

The class of

Victor Thomas BBA'07, MAdmin'11 Dr. Robert and Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service

From the day he first set foot on the University of Regina campus as an undergraduate, Victor Thomas has given back to the University. He has not let graduation slow him down.

As a student, Thomas was active in student government and served as president of the University of Regina Students' Union in 2005-06. He also contributed in many other ways, including sitting on the Board of Governors, serving as a student of the Alumni Association Board and helping plan the Canada Summer Games held in Regina in 2005.

Today, Thomas leads a busy professional life and has taken on many responsibilities in the community, with the University of Regina remaining high on his list of priorities.

Thomas is the 2012 recipient of the Dr. Robert and Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service. This award is given to an alumnus who has shown exceptional leadership and service to the University of Regina or its Alumni Association.

Thomas graduated from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2007 and a Master of Administration in leadership in 2011. He also holds certificates in French studies from both York University and Université St. Anne in Nova Scotia, and earned a certificate for summer studies at the University of Ulsan in South Korea which furthered his international perspective. He is the youngest graduate with a Chartered Director designation in corporate governance from The Directors College program offered through the DeGroote School of Business at McMaster University, and also holds the reciprocal designation of Administrateur de Sociétés Certifié from Laval University.

He is currently a principle and executive director of Aspen Medical Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Aspen Medical, an international firm with expertise in delivering healthcare solutions in complex and often remote environments. Aspen Medical Canada recently set up its Canadian headquarters in Regina.

Thomas sits on several corporate boards, including serving as a corporate director of SaskEnergy since 2008 and as current chair of its Human Resources and Compensation Committee.

Despite this heavy load and the need to travel frequently for business, he also gives many hours to the University and to the community.

Thomas serves on the University Senate, the University of Regina Joint Committee on Ceremonies and the Allied Health Centre Council, and is the youngest member of the Paul J. Hill School of Business CEO Advisory Circle. He attends many University functions, including alumni gatherings in cities across Canada, and speaks with pride about the wonderful experience he had at the University of Regina.

His other community and volunteer work includes serving as chair of the Red Cross Executive Cabinet for Saskatchewan,



president of the South Saskatchewan Red Cross Council, Conference Board of Canada 2012 Saskatchewan Forum Advisory, SaskPower's Demand Side Advisory, City of Regina Heritage Advisory Committee and the Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan Campaign Leadership Committee. He is past-chair of the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce.

In 2011, the Public Policy Forum presented Thomas with the prestigious Emerging Leaders Award, which nationally recognizes a leader who is in the early stages of this or her career and demonstrates exceptional initiative and commitment to the principles of public service.

Thomas says his involvement with the University taught him that individuals can contribute and make a difference even at an early age. He says it also helped him develop leadership skills he has been able to use in other environments.

"Through my involvement with the University I was able to get to know the community, work with leaders and learn many transferable skills that I use each and every day," he says. "My involvement with the University of Regina has been the launch pad for my professional life and community involvement."

Thomas says he believes that alumni have a responsibility to help out wherever they can, and that he chooses activities where he can provide value and has the capacity to contribute. The reward, he says, is having made friends that long outlast specific roles.

"I truly feel blessed to have been involved with so many amazing people over the past decade that are committed to the University and to this great community."