

Garbis

WRITE STUFF—Astronaut Roberta Bondar, flanked by President Terry Grier and Board Chair Isabel Bassett, autographs a montage on her space flight. Dr. Bondar captivated an overflow crowd on her Ryerson visit. Story page 3.

Space traveller dazzles crowd with tales from shuttle flight

Roberta Bondar brought her home movies to Ryerson, and an overflow crowd in L72 loved them--and her.

The second Canadian in space dazzled the audience March 24 with a show of slides, movies, and even a music video relating to her voyage aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*.

Dr. Bondar was welcomed to the lecture theatre with a standing ovation and concluded her one-hour public appearance to prolonged applause.

Gracious and articulate, Dr. Bondar proved to be an unabashed nationalist as well, calling the sight of Canada from space "majestic and beautiful." She said that for her, one of the most important results of the mission was that "Canada was united for a few days."

A team at the Centre for Advanced Technology Education (CATE) has been working on a research project for which Dr. Bondar is the principal investigator, a project studying blood flow under weightlessness.

"It's not rare for Mike (Kassam), Paul (Dunphy), Al (Oatridge) and myself to be discussing things over dinner and raise a glass to our favourite lady, CATE," Dr. Bondar said. "I don't know what I would do without Ryerson."

Dr. Kassam and Mr. Dunphy of CATE are members of the research team. Dr. Oatridge is CATE director.

Dr. Bondar narrated a slide show of her pre-flight training and a 28-minute, 16-mm film shot during the mission. She concluded her presentation with a music video about her flight written and produced by two women in her native Sault Ste. Marie.

Dr. Bondar also presented President Terry Grier with a montage of photos and crests. In the centre of the montage is the cotton flag bearing the Ryerson logo that was in the shuttle's payload.