

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

MFACC ASO CLASS 2020

VALEDICTORIAN - JENNIFER HIBBERT



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**WRITTEN BY
JENNIFER HIBBERT**

Good afternoon Professor Brooks and fellow graduands. Welcome to our honoured guests here today. I am Jennifer

Hibbert, and I am honoured to be able to speak on behalf of the MFAcc class of 2020 and those who have completed the advanced standing program. I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge how humbling it is to be speaking on behalf of a group of such outstanding and accomplished professionals. The graduating class that has gathered here, represents a distinguished group of professionals, all of whom have been successful both academically and professionally within their chosen fields and all deserve our admiration for their achievements – we can all now add to that list of achievements completion of the Master of Forensic Accounting.

My classmates represent individuals who have made an impact on the field of forensic accounting and who have demonstrated an outstanding level of knowledge and experience. When I think about this group graduating today, I can't help but think that we truly represent the past the present and the future. We have all contributed the field of forensic accounting in our own ways – work wise and academically. We continue to impact the field through our work, the sharing of our knowledge and our advocacy of a field of study and a profession that holds a place of importance in today's world.

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Without doubt, we will each continue to shape the future and the face of what forensic accounting represents. We all certainly have more contributions to make. We have all demonstrated the will and importance of lifelong learning and an affinity to learn and excel in a commendable field and profession. All we all have a drive to continue to have an impact on the future.

Thank you to Professor Brooks for working so tirelessly to develop a program that is the best of its kind. A program that welcomed back its previous graduates, and a program that exceeds all expectations in terms of academic excellence. Thank you for providing a program that challenges us to think, to grow and where we are permitted and encouraged to challenge the status quo, have opinions, and share our own experiences. Thank you for providing us with instructors who are accomplished in the field, who have helped develop the field and academic studies in the area. And thank you to our instructors who accepted us in class, encouraged us to speak up, challenge and disagree (should we want to) with the knowledge being shared. Thank you to our instructors for allowing this group of experienced professionals to openly and actively share their experiences and for valuing the knowledge we brought to the classroom. Challenging us to think beyond what we see and encouraging us to share our own experiences is one of the most valuable experiences and lessons we can take away from this experience.

In this group you all found an outspoken class of individuals who were not unwilling to share their views; you all took it in stride, honoured our opinions and encouraged those open dialogues, discussions, and debates.

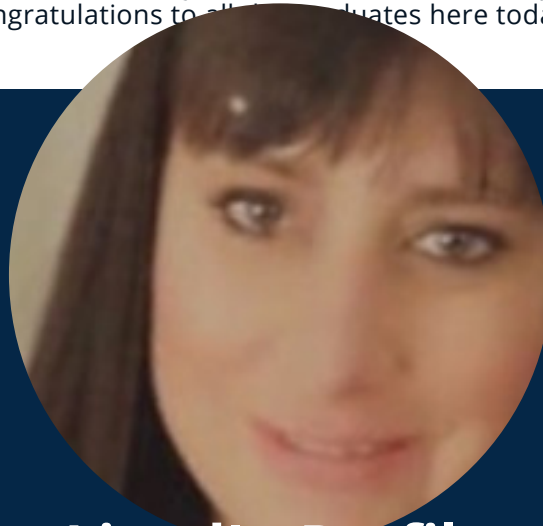
Thank you to Hans, Debby, and

Julian, for always supporting us through the program and taking a genuine interest in our success. During the DIFA program and now the MFAcc, I feel confident in saying there is no better team of individuals supporting students in their studies or that anyone could have in their corner. This is an amazing team who has always and continues to have the best interest of the students at heart.

This program gave us the opportunity to reconnect, for some of us that was with former classmates, for me that included a former classmates who was now an instructor. There is a special bond that seems to exist between those who have taken this program, a sense of belonging and a sense of pride. This was also a very welcome opportunity to reconnect and learn more from those we were fortunate enough to learn from during the DIFA program; it also provided us with an opportunity to learn from new instructors about new topics adding to our ever expanding knowledge in the field.

On a personal note, graduating from the MFAcc program is a special point of pride. Since completing the DIFA – more than a decade ago – I had been waiting for the opportunity to take the master's program. The knowledge and skills I gained through the DIFA program have served me well in all aspects of my career, as a forensic accountant, as an accountant and as an instructor; and I knew the MFAcc would be no different. This is a program that challenged my mind, provided me with unparalleled skills and positioned me among a unique group of professionals. Both the DIFA and the MFAcc provided me with knowledge and skills unmatched by any other program.

This is also special to me in quite a different way – I am here as a first-generation university student, who many years ago embarked on a journey to obtain an undergraduate degree. This was an exciting and challenging endeavor full of new experiences, challenges and at times barriers. A master's degree at that time, and for many years following, seemed like something that for me was out of reach. I am grateful for the opportunity to have completed this program, I am grateful that this program was developed in a way that makes it accessible to a broad range of individuals from across Canada (and around the globe) and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have returned to university after all these years to complete a masters and fulfil a long-term goal. To everyone, classmates, family members, friends and employers who have supported us; thank you for the support. And congratulations to all the graduates here today.



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