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Your Royal Highness, Mr. President, Pomona College students, faculty, staff, friends, and guests:

Three years ago I had the distinct privilege and honor to deliver a speech on liberal arts education at the Fifth Thailand-US Education Roundtable in Bangkok, but about a week before that conference I flew to northern Thailand and met with education officials, university presidents, deans, professors and students. We all discussed liberal arts education, and I learned so much from my colleagues and friends in Thailand, and I left inspired and came back to the United States rededicated to the mission.

At every turn in my travels, I can tell you, I heard moving, heartfelt testimonies about Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn's dedication to and advocacy for many worthy causes, but foremost for education, and for liberal arts education in particular. And indeed, there she was, in Bangkok, actively participating in the Education Roundtable conference, patiently listening to me pontificate as she's doing again here today, and she and I talked over lunch afterwards, and I, too, came away impressed with and genuinely moved by her abiding commitments to education. I quickly joined the ranks of her admirers.

So it is my great pleasure to introduce her to you today for a Pomona College honorary degree.

Here is someone who is an advocate for but also an exemplar of the liberal arts: after earning a bachelor's degree with first-class honors and a gold medal in history from Chulalongkorn University, she then earned a master's degree in Oriental epigraphy in Sanskrit and Cambodian from Silpakorn University, and then another master's in Pali and Sanskrit from Chulalongkorn, and then she earned a doctoral degree in development education from Srinakharinwirot University. Her Royal Highness currently serves as Director of the Department of History at the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, and she has worked to help protect the heritage of traditional Thai music and to create an electronic corpus of the modern Thai language. She speaks Thai, English, French, Chinese and German and is a scholar of Pali, Sanskrit and Cambodian. She has worked tirelessly on expanding access to education, especially for underserved students.

Your Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn: You are a lifelong student of the liberal arts, a teacher, a professor, an advocate for education, a humanitarian and, may I add, a most gracious lunch companion.

Along with our colleagues from Thailand, we at Pomona College recognize and commend your profound and exemplary dedication to and support for education, and we are so appreciative of this wonderful opportunity to discuss liberal arts education with you on this glorious visit to Pomona College. President Oxtoby, colleagues, students, ladies and gentlemen, I am honored

to recommend Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in Pomona College.