



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations **The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*,** **conferred on Dr. F. Sherwood Rowland** **Thursday, June 6, 1991**

Madam Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you Dr. F. Sherwood Rowland, a distinguished scientist whose scholarly insights and impassioned warnings draw attention to one of the most urgent environmental issues facing humankind. In 1973, Sherwood Rowland, with co-discoverer Dr. Mario Molina, first told the world that chlorofluorocarbons released into the atmosphere deplete stratospheric ozone with potentially catastrophic results. Today few people would fail to recognize terminology such as "ozone crisis" and "greenhouse effect", but in the mid-1970s Dr. Rowland faced keen political and corporate opposition. The tenacity with which he campaigned to alert the world about the ozone layer's fragility could well have drawn strength from Edmund Burke's admonition, "A state without the means of some change is without the means of its conservation."

Before discovering the growing threat to the earth's protective shield, Sherwood Rowland was recognized for his studies on radioactive isotopes. Currently the Donald Bren Professor of Chemistry at the University of California in Irvine, Dr. Rowland began his academic career at Ohio Wesleyan University earning a Bachelors Degree in 1948, before going on to complete Masters and doctoral studies at the University of Chicago. Among many other prestigious awards, the quality of his scholarship has been recognized by John Guggenheim Memorial Fellowships in 1962 and 1974, the American Chemical Society's Tolman Medal in 1976, and West Germany's Humboldt Senior Scientist Award in 1981. Acclaimed by his peers, Sherwood Rowland has been named an Elected Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an Elected Member of the United States National Advancement of Science. Five honorary degrees further testify to the respect paid him by his academic colleagues.

As we acquire a deeper understanding about the ecological importance of Dr. Rowland's work, the old adage takes on new meaning: "Progress has its drawbacks and they are great and serious." By taking counsel from guardians such as Sherwood Rowland we shall be ever wiser in the directions we choose. Madam Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I am pleased to present Dr. F. Sherwood Rowland for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.