

SPEAKING NOTES  
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI RECEPTION

SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS, OTTAWA  
OCTOBER 22, 2013

Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,  
President Russell,  
St. Thomas University Alumni,  
Distinguished Guests,

Thank you for joining us this evening in the historic quarters occupied by the Speaker of the Senate. It is a great pleasure to welcome the talented and highly successful alumni of St. Thomas University to Parliament Hill.

This gathering occurs this year during International Open Access Week, a global event entering its sixth year. The academic and research community is encouraged to learn about the potential benefits of open access, to share what they've learned, and to generate wider participation in making open access the norm in scholarship and research.

Occasions such as this afford us an opportunity to acknowledge the notable achievements of St. Thomas graduates, at least some of which may be attributed to a rich and varied education. In many ways, your academic and life experiences at university helped shape how you engage, interpret and act in the world. The ideas to which you were exposed and the people you met contributed to the development of your character, spurred you on to a greater level of independence, and ultimately helped prepare you for life's many, often surprising, twists and turns.

This is an occasion to reflect upon such matters and to recognize the institution, professors and fellow students without whom none of this would be possible. With a history rooted in Atlantic Canada and a proud tradition of excellence, the success of St. Thomas University and its alumni is a testimony to the high standards it achieves year after year. I encourage you to think about how you contributed to and shared in that tradition, as well as how you can continue to do so.

It was both an honour and a pleasure to call St. Thomas University my intellectual home as a member of the faculty for some 42 years. Not only was St. Thomas a wonderful place in which to teach, it has also proven to be an excellent source of talented employees. There are currently two. Jean-Philippe Duguay graduated from St. Thomas University in 2010 and recently completed his master's in conflict resolution at St. Paul's University. Jessica Hanna graduated in 2008 in political science and human rights. She is currently also working on her Master of Laws degree at the University of Ottawa. Many past and present members of my staff in Ottawa have come directly from the classrooms of St. Thomas University.

We are fortunate to have with us this afternoon Professor Dawn Russell, President and Vice Chancellor of St. Thomas University. A law professor by trade, Professor Russell is a graduate of St. Thomas University and Dalhousie Law School, also having earned a master's in international law from Cambridge University. Having served as Dean of the Dalhousie Law School for ten years, which incorporated various leadership and administrative roles, Professor Russell is well suited to the position of President and Vice Chancellor. She exemplifies the high caliber of alumni consistently produced by St. Thomas University.

Please join me in welcoming Professor Russell and in inviting her to say a few words.