Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso. Few in our time have been confronted with such daunting challenges; fewer still have faced them with such courage, wisdom and humility.

In 1959, following the suppression of the Tibetan National Uprising, His Holiness sought political asylum in India. The exigencies of exile were great and immediate. Recognizing the urgent need to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of his people, he promoted economic development and the creation of an educational system for Tibetans-in-exile. As the spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet, he also undertook the difficult task of seeking liberation for his country.

From the very beginning of those early years of turmoil and sacrifice, he has steadfastly opposed the use of violence in his search for justice and truth for his people. A man of boundless respect for all living things, His Holiness advocates peaceful solutions grounded in dialogue and mutual respect as the path to harmony and understanding.

These many years he has traveled the globe, inspiring us to examine our lives and purify our hearts according to the teachings of our own religions. He counsel; that all great faiths emphasize love, tolerance and humility and help transform individuals to become good human beings. His Holiness' words have moved millions, their wisdom and compassion uplifting all who see and hear him. Indeed, his presence in the world illuminates our global community and makes it seem more humane.

His Holiness has often said that he finds inspiration in the following words:

For as long as space endures,  
And for as long as living beings remain,  
Until then may I, too, abide  
To dispel the misery of the world.

We are, indeed, blessed to have amongst us a man of such conviction, compassion, and integrity. In his search for justice, he has ennobled all of us.

Mr. Chancellor, in 1989 His Holiness received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his selfless quest, an honour he graciously accepted on behalf of oppressed peoples everywhere. Today, in recognition of his great and good work, I ask on behalf of the Senate of this University, that you confer upon His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.