Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Nancy Greene Raine. A superb athlete, astute business woman, and dedicated ambassador of sport, she embodies those qualities Canadians admire: grace, humility, and courage. We honour her today for her outstanding athletic career and her long and lasting service to Canada.

From the beginning of her journey as a young skier in Rossland, BC, she set the bar high and never once wavered from her goal—to be an Olympic champion. Canadians followed her career, sharing in her victories as this great and modest athlete won three US Championship titles, seventeen Canadian titles, and two overall World Cup championships. In 1968, Nancy Greene Raine’s dream came true when she stood on the Olympic podium at Grenoble to receive gold and silver medals while every Canadian’s heart swelled with pride. Her success brightened Canada’s name on the international stage.

After her retirement from competition, she began another journey, again drawing on the self-discipline, tenacity and sense of fair play that made her an Olympic champion. Together with her husband Al Greene, she played a pivotal role in the development of Whistler into one of North America’s finest ski resorts. Subsequently, she repeated her success with Sun Peaks Resort near Kamloops.

At the same time, and to the benefit of all Canadian athletes, Nancy Greene Raine proved to be an outstanding emissary who has helped shape the soul of sport in this country, inspiring thousands of young people with her competitive spirit and her love of skiing. As Honorary Chair of the Nancy Greene Ski League she has encouraged thousands of children to pursue their dreams. During the past few years, she also played an integral role as part of the team responsible for our winning bid for the 2010 Olympics.

Nancy Greene Raine has received many honours for her achievements. An inductee of the B.C Sport Hall of Fame and a Member of the Order of Canada, she was also named Canada Female Athlete of the 20th Century.

Nancy Greene Raine has brought out the very best in herself and in us. Mr. Chancellor, it is my pleasure to ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon Nancy Greene Raine the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.