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- Thank you, Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, fellow class members of 2020. It's a real honour, and I'm humbled by this possibility, this probability, this reality of my nomination for an honorary degree.

I grew up in Greenwich, only a short distance from Wolfville, and I've been aware of Acadia since I was a kid. And when I came here in the late fifties, I wanted to fly jets and I wanted to join the Air Force. And the jet of particular interest at the time was the Avro Arrow.

I went to that first training summer, got through that and that winter, the Avro Arrow was scrapped on the advice of the U.S. president of the day because it was said to be obsolete. So, I got shot down before I even get in the air.

So, for a job, for a summer job, I went with Frontier College in the mining industry, and that lasted for two years. And when I came back to Acadia, I switched from engineering to science, geoscience in geology. And at that time one of the professors of visionary indeed, Rupert MacNeill, introduced a new course in hydrogeology, and I was the first student.

Little did I know that the Province of Nova Scotia was starting to gear up to address this very valuable unseen underground resource. So many people depend on it, especially rural people. And when I graduated, I had a job with the province. And for the next few years, my job was establishing representative watersheds where we could do research on the hydrologic cycle, determining rainfall, evaporation, recharge to the groundwater system and that sort of thing.

But over the last 50 years, the change of emphasis on groundwater went from contamination to well development, to management and protection. And that's where the emphasis is today.

When we started, nobody had to be qualified to work in this area of our environment. But now engineers and geoscientists have to be registered and registered with the province of Nova Scotia as a qualified person to make recommendations on the use of water and how to protect it.

So, my advice to students, to all of you in the Class of 2020, and I'm so proud to be one of you, my mom said I was a late bloomer, and I had no idea I would be this late blooming, but I'm really pleased to be with you here today, and to tell you that everything that I needed to succeed in my career, I got at Acadia.

It was the opportunity to be introduced to a new course. I learned preparation was so important. And I know you have all of those things from your training here and that will give you air under your wings as you move through your career.

And more importantly, it doesn't matter what has been, it doesn't matter what will be, it's what's in your heart that counts. If you have the passion for your job and you're prepared to do the work, you're going to do very well.

Thank you very much, God bless, God speed to the Class of 2020. Thank you.