Mr. Chancellor, from time to time life affords us unique pleasures. It is mine today to present Dr. William G. Saywell, who at his Installation as President and Vice-Chancellor of Simon Fraser University in 1983 spoke the following words: "Despite the magnitude of the problems universities today face, I intend neither to despair, nor to flee: But rather to depart in the distant future, honoured to have been here, and hopeful that my term in office was in the collective good of this fine institution, and higher education in the province."

The resolve and the optimism inherent in that statement were evident early in Bill Saywell's life. Inspired by a professor, he studied history at the University of Toronto, obtaining his Ph.D. in twentieth-century Chinese history. From 1969 to 1983, he devoted himself to the University of Toronto, where he taught history and served in key administrative positions, culminating with his appointment in 1979 as Vice-Provost. Extensive travel in East Asia and service as the First Secretary with the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, China, further deepened his understanding of the peoples and cultures of the Asia-Pacific region.

When Bill Saywell came to SFU, he brought with him an international perspective for the role of the university. He created a unique vision, one of a university that someday would complement the loyal support of its faculty, students, and staff with the friendship of an extended community of citizens at home and abroad.

The years 1983 to 1993, the Saywell Years as they became known, were exhilarating, often turbulent times, but Bill Saywell showed strong leadership and guided this university through a decade of unprecedented growth. At every opportunity, he eloquently expressed the mission of SFU to government and business leaders and to private citizens and alumni. In return he earned their respect and support.

Those years laid the groundwork for much of the success SFU enjoys today. Significant progress was made in key areas: research support grew, co-op education was enhanced, relationships with alumni were established worldwide, strategic faculty appointments were made, and SFU's commitment to lifelong learning was intensified with the opening of the Harbour Centre Campus. Those were also the years of our first solo fundraising effort, The Bridge to the Future Campaign, which catapulted SFU to prominence in the community and established permanent ties with numerous individuals, organizations, and corporations.
Simon Fraser University was truly fortunate to have had Bill Saywell as President. Now, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, he continues to build bridges.

It was our equal good fortune to have had in our midst, over that decade, his wife and best friend, Jane Saywell. Together they worked with single minded perseverance for the good of this University and they remain to this day our devoted friends and ambassadors.

For his many outstanding contributions to this province, Bill Saywell has been recognized with the Order of British Columbia and an honorary degree from the University of British Columbia. I would ask you today, Mr. Chancellor, to confer upon Dr. William G. Saywell the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, as a symbol of our gratitude.