It is with sincere delight, Madam Chancellor, that I introduce Professor Doreen Kimura, a woman of science whose theoretical and practical contributions in neuropsychology deserve our acclaim. There are those who regard the essence of life simply as energy organized above a certain threshold of complexity. Set this thought against the fact that each human brain is home to 100 billion neurons, organized with a symphonic complexity that coordinates the pianist's fingers and makes possible a child's serendipity at play. It is on this threshold where the ineffable takes form that we enter Dr. Kimura's world.

Born in Winnipeg, Professor Kimura was educated at McGill University, receiving her Masters Degree in 1957 and her PhD in Physiological Psychology four years later. Following graduation, she began her career at the Montreal Neurological Institute before accepting research and teaching positions with Sir George Williams University and later with the Otologic Research Laboratory in the U.C.L.A. Medical Center. She resided in Switzerland during 1963 and 1964 while establishing a Human Brain Function Laboratory in University Hospital, Zurich, before returning to settle in Canada, first as a Research Associate in the College of Medicine at McMaster University and finally as a member of the Psychology Department at the University of Western Ontario where she remains today.

Professor Doreen Kimura has been a leading brain researcher for the past 30 years. Her early studies concentrated on patients with damage to the central nervous system and focused on the fundamental neuromotor mechanisms involved in speaking, the part played by the left and right hemispheres in constructional ability, and the sex differences in brain organization. Her more recent studies of brain function elucidate communicative and problem solving behaviours and enquire into the neurobiology of gender differences in human abilities, especially the influence of sex hormones on cognitive patterns in men and women.

Not only does Professor Kimura's work have great significance through extending our theoretical understanding, she and her students have developed a number of non invasive, practical techniques for assessing brain function that have become widely used in neuropsychology. For her achievements, she has received many honours. Among them can be counted the 1985 Canadian Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contributions to Canadian Psychology as a Science and the 1986 Canadian Association of Women in Science Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement. She is a fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society and the Royal Society of Canada. Adding to her list of honours, in 1992 Professor Kimura received the John Dewan Award of the Ontario Mental Health Association for outstanding contributions to mental health in Canada.

Madam Chancellor, for contributions to science, mental health and human knowledge, it is my privilege, on behalf of the Senate of Simon Fraser University, to present Doreen Kimura for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.