

# CONVOCAATION

In the eleventh century, a new vitality quickened all aspects of the civilization of Western Europe. The creative forces thus unleashed soon found expression in new institutions, and of these the university bids fair to be the most enduring. The modern university is the lineal descendant of the university of the Middle Ages. Its purposes and organization, even much of its ceremonial role, are medieval in origin.

The medieval university was originally called a *studium generale*, that is, a place of learning to which teachers and students from anywhere resorted. The first *studia* were at Salerno, Bologna and Paris. These came into existence spontaneously and developed through the twelfth century as the needs of the time and their inner necessities dictated. In the thirteenth century these spontaneous associations crystallized into guilds or corporations endowed by Church and State with specific privileges which guaranteed the internal autonomy necessary for the vocation of study. To these corporations was increasingly applied the word *universitas* denoting the entire group of those responsible for the transmission of higher learning and the pursuit of knowledge.

By the beginning of the fourteenth century, two forms of university organization had appeared. At Bologna, which was primarily a higher school of canon and civil law to which came men experienced in ecclesiastical and secular administration, the control of the *studium generale* passed to the students; hence Bologna was a *universitas scholarum*. On the other hand in Paris and Oxford, whose dominant faculty was the Faculty of Arts, the *studium* emerged under the direction of a guild of teachers, a *universitas magistrorum*. Through its own officials, notably the chancellor (once the symbol of external control and by now of internal autonomy), the guild of teachers developed its courses of instruction, administered its own affairs and admitted to its company only those who had met its intellectual standards. The University of Western Ontario stands in the tradition of Paris and Oxford.

Originally the goal of the medieval student was certification by the guild of teachers that he also was qualified to teach (the *licentia docendi*). With the passage of time the student's progress through the curriculum

was marked by ceremonies which signified his successful attainment of a certain level (*gradus* or in modern language, degree) of competence. The Bachelor had completed his apprenticeship in the Faculty of Arts. The Master was now qualified to teach in that Faculty and was thus incorporated into the *universitas magistrorum*. The Doctor was one who, having obtained the mastership, had successfully completed the curriculum of one of the "higher" faculties (in the Middle Ages, law, medicine and theology) and was now qualified to teach in those faculties. Inevitably the degrees of the *universitas* did more than admit their holders to the teaching profession. They served the wider social purpose of demonstrating their holders' fitness to serve the entire medieval community.

Today's ceremony stems from the medieval tradition. The procession of the guild of teachers, whose solemn assembly, or convocation, is the modern equivalent of the medieval *magna congregatio* of all Faculties, is followed by the Chancellor and the Esquire Bedel carrying the mace, the symbol of the University's corporate authority. The academic gowns, hoods and caps, once the sober, disciplined dress of secular clergy and teachers, declare in their various designs and colors the academic qualifications of the Faculty. The citations and presentations by the Faculty to the Chancellor attest to the Chancellor and to society the degree of proficiency attained by the students of the University. There follows a visible and public act whereby the *universitas magistrorum*, acting through its Chancellor, confers upon the students the appropriate degree. It is the act, not a certificate, which constitutes the validity of the degree bestowed. More, the formula, "I admit you" and the placing of the students' hands within the hands of the Chancellor and his or her associates, bind the students in the appropriate degree to the *universitas magistrorum*. The students thereafter bear for all time the mark of their association with this University. They have received what the University has been and presently is. Since they bear in themselves the promise of the future, they are what the University hopes to be. For all its solemnity, convocation is a joyous occasion.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO MACE

Maces were originally specialized war clubs, frequently made of metal or garnished with metal spikes. When they were used by knights or other noble warriors, they were often highly decorated. Because maces required no special skills and were effective in close quarter, the “referees” and crowd control officers at medieval tournaments were usually armed with them, as were the escorts of royal judges and lesser magistrates.

From these early uses the functional weapon evolved into a symbolic emblem of legislative and civic authority used by cities and towns, and ultimately by parliament. As the early universities developed into self-governing entities, many of them acquired suitably decorated maces as symbols of their corporate identity and authority, along with their other academic regalia.

Western’s mace was presented to The University of Western Ontario by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London on the occasion of the installation of Dr. G. Edward Hall as President and Vice-Chancellor at the spring convocation in 1948 to mark the 70th anniversary of the University. It is made of silver and is patterned on the mace used by the University of London, except that it is ornamented with symbols derived from The University of Western Ontario coat of arms. The lens-shaped top of the mace bears a rayed sun raised in shallow relief, taken from the upper part of The University of Western Ontario shield. Below this, running in an ornamental frieze around the outer edge of the head of the mace, are the remaining devices from the shield: an open book, crowned demi-lions derived from the arms of the Rev. Canon Alfred Peache (an early benefactor of the University), and a trotting stag within a ring. The sun on top of the mace appears as a full solar disk to suit the circular shape of the mace, whereas it appears as a half sun at the top of the shield.

Originally this demi-sun was meant to represent a setting or “western” sun, alluding to the name of the University; however, it was later officially blazoned as a rising sun in the grant of arms, symbolizing the “rising” expectations of young graduates. Encircling the ball at the foot of the mace is the Latin motto of the University: VERITAS ET UTILITAS.

Roger F. Gardiner

# CONVOCATION BANNERS

## IVEY BANNERS

The colorful banners hanging above the stage are a gift from former Chancellor Richard M. Ivey and Dr. Beryl Ivey. The banners represent the hood colors of degrees offered by The University of Western Ontario. Ideas for the project were suggested by the Iveys, and London artist-architect David Yuhasz was assigned the task of executing the design for the multi-colored banners. The banners were first displayed at Spring Convocation 1983. The Ivey family has been a major supporter of the University for many years. Dr. Richard M. Ivey was Chancellor from July 1, 1980-June 30, 1984.

## DEGREES OFFERED

Degree	Abbreviation	Colour
Bachelor of Administrative and Commercial Studies/	BACS	Grey
Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies	BMOS	Grey
Bachelor of Arts	BA	White
Bachelor of Education	BEd	Light Blue
Bachelor of Engineering Science	BESc	Orange
Bachelor of Fine Arts	BFA	Brown
Bachelor of Health Sciences	BHSc	Red
Bachelor of Laws	LLB	Purple
Bachelor of Medical Science	BMSc	Dark Green/ Golden Yellow
Bachelor of Music	BMus	Pink
Bachelor of Musical Arts	BMusA	Pink
Bachelor of Science	BSc	Golden Yellow
Bachelor of Science (Human Ecology)	BSc (HEc)	Maroon
Bachelor of Science in Nursing	BScN	Apricot
Bachelor of Social Work	BSW	Citron
Bachelor of Theology	BTh	Scarlet
Master of Divinity	MDiv	Scarlet
Master of Theological Studies	MTS	Scarlet
Doctor of Dental Surgery	DDS	Lilac
Doctor of Medicine	MD	Green
Master of Arts	MA	White
Master of Business Administration	MBA	Drab
Master of Clinical Dentistry	MCLD	Lilac
Master of Clinical Science	MCLSc	Golden Yellow
Master of Education	MEd	Light Blue
Master of Engineering	MEng	Orange
Master of Engineering Science	MESc	Orange
Master of Fine Arts	MFA	Brown
Master of Laws	LLM	Purple
Master of Library and Information Science	MLIS	Lemon
Master of Music	MMus	Pink
Master of Public Administration	MPA	Peacock
Master of Physical Therapy	MPT	Turquoise

Master of Science	MSc	Golden Yellow
Master of Science in Nursing	MScN	Apricot
Master of Science in Occupational Therapy	MScOT	Golden Yellow
Master of Social Work	MSW	Citron
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD	Purple

## GONFALONS

"*Gonfalon*" is defined by the Oxford dictionary as a "*banner; often with streamers, hung from a crossbar.*"

The medieval term represents a time when gonfalons were popular as identifying signs in processional pageants. They represented various republics in medieval Italy, and were soon adopted by ecclesiastical processions to depict the significance of the honored event. Throughout the centuries gonfalons have been used to enhance the pageantry involved in a number of ceremonies, and The University of Western Ontario displays twenty unique gonfalons or faculty banners as part of its Convocation. Western's history lends itself naturally to such a traditional fanfare at its spring and fall graduation ceremonies.

The banners representing the University, its faculties, schools and affiliated colleges whose students are graduating today, are carried into the Convocation hall at the head of the academic procession and placed in front of the stage. Displayed on the stage are banners representing all faculties, schools and colleges whose students will graduate on other days of convocation.

The University is appreciative of the work done by members of the members of the Canadian Embroiders' Guild, London, who designed and stitched the Convocation banners. The project involved 50 of the Guild's members and took two years to complete.

Designs and symbols for the faculty banners were suggested by the Dean of the relevant faculty or school, and the hood colors for degrees offered by the unit are incorporated in the banner design. Although conceived with the medieval gonfalons in mind, Western's banners are modern in design. The banners of the affiliated colleges carry the Coat of Arms of each.

The gonfalon depicting The University of Western Ontario Coat of Arms is dedicated to past President & Vice-Chancellor, K. George Pedersen. It was Dr. Pedersen who initiated the creation of the Convocation banners upon his arrival at Western.