

Professor Brian David Outram Anderson AO

The honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering was conferred upon Professor Brian David Outram Anderson AO by the Chancellor Dame Leonie Kramer AC DBE at the Faculty of Engineering ceremony held at 5.30pm on 31 March 1995.

Citation

Presented by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Derek Anderson

Chancellor

I have the honour to present Professor Brian David Outram Anderson for admission to the degree of Doctor of Engineering (honoris causa).

Brian Anderson left the University of Sydney with University medals in Pure Mathematics and Electrical Engineering, and obtained his PhD in 1966 from Stanford University.

He became an Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering at Stanford. In 1967, he became Foundation Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Newcastle. During the next 15 years at Newcastle, he established a department with a world-wide reputation for Control Systems research. In 1981, he accepted an invitation from the Australian National University to establish the first Engineering Department in that University, in the Research School of Physical Sciences. This Department was named Systems Engineering, to reflect Professor Anderson's research interest in Control Systems and Signal Processing. Once again, he was successful in building up a world class research group.

In the thirteen or so years that he has been at the Australian National University, his publication list has grown to include about 600 papers and seven books, principally in the areas of Control Systems and Signal Processing, but also in Telecommunications and Electric Circuits. At the Australian National University, he has worked diligently and successfully for the expansion of Engineering and Information Science, believing that the National University ought to reflect these important aspects of Australian technological culture. He planned the introduction of a highly innovative generalist undergraduate engineering degree, and he made successful proposals for the development of Computer Science, Electronic Materials Engineering and Telecommunications Engineering in the Institute of Advanced Studies.

The greatest achievement in this area, however, was securing the University's agreement to the establishment of the Research School of Information Sciences and Engineering, which came into existence on 1st January, 1994. He was appointed Foundation Director of this School.

Outside the University Professor Anderson has served on a number of bodies including the Prime Minister's Science and Engineering Council. He was President of the International Federation of Automatic Control from 1990 to 1993; a member of Encyclopaedia Britannica's Australian Advisory Committee since 1983 and its Chairman since 1991, and he served as a member of the Australian UNESCO Commission from 1982 to 1983.

He has clearly been an inspiring leader, and there are distinguished engineering professors in Australia who spent significant parts of their careers as his students or junior colleagues.

Chancellor, I have the honour to present Professor Brian Anderson, AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Engineering (honoris causa).