU Alumni Association

Descriptions of Degree, Diploma and Certificate Regalia

The colours approved for University regalia are orange, green and white. The inside lining of all undergraduate hoods, therefore, utilizes these colours with the white centering the green and orange, providing a unique arrangement of colour and design for Cape Breton University. The edging of the hood for all bachelor's degrees is two inches wide. The academic program is distinguished by the colours of this velvet edging. The diploma and certificate programs are distinguished by the outside colour of the stoles.

Degrees

Bachelor of Arts	White
Bachelor of Arts Community Studies	Light Green
Bachelor of Arts and Science in Environment	White and Gold with Black Piping
Bachelor of Business Administration	Russet
Bachelor of Education	Light Blue
Bachelor of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Russet with Royal Blue Trim and Gold Piping
Bachelor of Technology Information	Russet/Green
Bachelor of Science	Gold
Bachelor of Science Community Studies	Gold
Bachelor of Science Nursing	Apricot
Bachelor of Health Sciences	Sage
Bachelor of Emergency Management	Green
Bachelor of Engineering Technology	Green
Master of Business Administration	Russet with Maroon and White Lining
Master of Education in Sustainability, Creativity and Innovation	Light Blue with Royal Blue Trim and Gold Piping

Diplomas and Certificates

Post Baccalaureate	Outside Russet; Inside Orange
Education	Outside Blue; Inside Orange
Emergency Management	Outside White; Inside Green
Public Administration & Management	Outside Orange; Inside Green
Government Management	Outside Orange; Inside Green
Engineering Technology	Outside Green; Inside Orange
Engineering	Outside White; Inside Green
Certificates	Outside White; Inside Orange

Graduand A candidate for a degree, diploma or certificate for whom the Senate has approved one or more credentials.

Graduate An individual who has successfully completed an academic program of study and upon whom the Senate has conferred at least one degree, diploma or certificate.

Graduation That point in the convocation ceremony marked by the receipt of a parchment indicating conferral of a degree, diploma or certificate. A graduate need not have attended Convocation for conferral of their credential(s).

Convocation The ceremonial gathering of an assembly for the conferral of degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Chancellor The titular head of the University and the presiding officer of convocation. As the ceremonial head of the University, the Chancellor confers all degrees, diplomas and certificates on behalf of the University.

Congratulations

to the Spring Graduating Class of 2024

Cape Breton University is proud to acknowledge our high-calibre faculty members and university leaders for their role in inspiring this year's graduates. We would also like to thank our dedicated staff members who provide services and support all year long to enhance each student's experience.



Bilynda Whiting
University Registrar



Rod Nicholls
Interim Academic Vice-President (Provost)



Catherine Arseneau
Dean, Library and Cultural Resources



Laurianne Sylvester
Dean, Unama'ki College

Congratulations

to the Spring Graduating Class of 2024



Dr. Elyn Lyle
Dean, School of Education and Health



Dr. John Nadeau
Dean, Shannon School of Business



Dr. Kimberley Lamarche
Dean, School of Nursing



Dr. Andrew Parnaby
Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences



Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie
Dean, School of Science and Technology

Honorary Degree Recipient

Warren Gordon

Cape Breton University is delighted to honour and recognize a man who has been capturing and sharing Cape Breton's culture, people and landscape through his photographic lens for more than 50 years, Mr. Warren Gordon.

There is no name more synonymous with Cape Breton photography than Warren Gordon. His love of the photographic art started while he was a student at Xavier Junior College, where he says he spent more time in the darkroom than in the classroom. That love would lead to a 50-year career that still continues to thrive.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from StFX in 1973, Warren went on to work for Canadian photographer, Sherman Hines, making \$100 per week. While the wage was meager, it allowed him to grow his art and become a member of the Professional Photographers of Canada, where he would go on to be awarded the degrees of Craftsman and Master of Photography Art.

He opened his own business in downtown Sydney in 1974, and the rest, as they say, is history. From that downtown studio and gallery, Warren has provided professional photographic services to graduates, families, the business community and wedding parties. Through his storied career, Warren estimates he has photographed 150,000 university and high school graduates, more than 2,000 weddings, countless portraits and every type of project that came his way, including much work underground in the coal mines and at Sydney Steel.

He has captured the vibrant Cape Breton culture with original portraits of artists and performers and exciting images of entertainment and cultural gatherings. His affection for the Island can be experienced in the books and calendars he creates that document the beauty of the land and the spirit of its people. Warren's popular Cape Breton Island calendar has been published every year since 1987. In addition, he has self-published ten books of Cape Breton photographs.

In 2003, Warren was awarded the Master's Bar for his Master of Photographic Arts (MPA) degree and captured the award for Top Pictorial Image from the Professional Photographers of Canada. Warren has also been awarded a Better Business Bureau and a Chamber of Commerce Award for Ethics in Business and is a laureate of the Cape Breton Business Hall of Fame.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on a man who has revealed the beauty of Cape Breton Island, its landscape and its people for the entire world to see, Mr. Warren Gordon.



Honorary Degree Recipient

Lori Kennedy

Cape Breton University is delighted to honour and recognize a woman who is one of Atlantic Canada's greatest business leaders and whose philanthropy and community pride make a difference to the countless organizations she is connected to, Ms. Lori Kennedy.

Lori is the co-owner of Louisbourg Seafoods and has led this major seafood business since the company's inception in 1984. Her work with community, industry, tourism, academia and government has helped shape innovative corporate policies and procedures that govern how Louisbourg Seafoods operates within Atlantic Canada.

In addition to her exceptional capabilities as a leader in our community, she also participates in countless international trade missions and speaking engagements to promote the understanding of the East Coast fishery of Atlantic Canada and to secure long-term working relationships both at home and internationally.

A graduate of Cape Breton University, Lori recently completed the Leading Business and Personal Transitions Program at Harvard Business School.

Lori's success in operating Louisbourg Seafoods has not gone unnoticed. She has been named one of Atlantic Canada's Top 50 CEO's four years running by Atlantic Business Magazine. And while this is a tremendous accolade that she is humbled to receive, her passion for inspiring other women leaders is just as rewarding. She is a member of the Women's Presidents Organization Atlantic Chapter, a non-profit 501 (c) (6) organization formed to improve business conditions for women entrepreneurs and to promote the acceptance and advancement of women in all industries.

Giving back to her community and her field is important to Lori. She currently sits on the board of directors of the World Ocean Council, which provides responsible companies from the ocean business community the ability to collectively address cross-cutting ocean sustainable development challenges and shape the future of the ocean by engaging and working with other ocean stakeholders. She is also Chair of the United Way Cape Breton End Child Poverty initiative, which supports those in her community who have less. Lori is also one of Cape Breton's greatest philanthropists, helping countless organizations with her generosity, and she is a true friend and supporter of Cape Breton University.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, on a woman who is an inspiration for women in business and a true community leader, Ms. Lori Kennedy.



Honorary Degree Recipient

Moira MacLeod

Cape Breton University is delighted to honour and recognize a woman who had an exemplary career as a public servant of Nova Scotia, and who is one of the Province's greatest authors and storytellers, Ms. Moira MacLeod.

Moira grew up in the mining community of Glace Bay, NS, and is extremely proud of her roots. She had a lengthy and accomplished 33-year career with the Province of Nova Scotia as a policy analyst, communications advisor and speechwriter. It was after leaving her role with the provincial government that she got to dive into her passion for creative writing, scripting a number of signature events celebrating or commemorating local, provincial and national milestones.

Some of her work included *Night of the Bells*, marking the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and narrated by the late Gordon Pinsent; *Stronger than Steel*, celebrating the opening of Sydney's Open Hearth Park; and, *Nimidiwin*, a national showcase of Indigenous culture at the Canadian Museum of History. She also helped make the 2022 CBU President's Leadership Dinner in Halifax a night guests will never forget.

Intricately weaving fact and fiction through her unique way of storytelling, in 2016, Ms. MacLeod released her first novel, *The Bread Maker*, a fictional account of a spirited young woman living in a gritty coal mining town during the 1930-40s who pushes back on institutionalized corruption and the punishing social norms of the day. Critically described as, "A lush and stirring reminder of the basic instinct to persevere through even the toughest times," *The Bread Maker* quickly turned into a six-book series with a seventh still to come.

While her books enjoy universal appeal, Ms. MacLeod's use of names, places and humour familiar to Cape Breton have made them a favourite among local readers. She maintains there was no better place in the world to have grown up or to be inspired to write.

She now lives in Halifax, close to her children and grandchildren, and just a few hours away from the Island she calls home.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on a woman who continues to impact others through her masterful storytelling and her outstanding ability to use her creativity to help other organizations tell their story, Ms. Moira MacLeod.



Honorary Degree Recipient

A. Robert Sampson, KC

Cape Breton University is delighted to honour and recognize a man who has dedicated his career of more than 40 years to advocating for his clients' best interests and has been committed to giving back to his community and fostering its economic growth, Mr. Robert Sampson.

He began his educational journey at Dalhousie University, graduating with both a Bachelor of Commerce and a Law degree. At the same time, while maintaining his attendance at Dalhousie, Robert returned home to Cape Breton and initially established one Sub Sandwich shop which quickly franchised into five stores. He continued to operate this business while attending university, employing more than 60 people. During this time, he also served as President of the Dalhousie Students' Union. Upon completion of his studies, Robert returned home to Cape Breton full-time and began practicing business-related law, combining his passion for business, entrepreneurship and law.



Robert is a founding partner of Sampson McPhee, a local law firm that has grown into one of Cape Breton's largest law firms. It is a multi-faceted practice with a broad client base that includes a provincial, national and international scope. From fishermen, farmers, labour relations and small business owners, to CEOs, Robert's clients have come to know and benefit from a passionate ally. He practices primarily in the areas of corporate and commercial law, estate planning and real estate. He has continued to serve as the secretary/treasurer of the CB Bar Society for the past 20 years. He has sat under the Nova Scotia Provincial Court as a Small Claims Court adjudicator and currently sits as a Presiding Justice of the Peace throughout the Island. He has also been awarded the prestigious King's Counsel designation by the Province of Nova Scotia.

Aside from his dedication and skill as a lawyer, Robert is particularly proud of the role he plays in giving back to the community, volunteering his time and providing advice to many community organizations. He has served as President of the CB Chamber of Commerce, Commodore of both the Royal CB and Ben Eoin Yacht Clubs and sat on Boards for the YMCA, Savoy Theatre, IWK Children's Hospital and New Dawn Enterprises, to note a few. Robert is currently an Honorary Colonel with the Canadian Armed Forces, 5th Div., Sig's.

Robert is known as a community builder and, in this regard, chaired the volunteer initiatives to establish the Lakes Golf Course, Ben Eoin Marina and Royal CB Yacht Club Marina developments. These three projects together saw capital construction in excess of 20 million dollars into our community. For his dedication and impact on the community in 2013, Robert was inducted into the Cape Breton Business Hall of Fame and in 2018, awarded the Irving Schwartz Male Business Person of the Year and, more recently, in 2022, the Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Medal.

In addition to his involvement in various local economic growth activities and boards, he served as the Chair of the Celtic Colours International Festival, now one of the largest international festivals in the world. Since the 1980's Robert has steadfastly contributed to many volunteer initiatives at Cape Breton University. He has chaired the CBU Foundation and was a founder and director of LearnCorp International for more than 20 years. More recently, he has held the position of Chair of the Board of Governors at Cape Breton University for the past nine years. During his time as Chair of the CBU Board, Robert played a key leadership role as the University navigated its way through the selection of a new President, a global pandemic and management of record-breaking growth.

Robert currently resides in Northside East Bay with his wife, Ginny. Robert has three children, Dave, Scott and Danielle and two cherished granddaughters, Audrey and Sophie.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, on a man who has used his dedication to family, community and culture to guide him through a successful and impactful career in law, Mr. Robert Sampson.

Convocation Ceremonial Elements



Cape Breton University Coat of Arms

The Cape Breton University Coat of Arms, imprinted on all of our parchments, is a multi-cultural design based on our Mi'kmaw and Celtic heritage. The fox, the eagle and the rich greenery are native to Cape Breton Island and are a reference to the University's beautiful surroundings. The fox is known for its intelligence and indicates the intellectual pursuits involved in acquiring a degree. It is a reference to the University's founder, Dr. Donald F. Campbell, known as the "silver fox." The eagle represents intelligence and idealism. It also honours the unique connections between Cape Breton University and the Mi'kmaw community.

The Canterbury Cap is symbolic of higher learning. The mayflowers are the floral emblem of Nova Scotia.

THEID DÌCHIOLL AIR THOISEACH: This is a Gaelic phrase meaning "Perseverance will Triumph."

The Cape Breton sloop is taken from the Great Seal of the Colony of Cape Breton (1784-1820) and honours the University's location. The wavy bands of blue and white suggest the ocean and the Bras d'Or Lake. The spruce boughs honour the First Nations who were the first inhabitants of the Island, and the maple leaf refers to Canada. The keys and the open book allude to the idea of unlocking knowledge.



Valedictorian

CBU has a longstanding tradition of electing a high-achieving student who embodies CBU's Graduate Attributes and has made significant contributions to the CBU community during their studies as the valedictorian. This distinguished individual will deliver the valedictory address at the CBU Convocation ceremony. In this address, they will reflect on their educational journey, instill hope for the future and express gratitude to all those who supported them along the way. Derived from the Latin phrase meaning "to bid farewell," the term valedictorian encapsulates a unique opportunity to represent, inspire and bid farewell to one's graduating class.

The valedictorian also holds the important responsibility of carrying the CBU Mace during the Convocation Ceremony procession. As both Valedictorian and Mace Bearer, this student will join the procession alongside the members of the stage party at the CBU Convocation and sit on the stage during the Convocation ceremony.

Cape Breton University Mace, Chain of Office and Chairs

The Mace, given by Mr. and Mrs. Irving Schwartz in memory of Mrs. Rose Schwartz, was designed and created by Cape Breton's own jeweller and craftsman, Darryl MacLeod. The shaft of the Mace is formed by a portion of an oak window from Moxham's Castle. The top of the ornate crown is adorned with four diamonds donated by Dr. Robert Morgan in memory of his wife, Barbara, who died in 1993.

The President's Chain of Office, also designed and created by Mr. MacLeod, speaks boldly of Cape Breton University and Cape Breton. The Chain was commissioned in honour of Cape Breton University's twentieth anniversary and was donated by the partners and staff of Deloitte & Touche in honour of Mr. James W. Miller, former managing partner.

Silver thistles and gold fiddles join the Chain. The Chain also has a silver fleur de lis, a replica of a coin from the "Chameau" treasure, and a silver medallion of the Cross and Crescent of the Mi'kmaq flag. CBU's Coat of Arms shares the focal point with the Great Seal of Cape Breton. The Chain is designed to represent our ties with the French and Mi'kmaq cultures, as well as our strong Celtic ties with the Scottish, Irish and Breton settlers.

Cape Breton's best known furniture maker, Leo MacNeil, crafted two chairs for our Institution. The larger of the two chairs is used by the Chancellor during convocation ceremonies. The back of the chair has the Cape Breton University Coat of Arms hand engraved and painted. The second chair is used by the President. Both chairs have been constructed from Cape Breton oak, with green velvet seats to complement the University's colours and the green of Cape Breton.



Meet Our Valedictorians and Mace Bearers

May 15, 2024

10:00am



**Valedictorian
and Mace Bearer**

Rause-Lynn McDonald

Rause-Lynn McDonald is graduating from the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Public Health) program. Originally from the small community of Wickham, New Brunswick, Rause-Lynn served as President of the Public Health Society and participated in intramural sports and local events throughout her studies. She embodies resilience, cherishing memories of unity during Hurricane Fiona and celebrating diversity at Diwali. Passionate and dedicated to the field of Public Health, Rause-Lynn has been awarded Dean's List with Distinction for seven consecutive semesters and is honoured to represent her classmates as Valedictorian and Mace Bearer. After graduation, she plans to return home with the goal of becoming a certified public health inspector.

May 15, 2024

2:00pm



**Valedictorian
and Mace Bearer**

Guneet Kaur Raina

Guneet Kaur Raina is graduating with a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Healthcare Management. She has been an active member of the CBU community, serving as administrative support at the Students' Union office and organizing various events. Guneet's volunteer work includes contributions to golf tournaments, honours banquets and Week of Welcome activities. Selected as one of the 100 international students from Nova Scotia for the Study and Stay in Nova Scotia program, Guneet embodies values of service and leadership. She looks forward to contributing to her community after graduation. Guneet is honoured and humbled to represent her class as Valedictorian and Mace Bearer, recognizing the collective achievements of her peers.

Meet Our Valedictorians and Mace Bearers

May 16, 2024

10:00am



**Valedictorian
and Mace Bearer**

Mehedi Hasan Robin

Mehedi Hasan Robin is graduating with a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Business Management. Originally from Bangladesh, Mehedi has a background in international relations and has worked in various sectors, including aviation and manufacturing. Since starting at CBU in September 2022, Mehedi has been actively involved in university life, participating in activities such as attending sporting events, serving as a proctor and contributing to a published book. As an appropriate ending to his time at CBU, Mehedi successfully led a Capstone Project focused on innovative teaching methods.

May 16, 2024

2:00pm



**Valedictorian
and Mace Bearer**

Mandeep Kaur

Mandeep Kaur graduates with a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Supply Chain Management. She has been an active member of the university community, engaging in various activities and contributing to campus life. Her dedication to academic excellence and commitment to personal growth are commendable. Mandeep embodies the CBU graduate attributes: active and responsible citizenship, creativity and curiosity, information literacies, professional integrity and effective communication and collaboration.

Meet Our Valedictorian, Mace Bearer and Indigenous Drummer

May 17, 2024

10:00am



Valedictorian and Mace Bearer

Jacob MacDonald

Jacob MacDonald is graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Marketing. Hailing from Sydney, Nova Scotia, Jacob has been an active member of the Island community, engaging in various activities contributing to campus life and being a dedicated community volunteer. Jacob has played key roles at CBU, serving as a student health ambassador, a Week of Welcome leader and a student ambassador in the Recruitment department and the Advising Centre. A standout moment for Jacob was receiving the prestigious Frank H. Sobey Award for Excellence in Business Studies and representing CBU at the awards ceremony. He is honoured to be chosen as a Valedictorian and Mace Bearer for the Spring Convocation, embodying the spirit of perseverance and triumph that defines the Class of 2024.



Valedictorian and Indigenous Drummer

Michael Lafford

Michael Lafford, a Mi'kmaw entrepreneur, is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts. A Paq'tnkek band member living in Wagmatook, Michael is known for his dedication to preserving Mi'kmaw culture through music and teaching. He is the owner of Lone Feather Entertainment, specializing in hiring bands for various venues and being part of a family band called One Tribe. He also owns Lafford's Convenience, selling Mi'kmaw crafts online and at gatherings. As an entrepreneur, part-time cultural teacher, certified firefighter and medical first responder, Michael's commitment to his community and culture makes him a standout graduate. Michael's life journey highlights CBU's motto: Perseverance will Triumph.

2024 Awards List

Both inside and outside of the classroom, students grow and develop throughout their university experience. Our award winners exemplify Cape Breton University's Graduate Attributes and have taken full advantage of the opportunities presented to them. They are active and responsible citizens who demonstrate creativity and curiosity. They communicate and collaborate effectively and maintain a strong sense of professional integrity. We are proud to congratulate each of this year's award recipients.

The Judge Allan E. Sullivan Memorial Scholarship, for a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in the field of Political Science, awarded to **Mairi Denny and Matthew Bishop**.

The William (Bill) Bugg Award, presented to an Engineering Technology student with the highest academic standing, awarded to **Allwyn Kuruvilla Ambat** (Bachelor of Engineering Technology, Environmental Studies).

The Marjorie S. Jost Scholarship, for a student with a concentration or major in Communication and who has clearly demonstrated excellence in the discipline, awarded to **Brooke-Lynn Hurley** (Bachelor of Arts).

The John J. McCarthy Memorial Scholarship, for the student with the highest academic standing in the final year of the Bachelor of Arts Community Studies Degree, awarded to **Thu Thao Nguyen**.

The Educational Program Innovations Charity (EPIC) Society Volunteerism Award, for a student demonstrating outstanding volunteerism beyond course requirements, encouraging the advancement of marginalized learners, awarded to **Kyla Clark Edmond** (Bachelor of Arts Community Studies).

The George Leith Community Studies Award, for a Bachelor of Arts Community Studies student who demonstrates cooperative pedagogies in their studies, leadership, interest in community issues and places the interests of the group on an equal basis to their own personal interests, awarded to **Keigan Christopher Nicholson** (Bachelor of Arts Community Studies, Multidisciplinary).

The Angus A. (Gus) Morrison Memorial Scholarship, for a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in the field of History, awarded to **Gabriella Samways** (Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History).

The Joy Gift and Jewellery Award, for a business student who exhibits outstanding leadership and enthusiasm in the field of business entrepreneurship, awarded to **Kelly Paul** (Bachelor of Hospitality & Tourism Management).

Canadian Psychological Association, Certificate of Academic Excellence, for graduating Honours Psychology students for excellence on their Honours Thesis, awarded to **Brooke Kelly and Ainsley Pelley**.

The Murdena Marshall Science Award, for a graduating Mi'kmaw student who demonstrates excellence in the field of Science, awarded to **Mykel Denny** (Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology).

The Wendy MacKenzie Biology Prize, for a graduating Bachelor of Science (Biology) student who clearly demonstrated excellence in the discipline, awarded to **Lauren Usher**.

The CBU Alumni Association Graduation Awards, for graduating students in honour of their academic achievements and outstanding qualities of character, awarded to **Andrew Butler** (Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting Major), **Courtney Trask** (Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Biology), **Ashley Barnaby** (Bachelor of Arts Community Studies), and **Kiera Evely** (Bachelor of Arts, Major in English and Certificate of Theatre Arts).

The Chaplain's Award, for a student who has expressed a desire to strengthen our community, and has lived the values of service, hospitality and compassion for others, awarded to **Chidimma Obodozie**. (Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety Management).

The Canadian Society for Chemistry Medal, for a student demonstrating excellence in Chemistry, awarded to **Julia MacIsaac** (Bachelor of Science, Major in Chemistry).

The Norm Smith Graduation Trophy and Award, for a graduating student who will be continuing their studies at a professional or graduate school to establish their professional career, awarded to **Alyssa Campbell** (Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology).

The C.W. MacDonald Memorial Trophy and Bursary, for a student who exhibited leadership and scholarship throughout their part-time studies, awarded to **Laura Goode** (Bachelor of Arts Community Studies, Major in Sport Physical Activity & Leadership).

The Allister McIntyre Memorial Trophy and Scholarship, for a student with an outstanding record in leadership, scholarship and character, awarded to **Mairi Denny** (Bachelor of Arts).

The Glenda Faye Smith Memorial Trophy, for a graduating student in a Diploma program who has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, scholarship and character, awarded to **Fred Eduam** (Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Health Care Management).

The Glen Patrick Moore Memorial Scholarship and Trophy, for a student who displays outstanding leadership and concern for others, contributes to the quality of life at CBU and exemplifies the University motto, "Perseverance Will Triumph," awarded to **Shann Cox** (Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Biology).

The Connor Timmons Memorial Scholarship and Trophy, for a graduating student-athlete demonstrating community involvement and academic excellence, awarded to **Allyson Wilton** (Bachelor of Science and Engineering Diploma).

CBU Awards of Excellence, for students demonstrating excellence in their program, awarded to, **Lisa Huang**, Diploma in Public Administration & Management; **Jacqueline Reyes**, Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety Management; **Michael Godis**, Diploma in Government Management; **Hasuja Reshan Ponnampereuma Arachchige**, Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Business Management; **Priscilla Olayanju Jinadu**, Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Supply Chain Management; **Muna Maayah**, Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Health Care Management; and **Twinkle Jose**, Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Business Analytics.

Cape Breton University Silver Medals, for outstanding academic achievement on the courses listed for the degree, awarded to **Gabriella Samways**, Bachelor of Arts – 4 year; **Mairi Denny**, Bachelor of Arts – 3 year; **Haley Gouthro**, Bachelor of Arts Community Studies – 4 year; **Ashley Barnaby**, Bachelor of Arts Community Studies – 3 year; **Leah Burns**, Bachelor of Business Administration; **Carter McNeil**, Bachelor of Engineering (Transfer); **Ay Ay Liu**, Bachelor of Engineering Technology; **Man Kay Lau**, Bachelor of Health Sciences (Public Health); **Tu Nguyen**, Bachelor of Hospitality and Tourism Management; **Courtney Trask**, Bachelor of Science – 4 year; **Amaya Fuller**, Bachelor of Science – 3 year; **Madison MacDonald**, Bachelor of Arts and Science in Environment; and **Samantha Fraser**, Bachelor of Emergency Management.

The Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal, for a student who achieves the highest academic standing on the courses listed for the diploma, awarded to **Maria Morrison** (Engineering Diploma).

The Governor General's Silver Medal, for a student who achieves the highest academic standing on the courses listed for the degree, awarded to **Lauren Usher** (Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology).

The Governor General's Gold Medal, for a student in a graduate program who achieves the highest academic standing on the courses listed for the degree, awarded to **Keyser Titus** (Master of Business Admin (CED), Strategic Leadership Option).

We Rise Again

Dr. Leon Dubinsky

When the waves roll on over the waters,
And the ocean cries,
We look to our sons and daughters
To explain our lives—
As if a child could tell us why
That as sure as the sunrise,
As sure as the sea,
As sure as the wind in the trees...

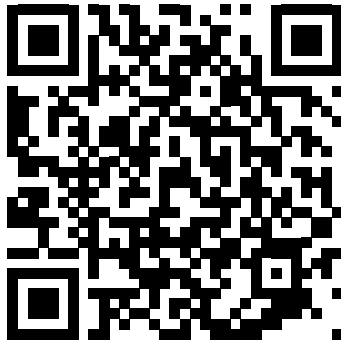
Chorus:

We rise again in the faces of our children;
We rise again in the voices of our song;
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean—
And then we rise again.

When the light goes dark with the forces of creation
Across a stormy sky,
We look to reincarnation
To explain our lives —
As if a child could tell us why
That as sure as the sunrise,
As sure as the sea,
As sure as the wind in the trees...

Chorus (twice)

2024 Spring Graduates



Scan to see full list.



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