



**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SPRING CONVOCATION
June 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2010**

**Convocation Address
By Dr. Julio Montaner**

Argentine-Canadian physician, director of the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, president of the International AIDS Society and one of the world's leading AIDS specialists.

An honorary Doctor of Science was conferred on Dr. Julio Montaner during the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Environment and Faculty of Health Sciences ceremony on Friday, June 18, 2010. The following is Dr. Montaner's convocation address.

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, members of the Board of Governors and Senate, faculty, honoured guests, graduates, family and friends, it is indeed my honour and privilege to come in front of you today to accept this very special honorary degree. To me, this represents the combination of a very long trip that I started in 1981 when I had the honour and privilege of joining Dr. James Hogg laboratory at UBC for what was supposed to be a one year stint that ended up being the rest of my life. Mr. Chancellor, let me reassure you that if today was the last day of my life, I wouldn't change anything.

Since then, my life has been diverted to work on HIV and AIDS, one of the most serious pandemics in front of us and I'm happy to tell you that we have made tremendous progress and I am particularly honoured by the collaboration that we have developed with SFU that has allowed us to create a very vibrant group of people who are truly committed to defeat this epidemic. I thank President Michael Stevenson, Dean John O'Neil and also my own president, President Toope for helping us and foster this collaboration which should be an example of how these two great universities can work together now and in the future. Together while striving to conquer the common enemy, which is HIV and AIDS and indeed together, we have developed a plan that will do so and we are committed to doing so and stop HIV and AIDS.

However, today is not about me or HIV and AIDS. Today, it's about you, the graduates. Therefore, let me congratulate you, let me tip my hat to your achievements. Congratulations to the SFU 2010 graduating class.

But friends, I bring you sobering news, this is only the beginning. As UBC President Toope recently said to the UBC graduating class, you have a lot more striving to do. And one more thing, it is not just about achieving your personal best, it is about doing so while helping your brothers and sisters who may be in need and not just here, but also abroad. It is about doing so while building a better world. And believe me, it shouldn't take too much work in view of the mess that us the baby boomers are leaving behind for you. So on that note, as Mark Twain once said, and Bob Hogg reminded me a few days ago, "Remember that 20 years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you did not do than by the ones that you did do. So throw off the boat lines, sail away from the safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails, explore, dream, discover, conquer and above all, enjoy the trip." Safe travels, good luck and congratulations.