



**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FALL CONVOCATION
October 5, 2021**

**Convocation Address
By Dr. Catherine Clement**

The degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, was conferred on Dr. Catherine Clement during the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences ceremony on Monday, October 5, 2021. The following is Dr. Clement's Convocation address:

This is such an honour and most unexpected. I never, ever imagined receiving this type of recognition – it never crossed my mind. In fact, it TJpc*(6*)1 i)2 (n, and)10 (13s)1 aTJ-0.004Tc 0.004Tw 2 interview the last of the World War II veterans. It sounded interesting. I was curious to hear from these eyewitnesses – these people who lived through the most tumultuous time in world history, more so than even today. The organizers learned I was half Chinese, so

the first person they assigned me to interview was a Chinese Canadian veteran named Leonard Wong. That interview and the many others that would follow, with other Chinese Canadian veterans would change my life – although I did not know that at the time. Friendships were formed. Many photo albums were thumbed through. The most interesting conversations I've had in my life were had during that time.

These aging veterans had so much material in their book of life. I heard about events and moments in history that you won't find in any history book – I was told many secrets. It was through these conversations; I developed a love for these lesser known or forgotten stories – the story of everyday people. It was how I stumbled upon the long-hidden work of Vancouver's first Chinese photographer, Yucho Chow. And how I discovered his role in documenting all marginalized communities of early Vancouver. He had been forgotten. I was so smitten by these stories that I decided to leave my very well-paid communications career and devote whatever time I have left to sharing these stories from our past. And every project I have done, every forgotten story I've helped to find and tell, had its genesis in those remarkable moments with these aging war veterans. One of these veterans was Dr. Kelley Lee's father, Monty Lee – just a sweetheart. Along the way, I've been supported by the most incredible people who have toiled alongside me.