From messenger boy to Chairman of the Board demanded a stamina and constitution that was equal to the talents and ambitions in business and athletics of Cyrus H. McLean. For 55 years he tirelessly accepted enlarged responsibilities with the British Columbia Telephone Company and its associated companies.

His early technical expertise was demonstrated in the design of the first telephone circuit that gave British Columbia direct long distance service with the rest of Canada. This was followed by the design and transmission characteristics of unique types of submarine telephone cable, and later by the pioneer experimental work which formed the basis for what now is the largest radio telephone network of its kind in North America.

As a professional engineer and telecommunication consultant he found himself in a number of South American and Caribbean countries, as well as in the Philippines. As the telecommunications industry grew his responsibilities grew with them, and there followed almost two decades of senior engineering and executive positions in Chicago and New York. But he finally returned to B.C. Tel as President and later became Chairman of the Board.

The vigor demonstrated by him in the field of telecommunications has a parallel in the field of athletics. Cy McLean is everyman’s sportsman. He has been an active player of lacrosse, hockey, squash and handball, but his first love was baseball: he was twice acclaimed the outstanding catcher in British Columbia. In later years he was not content to be merely an armchair sports fan but actively participated as an executive member on the bodies that brought professional hockey and football to Vancouver, the Vancouver Canucks and the B.C. Lions.

His reputation as a dedicated community servant has been earned by the breadth and range of his interests. He has been a co-chairman of the successful Three Universities Capital Fund and served on the B.C. Research Council, TRIUMF, National Theatre School of Canada, Vancouver Opera Society, and in addition served both as a senator and as a governor of our University.

Mr. Chancellor, it is with genuine regard that I present to you for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, CYRUS HALE McLEAN.