Mr. Chancellor, I am pleased to present Wendy McDonald, a prominent British Columbian whose remarkable achievements in business, combined with dedicated service to this province, give fresh meaning to Benjamin Disraeli’s words: “The secret of success is constancy to purpose.”

Born in North Vancouver and educated at St. Anthony’s College, she is a private and modest woman whose unique business sense has won her the admiration of peers internationally.

Wendy McDonald spent the 1940s learning the power transmission business from her first husband, who died tragically in a plane crash in 1950. A young widow with four children, she took over the company, BC Bearing Engineers Ltd., and moulded it into The BC Bearing Group. Today it is truly a family undertaking, with four of her ten children and two grandchildren involved in its operation. Her extended family of over 200 employees worldwide maintains a strong commitment to the roots and values that have led to a half century of success. BC Bearing Engineers now has 27 locations in Western Canada and the Yukon, and a U.S. subsidiary, US Bearings & Drives, has 10 branches on the Pacific Coast in the United States. In 1988, she opened her first international operation in Singapore, and since then has ventured into Mexico and Chile.

Her far-sighted leadership has been frequently recognized. In 1982 she was named Canada’s first winner of Schenley’s Veuve Cliquot Award of Distinction as business woman of the year. In 1987 she was honoured by the Vancouver Better Business Bureau, and 1994 she received the Canadian Women of the Year Award for British Columbia.

Wendy McDonald brings the same strength of purpose and personal credibility to her service to Canada as she does to her business. Her commitment to and faith in Canadian business are reflected in her participation for B.C. on the International Trade Advisory Committee. She is past Chair of the Pacific Advisory Regional Council for the Federal Government, and has served on the Asia Pacific Initiative. She is a director of Pacific Corridor Enterprise, and past Chair of the Vancouver Board of Trade, the first woman to hold that position. As Chair of the Canadian Council for the Americas (BC chapter), she was invited to Mexico to monitor their recent elections, and in February of this year was invited back to meet President Zedillo.

In a world where so often profit seems the sole measure of a company’s worth, Wendy McDonald has proven that, even in an exceptionally competitive business, loyalty to employees and personal integrity can be and are rewarded with success, with the respect of peers, and with the affection of community. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I present Wendy McDonald, Chairwoman and CEO of The BC Bearing Group, for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.