Mr. Chancellor, I present to you Ursula Franklin--scientist, champion for a more humane technology, feminist, teacher and pacifist. The esteem in which she is held celebrates not only her decisive and enquiring intelligence, but also her capacity for searching out the path of reconciliation between seemingly competing forces. For many years she has challenged the notion that technology is simply "the knack of so arranging the world that we don't have to experience it." Ursula Franklin has argued forcefully that both science and technology must be examined as factors in social change and that their effect upon the world's stage must be understood.

Aside from her contributions in helping us to understand the impact of technology on society, all aspects of her life give eloquent testimony to her unifying talents. Choosing only one from many examples that illustrate Ursula Franklin's capacity to bring together her commitment to feminism, her belief in a pollution-free and conserving community, and her scientific acumen, in the early 1960s she won well-deserved recognition by coordinating a program established through the Voice of Women which measured the uptake of radioactive isotopes in children's teeth. The 1970s and 1980s found her actively combining these same talents as a member of the Science Council of Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Board of the Pollution Probe Foundation.

Ursula Franklin has been granted many honours, including being appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1982. But a list of these honours would fail to portray the full depth of her accomplishments. Since emigrating from Germany as a young woman, she has distinguished herself in an academic career spanning four decades. Building on her research in the structure and properties of metals, she pioneered the use of modern materials science techniques in the study of archaeology. Professor Franklin is also a wife, a mother of two, an active community participant in her Toronto neighbourhood and a dedicated Quaker.

As an advocate for the equality of women, as someone who has moved forward the boundaries of science and as an individual who has spoken with a clear and compelling voice on the great issues of peace, technology and the environment, these words of Albert Einstein are a fitting commentary:

"Concern for man and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavour in order that the creations of our mind shall be a blessing and not a curse to mankind."

Mr. Chancellor, in equal measure for her concern and for the creations of her mind, it is my pleasure on behalf of the Senate of this University to present Ursula Franklin for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.