
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, conferred on Shirley Tilghman Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. Chancellor, I am honoured to present Shirley Tilghman, President of Princeton University. In Dr. Tilghman, we find a unique combination of talents: ground-breaking scientist, unwavering champion of women in science, inspiring educator, and internationally distinguished leader of the academic community.

Born in Toronto, Canada, she earned her Honours B.Sc. at Queen's University and a Ph.D. at Temple University. As a post-doctoral fellow, she undertook research at the National Institutes of Health, where she made numerous original discoveries while participating in cloning the first mammalian gene. Subsequently, she made significant original contributions as an independent investigator at the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia. In 1986, she joined Princeton University as the Howard A. Prior Professor of the Life Sciences. There, she continued her work on mammalian molecular genetics, becoming a leader in the development of many of the research tools that have revolutionized the biomedical sciences.

Shirley Tilghman's exceptional record led to her election to the National Academy of Sciences. Known for her astute counsel, she played a significant role on the Committee of the National Research Council in the United States that laid the foundation for the Human Genome Project. Dr. Tilghman was also a founding member of the National Advisory Council of the Human Genome Project Initiative, the program that has revolutionized biomedical research and opened a new era in medicine and health promotion.

Dr. Tilghman is equally admired for her advocacy on behalf of women in science and for her efforts on behalf of young scientists. A champion of women in science, she has publicly expressed concerns about the severe conflicts between career and family faced by female scholars. She chaired the 1998 National Academy of Science's commission on graduate education in the life sciences that resulted in significant recommendations to improve the lot of young researchers.

Shirley Tilghman has received many honours for her work, including Princeton's President's Award for Distinguished Teaching, L'Oreal-UNESCO Prize for Women in Science and the Mellon Prize. The universities of Oxford, Queen's and Yale have awarded her honorary Doctor of Science degrees.

Shirley Tilghman is a gifted researcher and teacher, one who has dedicated herself to furthering knowledge and to improving the professional opportunities for young women and men in science. As leader of one of the foremost universities in the world, she has joined the distinguished company of Canadians who have risen to the highest ranks in the academic, cultural, political and business affairs of the United States of America. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, and in recognition of her outstanding record of achievement, I ask that you now confer upon Dr. Shirley Tilghman the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.