

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FALL CONVOCATION
October 10 and 11, 2013

Convocation Address
By Dr. Christine Sinclair
Two-time Olympian and Canada's women's soccer team captain

An honorary Doctor of Laws was conferred on Dr. Christine Sinclair during the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Environment ceremony on Friday, October 11, 2013. The following is Dr. Sinclair's Convocation address:

President Petter, and to members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, students and family who are here today, thank you for the invitation and the honor of being with you.

I am very honored and humbled to be with you today as your lives move forward into the world or into the classrooms where so many good things happen.

You previously honored Sarah McLachlan at the University and I must say that I am jealous that she could follow a brief speech by sharing her amazing musical talent with you in the form of a beautiful song.

You have no idea how much I would love to simply say thank you and then start juggling a soccer ball for six minutes and loft a shot off a post, past the Dean and into a net somewhere! It is my vision and it is my joy.

That true joy did start very early in my life. It is true that my mother tied on my first set of soccer boots when I was four. It is true that I went to almost every practice - soccer or baseball - that my brother had and to this day, he continues to inspire me and be my pillar of strength and listening ear ... it is to my entire family that I say thank you for a lifetime of support at every hour - whether it was on the baseball diamond or the soccer pitch. I thank each member of my family for contributing to the success that only comes from hard work, vision and dedication on m]TJ.215 g2.0 T(Tw

What is most in my mind on this important day is the work that happens on the Simon Fraser campus each day of the year - the work that each person who represents the University brings forward when they step onto the campus.

Few people who watch a soccer game know or can fathom how much hard work goes into the preparation before we step onto our campus, our field.

To the students and faculty here today, those long hours shared in lab, in lectures, in the studio or in the classroom are crucial to building the quality of the foundation that is needed for success.

Those few people who *do* know the level of work that we put in to train our muscles to perform detailed movements that lead to scoring opportunities - are likely also the ones who know the value of the hard work really necessary to develop.

I have been incredibly blessed to have coaches in my life, starting with my mother, continuing through my time at the University of Portland and occurring today with the Canadian Women's National team - who truly have a gift.

Their gift?

Their ability to inspire me and my teammates to love our work -to work with purpose - to work with vision- to enjoy the challenge- the embrace the moment- to feel the joy or the pain with fullness - and to come back tomorrow - even after being exhausted today.

The Latin word for this is *altiora* - it means simply, to a higher order. It does not only mean to higher order in spiritual terms, it also means that we accept our skills, our strengths, our weaknesses and our goals as part of service- whether it is the game of soccer - or the Vancouver & Canadian communities - or the world of education - or the professions that are your calling in life.

I mentioned a few moments ago, that prior to the Olympic Games in London, my teammates and I were focused on our goal - to build excitement for the game of soccer in our country. To get young people excited about *the* game- not just a single game- so that the sport will thrive well beyond our generation and our results. That the values of the soccer field find a way into every Canadian town throughout every Province and into the hearts of our next set of players who will represent our country with the immense pride we all feel.

It is my hope that each person here today, feels the level of pride that comes from being associated with Simon Fraser University - as I do.

It is an honor to be with you and I look forward to the day when we exchange autographs as professionals who are working together to make the our city, our country and the world a better place because of influences that come from our family, our coaches and mentors and from Simon Fraser University.