



Convocation is a time when we somehow manage to turn our gaze in two directions. We look back with a sense of success and completion concerning all that you have accomplished in your time at SFU. And we look ahead with hopes and expectations for all you will do in the days and years to come. Right now we are gathered at a place and in a moment when transformation occurs.

The ancient romans recognized an odd and distinctive deity, the two-faced god Janus. He was believed to have authority over beginnings and endings, gates and passageways, and transitions from one place to another, and over what we call liminal or threshold spaces. One of his two profiles looks ahead to the time to come, while the other directs his gaze into the past. Janus's name is easy to remember, by the way; he is the origin of our modern word 'janitor,' because he was seen as someone who keeps the disorder of the world outside at bay, maintaining the separate space within.

Today you have behind you classes, papers, hard work, deep thought, quizzes, examinations, shared activities, lonely study, contemplation, conversations, days of doubt and panic, and days of exploration and joy. Don't let anyone tell you that this part of your life has not been 'real' life. Your years as a student are as tangible and human and as leafy with meaning as any you will experience in the days ahead.

You are headed outward now, across this SFU threshold into a hurried and busy world. Most of you will make your way into work, into careers. You have great potential and, among you, a vast array of plans. You will work, maintain relationships, volunteer, continue to learn, stay on top of current events, make or listen to music, invent, stay fit, perhaps raise families, and certainly make a difference.

Because you are or are about to become SFU grads, I have every confidence that you will flourish in the days to come. You will be innovative. You will be attentive. You will be creative. You will find time to consider how this world might be changed for the better. You might well do something yourself, large or small, that will help to bring about much needed change.

In a rushed and hectic world you may worry whether there will be enough time to accomplish all that you intend to do. I am happy to assure you that the time ahead is abundant. The days are long. The hours are many. I hope you enjoy the time to come and experience it as profuse rather than

Some interruptions are of course essential. I was speaking a few days ago with a manager at an accounting firm about innovation. “Technology means that much of what we do can be done from