Mr. Chancellor, it is a privilege to present Dr. Theodor Sterling, Professor Emeritus, and one of our university's most respected faculty members. We honour him today for his many lasting contributions to science, society, and Simon Fraser University.

When Ted Sterling joined SFU in 1972 to establish our computing science program, he was already a full professor and one of the world's leading experts in the application of computing technology to medical science. He was also a visionary who recognized the great potential for using the computer to improve the quality of human life. His initial work led to the automation of radiation treatment planning, computer programming devices for the visually impaired, and a computer-based writing machine for individuals unable to control their movements.

Equally impressive are his contributions to the computational aspects of epidemiology. An original and fearless thinker, he has researched controversial subjects, standing by his findings, often in the face of great controversy. His work has had a significant effect on public policy as it applies to herbicides and to industrial standards for a variety of toxic substances. Indeed, his reputation is such that he has been consulted by industry, non-profit groups, unions, and governments, including those in Kuwait, Israel, and Vietnam.

Our computing science program bears his unique stamp to this day. It is interdisciplinary, stresses practice as much as theory, and focuses on the social implications of research. Today, the School of Computing Science produces graduates highly prized by employers in every field.

A scientist of integrity, courage, and compassion, he has never shied away from a challenge or been afraid to stand up for his beliefs. As a fitting legacy Ted and his wife Nora established the Sterling Prize for Controversy to encourage others in their pursuit of truth.

Mr. Chancellor, in recognition of the great credit Dr. Ted Sterling has brought to us and for his lasting contributions to science, and on behalf of the Senate of this University, I ask that you now confer upon him the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.