O CANADA

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.
On behalf of the Senate, Board of Governors, the faculty and staff, I share with you our warm congratulations on your graduation from Cape Breton University.

While it is unfortunate the COVID-19 pandemic will not allow you to walk across the stage at convocation to receive your parchment, it does not take away from this monumental occasion in your lives.

In fact, all that you have persevered through during your studies, and in particular over the last year, is a display of your tenacity, dedication and outstanding ability to overcome challenges. These are skills and abilities that you will carry with you and use in all that you do going forward.

As you browse through this convocation booklet, you will see your name and those of your classmates. You are all part of history, as Cape Breton University’s largest graduation class to date. We are so proud that you are a part of this significant milestone.

As you embark on your next chapter, whatever that may be, I wish you the very best of luck. Congratulations to the spring graduating class of 2021!

Yours very truly,

David C. Dingwall, P.C., Q.C., ICD.D
President & Vice-Chancellor
Cape Breton University
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

To the Cape Breton University graduating class of 2021,

While the last few semesters of your CBU journey have not ended as expected due to COVID-19, in true Cape Breton University style, you persevered. You adapted, you stayed strong and you employed innovative strategies to overcome these challenges. These are qualities that will serve you well wherever life takes you, and these are qualities that embody the Cape Breton University spirit.

It is with this spirit, CBU pride and a strong education that you are now ready to enter and succeed in today’s highly competitive world. Every class you’ve taken, every assignment you’ve completed and every relationship you’ve built at CBU has prepared you for this very moment and for all those to come. As you embark on this new chapter of your life, do so with courage and with the excitement of possibility and opportunity.

On behalf of the Cape Breton University Board of Governors, we wish you good health, happiness and success as you begin your career as a graduate of CBU. We know you will make us proud every step of the way, and we hope, in the future, you will maintain some form of contact with your CBU family. We are confident, as I know each of you are, that as you enter the next phase of your career you are now ready to make a positive impact on the world at large. We are proud to be able to call you one of our own.

Robert Sampson, Q.C.
Chair
Cape Breton University Board of Governors
MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

My heartfelt and admirable congratulations to each of you – the Cape Breton University Graduating Class of 2021.

While the current world situation means this is not the traditional graduation ceremony, please be assured that it in no way diminishes your outstanding accomplishment. 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 exciting 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. And to my fellow Cape Bretoners and to all graduates, no matter where you hail from, know that your options are endless when you endeavor to seek out opportunities and use creativity and 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 all of you to boldly follow your dreams into new horizons. Wherever your paths may take you, think proudly back to your CBU home and always be 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,

Chancellor Annette Verschuren
MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Alumni Family

Congratulations to the graduates of 2021! As your CBU Alumni Association President, it is my honour to welcome each of you to the CBU Alumni Family with open arms.

Our CBU family is a diverse and exciting group of people who are making a difference all around the globe. We’re located in more than 50 countries with a network that spans the globe and is rooted in deep tradition. You are the legacy of our Institution and an important part of our Alumni network.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you on obtaining your degree or certificate during such challenging times in our history. At CBU, we can adapt, we are nimble, and we persevere.

As you embark on a new chapter, take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments you have achieved and believe that no matter what path you take, you have the power to impact people in a positive way.

Be proud to tell those you meet about your time at Cape Breton University, and make it a point to remain invested in the friendships you’ve made while here.

We encourage you to stay connected with the CBU Alumni Association on Facebook and Instagram and by updating your contact info at cbu.ca/alumni so that your new family can stay in touch with you.

Congratulations Class of 2021. Remember, as a member of our Alumni Family – you are **ALWAYS ORANGE**.

Sincerely,

Michelle AuCoin
President, CBU Alumni Association
Congratulations to the Spring Graduating Class of 2021

Dean Dr. Patrick Howard  
School of Education and Health

Dean George Karaphillis  
Shannon School of Business

Dean Dr. Andrew Parnaby  
School of Arts and Social Sciences

Dean Rick Pierrynowski  
School of Science and Technology
PRAYER TO THE SEVEN SACRED DIRECTIONS
Hereditary Chief Stephen Augustine

Above, Oh Giver of Life, we give you thanks for creating everything in this world. Thank you for sending good spirits to watch over us as we gather today for Cape Breton University’s Spring Convocation 2021.

Within us, Grandfather Sun, we thank you for providing us with our shadows. Our shadows are representations of our ancestors who have gone into the spirit world. We are connected to our shadows with our feet firmly planted on the earth, and our ancestors follow us to protect and guide us for a good life. We thank you for sending good spirits to this event today.

Below us, Mother Earth, we thank you for providing us with all the necessities of life through the birds, plants, animals, soil, wind, water and fire so that we can obtain food, medicine, clothing, shelter, tools of survival and the ability to negotiate our survival with sacred ceremonies, songs, dance and sacred gatherings. We thank you for sending good spirits to watch over us today.

To the direction of the rising sun, we thank you, Kluskap, for being our leader, chief and culture hero. We thank you for providing us with a way of life that will give us good health and strong bodies. We give thanks for showing us how to live the good life. We thank you for sending good spirits and for watching over us at this ceremony today.

To the direction of the south, we thank you, Nokami, grandmother of Kluskap. With your wisdom and knowledge, you have taught us how to survive on Mother Earth, and we thank you for sending good spirits to watch over us during this graduation ceremony today.

To the west, we thank Kluskap’s nephew and all the young people for watching us as adults. You are the future leaders and are the backbone of our nations, so we as adults have to live accordingly in order to leave a legacy of survival to the young children. We give you thanks for sending good spirits to us on this wonderful day of Convocation.

To the north, we thank Kluskap’s mother and all our mothers for giving us life, watching over us, feeding us, washing us and teaching us about love, sharing and for relying on each other as brothers and sisters. We thank you for sending us good spirits to guide us today as we celebrate the success of the graduating students of Cape Breton University.

Wela’liek

Mr. Stephen Augustine
Associate Vice President, Indigenous Affairs and Unama’ki College, Hereditary Chief of the Mi’kmaq Grand Council
DESCRIPTION OF DEGREE, DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE REGALIA

The colours approved for University undergraduate regalia are orange, green, and white. The inside lining of all undergraduate hoods, therefore, utilizes these colours with the white centring 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.

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Arts Community Studies  White
Bachelor of Arts and Science in Environment  Light Green
Bachelor of Business Administration  White and Gold with Black Piping
Bachelor of Education  Russet
Bachelor of Hospitality and Tourism Management  Light Blue
Bachelor of Technology Information  Russet
Bachelor of Science  Gold
Bachelor of Science Community Studies  Gold
Bachelor of Science Nursing  Apricot
Bachelor of Health Sciences  Sage
Bachelor of Technology  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

The diploma and certificate programs are distinguished by the outside colour of the stoles:

Business (Post Baccalaureate)  Outside Russet; Inside Orange
Education  Outside Blue; Inside Orange
Engineering  Outside White; Inside Green
Public Administration & Management  Outside Orange; Inside Green
Engineering Technology  Outside Green; Inside Orange
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 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 his/her 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.

The Cape Breton University Mural

The beautiful fabric mural, which provides the backdrop for Convocation today, is the result of the combined community effort of a very special group of volunteers.

Twenty-two craftspeople, mostly quilters from the Sydney River area, including three octogenarians, cut out all these pieces of fabric and hand-stitched them into this wonderful hanging. It represents more than 2,500 hours of labour, over a period of three years. The lettering of the University motto, for example, took 88 hours to complete.

The three panels cover an area nearly 50 square metres (10m by 5m) high. The 4m by 5m centre panel bears the University Coat of Arms—accurate in every detail, and almost 2m in height.

Mural Craftspeople

Barbara Byachinski  Edith Collins  Margaret Dugandzic  Annie Hashem  Maisie MacDonald  Margaret MacNeil  Irma Morrison  Kathleen Verner

Avitus Cameron  Margaret Cusack  Teresa Gay  Carmel MacDonald  Judy MacKinnon  Chris MacVicar  Mary Orkish

Edie Coleman  Mary Doucette  Laurena Greencorn  Irene MacDonald  Patsy MacMullin  Ollie McKinnon  Shirley Penney
ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Presiding - Chancellor Annette Verschuren
President & Vice-Chancellor - Mr. David C. Dingwall
Master of Ceremonies - University Registrar, Bilynda Whiting
Mace Bearer - Ms Cassie Gillis

O Canada

Rankin School of the Narrows Choir

Indigenous Prayer & Welcome: Mr. Stephen Augustine

Introduction of Platform Guests: University Registrar Bilynda Whiting

President’s Address: President David C. Dingwall

Conferral of Honorary Degrees

Honorary Degree Recipients:  
Doctor of Letters, Mr. Douglas T. MacPhee  
Doctor of Letters, The Honorable Margaret McCain  
Doctor of Letters, The Honorable Dr. Mayann Francis  
Doctor of Letters, Dr. Denis Ryan  
Doctor of Laws, Dr. Robert Alexander Strang  
Doctor of Laws, Dr. Shiv Ram Sharma

Citation Presenters:  
Dr. Chris McDonald  
Kristin O’Rourke  
Dr. Graham Reynolds  
Mr. John MacKinnon  
Dr. Patrick Howard  
Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie
Musical Performance: Dr. Douglas T. MacPhee

Address to Graduating Class: The Honourable Dr. Margaret Norrie McCain
Address to Graduating Class: The Honourable Dr. Mayann E. Francis, ONS
Address to Graduating Class: Dr. Denis Ryan
Address to Graduating Class: Dr. Robert Alexander Strang
Address to Graduating Class: Dr. Shiv Ram Sharma

Conferral of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates: Chancellor Annette Verschuren

School of Arts and Social Sciences: Dean Andy Parnaby
Shannon School of Business: Dean George Karaphillis
School of Education and Health: Dean Patrick Howard
School of Science and Technology: Dean Rick Pierrynowski

Valedictory: Ms Hannah Kosick

Alumni Welcome to Graduates: Ms Michelle AuCoin

Rise Again
Ms Zion Stephens
Ms Michelle Stephens

Recession
Cape Breton University Pipe Band
MaryLeigh, Aiden, Cameron and Emma MacNeil
DR. SHIV RAM SHARMA

Dr. Shiv Sharma graduated from SN Medical School in Agra, India, in 1962, with an MBBS Medical Degree. He completed his medical internship in Kampala, Uganda, in 1964. For the first year of his medical career, Dr. Sharma worked as a medical officer for the Government of Uganda.

Dr. Sharma and his wife, Shashi, moved to Canada in 1965 with their son, Robin, and would have their second son, Sanjay, a few years later. Dr. Sharma specialized in family medicine and obtained his certification from both the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the American Board of Family Practice.

From 1965 until his retirement in 2016, Dr. Sharma worked in medical practices throughout Canada. Dr. Sharma established medical practices in both Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, and Toronto, Ontario. He developed a strong reputation in the community as a trusted doctor and community leader.

He is a past president of the Rotary Club of Port Hawkesbury and contributed significantly to the creation of one of the first Hindu temples in North America in Auld’s Cove, Nova Scotia. In the summer of 1971, a group from across the province met in Truro, N.S., to form the first Hindu Society in the Maritimes. Dr. Sharma and his wife were two of the founding members.

Dr. Sharma has volunteered extensively in Africa with those suffering from leprosy, ensuring their welfare and human rights were at the forefront during their care. He has been involved in the youth exchange program through his work with the Rotary Club and has hosted students from South Africa, India and China. Dr. Sharma has served on the boards of the Dartmouth General Hospital and the Cole Harbour Hospital. As well, Dr. Sharma served two terms as the Human Rights Commissioner for the government of Nova Scotia.
For his contributions to the medical community, Dr. Sharma was recognized at the age of 70 by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for his outstanding service to the profession. He also was given honorary Emeritus status from the Canadian College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Sharma encouraged his children to follow their dreams. They indeed followed his advice. His son, Robin, is a world-famous author and motivational speaker. His son, Sanjay, is a successful Retina Surgeon with a fellowship from Harvard University.

Dr. Sharma’s contributions to Cape Breton’s Indian history and his dedication to the community and the medical community across the country is outstanding, and the impacts will be felt for generations to come.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Law, honoris causa, on a man whose contributions to Cape Breton’s Indian history and his dedication to the community’s well-being has impacted thousands of Cape Bretoners, Dr. Shiv Sharma.
Dr. Robert Strang is Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) in Nova Scotia, appointed in August 2007. He received his medical degree from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and completed Family Practice and Public Health and Preventive Medicine residencies at UBC. An advocate for sport and athletics, Dr. Strang played rugby for the University of British Columbia and then the UBC Old Boys in Vancouver. In 1983, Dr. Strang represented Canada against England at London’s Twickenham Stadium, one of the sport’s most recognizable venues.

Dr. Strang was an Associate Medical Officer of Health in South Fraser Health, BC, from 1997-1999. In 1999, he moved to Halifax to become Medical Officer of Health for Capital District Health Authority. He was acting provincial Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health prior to his CMOH appointment.

He is passionate about public health and has worked with non-government organizations such as Smoke Free Nova Scotia, Heart and Stroke Foundation and Public Health Association of Nova Scotia, all for the betterment of the health and wellbeing of Nova Scotians. Dr. Strang has an adjunct appointment with Dalhousie University, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology.

In March of 2020 when a pandemic emerged as a threat to global citizens, Dr. Strang and his public health colleagues were thrust into the spotlight. COVID-19 forced public health practitioners into new, much more public roles, where they now had to build public trust and reassurance while implementing new and sometimes controversial health protocols and policies.
Recognizing that the pandemic, and its subsequent health measures were not easy for people, Dr. Strang, along with many other public health professionals, often took the time to address Nova Scotia’s youngest demographic, reassuring the children of our Province that these measures would keep them and their families safe. During some of our darkest hours and their longest hours, it was Dr. Strang and his team who were the bright light we all needed. Under Dr. Strang’s guidance, Nova Scotia has become one of the safest places in the world because of our low case numbers, solid public health protocols and the willingness of Nova Scotians to adhere to them.

In December 2020, Dr. Strang was awarded the Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration during the pandemic.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Law, *honoris causa*, on behalf of all public health professionals, on a man whose leadership and knowledge of public health and medicine, is only rivaled by his care and compassion for the people of Nova Scotia, Dr. Robert Strang.
Dr. Mayann Francis grew up in Sydney, Whitney Pier, Nova Scotia, which, at the time, was considered a multicultural, working-class community. Dr. Francis grew up knowing only acceptance within this community, and it was not until after she left Whitney Pier that she quickly realized that the world around her was far less tolerant than the community from where she was raised.

Dr. Francis graduated from St. Mary’s University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master’s in Public Administration from New York University. In addition, she has a Certificate in Equal Opportunity Studies from Cornell University, a Certificate in Paralegal Studies from Long Island University and a Certificate in Theological Studies from the Atlantic School of Theology.

Dr. Francis served as Lieutenant Governor for the province of Nova Scotia from 2006-2012. She was the first African Nova Scotian and the second woman to be appointed as the vice-regal representative. As Lieutenant Governor, she attended more than 3,000 activities and engagements. She served a four-year commission as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 3 Intelligence Company in the Canadian Forces. Her accomplishments while Lieutenant Governor include welcoming Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Nova Scotia and Government House in 2010, supporting the arts, celebrating young people, opening Government House for guest lectures and conferring a posthumous Free Pardon on Nova Scotia entrepreneur and civil rights pioneer Viola Desmond. She was the first vice-regal representative to grant the Royal Prerogative of Mercy, Free Pardon in the history of Canada.

Dr. Mayann Francis served from 2015-2020 as the first Distinguished Public Service Fellow in the Faculty of Management, School of Public Administration at Dalhousie University.

In December 2020, she was appointed as the Dean’s Warden for The Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, NS.

She is the recipient of honourary degrees from Mount St. Vincent University, St. Mary’s University, York University in Ontario, Dalhousie University, Atlantic School of Theology, Acadia University and an Honorary Diploma from the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC).
Dr. Francis has an award in her name at the NSCC that provides financial assistance to students, and the library at NSCC Marconi campus in Sydney, Nova Scotia, was renamed The Honorable Mayann Francis Library.

The Atlantic School of Theology recognized Dr. Francis by naming the Faith in Action Award, created by Dr. Francis, The Honourable Mayann Francis Faith in Action Award. The Award recognizes unsung heroes who work tirelessly to make our communities a better place to live.

Her numerous awards include a Harry Jerome Award for Professional Excellence, an award from the Multicultural Education Council of Nova Scotia, and medals for both the Queen’s Golden and Diamond Jubilees. She was the recipient of a Luminary Award from the University of the West Indies. She was also awarded the World Peace Tartan from the Celtic Cultural Society of Nova Scotia.

Her past leadership roles include Chair of the Board of Governors for the Atlantic School of Theology, Director and CEO of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, Ombudsman for the province of Nova Scotia, Assistant Deputy Minister in Ontario and Employment Equity Officer for Dalhousie University.

Dr. Francis has served on numerous boards and committees for non-profit organizations including the United Way, The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Imagine Canada and the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. Nimbus Publishing published her first children’s book, Mayann’s Train Ride, in October 2015, which was translated into French in 2018. Her memoir, Mayann Francis, An Honourable Life, was released in June 2019, and was listed in The Hill Times’ (Canada’s Politics and Government newspaper) list of 100 best non-fiction books in 2019. Her memoir was also short listed for The Evelyn Richardson Non-Fiction Award in June, 2020. Dr. Francis is working on her second children’s book scheduled for publication in 2021.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on a woman who has spent her career challenging systemic racial and gender barriers in both the public and private sector and who is an icon for many throughout Canada, the Honourable Dr. Mayann Francis.
Douglas T. MacPhee, a resident of New Waterford, Nova Scotia, is renowned for his musical accomplishments and is a true pillar of traditional Scottish music. Celebrated both as an accompanist and as a soloist, he is widely known for his unique ability to emulate the sound of the Cape Breton fiddle on the piano. Mr. MacPhee has directly contributed to the recognition and growth of the popularity of Scottish music on the Island and beyond.

Over the course of his admirable career, Doug MacPhee has released six solo recordings. He recorded accompaniment on over 60 albums with such Cape Breton fiddle luminaries as Buddy MacMaster, Donald MacLellan, Johnny Wilmot, Carl MacKenzie, John Campbell and Joe Cormier to name a few. Throughout Canada and internationally, he has toured and has taken part in countless interviews for radio, television and film documentaries lending his knowledge and skill regarding Cape Breton music.

Mr. MacPhee has played a vital role in the foundation and growth of such institutions dedicated to music and culture as the Gaelic College in St. Anne’s, the Celtic Colours International Music Festival and the Beaton Institute at Cape Breton University. With his encyclopedic knowledge of music, he has initiated landmark archival initiatives at the Beaton Institute, thus preserving for centuries’ worth of this unique genre of Canadian music that otherwise would have been lost to history.

Mr. MacPhee was inducted into the Order of Canada for his contribution to Cape Breton traditional culture in 2008, honouring his musical accomplishments, as well as his archival work.
Mr. MacPhee has lived in Toronto, Boston and even California, but the call of returning home was strong, and he is always happiest playing music and living home in New Waterford, Cape Breton. Over the years, Mr. MacPhee has inspired many Cape Bretoners to be proud of their musical heritage. He has dedicated and invested his time and has encouraged future musicians in the local area.

As a true icon of the Cape Breton Scottish music and culture, he has served as an unofficial but significant ambassador of Cape Breton Island. His legacy will continue with the future generation of musicians and conservers of culture.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, on a master of his art and a true icon of the Cape Breton Scottish music and culture, Mr. Douglas T. MacPhee.
The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain was born October 1, 1934, in northern Quebec. Her father was a prominent mining engineer in the early days of the Quebec gold mining industry, and her mother was Senator Margaret Norrie of Truro, Nova Scotia.

Mrs. McCain received her early education in public and private schools in Quebec, Nova Scotia and Ontario. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours in History from Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Toronto. She has been presented with Honorary Degrees from a number of prominent Canadian universities.

Throughout her career, Mrs. McCain has been active in organizations that promote education, music and the arts at the provincial and national levels. She was a member of the Mount Allison University Board of Regents from 1974-1994 and served as Chancellor of the University from 1986-1994. She is a founding member of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation in New Brunswick, which is devoted to the elimination of family violence through public education and research. Mrs. McCain chaired its capital campaign to endow a Family Violence Research Centre in partnership with the University of New Brunswick.

In 1955, she married entrepreneur Wallace F. McCain of Florenceville, N.B., who died in 2011. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

On April 28, 1994, Margaret Norrie McCain was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick – the first female to hold this position. She served in that role until April 1997. At that time, she moved to Toronto to re-join her family.
Margaret McCain was a member of the Board of the National Ballet School for 18 years serving as Board Chair from 1998 to 2000. She then went on to Chair the school’s successful $100 million fundraising campaign. She is currently Chair of the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation. The mission of this Foundation is to champion effective early childhood programs across Canada; programs that provide equal opportunities for all children, align with the school system and operate within a provincial or territorial framework.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on a true Canadian icon who has given time, treasure and talent to many organizations and charities across the country and who has dedicated her life’s work to the education, music and arts sector, The Honourable Margaret McCain.
Born in Newport, County Tipperary, Ireland, Dr. Denis Ryan immigrated to Toronto in 1969. He formed the Irish-Canadian folk group, Ryan’s Fancy, in 1970 with fellow members Fergus O’Byrne and the late Dermot O’Reilly. Dr. Ryan moved to St. John’s, Newfoundland, in 1971 to attend Memorial University, where he graduated with a degree in Folklore. Ryan and his family moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1980 and have been residing there ever since.

Dr. Ryan’s career has spanned more than 40 years, and he has played all over the world to the delight of his dedicated fans. He has appeared in over 200 television shows in Ireland, the United States and Canada including 78 television shows with the Ryan’s Fancy Tommy Makem syndicated series. The group also had a national television series on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in 1976. Another popular television show was Ryan’s Fancy on Campus in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Ryan’s Fancy recorded 13 albums, and in early 2011, they released their 40th Anniversary Collection.

Songs that Ryan’s Fancy made popular in Ireland and Canada in the 70s and 80s include Newport Town, Logy Bay, Sweet Forget Me Not and Now I’m Sixty Four. Dr. Ryan’s versions of Dark Island and Let me Fish off Cape St. Mary’s were, to many, the group’s most popular songs and became Ryan’s signature pieces. As a singer, he has performed for former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, United States President Ronald Reagan, Queen Elizabeth II and has sung with former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

In 1983, Ryan’s Fancy disbanded, and Dr. Ryan has since been working in the Investment Management business. He is involved with numerous community projects including serving as the national chairman of the fundraising committee of the Darcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies at St. Mary’s University and was also on the Board of Governors for St. FX University. Dr. Ryan also served on the Shannon School of Business Advisory Board at Cape Breton University.
In 1994, he received an honorary degree, Doctor of Letters, from St. Mary’s University. Dr. Ryan was the founder of Nova Scotian Crystal, Canada’s only hand-cut, mouth-blown crystal manufacturer. Dr. Ryan recorded various solo CD projects, including Mist Covered Mountains, Newport Town, Here and There and Cape St. Mary’s.

In the mid-1990s, Dr. Ryan hosted the CBC television series, Up on the Roof. He played the role of a Judge in the Trailer Park Boys movie, Live in Ireland. He became notorious in 2010 thanks to his appearance in a popular, viral YouTube video about bankers. In October 2015, he hosted a television documentary regarding the Canadian painter, Tom Forrestall.

Dr. Ryan received the Tipperary Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017 in Dublin, Ireland, for his contributions to Irish culture.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on a man who saw world-renowned success in both the music and business sector and whose dedication to his community’s well-being makes him a true role model, Dr. Denis Ryan.
The Judge Allan E. Sullivan Memorial Scholarship, for two students with outstanding achievement on five or more political science courses and who will be continuing their studies, awarded to Daniel Rory MacNeil and Brittany Lawrence.

The Warren Gordon Photographic Award, for a student who has made a major contribution to student life at Cape Breton University, awarded to Mackayla Townsend.

The William (Bill) Bugg Award, presented to an Engineering Technology student with the highest average, awarded to Chien Ngoc Dinh.

The Cape Breton Professional Engineering Memorial Scholarship is presented to Engineering students who have demonstrated high scholastic ability, a responsible attitude towards the engineering profession, and who will register at Dalhousie University in September, awarded to Nicholas Bigley, Luke Daley and Navereen Pamal.

The Harry Ryder Memorial Engineering Scholarship presented to a student who will register at Dalhousie University or the University of New Brunswick in their third year of the engineering program, awarded to Peter Rose.

The Marjorie S. Jost Scholarship, a charter member of the Nova Scotia Speech Communication Association, offered by her husband and sons to a student with a concentration or major in Communication and who has clearly demonstrated excellence in the discipline, awarded to Maggie Marston-Berk.

The Marvin Harvey Memorial Scholarship, for a Cape Breton student entering the Bachelor of Education Program, awarded to Maggie Marston-Berk.

The John J. McCarthy Memorial Scholarship, for the student with the highest average in the final year of the Bachelor of Arts Community Studies Degree, awarded to Jessalyn Hamilton.

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 Mackenna King.
The George Leith Community Studies Award, for a Bachelor of Arts Community Studies student who demonstrates to a high degree, cooperative pedagogies in their studies, leadership, interest in community issues, and places the interests of the group on an equal basis with their own personal interests, awarded to **Julie Baribault**.

The Angus A. (Gus) Morrison Memorial Scholarship, offered by his family to a student for proficiency in History, awarded to **Tara Johnson**.

The Erwin and Sylvia Epstein Scholarship in memory of Dave and Celia Epstein, for a student who has participated in athletic activities and demonstrated qualities of good sportsmanship and citizenship, awarded to **Caelan Budhoo**.

The Joy Gift and Jewellery Award, for a business student who exhibits outstanding leadership and enthusiasm in the field of business entrepreneurship, awarded to **Roy Karam**.

The Chaplain’s Award, for a student who has, during their time at Cape Breton University, expressed a desire to strengthen our community, and has lived the values of service, hospitality, and compassion for others, awarded to **Paige Cox**.

The Canadian Society for Chemistry Medal, for a student demonstrating excellence in Chemistry, awarded to **Sarah Boudreau**.

The Murdena Marshall Science Award, for a graduating Mi’kmaw student from a Natural Science or Natural Science related program, awarded to **Levi Denny**.

The Wendy MacKenzie Biology Prize, for a 4th year Bachelor of Science (Biology) student with the highest aggregate in Biology courses, awarded to **Jarrett A Miller**.

The CBU Alumni Association Graduation Awards, for graduating students who will be continuing their academic studies at CBU or another institution, awarded to **Cassie Gillis, Sarah Boudreau** and **Brett A Murphy**.
The Norm Smith Graduation Trophy & Award, for a graduating student who will be continuing their studies at a professional/graduate school to establish their career in a specific professional field, awarded to Madeline Campbell.

The C.W. MacDonald Memorial Trophy and Bursary in memory of the late Dr. C. W. MacDonald, for a student studying part-time and who exhibits leadership and scholarship, awarded to Logan Campbell.

The Allister McIntyre Memorial Trophy and Scholarship, for a student with an outstanding record in leadership, scholarship and character, awarded to Lauren Francis.

The Glenda Faye Smith Memorial Trophy, for a student who has an outstanding record in leadership, scholarship and character, awarded to Thanh Thuan Vo.

The Glen Moore Memorial Scholarship and Trophy, for a student who displays outstanding leadership, concern for others and contributes to the quality of life at Cape Breton University and who, during their time of study, exemplifies the University motto “Perseverance Will Triumph,” awarded to Samar Z. Ali.

The Connor Timmons Memorial Scholarship and Trophy, for a graduating student-athlete displaying the characteristics of athletic excellence, community service and leadership, qualities that made Connor an extraordinary young man, awarded to Madeline Johnson.

The Dr. Donald J. MacKenzie Memorial Prize for a graduating student of Celtic Studies, exhibiting special aptitude in the study of Celtic Studies, awarded to Mairi Claire Wilson.

The Mary MacNeil Charitable Award, for a student who demonstrates compassion and care through work in the community, awarded to Salena Sylvester.

The Student Union Award of Excellence, for a student who demonstrates involvement in extra-curricular activities and held a paid position within the Students’ Union during their graduating year, awarded to Amrinder Singh.
Canadian Psychological Association, Certificate of Academic Excellence, for a BSc Honours Psychology students who submitted an Honours Thesis project, awarded to Andrew Hay, Christopher Lewis, Maria Rath, and Lanxi Wang.

CBU Awards of Excellence, for students with the highest average in a Post-diploma or Post Baccalaureate program, awarded to Nageshwara Saketh Trichinapalli, BET (Electronics and Controls) PD; Gagandeep Singh, BET (Petroleum) PD; Pardeep Singh BET (Environmental Studies) PD; Dana Tomescu, BET (Manufacturing) PD; Gladys Mae Lerios, Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Business Management; Rushil Kumar, Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Supply Chain Management; Tressy Thomas, Diploma in Public Administration and Management.

Cape Breton University Silver Medals, for outstanding academic achievement on the courses listed for the degree, awarded to Madison Goodliffe Bachelor of Arts - 4 year; Mairi Claire Wilson, Bachelor of Arts - 3 year; Maggie Marston-Berk, Bachelor of Arts Community Studies - 4 year; Alison Rollins, Bachelor of Arts Community Studies - 3 year; Kiah Unger, Bachelor of Business Administration; Harprabhjot Singh, Bachelor of Engineering Technology; Nicholas Bigley, Diploma in Engineering; Meghan MacDonald, Bachelor of Health Sciences (Public Health); Duy Pham, Bachelor of Hospitality and Tourism Management; Jarrett A Miler, Bachelor of Science - 4 year; Sukriti Bhardwaj, Bachelor of Science - 3 year; Daniel Rory MacNeil Bachelor of Arts & Science in Environment.

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 Rishab Monga.

The Governor General’s Silver Medal, for a student who achieves the highest academic standing on the courses listed for the degree, awarded to Sullivan MacDonald.

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 Megan Shapka.
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 honor 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’kmaw 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’kmaw 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.
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)