



## **SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

### **Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, conferred on Jack P. Blaney Thursday, June 2, 2005**

Mr. Chancellor, great universities are the unplanned legacy of many relatively anonymous individuals, faculty, staff and students, whose work and achievements accumulate gradually over time. Great universities are also, however, influenced by decisive acts of leadership at crucial stages in their history. As Simon Fraser University approaches the celebration of its fortieth anniversary, we are particularly conscious of the contributions of the few key leaders who have decisively shaped the character of this university. Once such is Jack Blaney.

Dr. Jack Blaney joined Simon Fraser University more than thirty years ago as Dean of Continuing Studies. He brought with him a new vision for the future: a downtown campus filled to capacity with lifelong learners eager to continue their education. His confidence and integrity inspired all to share in his dream. As Vice President, he was steward of our first capital campaign, Bridge to the Future. Its great success, including the creation of the Harbour Centre campus, owes much to his drive and conviction. Jack forged friendships with every sector of the community, and he hired talented people, mentored them, and gave them the freedom to shine. Today, SFU Vancouver is a jewel in the heart of the city, many of its facets cut and polished by Jack Blaney.

Jack's unshakeable faith in the power of face-to-face dialogue to effect positive social change is legendary. As President, he set himself the task of acting on this belief. Once again he drew on the loyalty and good will of our entire community, and once again his energy and enthusiasm proved irresistible. The Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, that most elegant addition to our downtown Vancouver campus, stands as the most visible tribute to Jack Blaney's imagination and leadership as President of Simon Fraser University.

Jack's counsel has been sought after by many in this province and country. He serves as a Commissioner of the International Joint Commission, and he is a co-creator and founding director of Action Canada, and a past chairman of the Fraser Basin Council. He has given generously of his time to a variety of community boards, including the Vancouver Board of Trade and the Vancouver Police Board. And in 2003, when our provincial leaders needed someone with consummate leadership skill, they turned to Jack Blaney to chair the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, a historic initiative which was itself a new model of democratic citizenship in action.

Mr. Chancellor, Jack Blaney has penned several significant chapters in the history of Simon Fraser University. His pioneering advocacy of lifelong recurrent education opened new vistas

for adult learners; his wisdom and generosity played a pivotal role in building Simon Fraser University's reputation as an innovative and responsive institution, and under his guidance Simon Fraser University expressed its values and commitments in words and deeds that set the highest standard of achievement for generations to come. Throughout his career, Jack Blaney has been that most exemplary of leaders, one for whom no dream is too big and no task is too small. I now ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon Jack P. Blaney the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.