Mr. Chancellor, there are individuals who make significant contributions to their chosen fields, and there are those who face adversity with noble spirit. Dr. Reginald Golledge serves as an exemplar both of academic achievement and of courage in the face of adversity.

Reginald Golledge is a behavioral geographer; in fact, he is one of the leading founders of that specialty and perhaps its most productive scholar. He has authored or edited 15 books, 60 book chapters and some 200 papers on subjects ranging from economic geography to behavioural cartography and visualization. Much of this work is seminal.

At the height of his career, he became blind. Able to see only a few vague shapes and motion, he set himself the formidable twin tasks of overcoming his disability and rebuilding his career. He succeeded admirably, producing a significant portion of his work after losing his sight. In the mid 1990s he was diagnosed with cancer, and again showed the same remarkable strength of character.

In collaboration with scholars from other disciplines, Dr. Golledge has developed unique high-tech tools to help the visually impaired and the sighted to enhance their knowledge of geography, whether they wish to study the shape and position of land masses or to determine the location of rooms in a building. Two examples will suffice to show his originality. His Haptic Soundscapes project makes computer screen imagery and World Wide Web content accessible to the visually impaired, while his Personal Guidance System uses the Global Positioning System and Remote Infrared Auditory Signage technologies to assist vision-impaired travellers to find their way in complex environments. Professor Golledge himself has used this technology to navigate his home campus at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

He has been accorded many honours. A recipient of the Institute of Australian Geographers International Geographers Gold Medal, he is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also been a Guggenheim Fellow, and is currently past president of the Association of American Geographers.

Mr. Chancellor, Dr. Reginald Golledge inspires all who know him. In recognition of his outstanding work, often conducted under the most difficult of circumstances, and on behalf of the Senate of this University, I ask that you confer upon him the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.