Mr. Chancellor, many appreciate beauty; only the exceptional few create it. I am honoured to present such an individual. Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, Canada's most distinguished landscape architect, belongs to that elite whose members inspire others with their vision. She has made a gift of her talent to all of us. We honour her today for fashioning landscapes that please the eye and nourish the soul.

She inherited her love of art and nature from her mother, Beate Hahn, who authored gardening books for children. One of the first women to enter Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, Cornelia Oberlander completed her studies in 1947 and embarked on a remarkable career that has spanned five decades and earned her the respect and admiration of peers the world over.

At the very heart of Cornelia Oberlander's design philosophy lies the conviction that we should build around nature, using whatever natural features a building site offers. From the very beginning, when as a young woman she collaborated with architects Louis I. Kahn and Oscar Stonorov, until today, Cornelia Oberlander has never wavered in that belief.

Her work reflects her affection and respect for nature and the delicate balance so needed between city planning and the environment. During the 1960s she designed landscapes for low-cost housing projects and playgrounds including the Children's Creative Centre at Expo 67. Subsequently, she was commissioned to design integrated landscapes for such internationally renowned projects as the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Embassy in Berlin, and the Canadian Chancery in Washington, DC, which was recognized with the National Landscape Award presented at the White House.

Here, too, we have been the beneficiaries of her artist's eye and superb technical skills. The tapestry of Vancouver is much greener because of her creations. Blending nature with the city, she has shaped landscapes at Robson Square, the Museum of Anthropology, the C.K. Choi Building for the Institute of Asian Research at UBC, and Library Square at the Vancouver Public Library.

For her extraordinary achievements she has received numerous awards, including the Allied Arts Medal from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and the Smith College Medal. She is a Member of the Order of Canada and a recipient of honorary doctorates from Ryerson Polytechnic University and the University of British Columbia.
Throughout her distinguished career Cornelia Hahn Oberlander has created havens of grace and repose that give all of us great pleasure. She has also shared her extraordinary talent with younger generations of landscape architects, making them acutely aware of nature's treasures. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, and in recognition of her many unique contributions, I ask that you now confer upon Cornelia Hahn Oberlander the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.