Mr. Chancellor, I am honoured to present Dr. Theodore Maiman. As the inventor of the first fully operational laser, Dr. Maiman belongs to that illustrious group of scientists whose work has profoundly changed society. His remarkable achievement earned Dr. Maiman international acclaim as the pioneer of photonics, a new field of science and engineering.

Inspired by a father who believed that science should be used to better society, Theodore Maiman obtained his B.Sc. in Engineering Physics at the University of Colorado and a Ph.D. in Physics from Stanford University. Subsequently, he joined Hughes Research Laboratories. There, he drew on his comprehensive knowledge of physics and engineering and developed, demonstrated and patented a laser using a pink ruby medium.

His discovery was all the more remarkable for he succeeded despite seemingly insurmountable odds. This bold thinker worked under severe budget constraints and faced the skepticism of many eminent scientists. But he defied conventional wisdom and created the laser out of material previously discredited by others. Today, some 40 years later, we can no more imagine a world without lasers than we can conceive of a world without microprocessors. The applications of lasers range from fiberoptics in communication to diagnostic and therapeutic applications in medicine. Indeed, the laser's full potential has still to be realized.

In 1999, to our great good fortune, Dr. Maiman moved to BC. Here, he has offered invaluable advice to our nascent photonics industry and to this university. Invited to address our community, he graciously accepted and spoke eloquently about the ruby laser, inspiring all who came to listen. And in keeping with the spirit of generosity for which he is known, Dr. Maiman has also agreed to help create a foundation and curriculum for photonics engineering at SFU.

The world has long recognized Dr. Maiman's contributions to science and society. He is the recipient of many honours and awards, including the Fannie & John Hertz Foundation Award, the Wolf Foundation Physics Prize, and the Japan Prize. He is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, the only non-physician to be so honoured by that society. He has also been nominated twice for the Nobel Prize.
Mr. Chancellor, Theodore Maiman serves as an exemplar of the scientist as independent seeker of truth. On behalf of the Senate of this University, and in recognition of his stellar career, his integrity, and his singularly outstanding contributions to science, I ask that you now confer upon Dr. Theodore Maiman the degree, Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*. 