Madam Chancellor, I am pleased to present John Ellis, mentor and respected guide to Canadian enterprise in the Asia-Pacific community. Through more than thirty years of dedicated and voluntary effort, he has championed closer ties between Canada, Japan and other countries of the Pacific Rim. The late Dr. Inazao Nitobe, cultural emissary, pacifist and a friend to British Columbia, captures a spirit shared with John Ellis in the haiku:

This is my desire:
To become a bridge across
A Pacific sea.

Educated at Lower Canada College, Royal Military College and McGill University. John Ellis served with distinction in the Canadian Forces from 1940 to 1945. He became a career banker with the Bank of Montreal, retiring in 1975 as Vice-Chairman of the Board while continuing to serve as Director until 1986 - an appointment he held for thirteen years.

From international banking to international relations, Mr. Ellis is a leader in promoting Pacific Rim trading opportunities. As Canadian Chairman and Director of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, as a founding Director and now Honorary Director of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, and as Chairman and Director of the Canada Development Corporation, he has been an exemplary agent for change in east-west business relations. His energy and commitment to cross-cultural exchange continue unabated in his current position, held since 1981, as Chairman of Marsh and McLennan Limited's Canadian Advisory Board.

Beneficiary of time and expertise freely given and gratefully received, Simon Fraser University counts John Ellis among a select few: Convocation Founder, member of the first Senate, and, for the past three years, a volunteer in the University's Capital Campaign. A friend to this University and a friend to all who seek understanding across cultural divides, John Ellis stands as an example and a guide. At home his achievements were recognized in 1983 by his appointment to the Order of Canada. Abroad, Japan paid him tribute in 1989 by naming him to The Order of the Rising Sun, one of the country's highest decorations.

When conferring our honour today, the words of Yoshida Shoin Zenshu should be recalled: To consider oneself different from ordinary men is wrong, but it is right to hope that one will not remain like ordinary men." John Ellis has not sought our praise yet deserves our praise most fully. Madam Chancellor, in the name of the Senate of this University, I present to you John Ellis for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.