Citation for: Dr. Janice G. Stein, Honorary Doctorate Recipient
Delivered by: Dr. Don Abelson, at Western University Convocation, 14 June 2016

In the complex world of global politics, few Canadians have helped guide our understanding of international and regional conflicts, and Canada’s role on the world stage, more than Dr. Janice Gross Stein, Belzberg Professor of Conflict Management and Negotiation in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto. A world renowned scholar of the Middle East and foreign policy decision-making, a committed educator, and public intellectual, Dr. Stein has educated generations of students about the causes and consequences of war, and the various instruments of statecraft that can be employed to bring about the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Through her many publications, public lectures, and regular commentaries on radio and television, Dr. Stein has privileged us with a nuanced, measured and sophisticated interpretation of world affairs. It is these and other talents that account for the enormous success she enjoyed in transforming the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto into the premier destination for international relations in North America. As its founding director, Janice Stein’s name will forever be linked to the Munk School and the many accolades it has earned.

Born and raised in Montreal, Dr. Stein received her BA from McGill University, a Master’s degree from Yale University, and a doctorate from McGill. It did not take long for Dr. Stein to make her presence felt in the academy. As her list of publications continued to grow, so did her reputation as an outstanding teacher. Indeed, it was her undergraduate survey course in International Relations which she taught for years at the University of Toronto that earned her legendary status. On many occasions as I wandered through the stacks of U of T’s
Robarts Library, I would overhear students speaking glowingly about the amazing lecture Professor Stein had just delivered. In fact, if not for a scheduling conflict that I had in my second-year, I too would have shared that experience. Although I have always regretted not being in her class as she discussed the great debates in international relations with a passion and flair that became her hallmark, I too have benefitted from her expansive knowledge.

Fortunately, like countless Canadians, I have had the privilege of reading many of Dr. Stein’s widely praised books, including *The Cult of Efficiency*, and *The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar*. I and many others also listen intently to Dr. Stein during her regular appearances on *TVO* and *CBC* as she takes highly complex foreign policy issues and explains them in a highly accessible and thoughtful manner.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Member of the Order of Canada, a Member of the Order of Ontario and a recipient of the Molson Prize from the Canada Council, among other distinctions, Dr. Stein’s impressive list of achievements continues to grow. Yet, despite the stature she enjoys throughout the international community, Dr. Stein has never lost sight of the importance of teaching and guiding future generations of students to think critically about the world around them, and to take chances. As she observed in a recent interview, “Nothing great ever happens without failure... When we fail for good reasons – reasons that were not predictable – we have the invaluable opportunity to learn, reassess, change direction, and simply to do better the next time.” As she has done for so many years, Dr. Stein continues to challenge us to speak out on world issues and to make our presence felt. This is a legacy for which she can be deeply proud.

Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and in the name of the Senate, I ask you to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, upon Dr. Janice Gross Stein.