

President's address emphasizes personal and social growth

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Power then recited a quote from playwright George Bernard Shaw. "He said that, 'The reasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable.' I'm asking you to become unreasonable with me to create progress. Don't lose your belief in what the world should be. Find that one thing that you want to change in the world," Power said.

Afterwards, like a rock star emerging before a jubilant crowd, the President of the University of Alberta, Indira Samarasekera, delivered her brief yet motivating speech, reaffirming her pride in the U of A and its students. She also emphasized how university is a great catalyst for lifelong change.

"The University of Alberta is going to change your life and you. Every single one of you are going to change the lives of everyone around you—so take a good look at everyone around you," Samarasekera said. "Find them after four years. Ask them, 'Did you

change their lives and did they change your life?'"

President Samarasekera even humourously polled the audience. "I can see bright students. Raise your hand, bright students! I can see happy students. Raise your hand, happy students! I can see energetic students. Raise your hand! I can see bored students. Raise your hand!"

"I can see tomorrow's leaders in politics, in science, in arts and business! Now I see students who know how to think," Samarasekera said.

She concluded by offering advice to the audience about getting the most out of their postsecondary experience.

"First, the classroom, the laboratory or the library, this is where you will gain an enormous amount of knowledge. You will be challenged to look at things in new ways. You will develop your critical thinking skills and your problem solving."

"Number two, your peers—see them as an outlet," said Samarasekera, who emphasized how U of A students, despite their diverse back-



PHIL HEAD

YMCA U of A students wave their hands in the air as if they are simply not concerned at the President's address Tuesday.

grounds and differences, can still learn a lot from each other.

"I want you, for the years that you are here at the University of Alberta, to learn about each other. I want you to find out what makes each other tick. I want you to pick up new friendships, I want you to join new groups, and I

want you to have new experiences—because they will serve you for the rest of your life."

"Finally, the third area, and perhaps the most daunting: you are here to learn about yourself. Out of my heart, I will continue to work to ensure that you have the best profes-

sors and classrooms and libraries and student services as much as possible. Find out who you are and how you fit in this big crazy world. You are here out there, don't ever forget it. And who are you?"

The President and the crowd roared, "We are the University of Alberta!"

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