

First Convocation

The First Convocation of University Canada West was an inspiring occasion held on 18th November, 2006.

President Strong congratulated the graduands and welcomed their families and friends and the large number of UCW supporters who came for the event. His **remarks** focused on the fact that first convocations typically involving just a handful of graduating students, and has been the case for virtually all of today's great universities. He also pointed out that private universities have achieved a standard of excellence on a par with any, and expressed his expectation of a similar future for UCW.

Dr. Norma Mickelson, Chancellor *emerita* of the University of Victoria, presided over the installation of Dr. Myer Horowitz OC as first Chancellor of University Canada West. In his address, Chancellor Horowitz, dressed in the brilliant red gown of office, delighted the audience with his enthusiasm for the occasion, and emphasized how important he felt the need for educational choice for different students' needs.

Dr Strong introduced our candidate for the Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, **William W. Winspear**, outlining his achievements and praising his generosity as a patron of the arts and culture in both the USA and Canada. Dr Winspear was unable to attend the ceremony for reasons of poor health, but he sent a **DVD recording** which was played for the audience. Henceforth, Dr. Winspear pointed out, our reputation will grow with those of our alumni.

Five students graduated with the Master of Business Administration degree:

- Okey Amaechi, BCom (*Karnatak*), MCom (*Shivaji U*), PhD (*BE U Puna*)
- Janice Lamoureux, BCom (*RRU*)
- Marcia Fan Meng Xia, BA (*UVic*) – *in absentia*
- Terry Mah, CGA (*CGA Assn BC*)
- Sharon Mason, BCom (*RRU*)

Seven students from the first undergraduate class which began last September 2005 were present to receive their Founders Awards which were presented, where possible, by the Founder after whom each award was named:

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| • Robbie Cluett | The Ian Barrodale Award | Presented by Ian |
| • Jessica Collins | The Linda Bodine Award | Presented by Myer |
| • Jason Dempsey | The Judd Buchanan Award | Presented by Judd |
| • Daniel Hakim | The Sheila Barrodale Award | Presented by Ian |
| • Zack Massingham | The Myer Horowitz Award | Presented by Myer |
| • Habib Obatoyinbo | The Garrett Lambert Award | Presented by Garrett |
| • Ryan Patterson | The John Walton Award | Presented by Myer |

Convocation was followed, into the evening, by a delicious buffet and reception in the UCW Student Centre. A **recording of the Convocation** will appear soon on this website.