

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Mr. Chancellor,

Dr. Alain Lemaire

SATURDAY MORNING

Mr. Chancellor,

Dr. Jean Charest,

And Dr. Monique Nadeau-Saumier

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Mr. Chancellor,

Dr. Johnny Reid

Members of the Class of 2013

Members of Convocation

Families and friends.

Every year for 170 years, Bishop's has celebrated this special day in the life of our university.

The central role of the Chancellor,

the academic dress,

the Latin citations,

and the other formalities of the Convocation proceedings,

remind us that the idea of the university as a community of learning dates back to the Middle Ages and has endured through the centuries.

Like all great institutions, Bishop's has evolved over the decades as each generation has been charged with ensuring that the University meets the needs of its time.

We can all take pride in knowing that although much has changed, Bishop's continues to pursue its core mission of offering a sound and liberal education to undergraduate students.

We take pride in being an institution of choice for outstanding young people seeking academic excellence and a comprehensive undergraduate experience.

We strive:

to be a community that instills confidence, courage and a sense of responsibility in its students.

to be a place that nurtures personal and intellectual freedom and fosters enduring friendships.

We are proud that our graduating students consistently tell us that we have delivered on the promises we made to them when they chose Bishop's.

J'ai été vivement impressionné par les efforts de nos finissants afin que les valeurs fondatrices de notre université soient transmises à la prochaine génération d'étudiants qui, à leur tour, sauront les adopter et les transmettre.

Ils ont démontré aux étudiants qui les suivent que les valeurs fondamentales que sont

la rigueur,

le respect d'autrui,

l'intégrité,

et l'engagement

sont des valeurs sûres et, ce faisant, ils ont marqué de façon positive leur université.

As we reflect on this past year, it has been an exceptionally challenging period for our University and for all of Quebec's universities.

The student protests, the new government's decision to roll back tuition increases and the reduction of the government grants hurt all universities.

The reputations of Quebec's universities and Quebecers' respect for higher education have been damaged through this process.

My hope, nonetheless, is that Quebec society will emerge from this difficult period with a renewed commitment to higher education.

Je suis fier du fait que nos étudiants et leurs représentants ont eu le courage d'exprimer leurs propres points de vue, et de tracer leur propre voie, à travers cette période difficile.

Leur confiance envers Bishop's et leur soutien a été une inspiration pour tous les leaders de l'Université.

Malgré les troubles au-delà des rivières Massawippi et Saint-François, Bishop's a eu une année exceptionnelle.

We have grown our enrolment by 40% over the past four years and welcomed more full-time students to our campus than ever before.

The year started on a very positive note with the best Orientation week that I have witnessed.

Our student leaders were determined to ensure that our new students would not only be warmly welcomed and have good time together, but that they would also be introduced – from the outset – to Bishop's as an academic community.

Faculty were more involved than in previous years, and together our older students and our younger faculty members set a tone which endured throughout the year.

As the year progressed, we opened two world-class research laboratories for two of our Canada Research Chairs.

The first focuses on climate and environmental change and the second on health and well-being.

Bishop's made a decision a few years ago to embark on a concerted effort to focus on and expand our research capacity.

And I am pleased to report that we doubled our research funding over the previous year.

Last month, we broke ground on the project to renovate and expand the Sports Centre.

This will be the most significant infrastructure project in our history.

And we are very pleased that three of the people most responsible for this investment – Jean Charest, Monique Gagnon-Tremblay and Jean Perrault – are here with us today.
(Ask them to stand so that we can express our appreciation)

The team from Bishop's won the Network of International Business Schools (NIBS) case competition in Leuven, Belgium.

For the third year in a row, one of our students – in fact this year two of our students – were selected to participate in the Next 36 program, which offers a unique entrepreneurship experience to 36 of the top undergraduate students in Canada.

And several of our faculty members have joined together to explore ways that we can continue to excel even more at what we do best – the teaching of undergraduates.

We hosted a debating tournament focused on topics relating to undergraduate education.

We held an inspiring series of TEDx talks, which focused on different aspects of a liberal education.

And we launched a strategic alliance with three other top-ranked universities with long-established reputations for outstanding undergraduate experiences – Acadia, Mount Allison, and St. Francis Xavier.

The U4 League has been created to promote and extend our institutions' common objectives of providing students from across Canada and the world with the highest quality undergraduate education in a residential setting.

The small, residential, undergraduate university model is prevalent and highly valued in the United States and includes many well-known liberal arts universities such as Amherst, Bowdoin, Middlebury, Swarthmore, and Williams.

This is in stark contrast to the situation in Canada where large, urban, research-focused institutions are the norm.

Although our four universities have traditionally competed to attract students, we believe that by collaborating we can enhance the quality of each institution to the benefit of all of our students.

The U4 League is in its infancy, but it has great potential to add a new and important dimension to our University.

Those are just some of the highlights of what has been a great year.

Suffice it to say that we value the pursuit of excellence in all that we undertake.

And we are pleased that the aspiration and determination to excel is embraced by our students, faculty and staff.

So even during a year when external conditions have been difficult, Bishop's has continued to thrive.

This speaks to the dedication of our faculty and staff and to the extraordinary resilience of not just our university but also to the nature and history of this most wonderful human invention – the university.

For more than a thousand years, the university has shown itself to be one of the most dynamic, resilient, and creative community structures that humankind has ever imagined, built, and replicated around the world.

The energy generated by the structured encounter of young minds, hungry for knowledge and experience, with deeply learned teachers committed to uncovering and imparting truth has been – and continues to be – essential to human progress.

And we have an extraordinary community of students who have shown that they care not just about themselves but also those who are less fortunate than themselves.

Whether the cause has been

Cystic Fibrosis,

ALS,

Local food banks

Or the Lennoxville Women's Centre

Our students have consistently given of their time, their energy and their resources to help others.

I would like to say a special word about our Refugee Student Sponsorship Committee which this year celebrated 20 years of sponsoring students to our campus.

There is an expression in the Jewish tradition to the effect that to save one life is to save the world.

Well the Refugee Committee has saved many lives.

Over the last 20 years, it has sponsored 33 students to come to study at Bishop's.

And one of the most moving moments of this past year came at a reunion when I had the opportunity to meet some of the former refugees most of whom are now Bishop's graduates.

It was inspiring to learn about their extraordinary journeys and in some cases to meet their children – and of course to try to recruit their children to come to Bishop's.

I would also like to express our profound gratitude to our students who raised over \$10,000 at their annual fashion show and contributed it to the Refugee Student Sponsorship program.

So we owe a great debt of gratitude to the Class of 2013 for how they have cared for each other, for this institution and for the world.

Speaking of gratitude, I would like to take a few minutes to recognize three remarkable academic colleagues who will be stepping down at the end of this month.

Dr. Catherine Beauchamp will be leaving her position as Dean of the School of Education to take her first sabbatical leave.

Cathy earned her B.A. at Bishop's and her Ph.D. at McGill and came to the School of Education in 2003.

She served as the Director of the School from 2004 to 2008 before being appointed to the newly created position of Dean.

The intelligent, dedicated and effective leadership that she brought to the School and the professionalism with which she has carried out her internal and external duties – have served the School and the University extremely well.

During her time, the School has:

- Grown substantially in terms of faculty and student numbers;
- Has garnered successively favourable reviews from its accrediting body;
- And has continued to produce graduates who are sought after avidly by school boards across the province and the country.

Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon, Dean of Arts and Science and Associate Vice-Principal Research, will be leaving Bishop's to become Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs at Concordia University in Montreal.

Benoit came to Bishop's in 2004 as an Assistant Professor of Psychology, following his doctoral studies at the Université de Montreal and post-doctoral fellowships at both Glasgow and Montréal.

He quickly made his mark as a significant addition to the faculty both of his department and of the University.

Along with Steve Harvey, he co-founded the Psychological Health and Well-Being research cluster while playing a critical role in our institutional research planning.

In 2011 Benoit became the Dean of Arts and Science and in the following year added the significant responsibilities of AVP Research.

His leaving marks yet another occasion in the last year when one of Canada's large, research-oriented universities has come knocking at the door of one of Canada's smallest, undergraduate universities in search of talent.

His appointment at Concordia does honour to both Benoit and Bishop's.

We are proud of him and happy for him.

Dr. Michael Childs will be leaving his position as Vice-Principal Academic to take an administrative leave before returning to the History Department.

Michael first came to Bishop's in 1988 after obtaining his doctorate at McGill, as a specialist in modern Britain and social history.

He has held numerous positions of responsibility since that time, including Chair of the History Department on two different occasions and Dean of the Division of Humanities.

Among his many contributions as Vice-Principal Academic, Michael has played a key role:

in increasing enrolment,

in the development and adoption of a research strategy for the University,

in the defining of the a liberal education for Bishop's,

in the reform of our academic administrative structures, and

in establishing a respectful climate of labour relations.

His integrity and wise leadership with regard to all aspects of the academic administration have been key to the significant progress that the University has made over the last five years.

I have enjoyed enormously working with Cathy and Benoit. I have learned a lot from both of them, and my colleagues and I will miss them.

I am sure that Cathy and Benoit will understand that I would like to say a special word about Michael Childs.

I will say simply that Michael is a man of great wisdom, determination and exceptional humanity who cares deeply about this University.

He exemplifies the best of a liberal education and he incarnates Bishop's highest values.

For five years, Michael has been my guide through the unique world of academia.

He has been a great colleague, a great leader and a great friend.

Michael, we are all very much in your debt.

Thank you for all you have done.

We have been exceptionally fortunate to have benefited from the leadership of three such highly talented and dedicated academics.

Please join me in expressing our gratitude and admiration to Michael, Cathy and Benoit for the enormous contributions they have made to Bishop's.

Having recognized three outstanding colleagues, I would now like to ask the Class of 2013 to rise together so that we can express our gratitude to them not for what they have achieved individually but for what they have contributed collectively to Bishop's.

As I see you standing there together, I am reminded that it was late on a September night, only a few years ago, that many of you stood together on the lawn in front of the Principal's residence singing at the top of your lungs that

you were conditioned to your fate,

you would never graduate,

And that you would stay here forever more.

Well, fortunately, you were wrong about never graduating.

But I suspect that you were right when you sang the line that "College days will linger ever in your hearts". You will certainly linger in ours.

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Vous avez fait honneur à votre université, à votre famille et, surtout, à vous-mêmes.

C'est donc avec une grande fierté mêlée d'un peu de tristesse que nous vous disons au revoir.

You have done your university, your families and yourselves proud.

It is with bittersweet feeling that we bid you adieu.

We do so, however, with confidence that you leave here ready and determined

to choose your own paths,

to further the boundaries of knowledge,

to care for our planet, and

to do your part in the never-ending quest to advance peace, justice and prosperity in the world.

Nous suivrons vos réalisations avec grand intérêt.

It will be exciting to watch you.

Congratulations for all you have achieved.

Thank you for all you have contributed.

So celebrate this weekend.

And then go out and use the knowledge and skills you acquired at Bishop's to make the better world you believe in.

Congratulations.

And now as we say farewell to the Class of 2013, we also say au revoir to our Chancellor Scott Griffin.

I first met Scott for breakfast in Montreal in 2008 for a mutual inspection about the possibility of my becoming Principal of Bishop's.

Scott's elegance and charm,
optimism and intelligence,
determination and competitive spirit
were all quickly evident – as was his deep appreciation for and loyalty to Bishop's.

We all know of Scott's passion for poetry.

But Scott is not only a man of words, he is also a man of his word.

He promised that he would be there to support me and the University – and he never let us down.

One of the hallmarks of Scott's career has been his profound loyalty to the people and institutions that have helped him at different stages of his life.

It was not surprising, therefore, that in 2005 he accepted his alma mater's call to serve as our Chancellor.

The challenge may not have seemed particularly daunting for someone who had flown solo across the North Atlantic in a single engine plane.

But it was undoubtedly a greater challenge than he had bargained for.

Unfortunately, soon after Scott assumed the Chancellorship, the University found itself in crisis.

The crisis included:

serious financial problems,
falling enrolment,
a strike by support staff,
a lockout of faculty,
tensions between internal and external board members, and
a generalized climate of mistrust.

Scott rolled up his sleeves and played a critical role in helping the University resolve its problems.

He was able to provide the leadership that Bishop's required because he is held in such high regard by the University community.

To paraphrase a commercial that some of you may remember: "When Scott Griffin speaks, Bishop's listens.

In order to attend the Board meetings - and this gives you some insight into his character - Scott would frequently fly solo from Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto and land in a farmer's field in Lennoxville.

Without fanfare, he would walk down to the University, attend the meetings and then get back in his plane and fly home.

Through his wise judgment and respectful leadership he judiciously helped to guide the University back onto the right track.

Scott was not the sole architect of Bishop's turnaround, but it is safe to say we could not have done it without him.

Scott is a modest man who does not seek the limelight.

Nonetheless, he has made an exceptional contribution not only to Bishop's but also to Canada throughout his unique and successful career.

He has brought honour to our country in myriad ways and as such this year was named an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Scott is a remarkable person in the range of his talents and the scope of his accomplishments.

I have admired the impact he has had on our country and on the world

as a business leader,
as a volunteer with the African Medical and Research Foundation,
as founder of the Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry,
as Chairman of House of Anansi Press,
as a philanthropist,
as an author,
as an athlete,
and as a pilot.

I have been privileged to have had Scott as a wise and trusted mentor.

And Fiona and I are very fortunate to count Scott – and his extraordinary wife Krystyne - as friends.

It won't surprise you to know that now that Scott won't have to attend our Board meetings, one of his plans is to sail across the Atlantic and around Cape Horn.

We wish him favourable winds, gentle seas and safe sailing.

Scott has been a great supporter of the arts at Bishop's.

In thinking about how to express our gratitude to Scott we concluded that the best way to do so would be in poetry and song.

So I would like to thank Jamie Crooks, George Rideout and Michael Medland for organizing this tribute.

And I am pleased to introduce our student Tucker McDougall who will recite W.B. Yeats poem "The Song of Wandering Aengus"

and Dr. Jenn Cianca of the Classics Department who will sing Joni Mitchell's song "Both Sides Now".

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Thank you Tucker and thank you Jenn.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the last time, Our Chancellor, Scott Griffin.

I will now invite the Chair of the Bishop's Council, John Stewart, to proceed with the installation of our new Chancellor.