



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. Barbara Joyce Rae Friday, June 5, 1998

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Barbara Joyce Rae, exemplary business leader, tireless volunteer, and passionate champion of higher education.

A native British Columbian, Barbara Rae is widely known for her outstanding record of corporate development, her path to prominence distinguished by initiative, hard work, and heart. As President and CEO of Office Assistance Ltd., she transformed her company into a national employee-owned firm, which later became part of ADDECO, an international personnel services corporation. Her success, in part, came from her recognition of the special needs of women who often must balance the demands of work and family. She created thousands of employment opportunities for women and earned the respect of the business community not only for her business acumen but also for her integrity, openness, and generosity.

These same qualities have characterized her long relationship with this university. As the first woman to graduate from our Executive MBA program, she impressed many with her drive, talent, and dedication. When elected Simon Fraser University's first female Chancellor, she devoted herself completely to the role, presiding with grace and wit over every Convocation. During her two-term tenure, she sought out every opportunity to serve as this institution's ambassador in the broader community, in the process gaining much good will for SFU. Indeed, she has been one of our most ardent supporters whether it be of women's basketball, the creation of interdisciplinary programs, university development, or excellence in innovation.

The people of B.C., too, have benefited from her abundant energy and unwavering belief in the importance of community. Over the years, she has chaired important fundraising campaigns, such as the United Way of the Lower Mainland and the Salvation Army Red Shield Vancouver Campaign. She also served as President of Junior Achievement and Vice-Chair of B.C. Institute of Technology's Board of Governors. She is currently a National Governor of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, Chair of the B.C. Women's Hospital Foundation, and a Director of several major corporations, including the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the B.C. Telephone Company, and Noranda, Inc.

Achievement such as Barbara Rae's does not go unnoticed. The list of honours bestowed upon her is impressive and includes the Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Canadian Volunteer Award, and the SFU Outstanding Alumni Award.

