Mr. Chancellor, I have the honour to introduce Adel Sedra, an innovative and highly skilled researcher, a prolific writer, one of Canada’s most distinguished administrators, and an outstanding teacher.

Born in Egypt, the son of a medical doctor, Adel Sedra received his early education there, obtaining his Bachelor of Science degree from Cairo University in 1964. Choosing to specialize in microelectronics with a focus on the theory and design of circuits for communication and instrumentation systems, he completed his post-graduate studies at the University of Toronto, where he joined the faculty in 1969 to begin his impressive academic career. In less than a decade, he was appointed a full professor.

As well as being a devoted teacher, he is also a gifted scholar who has created a significant body of research with over 200 papers and presentations in his field. He is the author of three books, including Microelectronic Circuits, the best-selling engineering textbook in history—printed in 10 languages, with well over a million copies sold and now in its 6th edition—not a bad addition to his retirement plan!

As dedicated as he is to the importance of a post-secondary education, Adel Sedra is equally committed to university governance and administration—not surprising, if we think of his interests in communications and systems as not just on the “micro” but on the macro, plane as well. Described by a colleague as “an administrator who is fair, open and with a basic sense of justice,” and highly respected for his consultative approach and sound judgment, Adel Sedra served the University of Toronto from 1993-2002 as Vice-President, Provost and Chief Academic Officer. It was a period highlighted by his leading of the university through two long-term planning cycles in which the quality of student experience and gender equity were key factors. And, in his role as Provost, his commitment to access, equity and diversity for all students, particularly those who came from low income, marginalized and racialized communities, was strongly evidenced. His support for the Transitional Year Program helped students who were unable to finish high school because of financial and other challenges, to enroll and make their significant contributions to university life.

In 2003, Dr. Sedra returned to his roots when he joined the University of Waterloo as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. There he led the faculty in developing Vision 2010: A Blueprint for Excellence in Engineering Education and Research. This far-sighted document helped to guide and generate the largest fundraising campaign in the history of Waterloo engineering. In turn, the growth in faculty,
research and students both domestic and international, has established the University of Waterloo’s Faculty of Engineering as one of the leading schools in North America. The reputation of the university was further enhanced by Dr. Sedra’s involvement in creating the University of Waterloo’s first international campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He is described by his colleagues as an extraordinary human being, possessed of a keen sense of humour, who had made a real difference to the institutions he has—and continues to work for—and to those with whom he works and has worked.

His honours are extensive: among them, he has received the Education Medal of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic engineers in 1996 and from that same organization, The IEEE Third Millennium Medal in 2000. He was elected Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Engineering in 1999; four years later he became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, that most prestigious body of great minds in the arts, humanities, and sciences. The University of Toronto Alumni Association now offers a distinguished graduate fellowship in his name and Dr. Sedra holds three (soon to be four) honorary degrees from universities across the nation.

We are delighted, Sir, that you have agreed to accept our invitation to join our convocation and we welcome you to the West Coast in person, although we can assure you that your influence and reputation have preceded you.

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Adel Sedra for the Degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

Written and presented by
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