Mr. Chancellor, I present to you Harry MacDonald Evans, a steadfast and tireless servant of this institution for more than 16 years.

As Registrar at Simon Fraser University until his retirement last fall, Harry Evans helped nurture this University through its bold, brash and sometimes troubled early days, into the expansionary boom of the 1970’s, and on into the restraint-plagued 80’s.

They have all been exciting and challenging years - and sometimes stressful years. Through it all, Harry Evans stood resolute and serene, consistently and graciously offering the University his impressive energies, his unfailing good nature, and his much-needed measure of common sense.

A university Registrar must be a jack of all trades: part administrator and academic; part lawyer, social worker, and diplomat, and part everything in between. Mr. Evans was all of these, and more.

Those who served on the University’s Senate saw him at his best. When contentious issues led the 56 Senators into mazes of convoluted debates, 112 eyes frequently turned to Secretary Evans for doses of logic as welcome as lighthouse beacons on fog-shrouded nights.

The images of Harry Evans at work are the stuff of legend: His precise, all-encompassing explanations . . . an office inundated with the shifting dunes of reports and documents . . . the ever-present twinkle in his eye . . . his encyclopaedic memory . . . the enormous bundles of work tucked under his arm as he headed home, destined to make a long day, longer yet.

Harry Evans could have done his job in fewer hours, but he consistently put people ahead of procedures. To students, faculty and staff, he was always a willing and sympathetic listener, despite the overwhelming demands on his time to process paper and attend meetings.

Harry Evans served in the Royal Canadian Signal Corps during World War II, and for over twenty years was Assistant Registrar and Registrar in the provincial Department of Education.

In short, Harry Evans proved that it is possible to run an efficient bureaucracy, and still maintain human values. Students, in particular, found him a staunch ally. He was firm, but he was fair. Rules were the means by which he operated; never the end.

For 16 convocations, Harry Evans sat quietly at the desk situated on the right-had side of this platform, tending to his official business as registrar. It is most fitting that he should return, with his ever-supportive wife Peggy and his family, to participate in one further graduation ceremony in this, the University’s 20th anniversary year.

Mr. Chancellor, I now ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon Harry MacDonald Evans the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.