No man is an island; but islands inspire mankind. On the enchanted island of Shakespeare’s Tempest, Miranda had a vision of the brave new world of men; on the islands of Galapagos Darwin discovered the finches that provided the key to the origin of species; on an archipelago in the South Pacific, you, Edward Wilson, discovered in ant colonies the link that would tie insect and human communities together.

It has been your endeavour, through patient research and deep reflection, to develop theories of social behaviour in the new discipline called sociobiology, which you have defined as the systematic study of the biological basis of human behaviour. Just as Darwin in the nineteenth century underwent savage attack from the theologians in establishing the apparently demeaning link of man to the apes, so you have endured the abuse of those who believed that you have eliminated free will in linking noble man with lowly ant.

But you have really done quite the contrary in showing that man is not the only creature capable of altruistic behaviour, but that altruism is present throughout the insect and animal kingdoms. You have, in essence, dignified the humble orders, but not at the expense of man, who is great only when he realizes his limitations.
Born and educated in the American South and then at Harvard, you have achieved eminence as Frank Baird Professor of Science at your alma mater and curator of entomology at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. In addition to over one hundred articles on scientific subjects, you have published many books, including *The Insect Societies*, *Sociobiology: the New Synthesis*, *Genes, Mind and Culture*, and *On Human Nature*, for which you received the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction in 1979. You have taught and lectured all over North America, at Berkeley, Cornell, John Hopkins, Dartmouth and McGill, and in England at King's College, Cambridge.

Many honours have also come your way as a result of your masterly contributions to science, including the presidency of the Society for the Study of Evolution, the National Medal of Science, and honorary degrees from Duke University and Grinnell College. We are pleased to welcome you to Simon Fraser as Distinguished Visitor, and to add to your collection of degrees with our Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa.