Mr. Chancellor, it is an honour to present Hugh McDonald, a man steeped in learning, honourable in action, generous in spirit, and true in friendship.

As economist, soldier, independent scholar, Wall Street financier, polyglot, and business man, Hugh McDonald has led a truly remarkable life. Born in San Francisco in 1920, he began his journey of discovery with the Jesuits, who trained him in Latin and Greek and introduced him to Biblical Hebrew. To these languages, he later added French, Hebrew, Aramaic, and German. As an undergraduate student, he attended Stanford University, majoring in economics. Subsequently, he did graduate work in classics, law and economics at Harvard, where he studied with the renowned Joseph Schumpeter.

During World War II, Hugh McDonald heard the call of duty and served with the American Army, Airborne Division. He risked his life yet again as a volunteer combatant in the Israel's War of Independence, receiving the Israel State Medal for his service in the Aliyah Beth and a letter of commendation from the Knesset. Indeed, his friendship with Israel, formed so long ago, lasts to this day. On several occasions he has devoted his energies to helping the State of Israel by raising millions of dollars in bonds.

In 1951, he joined The American Financial and Development Corporation, a leading international banking firm, and quickly earned a reputation as an astute economic analyst specializing in Turkish, Israeli and Middle East financial projects. Several years later, he undertook a study of the Canadian steel industry, and to our good fortune moved to Vancouver in 1965. Here, he founded McDonald Research Associates, and quickly became admired as much for his ability to discuss the poetry of Catullus, the beauty of Gregorian chant, or the banking system in fifteenth-century Venice as for his business acumen.

Throughout his life, Hugh McDonald has been sustained by his great love of classical studies, a passion that led to his building a unique collection of books published by Aldus Manutius, the key figure in the revival of Greek classical texts during the Italian Renaissance. Over time, he acquired 106 of these rare books published by Aldus and his successors and prized by scholars the world over. In 1996, he transferred the entire collection to our library. These magnificent books, together with an extraordinary group of reference materials donated by the McDonald family, constitute the Wosk-McDonald Aldine Collection at SFU's Special Collection and Rare Book Division and elevate SFU to international stature in rare Renaissance books.

Mr. Chancellor, in honour of a remarkable life committed to the pursuit of service to his several communities, I am proud to present Hugh McDonald for the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.