



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. William Gibson Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. Chancellor, exceptional authors encourage us to see things anew. William Gibson is such a writer, one who has transformed the genre of science fiction and given us glimpses not only into our future but also into our present.

Born in the United States, William Gibson chose to make Canada his home. After completing a degree in English Literature at the University of British Columbia, he remained in Vancouver, where he embarked on a career that more than thirty years later is still in ascendance.

His early work heralded a writer concerned about the dystopic intermingling of technology and humanity. In *Neuromancer*, his prescient first novel published in the Orwellian year of 1984, he introduced the concept of cyberspace and explored the effect of huge multinational corporations on society. In this and the subsequent two novels that comprise the *Sprawl Trilogy*, he gave us a disturbing view of tomorrow. *Neuromancer* instantly became part of our cultural vocabulary, and