



**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SPRING CONVOCATION
JUNE 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2007**

**Convocation Address
By Dr. Terry Snutch**

An honorary doctor of science was conferred on Dr. Terry Snutch during the Faculty of Science and Health Sciences Ceremony on Tuesday, June 6, 2007. The following is Dr. Snutch's convocation address.

Let me start off thanking SFU for this wonderful honour, esp. president Stevenson and the SFU board of governors for the acknowledgement of my work over the past two decades.

It is indeed humbling to find myself up here, especially after some of the grades that I obtained as an undergraduate in calculus....in fact I think the only saving grace that I am here is that there is no test.

This ceremony isn't about me, it's about you, the graduates, your families, you've all worked extremely hard, made numerous sacrifices, and you should all be heartily congratulated on a job well done.

Cal Tech ranks right up there in the top 2 or 3 universities in the US, Stanford, MIT, Harvard...as a group they only consider the top 2 or 3 per cent of students from around the world...over the years at Cal Tech there have been 32 Nobel Prizes awarded to faculty and graduates, on any given way you can walk at lunch to the cafeteria and come across two or three Nobel laureates in chemistry or physics or medicine...so very intimidating place.

I got off the plane in Los Angeles and made my way to Pasedena and Cal Tech, and things didn't go well from the beginning. It was around 35 degrees Celsius and I was wearing a long pants and a sweater.

The head of the lab at Cal Tech I was entering, Norman Davidson, was a very famous fellow, had been nominated multiple times for a Nobel Prize, and had one of his post doctoral fellows actually win a Nobel Prize...I soon found myself in a very different

