

University of British Columbia  
Uno Langmann  
Doctorate Acceptance Speech  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, Graduates, honoured guests and family.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to stand here today.

I would like to thank the University for acknowledging me and I would also like to thank my wife Dianne and my children Ian, Jeanette, Laura, Colleen, and Stephen for their continued love and support.

I was not born in Canada but made a choice to live here. When I left Denmark to come to Vancouver in 1955, it was to escape the conflict of the Cold War. I felt I had no say in the development of my life. I didn't want to have my future controlled by others. I had to create my own. I did not have a chance to go to University.

When I had finally chosen my profession, dealing in antiques, I had little knowledge, except for my love of history. When I did not know something, I bought a book about it. My library now contains more than 12,000 books. Nothing compares with opening a book and reading something that has been well researched and written with both knowledge and passion.

Beyond that, I also know that a picture is truly worth a thousand words. Thus photographs and art entered my life. My donation of early B.C. Photographs and books to UBC came about because I sincerely believe that the library is the backbone of any University.

Here is some advice I can share with you from my own experience:

When choosing a career, choose something that you really like, because that is what will retain your interest and success will follow more easily.

Do not be afraid of asking questions.

There is no one in the world exactly like you.

You are the sovereign authority in your life. Follow your heart and you won't go wrong.

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Always strive for quality.

Don't be afraid of changing direction. You may have to do this several times until you discover what really ignites your passion.

If a job is not available, create one.

Always be inquisitive and use the finest computer yet developed... your brain.

I wish all of you much success and the drive to work hard and make all your future hopes and dreams come true.

Congratulations and good luck. Remember that luck favors the prepared mind.

Thank you