

Fairfax University

International Administration Office

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2000 INTERNATIONAL DEGREE CONGREGATION

Saturday 30 September, 2000 was the occasion of the University's international degree congregation (awards ceremony). It was held at the prestigious Institute of Directors (IOD) building in London, England. Nearly two hundred people attended the occasion. Our graduates, and their families/friends, came literally from all over the world.

The afternoon began with the formal degree ceremony, presided over by the University's new Chancellor (The Right Honorable the Lord Perry of Walton, OBE, FRS). The Chancellor declared the congregation open and welcomed everyone to the IOD. The President then gave a short address and this was followed by the conferment of the first honorary degree on Dr Max Blythe. Degrees were then conferred by the Chancellor. As the Congregation Marshal and Orator read out each graduate's name s/he was presented to the Chancellor. Further honorary degrees were conferred throughout the ceremony. The recipients were Dr Sushil K Das Gupta, Dr Johanne Brunet and Professor Peter Jarvis. The congregation ended with the awarding of the University's highest earned degree (Doctor of Letters).

HONORARY DEGREE AWARDS

Each year the University awards a small number of honorary degrees. The 2000 recipients were:

Lord Perry of Walton, the University's new Chancellor, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt).

Professor Peter Jarvis was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Education (EdD). Peter Jarvis is Professor of Continuing Education at the University of Surrey, Guildford, England and, currently chair of the Centre for Research into Lifelong Learning in the School of Education where he was previously Head of Department of Educational Studies. He is also Adjunct Professor in the Department of Adult Education at the University of Georgia, USA. He holds the following degrees: BA in economics (Sheffield), BD (London), MSocSc (Birmingham), PhD (Aston), DLitt (Surrey) and an honorary DPhil from the University of Helsinki. Professor Jarvis has received many awards for his outstanding contribution to adult learning, including the Cyril O Houle Word Award for Adult Education Literature from the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education and the Comenius Award (Outstanding Adult Educator in Europe-first holder) from the International ESVA Foundation, and he was the first non-North American to be elected to the International Hall of Fame of Adult and Continuing Education in the USA. He has written and edited over twenty books and approximately 150 papers and chapters in books on adult education and learning, nurse education, continuing professional education, primary school education, distance education and third age education. His work has been translated into nearly twenty languages. He is the founding editor of *The International Journal of Lifelong Education*, which he has edited for nearly twenty years. Peter Jarvis is widely regarded as one of the world's leading authorities on adult continuing education and learning.

Dr Johanne Brunet was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA). She holds an MBA degree in marketing and international management from l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, University of Montreal and she has a PhD in Industrial and Business Studies from the prestigious University of Warwick Business School in England, UK. She has been working in the television industry for much of her career although she originally trained as an accountant. She has extensive international and Canadian experience in production, programming and management in the areas of news and current affairs, cultural and children's programs. Dr Brunet was previously Director of Independent Productions, Acquisitions and International Co-productions for the French Network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and she is now Senior Vice-President and Director General of *tv5americas*, the world's only international French-speaking general-interest network. The network is received in more than 110 million homes in over 100 countries on five continents.

Dr Sushil K Das Gupta was awarded (in absentia) the honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) in recognition of his work and leadership of the Institute of Cost and Executive Accountants, an international professional and examining body based in the United Kingdom. Dr Das Gupta graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree from the University of Calcutta, India and subsequently went on to read law and earned a Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree and an honorary Doctor of Business Administration. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants in Ireland, an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and a Certified Management Accountant. He came to the UK in 1964 and since then has

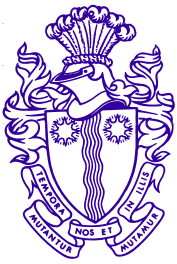
settled there with his wife and two children.

Professor Max Blythe, BSc, MA, MLitt, DLitt was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (DUniv) in recognition of his adjunct faculty work with Fairfax University and for his extensive academic and professional work in the field of health care education and clinical sciences. Max Blythe is University Reader in Clinical Sciences at Oxford Brookes University, UK and a member of the Faculty of Clinical Medicine in the University of Oxford. He holds degrees from the Universities of Sheffield and Oxford.

He is a native of Yorkshire where he ran away from school as a fifteen year old, not to find a fortune in coal mining to which he turned at the time, but the progress he eventually made into the regional science laboratories of the then National Coal Board. His is a story about four nights each week at night school in a local technical college providing the route to University to study natural sciences. At the same time he also developed a passion for opera singing! He went on to teach in one of Britain's major public (the name the British give to private schools!) schools and started biology cruises for pupils. In 1982 Dr Blythe was invited to give the Schools Lectures at the Royal Institution in London and wrote *Web of Life*, a sourcebook for teachers of biology. In mid-career he became a senior education adviser to schools in Oxfordshire. His fastidious approach to academic research continued to grow and he moved to what is now Oxford Brookes University. Here he has advanced the field of health care studies but, more especially, he has established one of the leading centers devoted to stockpiling the recollections of the world's leading advancers of health care and medical science. His work has resulted in the Medical Sciences Video-Archive of the Royal College of Physicians, a collection now of international reputation.



left to right: **Professor Peter Jarvis**, **Dr Alan Jones (Fairfax University President)**, **Dr Max Blythe**, **Lord Perry of Walton**, **Dr Johanne Brunet**



WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE DEGREE CONGREGATION

We received many unsolicited letters from people who attended the 2000 degree congregation. Here are just a few of the comments we received.



The President,
Fairfax University,
2900, West Fork Drive,
Suite 200,
Baton Rouge,
Louisiana 70827,
U.S.A.

Grace Fletcher
B.Sc., M.Sc.(Econ.), D.P.A., F.R.S.A.

Dear Dr. Jones,

Thank you so much for your letter dated 11th October. It was a very great pleasure to meet you, the Chancellor and the other Fairfax University personnel at the Graduation Ceremony on 30th September in London. Five members of my family accompanied me and we all enjoyed ourselves immensely.

We thought the venue was excellent. The Institute of Directors building in Pall Mall, with its beautiful interior and spacious rooms was just right for the prestigious occasion. The organisation of the whole event was superb.

I had two unexpected bonuses - under the heading 'Special Notes' paragraph C in the Doctor of Letters Guidelines Leaflet, it states:-

"Graduation: It is not a requirement that D.Litt graduates attend a formal graduation ceremony but those who do will receive their degrees first, as senior graduates of the University. A special scarlet robe and hood have been designed to distinguish our higher doctorate holders from other Fairfax University graduates. The robes are available on a purchase only basis."

Having a D.Litt and an "F" surname, I had worked myself into a worried state that I would probably be the first graduate to step up to receive my certificate - instead I was the very last! And secondly I was able to hire my robes and did not have to purchase them! (Except for the Fairfax hood) which helped very much financially.

For what it is worth, my family did make the comment that they would have liked to have had a little more information about the other graduates, especially if they were from outside the U.K. Just a short comment, such as 'Mr. X is from Brussels and has specialised in (or majored in) Y.'

My family did take some photographs during the afternoon but unfortunately they have not yet been developed. I think the idea of publishing a record of the proceedings in an extended Newsletter is a splendid one and I look forward immensely to receiving a copy. Meanwhile I enclose my Alumni Association Application Form.

Very best wishes to you all

Yours sincerely,

Grace E. Fletcher.

My two sons and nephew, who are products of the London University, and my husband, were very happy, highly pleased, of the way it (the degree ceremony) was planned and conducted. The tea too was very good and well served. They all highly commended the ceremony. I too am very happy to say that the ceremony was excellent. (Mrs S Muttiah, Colombo, Sri Lanka)



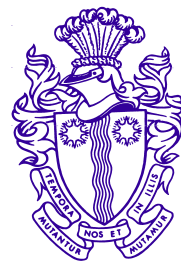
I was impressed at the University's degree congregation held in London... I believe Fairfax University is making a way forward to achieve its objective and goal. I was also happy to meet my friends and colleagues who also graduated on that day. (Yaw Owusu-Bour, Accra-Ghana, West Africa)

..... let me congratulate you on a superbly organized graduation ceremony. (Oscar C Del Santo, England)

I and my wife thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony and the chance to meet yourself and Members of the faculty. (Robert M Gasgoine Nova Scotia-Canada)



Please note that the address have been covered up on the letters we have scanned and added to this newsletter. If you have comments on any of the letters please forward them to Fairfax University International Administration Office in Louisiana USA. Thank you.



My friend, Edna Gronquist, was a graduate...at the Fairfax University Graduation ceremony held at the Institute of Directors in London. As one of the supporters of a graduate at this event, I am pleased to be able to say what a lovely event it was. Everyone was very pleasant – the Institute staff, the University staff and faculty, and the co-graduates. The setting was beautiful, the Waterloo Room and the Nash Room looked really lovely, and all the arrangements were excellent, and the ceremony...moving.
(Josephine Ober, Watford, England)



Sofia Friedman

October 23, 2000

Fairfax University
 2900 West Fork Drive, Suite 200
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70827

Attn.: Alan Jones, Ph.D.
 President

Dear Dr. Jones,

Thanks for your letter dated October 11. It was my pleasure to have met you and staff at the University's degree ceremony, last September 30, in London.

The degree ceremony held that Saturday afternoon was a memorable event. We—my daughter, friends and I—were impressed not only by the perfecting planning and organization of the event but also with the friendliness of all personnel who were involved that afternoon in the enchanting place of the Institute of Directors.

The high point of the degree ceremony, however, was in fact your speech—passionate and enthusiastic—reflecting a profound involvement with the individual's lifelong learning process. I was particularly thrilled to have met other mature adults in pursuit of a meaningful degree and have lived, through the ceremony, the representation of the culmination of long thought-through years of study. I strongly believe that achieving the Ph.D. degree may represent a turning point in my professional life.

I take this opportunity, and as per your request, to send you photos my daughter Regina took on that enjoyable afternoon showing the congregation of individuals, who came from various parts of the world for this special event. I am proud to have been part of it.

Wishing you the very best,

Yours truly,

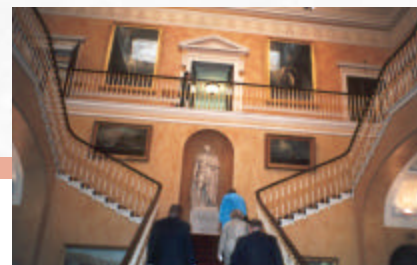
Sofia Friedman

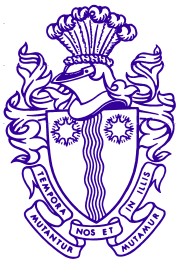


Both Angela and I enjoyed the University's degree congregation held in London. It was nice to meet with you on the day. What was very special for me...was the opportunity to meet with my tutor, Dr Allan Jackson, a very kind gentleman. Once again, than you for the day....
(Robert M Martin, Dublin, Ireland)



The President with Robert Martin





NEWS FROM STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

Dr Dennis Bru Hun Lai (Fairfax PhD Graduate, Dec 1998)

The Fairfax University Degree Congregation 2000 marked the most import occasion for those graduates who attended and were formally presented to the Chancellor.

It was an exciting moment to meet my programme supervisor – Professor R C Brewer and other senior members of Fairfax University. Without the University and highest quality of academic guidance from Professor R C Brewer, I would not have completed my PhD degree. I am deeply indebted to all members of Fairfax University.

As an international trader with extensive connection in the People’s Republic of China and an advocate of Anglo-American education system there, I believe that the flexible education system adopted by Fairfax University would substantially benefit the potential Chinese students. Consequently, I have no hesitation to represent and to promote the teaching philosophy of Fairfax University to China if I am given an opportunity to try in future.

Finally, may I take this opportunity in wishing everyone well. Once again, thank you for all the help and I look forward to meeting you again in the next degree congregation.



Fairfax University
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44/1-303
Portugal



Dear Dr Alan M Jones,

I would like to thank you sincerely for having given both myself and my sister Isabel, the opportunity to attend the Graduation Ceremony as well as to meet you personally.

I enclose a few personal and therefore 'unofficial' photographs that were taken at the Graduation Ceremony and which I would very much like to be published in the Newsletter. These photographs include both family members as well as my program supervisor, Dr Allan Jackson and his wife, Dr Jennifer Jackson.

My personal comments are:

After treading such a long and hardocous path it was especially gratifying to attend the ceremony and be awarded the degree along with my sister, Isabel, and many other students. This occasion was further enriched with the presence of family members, friends and faculty members.

Best wishes

Ana



"Coppers"

President Alan Jones,
Fairfax University,
2900 West Fork Drive,
Suite 200 - Baton Rouge,
Louisiana 70827 - USA.

9th October 2000

Dear President Jones,

I write to thank you and all those who were concerned with the organization of the Congregation 2000.

It was a great privilege to attend the Institute of Directors and to meet with both yourself and the Chancellor Lord Perry of Walton during the degree presentations. Graduation day was for me a profound experience and I will treasure for all time the memory of this grand occasion, marked by its careful planning, order and attention to detail.

The venue was magnificent and the ceremony splendid and conducted in the finest of University tradition. My guests who included a close friend and my brother, a graduate of Oxford University found the speeches particularly inspiring.

I believe Fairfax will fast become a dominant voice in the academic world on account of the fact that its flexible and innovative approach to the learning process and its realistic attitudes towards education are bearing fruit. This was clearly seen at the Congregation 2000.

For me personally, Fairfax has set the seal on what had been at one stage of my life just a dream, namely to achieve at a mature age an educational qualification at graduate level without the need to leave my home or my employment. That dream has now become a reality.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fairfax University for making my graduation possible.

Your sincerely,
Quentin Little
QUENTIN LITTLE