

Registrar's Farewell 13 June 2008

This graduation ceremony had its beginnings in a ceremony held here in 1856. On that day, 152 years ago, seven undergraduates were admitted as Bachelors of Arts. All **men** of course, as in those early days women were not even admitted as students to the University.

The role of the Registrar is integral to every graduation ceremony, and has been from the time the University began. The role of the Registrar is to maintain the records of the University and to verify their authenticity and accuracy. This is why the Registrar's signature appears on every testamur. The Registrar verifies to the Chancellor that the candidate has indeed qualified. They are the words we still use and you have heard them this morning.

In 1997 Dr William Adams became initially Acting Registrar and shortly afterwards, Registrar.

This ceremony marks his last, as Dr Adams retires next month.

Dr Adams has participated in over 600 graduation ceremonies, on each and every occasion with great presence. Behind the scenes, he has instilled professional pride in the Graduations office to ensure the smooth running of this significant moment in each and every graduate's life.

While the majority of these ceremonies have taken place in this Great Hall, he has also made sure that the dignity and joy of these occasions, and that special sense of being part of the University of Sydney, was present at graduation ceremonies conducted by this University in China and in Singapore.

Dr Adams we congratulate you for your superb efforts. You will be greatly missed.

Dr Adams, the University of Sydney thanks you.

Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO
Chancellor
University of Sydney
13 June 2008