Madam Chancellor, I present to you Mr. Arthur Fouks that we may recognize the depth and breadth of his lifelong work on behalf of others. In philanthropy, as in high art, there exists a presence not compelled by the reasoning of personal gain. Arthur Fouks has captured this presence and is its touchstone.

Vancouver born and Vancouver raised, Arthur was graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1941, a Bachelor of Laws Degree eight years later and in 1977 his Alma Mater bestowed on him the Degree of Doctor of Laws. Over a distinguished career, he has served both bar and bench, taking silk in 1964 when appointed Queen’s Counsel by the Government of British Columbia. But it is his achievement as a catalyst for charitable causes that marks him as a man of singular compassion and humanitarian concern.

Always unheralded at his own request, Arthur Fouks’ record of public service and private altruism embraces every facet of community life — a record so extensive that abbreviation is defied. His vigorous support through donations of time, advice and charitable giving have championed initiatives in health care and in science, in the arts and social welfare, in ethnic and multicultural understanding, and in the enlightened search for tolerance among people from all stations and walks of life. Whenever his assistance has been requested, few have been denied and none have been left untouched by the generosity of his spirit.

It has been said that “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” Seldom has there been an individual who has demonstrated more able leadership on behalf of higher education than Arthur Fouks. Over a span of nine years beginning in 1963, the Board of Governors at the University of British Columbia received the benefit of his good counsel — the last two years spent as Board Chairman. In the cause of international education, his support for the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem deserve our recognition and respect. But it is as a Simon Fraser University Convocation Founder, a recipient of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Service Award, an energetic participant in the President’s Club, and a guiding force behind the Bridge to the Future Campaign’s Leadership Committee that we take special pride today in counting him among our University’s most stalwart friends.

When a man places service to others foremost in his life, what he possesses through the virtue of his own nature cannot be taken from him. Arthur Fouks is such a man; rich in integrity, rich in the abiding partnership and love of his wife Ancie, he requests only anonymity as a reward for his selfless commitment to the community’s welfare. Madam Chancellor, for all those who have benefited from his generosity and his advocacy, it is my very great pleasure on behalf of the Senate of this University to present Arthur Fouks for the Degree of Doctor of Laws. honoris causa.