Mr. Chancellor, I am honoured to present Peter Eng, an exemplary corporate leader who has combined success in business with a profound commitment to higher education and to community.

When Peter Eng immigrated to British Columbia in 1967 he brought with him not only his finely honed business skills, but also a profound respect for higher education. A graduate of the University of Hong Kong, where he earned his BA and MA in Japanese and Chinese history, he also taught at that institution for five years. Among his publications is an authoritative work on the pre-British history of the former Crown colony. A firm believer in the value of life-long learning he returned to school in his forties and earned an Executive MBA at Pepperdine University.

Peter Eng’s involvement with higher education, however, extends well beyond the lecture hall. A quiet benefactor whose generosity is matched only by his modesty, he has married his two interests, commerce and education, in unique and beneficial ways. In the late 1970s Peter Eng co-founded the University of East Asia, which is now known as the University of Macao, a public institution on whose Board he sat from 1981 to 1988. Mr. Eng also established the East Asia International Institute in Shanghai, a small but thriving school that offers new opportunities to many young people in the People’s Republic of China.

Here in his adopted home of British Columbia, he has been a strong champion of education and community. As Chairman of the Allied Holdings Group of Companies, he has set an enviable example of corporate citizenship. In a gracious gesture of goodwill, he donated to this university the Toronto-Dominion Bank heritage building, which is the home of our Centre for Dialogue. A valued member of its Council, he continues to provide insight and leadership. Peter Eng’s lifelong respect for history has fittingly found its expression in his dedication to conserving Vancouver’s heritage. His company has preserved and restored such landmark properties as the Hotel Georgia and developed the commercial units of the Electra Building, the former BC Hydro building. As co-vice chair of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation, he lends his strong voice for the preservation of heritage sites.

Mr. Chancellor, family, education, community-these are what give meaning and value to Peter Eng’s life and work. I am proud to present Mr. Peter Y. Eng for the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.