Mr. Chancellor. I am honoured to present Dr. Erich Vogt. Physicist, educator, and administrator, Dr. Vogt has been called the personification of science in action.

Born in Steinbach, Manitoba, Erich Vogt received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Manitoba, then completed his Ph.D. at Princeton University in 1955. After a year of post-doctoral research at the University of Birmingham, he worked at the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratory from 1956 until 1965, the year he joined UBC at the rank of Professor.

In the early 1960s, Erich Vogt quickly established himself as a leading theorist, publishing in many areas of nuclear physics and in particular nuclear reactions of astrophysical interest. Indeed, several of his many papers are considered to be of primary importance.

His work as a physicist would have been enough to cement his reputation as one of this country’s preeminent scientists, but Erich Vogt is also a visionary and leader. He used his indefatigable strength, inexhaustible optimism and exceptional leadership skills to become one of the prime movers in the creation of the Tri-University Meson Facility (TRIUMF), a major achievement in physics in Canada. His impassioned lobbying for TRIUMF helped put Canada’s subatomic physics program on the world map, and transformed the facility into a multi-faceted research laboratory. He served on TRIUMF’s Board of Management as Chairman from 1974 to 1980. In 1981, he became Director, a position he held until 1994.

Ever the visionary, Erich Vogt also embarked on a heroic crusade to bring a unique world-class facility to B.C., the KAON project. His efforts had a tremendous impact on the science culture in B.C. and Canada, raised the profile of Canadian science internationally, and earned him the esteem of colleagues around the world.

During all these years, despite an enormous workload and hectic travel schedule, Erich Vogt communicated his love of science to first-year UBC students each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Over the years, some 15,000 students listened to his engaging lectures on the mysteries of science. Today, though retired, he continues to teach on an honorary basis and to pursue his research interests. And, as always throughout his career, he is sustained by the love and support of his wife Barbara and their two daughters and three sons.

The list of honours and awards bestowed upon Erich Vogt is impressive and includes four honorary degrees, the Centennial Medal of Canada and the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Medal. In 1970 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 1976 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Chancellor, if science is indeed an endless frontier, then Erich Vogt is one of its most intrepid explorers. I take great pride in presenting Dr. Erich Vogt for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.