



UNIVERSITY  
OF CANTABRIA

## PROTOCOL

FOR THE FORMAL ACADEMIC  
INVESTITURE SESSION OF

**PROFESSOR DOCTOR  
PETER HALL**

as an *Honoris Causa* Doctor  
and of the Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas





UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA

Protocol for the Formal Academic Investiture Session  
of Professor Doctor Peter Hall  
as an *Honoris Causa* Doctor  
and of the Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas

27th January, 2014  
*Paraninfo* Assembly Hall at the University of Cantabria  
Santander



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## ORDER OF THE CEREMONY

At 18:30 in the Fray Antonio de Guevara Room in the *Paraninfo* Assembly Hall the gowned members will meet to form the Academic Procession, following instructions from the Secretary General of the University.

The Authorities will be accompanied to their seats.

At 18:50 the procession will head towards the *Paraninfo* Assembly Hall in this order:

University School of Nursing

Polytechnic School of Mining Engineering and Energy

Faculty of Education

Nautical School

University of Industrial Engineering and  
Telecommunication

Faculty of Economics and Business Studies

Law Faculty

Faculty of Philosophy and Arts

Faculty of Medicine

Science Faculty

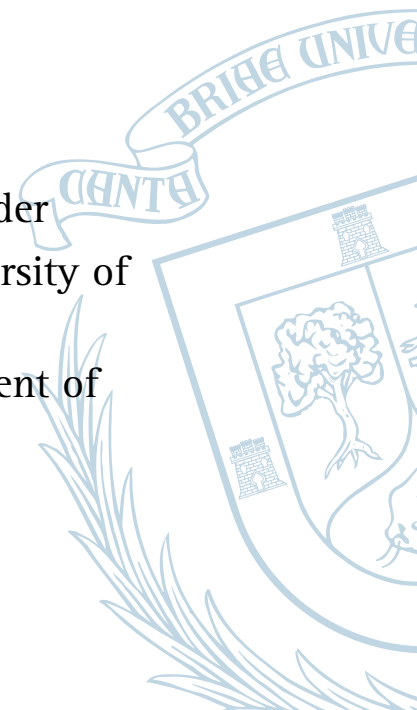
Civil Engineering

Heads of Departments and Institutes

Deans and Directors of Centres, in traditional order

Vice-Rectors and Secretary General of the University of  
Cantabria

Rector of the University of Cantabria and President of  
the Government of Cantabria



The academic procession is received in the *Paraninfo* Assembly Hall by all those attending, who will be standing. Doctors will be unveiled and will line up on both sides of the center aisle. They will wait for the Honourable President of the Government of Cantabria, the Honourable Rector and members of the Academic Board to take their place; then they will occupy the seats reserved for them.

The candidate who will receive the Doctorate Degree will remain in the Fray Antonio de Guevara Room until he is called.

Meanwhile, the University of Cantabria Chamber Choir, conducted by Mr. Raúl Suárez, will interpret *Laudate*, Knut Nystedt (1915), followed by *Canticorum Jubilo*. G. F. Haendel (1685-1759).

From the presidential table;

#### Honourable Rector:

“THE SESSION OPENS. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, PLEASE SIT DOWN AND PUT ON YOUR ROBE”.

“THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNIVERSITY WILL READ OUT THE CERTIFICATE WHICH CONTAINS THE AGREEMENT OF THE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA THAT GIVES RISE TO THE FIRST PART OF THIS SESSION”.

The Secretary General will then read the agreement of the University Senate ([page 25](#)).





### Honourable Rector:

“THE MENTOR OF THE CANDIDATE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND PROFESSOR DOCTOR JUAN ANTONIO CUESTA ALBERTOS, WILL LEAD AND ACCOMPANY MR. PETER HALL, THE CANDIDATE FOR THE DEGREE OF *DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA*, IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE SENATE HERE ASSEMBLED”.

The procession leaves the room while the Chamber Choir interprets: *Open thou mine eyes*. John M. Rutter (1945).

The doctoral candidate, dressed in toga and mozzetta, accompanied by the delegation, will make its way into the Hall. They will be welcomed by all the Senate members, who will be standing.

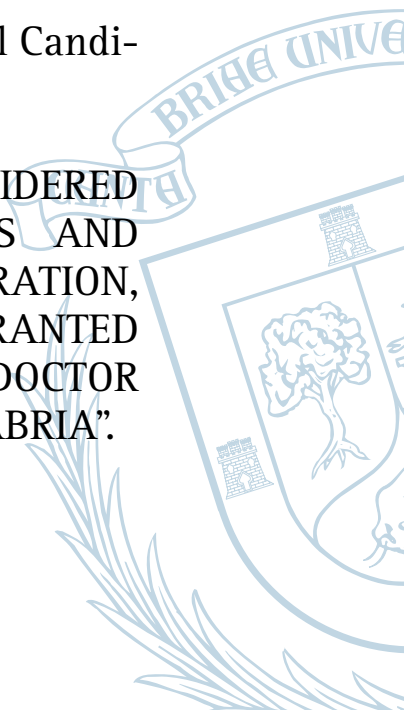
The procession, after greeting the Presidency with a nod, will occupy the chairs of honour which have been previously arranged.

### Honourable Rector:

“PROFESSOR DOCTOR JUAN MANUEL RODRIGUEZ POO, MENTOR OF THE DOCTORAL STUDENT, WILL NOW SPEAK”.

The Mentor pronounces the Laudatio of the Doctoral Candidate, concluding with these words (page 26):

“THUS, ONCE ALL THE FACTS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AND EXPOSED, DISTINGUISHED AUTHORITIES AND SENATE, I WOULD REQUEST WITH EVERY CONSIDERATION, AND STRONGLY ASK THAT MR. PETER HALL IS GRANTED AND CONFERRED THE SUPREME DEGREE OF DOCTOR *HONORIS CAUSA* BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA”.



All rise from the Presidential Table,

Honourable Rector:

“I AM NOW GOING TO PROCEED TO THE FORMAL INAUGURATION OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR *HONORIS CAUSA* OF MR. DON PETER HALL”.

Rising from the table and from the centre of the podium, heading towards the Doctorate Candidate and his Mentor, he will say:

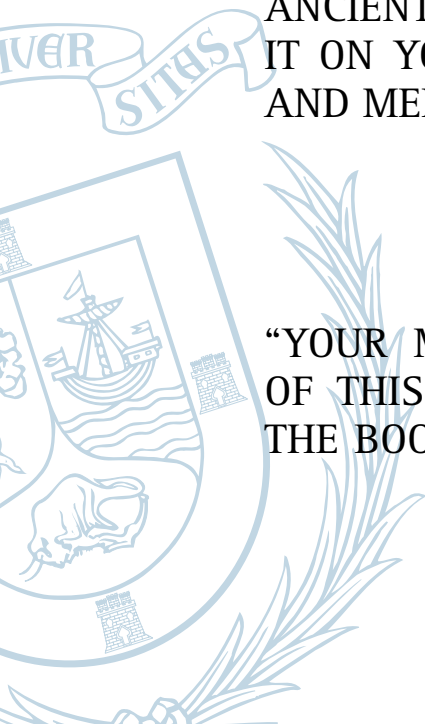
“PLEASE STEP FORWARD; BY THE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA, AND ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF ECONOMICS AND MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS AND COMPUTING, WITH UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM THE FACULTIES OF ECONOMICS, AND BUSINESS SCIENCES AND SCIENCES, IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR RELEVANT MERITS, YOU HAVE BEEN NAMED DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA.

IN VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY CONFERRED TO ME, I PRESENT YOU WITH THIS TITLE.

AS A SYMBOL, I HAND OVER THE CEREMONIAL CAP, AN ANCIENT AND REVERED EMBLEM OF TEACHING; “WEAR IT ON YOUR HEAD AS THE CROWN OF YOUR STUDIES AND MERITS”.

Honourable Rector:

“YOUR MENTOR WILL HAND OVER THE ATTRIBUTES OF THIS TITLE AND DISTINCTION TO YOU; “NAMELY, THE BOOK OF SCIENCE AND WISDOM, THAT PROMISES



TO TEACH AND PROGRESS AND FOR YOU WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANCE AND BE A REMINDER THAT, HOWEVER GREAT YOUR GENIUS, YOU MUST OBSERVE AND HONOUR THE DOCTRINE OF YOUR PREDECESSORS AND TEACHERS.

RECEIVE THE RING, WHICH IN ANCIENT TIMES WAS HANDED OVER DURING THIS REVERED CEREMONY AS A SYMBOL OF THE PRIVILEGE TO SIGN AND SEAL RULINGS, CONSULTATIONS AND CENSORING OF YOUR SCIENCE AND PROFESSION.

ALSO, THESE WHITE GLOVES, A SYMBOL OF THE PURITY YOUR HANDS SHOULD KEEP, BOTH OF THESE THINGS ARE A SIGN OF DISTINCTION FOR YOUR CATEGORY”.

All three return to their places.

**Honourable Rector:**

“ONCE THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR HAS BEEN CONFERRED, THE FLOOR WILL BE GIVEN TO DR. PETER HALL TO GIVE HIS ADMISSION SPEECH IN THIS SENATE”.

Speech given by the new Doctor ([page 28](#)).

Once the speech is finished and the Doctor has returned to his place, the Honourable Rector will go to the center of the podium once again and from there he will say:

**Honourable Rector:**

“PLEASE STEP FORWARD WITH THE GREATEST AWARENESS TO WITNESS THE OATH I AM GOING TO



SWEAR BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA”.

The new Doctor, together with his Mentor, approach the table located in the center of the podium. The Doctor will sit next to the table and extend his hand on the Constitution which is on the table.

“DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR BY YOUR CONSCIENCE AND HONOR TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND HONOURS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE, AND ALWAYS HELP WHENEVER REQUIRED?”.

The new *Honoris Causa* Doctor will reply:

“THUS I SWEAR, THUS I PROMISE, THUS I ASSURE AND WANT”.

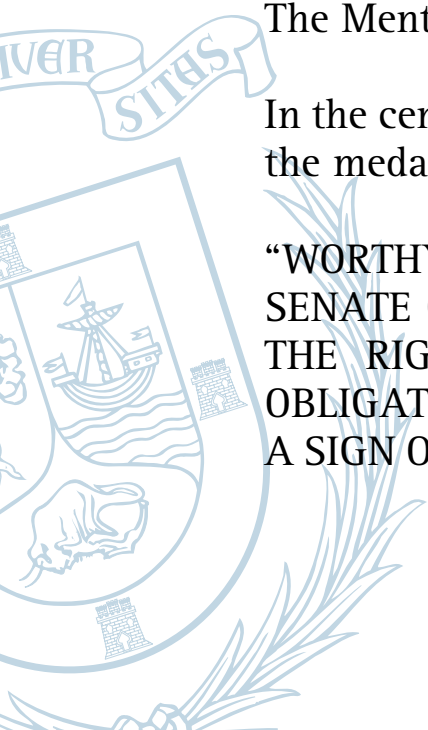
**Honourable Rector:**

“IF YOU SO DO, LET THE MEMORY OF ALL THE SENATE MEMBERS REWARD YOU; AND IF NOT, LET THEM HOLD YOU TO ACCOUNT”.

The Mentor returns to his place.

In the centre of the podium, the Honourable Rector presents the medal to the new Doctor saying:

“WORTHY SIR, I ADMIT AND INCORPORATE YOU IN THE SENATE OF THIS UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, DUTIES, IMMUNITIES, PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS INHERENT TO THE OTHER DOCTORS; AND AS A SIGN OF PEACE, BENEVOLENCE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH



WHICH YOU MUST ALWAYS FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY, I EMBRACE YOU WITH THE GREATEST CORDIALITY IN THE NAME OF ALL THE DOCTORS OF THIS SENATE HERE PRESENT”.

Once the Rector’s greeting has taken place and in the eyes of all those present, the Rector will invite the new *Honoris Causa* Doctor to sign the Golden Laus.

### Honourable Rector:

“I INVITE THE HONORIS CAUSA DOCTOR TO SIGN THE GOLDEN LAUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA”.

The Doctor will then sign in front of all those present.

They both return to their seats.

The University of Cantabria Chamber Choir interprets *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Gabriel U. Fauré, (1845-1924).



### Honourable Rector:

“THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA GOLD MEDAL WILL NOW BE PRESENTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE.” THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNIVERSITY WILL NOW TAKE THE FLOOR TO READ THE AGREEMENT”.

The Secretary General reads the concession agreement ([page 33](#)).

### Honourable Rector:

“TERESA SUSINOS RADA, VICE-RECTOR OF INTERNACIONALIZATION, WILL NOW SPEAK”.

Teresa Susinos Rada, delivers her speech from the podium lectern ([pág. 34](#)).

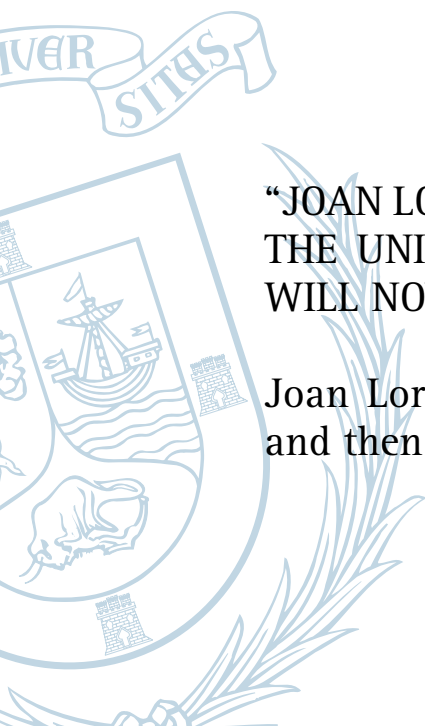
Joan Lorden approaches the center of the podium and the Honourable Rector presents her with the University of Cantabria Gold Medal and the Diploma attesting the concession.

The Rector returns to his place and Joan Lorden goes to the podium.

### Honourable Rector:

“JOAN LORDEN, VICE-RECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA IN CHARLOTTE WILL NOW SPEAK”.

Joan Lorden delivers her speech from the podium lectern and then returns to her place ([pág. 37](#)).



### Honourable Rector:

“I AM GOING TO PROCEED TO SWEAR IN THE NEW DOCTORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA”:

“FOR HAVING PROVEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND DOCTRINE AND HAVING BEEN CONSIDERED WORTHY OF BELONGING TO THE SCHOOL OF DOCTORS, BY USE OF THE AUTHORITY THAT I HAVE BEEN CONFERRED, I DECLARE THEM INVESTED WITH DOCTORAL DIGNITY. THE MEDAL WHICH IS GOING TO BE PRESENTED SHOULD REMIND THEM OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALMA MATER OF THIS UNIVERSITY. WITH IT I ADMIT AND INCORPORATE THEM IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA SCHOOL OF DOCTORS”.

MR. JOSÉ IGNACIO SOLAR CAYON, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA WILL NOW SPEAK”.

### Secretary General:

“THE DEANS OF THE FACULTIES AND DIRECTORS OF TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WILL ACT AS MENTORS”.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SCHOOL ACT AS MENTOR TO:

#### Doctors from the University of Cantabria

(While the Secretary General calls out the Doctors, the Director rises and after greeting the Presidency comes to the front of the podium and one by one greets each new doctor who arrives, Once the investiture has finished they return to their place).





(When the Center is mentioned, all the new doctors stand up and go up to the podium, greet the Dean or Director acting as Mentor and approach the Rector, to then be invested with the doctoral medal. After receiving the Medal, each Doctor returns to their place).

Secretary General:

“THE DEAN OF THE SCIENCE FACULTY SERVES AS MENTOR TO:

Doctors from the University of Cantabria

Secretary General:

“THE DEAN OF THE MEDICINE FACULTY ACT AS MENTOR TO:

Doctors from the University of Cantabria

Secretary General:

“THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY AND ARTS ACT AS MENTOR TO:

Doctors from the University of Cantabria

Secretary General:

“THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES ACT AS MENTOR TO:





Doctors from the University of Cantabria

Secretary General:

“THE DIRECTOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SCHOOL ACTS AS MENTOR TO:

Doctors from the University of Cantabria

Secretary General:

“THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION ACTS AS MENTOR TO:

Doctors from the University of Cantabria

Honourable Rector:

“MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENCY SHALL GIVE THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE OBTAINED THE EXTRAORDINARY END OF DEGREE AWARD THE DIPLOMA ACCREDITING THIS DISTINCTION. LIKEWISE, THEY WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THE BOOK BY SANTIAGO RAMÓN Y CAJAL “LOS TÓNICOS DE LA VOLUNTAD” AS RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENT AND AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO FULFILL ONE OF THE TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITIONS OF SANTIAGO RAMÓN Y CAJAL WHICH STIPULATED THAT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED WORK BE HANDED OUT, ACCORDING TO HIS OWN WORDS: “DE BALDE A LOS DISCÍPULOS MÁS APROVECHADOS” (“FREE OF CHARGE TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS”).

THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL NOW SPEAK”.



## Secretary General:

“AFTER MEETING UP, THE COMMISSIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY CENTRES HAVE AGREED TO GRANT THE FOLLOWING END OF DEGREE EXTRAORDINARY AWARDS FOR THE 2012 /2013 ACADEMIC YEAR”:

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING SCHOOL

(When their names are called out, those awarded will go up to the podium and will approach the academic table to receive their distinction and then they will return to their place).

SCIENCE FACULTY

MEDICINE FACULTY

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY AND ARTS

LAW FACULTY

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES

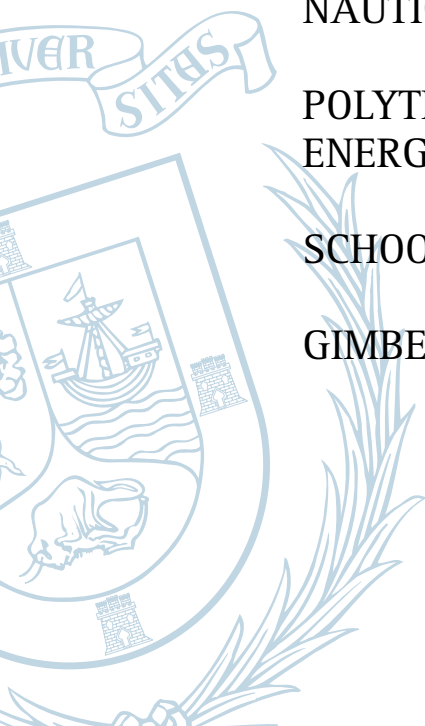
SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING AND TELECOM-  
MUNICATIONS

NAUTICAL SCHOOL

POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL OF MINING ENGINEERING AND  
ENERGY

SCHOOL OF TOURISM ALTAMIRA

GIMBERNAT CANTABRIA SCHOOL OF PHYSIOTHERAPY



## Honourable Rector:

“THOSE AWARDED WITH THE EXTRAORDINARY DOCTORATE AWARDS FROM THIS UNIVERSITY ARE GOING TO RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMAS. THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL NOW SPEAK”.

## Secretary General:

“THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA COUNCIL, IN ITS ORDINARY SESSION ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2013, AND BY PROPOSAL OF THE DOCTORAL COMMITTEE, AGREED TO GRANT THE FOLLOWING EXTRAORDINARY DOCTORAL AWARDS”:

In the Area of Social and Juridical Science,  
Andrea Pérez Ruiz; Her father, Mr. Carlos Pérez Inclán  
will receive her award

(When their names are called out, those awarded will go up to the podium and will approach the academic table to receive their distinction and then they will return to their place).

In the Area of Arts and Humanities  
Carolina Cortés Bárcena

In the Area of Health Science,  
José Luis Vázquez Higuera  
Juan Martino González

In the Area of Sciences  
Álvaro Trueba Pérez



In the Area of Engineering and Architecture  
David Ramírez García

**Honourable Rector:**

“THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THIS UNIVERSITY IS NOW GOING TO PRESENT THE MANUEL ARCE SOCIAL COUNCIL LITERARY AWARDS 2013. THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL NOW SPEAK”.

**Secretary General:**

“AFTER MEETING ON 20TH DECEMBER 2013, THE JURY RESPONSIBLE FOR CHOOSING THE MANUEL ARCE SOCIAL COUNCIL LITERARY AWARDS 2013, FORMED BY JOSÉ LUIS ZÁRATE BENGOCHEA, FRANCISCO TAPIA SALCES, JESÚS IGNACIO MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA, LOURDES ROYANO GUTIÉRREZ, JESÚS CABEZÓN ALONSO AND EVA CUARTANGO GUTIÉRREZ, DECIDED TO AWARD:

“REUNIDO EL VEINTE DE DICIEMBRE DE DOS MIL TRECE EL JURADO ENCARGADO DE SELECCIONAR LOS PREMIOS LITERARIOS DEL CONSEJO SOCIAL *MANUEL ARCE* 2013, COMPUESTO POR DON JOSÉ LUIS ZÁRATE BENGOCHEA, DON FRANCISCO TAPIA SALCES, DON JESÚS IGNACIO MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA, DOÑA LOURDES ROYANO GUTIÉRREZ, DON JESÚS CABEZÓN ALONSO Y DOÑA EVA CUARTANGO GUTIÉRREZ, ACORDÓ CONCEDER:

THE SHORT NARRATIVE AWARD 2013 TO:  
PALOMA PRIETO CRESPO, AN ECONOMICS STUDENT,  
FOR HER WORK ENTITLED “*EL ALMA DEL CAZADOR*”.

SPECIAL MENTION FOR THE SHORT NARRATIVE 2013  
TO:  
CAROLINA SIERRA GARCÍA, A GRADUATE STUDENT  
IN ADMINISTRATION AND COMPANY MANAGEMENT,  
FOR HER WORK ENTITLED “*LAS ZAPATILLAS ROJAS*”.

(On being mentioned, each of the awardees goes to the podium and before the Academic Table, the President of the Social Council presents them with their award, and they then return to their place).

**Honourable Rector:**

“A DISTINCTION OF THIS UNIVERSITY IS GOING TO BE GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY WHO RETIRED DURING THE LAST YEAR, IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICES RENDERED. THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL NOW SPEAK”.

The Secretary General calls up those who retired.

(When their names are called out, they will go up to the podium and approach the academic table to receive their distinction and then they will return to their place).

**Honourable Rector:**

“THE SILVER MEDALS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA ARE NOW GOING TO BE AWARDED IN THE TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN ANNOUNCEMENT. THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL NOW SPEAK”.



### Secretary General:

“THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA, IN ITS ORDINARY SESSION ON 28TH OCTOBER 2013, BY PROPOSAL OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF ANATOMY AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRY, AND PHYSIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY, AGREED TO AWARD THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA SILVER MEDAL, TO:

MIGUEL ÁNGEL LAFARGA COSCOJUELA”.

(On being mentioned, the awardee goes to the podium and before the Academic Table, the President of the Social Council presents him with the Silver Medal and the diploma accrediting the concession and he then returns to his place).

### Honourable Rector:

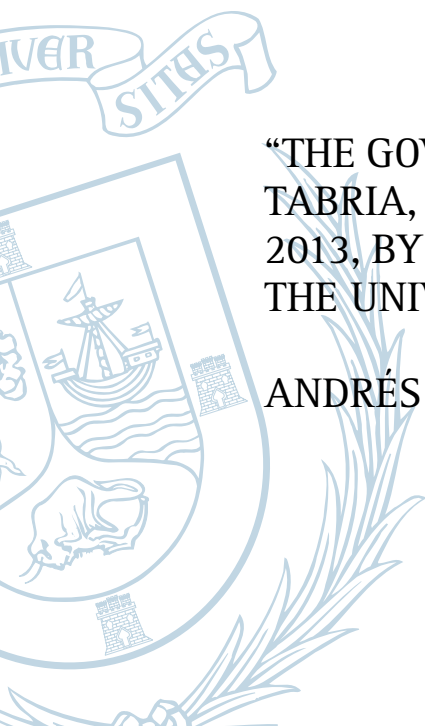
“PROFESSOR DOCTOR MIGUEL ÁNGEL LAFARGA COSCOJUELA WILL NOW SPEAK”.

Speech given by Profesor Doctor Miguel Ángel Lafarga Coscojuela (page 40).

### Secretary General:

“THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA, IN ITS ORDINARY SESSION ON 28TH OCTOBER 2013, BY PROPOSAL OF THE RECTOR, AGREED TO AWARD THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA SILVER MEDAL, TO:

ANDRÉS LEBEÑA BADA”.



(On being mentioned, the awardee goes to the podium and before the Academic Table, the President of the Social Council presents him with the Silver Medal and the diploma accrediting the concession and he then returns to his place).

#### Honourable Rector:

“ANDRÉS LEBEÑA BADA WILL NOW SPEAK”.

Speech given by Andrés Lebeña Bada (page 44).

#### Secretary General:

“THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA, IN ITS ORDINARY SESSION ON 28TH OCTOBER 2013, BY PROPOSAL OF THE RECTOR, AGREED TO AWARD THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA SILVER MEDAL, TO:

JOSÉ ANTONIO REVILLA CORTEZÓN”.

(On being mentioned, the awardee goes to the podium and before the Academic Table, the President of the Social Council presents him with the Silver Medal and the diploma accrediting the concession and he then returns to his place).

#### Honourable Rector:

“PROFESSOR DOCTOR DON JOSÉ ANTONIO REVILLA CORTEZÓN WILL NOW SPEAK”.

Speech given by Professor Doctor José Antonio Revilla Cortezón (page 46).





Speech given by the Honourable Rector, which thus finishes:

**Honourable Rector:**

“MR. JUAN IGNACIO DIEGO PALACIOS, HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANTABRIA, IS GOING TO ADDRESS THE UNIVERSITY SENATE”.

Speech given by the Honourable President of the Government of Cantabria.

When the speak has finished, and those attending have stood up, the *GAUDEAMUS IGITUR* is sung.

**Honourable Rector:**

“THE SESSION IS NOW CLOSED”.

The Academic Committee lines up in the central corridor while the Honourable President of the Government of Cantabria and the Honourable Rector leave the *Paraninfo* Assembly Hall.

UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA  
27th January, 2014





**JOSÉ IGNACIO SOLAR CAYÓN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA,**

I CERTIFY: That the University Senate of the University of Cantabria, in its ordinary session on 16th December, 2013 agreed the following:

To award the Degree of Doctor “Honoris Causa” from the University of Cantabria to Professor Peter Hall, Professor of Statistics from the Universities of Melbourne and California in Davis, at the proposal of the Departments of Economics; Applied Mathematics and Computing Sciences, and Mathematics, Statistics and Computing, and by unanimous approval from the Faculties of Sciences and the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies, in reference to his excellent scientific career, supported by his leading international contributions in the fields of statistics and probability theory, as one of the most cited researchers in these subjects.

As proof, I hereby issue this certificate which carries approval from the Honourable Rector of the University in Santander, on 16th December, 2013.

THE RECTOR



José Carlos Gómez Sal



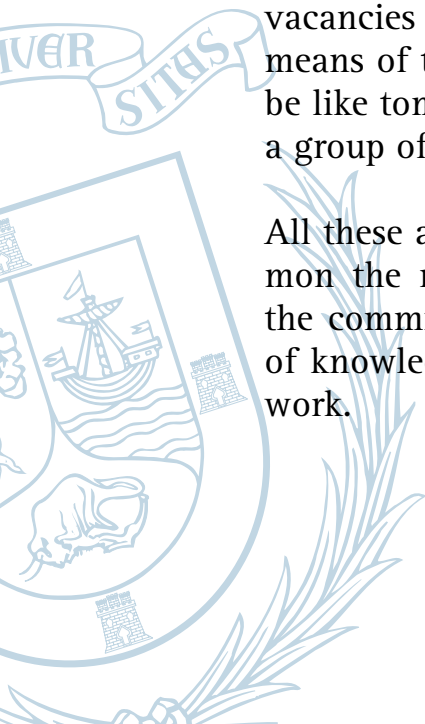
## LAUDATIO OF PROFESSOR DOCTOR PETER HALL

Dear Rector, Dear Professor Hall, the Right Honourable President of the Government of Cantabria, distinguished colleagues from other universities, fellows from the University of Cantabria, Ladies and Gentlemen; all those who are present are aware of the outstanding academic and research curriculum of Professor Hall, therefore, if you will allow me, my speech will deal with other aspects that have to do with the occasion of this nomination proposal. I will of course finish with a review of the candidate's merits.

The proposal for the nomination of Doctor *Honoris Causa* of Professor Hall has been promoted by the Economics Departments; Statistics and Computing; and Applied Mathematics and Computing Sciences at our University, on the occasion of the commemoration in the year 2013 as the International Year of Statistics.

This commemoration is also an opportunity to highlight the richness and diversity of the statistical activity which takes place in the heart of the University of Cantabria. Economists, engineers and mathematicians; we try to approximate problems which are typical in our disciplines through the tools provided by theoretical statistics. At this University, statistics are used to explain very different phenomena, such as why the Challenger crashed, why the offer in female job vacancies is discontinuous, why individuals decide to travel in one means of transport and not in others, what the weather is going to be like tomorrow or the way in which income is distributed among a group of individuals.

All these activities, which are seemingly so different, have in common the rigorous use of statistical methodology, and ultimately, the commitment by all us who develop them in the advancement of knowledge to obtain excellence through serious and systematic work.



These characteristics, the taste for diversity, rigour, honesty and work, perfectly define the academic career of Professor Hall. Our candidate, from the time he obtained his Doctorate Degree at the University of Oxford, has exercised an enormous influence during almost 35 years on those who have worked on issues related to the theory of probability, non-parametric estimation and inference techniques or the estimation of functional data. In fact, some doctoral theses defended in the heart of our University are based on key outcomes established by Professor Hall in his more than 600 scientific publications. Proof of the candidate's research excellence is that out of all of this scientific production, more than 70 percent has been printed in the best journals related to the profession, and many of his publications are among the most cited.

This extraordinary curriculum has earned him, among many other honors, his nomination as Doctor *Honoris Causa* in the Universities of Leuven, Glasgow, and Sydney. He is also an Honorary Member of the American Statistical Association, the Royal Statistical Association, the Bernoulli Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, of which he has also been President-elect.

All of the above-mentioned is, in our opinion, more than enough reason to propose Professor Peter Gavin Hall as an *Honoris Causa* Doctor of our University, with the conviction that he is an ideal candidate, given that the principles which have guided his academic background (his taste for diversity in knowledge, rigour and excellence) are shared by all of our University community.

So, distinguished authorities and senate, once all these facts have been considered and presented, I would ask with all consideration, and strongly request that. Peter Hall be awarded and conferred the Supreme Degree of Doctor *Honoris Causa* by the University of Cantabria.



## TALK IN SANTANDERS

I am deeply flattered by the honour you are bestowing on me today. Not only is the University of Cantabria a rising force in the academic and intellectual life of Europe, but the region is a cradle of civilisation in this part of our world. It is arguably the most archeologically rich region anywhere, with evidence of human occupation since the Old Stone Age, and with many cultural icons from other periods of human settlement.

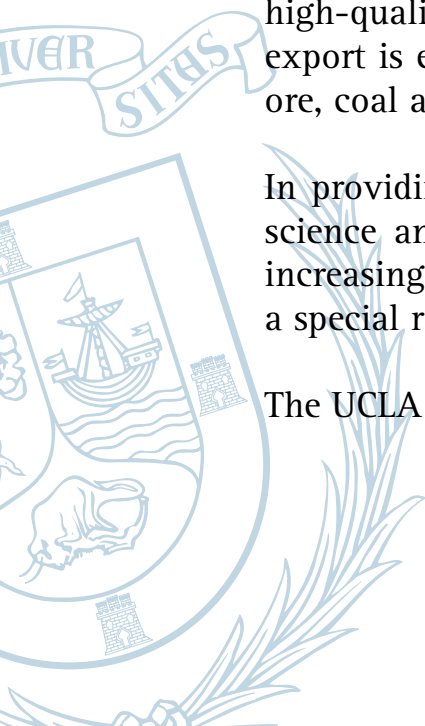
Formally, the Province of Cantabria dates from 1778, a decade before the first white settlers arrived from England in my own country, and during a period of considerable international engagement by Spain.

Despite fierce resistance from the independent people of Cantabria, the Romans established a foothold here in Santander, but you gained independence as long ago as the year 409. In contrast, my home city of Melbourne was founded only in 1842, although native people had inhabited the area for perhaps 40,000 years. So, as you can see, in some respects there are considerable differences between us.

However, we also have much in common, especially the very high regard in which we hold intellectual achievement. This, after all, is at the heart of the development of the economies of both our nations. The economy of Spain is based significantly on export of high-quality manufactured goods; for Australia, the fourth largest export is education (behind the three main mineral exports of iron ore, coal and gold).

In providing services to many areas of industry, and of course to science and education, the mathematical sciences are playing an increasing part in both our nations. We can single out Statistics for a special role.

The UCLA historian Theodore Porter wrote in 1986 that:



Statistics has become known in the twentieth century as the mathematical tool for analysing experimental and observational data. Enshrined by public policy as the only reliable basis for judgements such as the efficacy of medical procedures or the safety of chemicals, and adopted by business for such uses as industrial quality control, it is evidently among the products of science whose influence on public and private life has been most pervasive.

Almost thirty years have passed since these words were written, and during that period the involvement of Statistics in our industries and our economies has deepened even further.

One of the most obvious changes in our world over the past three decades is the amount of data being collected. You cannot get away from it—on our roads, in the environment, when we go to the doctor, on our credit cards, in our institutions, as part of our scientific experiments.

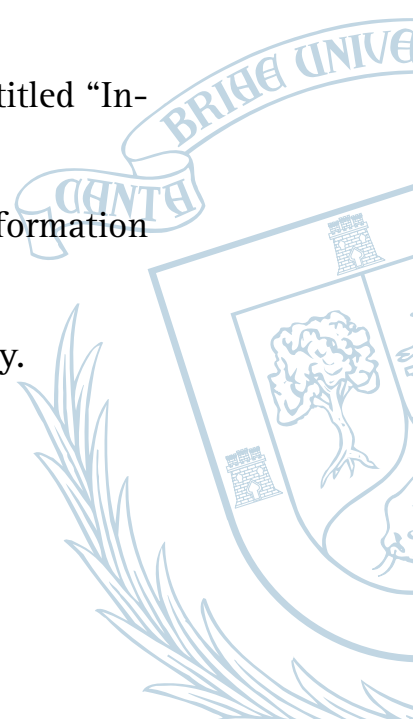
And the sort of data we collect has changed too. Instead of making a few measurements on a large number of things, we now take masses of measurements of many characteristics of the same thing. Seldom today are data recorded individually by humans. Instead, they are recorded in massive quantities by machines, often with a great many components for each data point.

Such data are a huge resource, but it is often hard to extract the information we need. A great deal of effort in Statistics is directed at the problem of getting the most out of the data, of finding ways of squeezing it for the most clear insights we can get.

Carly Fiorina, a former Hewlett Packard CEO, in a speech titled “Information: The currency of the digital age”, argued that:

The goal is to transform data into information, and information into insight.

That is, indeed, the goal of much statistical research today.



IBM, which today earns much of its income as a provider of consulting services, advertises itself online as a source of statistical advice about converting Big Data into information. As IBM writes:

The volume, velocity and variety of data has grown exponentially, providing exciting new opportunities for analyzing financial, production, and customer activities. However, data alone has limited value. The real contribution to your bottom line occurs when you can turn data into information, and information into insight.

Hal Varian, Chief Economist at Google and emeritus Professor of Economics at UC Berkeley, remarked a few years ago that:

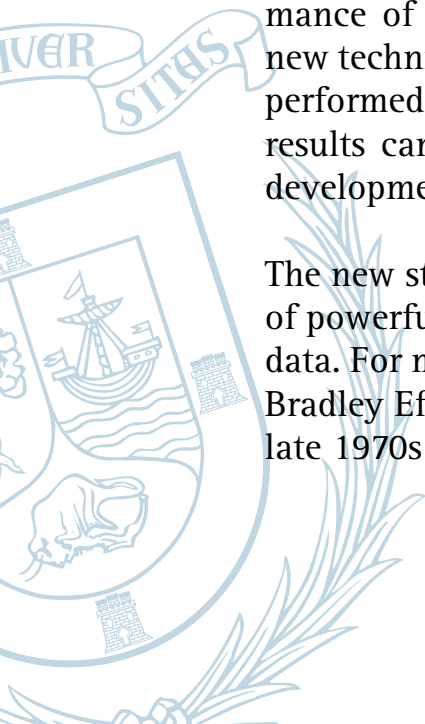
The sexy job in the next ten years will be statisticians. And I'm not kidding.

And he wasn't. Statistical science today continues to be vibrant and vital, because it is in a constant state of change, developing new technologies for converting numbers into information and advice.

My own involvement in Statistics research started at about the time that significant interactive computing power began to become available in university Statistics departments, in the late 1970s.

Up to that point, those of us using powerful electronic computers in universities generally were at the mercy of punchcards operating mainframe computers, typically at relatively distant locations. This severely hindered the use of computers for assessing the performance of statistical methodology, and particularly for developing new techniques. However, once computational experiments could be performed from one's desk, and parameter settings adjusted as the results came in, vast new horizons opened up for methodological development.

The new statistical approaches to which this led were able, by virtue of powerful statistical computing, to do relatively complex things to data. For many of us, David Cox's regression model (Cox, 1972), and Bradley Efron's bootstrap (Efron, 1979), became feasible only in the late 1970s and early 1980s.





In 1979 Efron gave a remarkably prescient account of the future relationship between theory and computation in modern Statistics, noting that:

The need for a more flexible, realistic, and dependable statistical theory is pressing, given the mountains of data now being amassed. The prospect for success is bright, but I believe the solution is likely to lie [with] a blend of traditional mathematical thinking combined with the numerical and organizational aptitude of the computer.

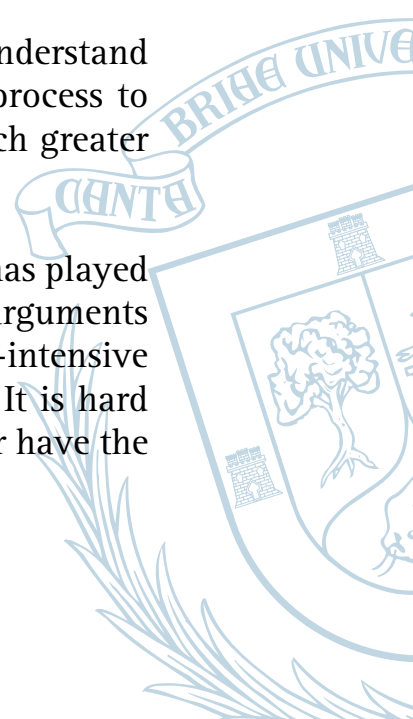
Critically, Efron saw theory and computation working together to ensure the development of future statistical methodology, meeting many different demands. And, of course, that is what happened, despite the arguments of some that advances in computing would replace theoretical statistical arguments.

Developing theory for Statistics, in conjunction with computational methods, has occupied much of my career. I began life as a mathematician, working in probability theory, but over time moved into Statistics.

I remember a senior colleague advising me, in the early 1980s, that in the future statistical science would be developed through computer experimentation, and that the days of theoretical work in Statistics were numbered. He advised me to abandon my interests in theory and focus instead on simulation. Stubborn as usual, I ignored him, and time has shown that that was the correct course.

Indeed, the demand for mathematical theory, to help us understand what our methodology is doing to our data, and in the process to convert the data to information, has turned out to be much greater than many had anticipated.

In the development of modern statistical methods, theory has played a role that computation really could not. Theoretical arguments point authoritatively to the advantages of some computer-intensive techniques, and to the drawbacks associated with others. It is hard to imagine that numerical methods, on their own, will ever have the



capacity to deliver the level of intuition and insightful analysis, with such breadth and clarity, that theory can provide.

I have had an extraordinary time, during my career, working on the development of new statistical methodology, largely from the viewpoint of mathematical theory. I am very fortunate to have had this opportunity.

Thank you.





**JOSÉ IGNACIO SOLAR CAYÓN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA,**

I CERTIFY: That the Governing Council of the University of Cantabria, in its ordinary session on 5th December, 2013 agreed the following:

To award the University of Cantabria Gold Medal to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), in reference to the cooperation relationship established between both universities since 1984, this agreement being the longest-running one the University of Cantabria has had with a foreign university. Starting from the initial proposal of organizing a Programme of Spanish Language and Culture, relationships of academic cooperation and staff mobility have been established throughout these thirty years, making successful dialogue possible between institutions which are geographically and culturally apart, but close in their interests and objectives.

As proof, I hereby issue this certificate which carries approval from the Honourable Rector of the University in Santander, on 5h December 2013.

THE RECTOR

  
José Carlos Gómez Sal





## SPEECH GIVEN BY TERESA SUSINOS RADA

The University of Cantabria, aware of the importance of internationalization as a response to challenges in the globalized world, has in recent years promoted multiple actions aimed at extending its presence and participation in the international academic world, as well as its importance in the formation and management of knowledge beyond the boundaries of the institution itself. Some of these initiatives have been compromised with the increase in the number of agreements with institutions in different parts of the world, with the active promotion of student mobility or with a firm commitment to improving the linguistic capacity of students and lecturers as a basic tool in international communication and an improvement in educational and professional opportunities for our students.

Within this context, the existence of long-term institutional relationships with academically outstanding universities is especially commendable, as is the case of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Thus, even after numerous difficulties involving collaborative and joint work between universities from different countries, these institutional relations have been maintained, widened and enriched mutually over the years. At a time in which the future predicts a constant increase in institutions with which the University of Cantabria will maintain contact, it is fitting to stop and appreciate the ground we have covered, and value the oldest agreement in our University, as is deserved. This agreement is a milestone with regards to the fact that it seals the beginning of this current concern with internationalization and is the origin of the progressive expansion and diversification of the exchange activities which we are trying to promote with good will and imagination.

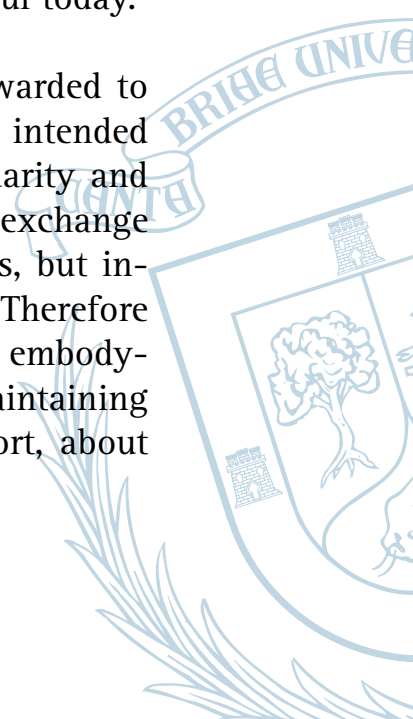
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is a public University located in the city of Charlotte in the United States. It is currently the second university of the 17 institutions of the public university

system in the State of North Carolina. It has more than 26,000 students and it is a university with a long history of research in various branches of knowledge. The relationship between the University of Cantabria and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte is now 30 years old. The first exchanges and joint activities were not regulated until the signing of the first Convention, which took place in 1986. This first agreement has been renewed on several occasions in order to adapt to the new conditions of relationship that have been established between the two institutions. Since then and up to the present time, multiple actions of cooperation have been carried in almost all aspects related to mobility.

The beginnings of this institutional exchange had to do with a study program about Spanish and the Spanish culture and it still continues today in a more stable, prolonged and more frequent format. Based on this original proposal, relationships of academic cooperation and mobility were established, for teaching and research purposes in other areas of the University such as Civil Engineering, Geography, History, Business Administration or Physics. The exchange programme for undergraduate students has remained throughout the years without any interruptions, with nearly 700 Spanish and American students during this period.

Without a doubt, all these actions would not have been possible without the continuous and effective work of many people (at the moment it is impossible for me to mention them all in detail), who, in the field of teaching, as well as in research and management, have participated for years in numerous and varied collaboration initiatives and to whom our University is especially grateful today.

To finish off, I only have to say that the Gold Medal awarded to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) is intended to show recognition of the values of responsibility, solidarity and partnership in International Relations, allowing a fruitful exchange between geographically and culturally distant institutions, but institutions which are close in their interests and objectives. Therefore this medal symbolizes these principles and it does so by embodying them in this institution, with whom we have been maintaining long and invaluable bilateral relations. It tells us, in short, about



the strategic importance at this present time that the actions of internationalization have for the University of Cantabria, and of our commitment to increase and intensify those relations, allowing us to widen the horizon of knowledge and try new models for university cooperation.

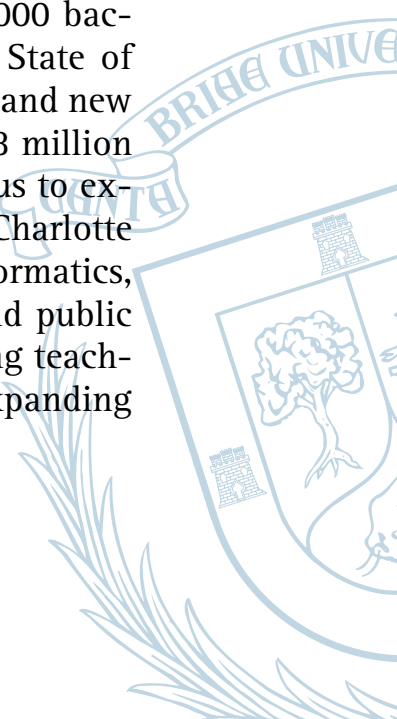


## SPEECH GIVEN BY JOAN LORDEN

On behalf of UNC Charlotte, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for this wonderful recognition. Campus internationalization and exchange partnerships contribute significantly to our mission and to be recognized in this way from one of our oldest exchange partners is a special honor.

UNC Charlotte has enjoyed a relationship with the Universidad de Cantabria (UniCan) for over 25 years. While there have been many activities that our institutions have shared, the primary activity has been the Semester in Spain program. This annual program administered by UNC Charlotte has reached across the state of North Carolina enabling students at five other institutions in the UNC system to also enjoy the benefits of a semester here in Santander. Over the life of our agreement, over 500 students have been able to spend time on this beautiful campus, to learn from your faculty, and to explore the rich cultural heritage of Spain. Our faculty have also enjoyed the benefits of collaboration. Resident directors from our UNC campuses have had the opportunity to spend an academic year at here at UniCan. We appreciate the hospitality and good will that have made this long relationship so fruitful for our students and faculty.

Twenty-five years ago when our collaboration with UniCan began, UNC Charlotte enrolled about 13,000 students and awarded about 1,700 baccalaureate and 500 master's degrees each year. Today, we enroll over 26,500 students and last year awarded over 4,000 baccalaureate, 1,200 masters, and 133 doctoral degrees. The State of North Carolina has supported that growth with new faculty and new facilities. We have over 1,000 full time faculty and nearly 8 million sq ft of research and instructional space. This has enabled us to expand our research programs across the institution. UNC Charlotte has major initiatives in the fields of computing and informatics, energy and the environment, advanced manufacturing, and public health. We have been leaders in North Carolina in producing teachers for science and mathematics and we are committed to expanding the cultural opportunities of our region.



One of the consequences of being in an urban environment like Charlotte is that we experience globalization and its impact very directly. Charlotte is a banking center, but those banks are global enterprises. We are an energy center, but energy production is a global issue and so are many of the energy companies in Charlotte. Whether we talk about health, food, climate or any other major issue for our city and state, there is an international dimension. The major companies in our region are engaged in a global search for talent. So, when we consider how we serve our state, internationalization of our programs has been a recurring theme. Today more than ever, we are committed to producing globally competent students.

Every field of study has an international dimension. So, we know that regardless of their field of study, our graduates will encounter colleagues from different cultures. They will need to be adaptable and able to negotiate cultural differences. Today, the variety of programs that universities are engaging in globally is expanding, with more institutions than ever seeking to enroll international students or establishing campuses in other parts of the world. But whatever the strategy, the interaction between students and faculty with others from around the globe remains fundamental. Whether on our UNC Charlotte campus or through study abroad, the opportunity to form a personal connection with someone from another culture is one of the most important ways that we can help our students understand their own biases and assumptions and move beyond looking at life through a single cultural lens.

As North Carolina's urban research university, we are committed to growing our research enterprise, but recognize that our competitors and collaborators alike are not just those institutions in the State of North Carolina. There is no great university that lives solely within its own walls. Our challenge as institutions is to find the right partnerships and the right format for those partnerships to create mutually beneficial programs. It seems that we have done just that with our relationship with UniCan. We welcome the opportunity afforded by this visit to reinforce our existing partnership and to explore new opportunities.





**JOSÉ IGNACIO SOLAR CAYÓN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA,**

I CERTIFY: That the Governing Council of the University of Cantabria, in its ordinary session on 28th October, 2013 agreed the following:

To award the University of Cantabria Silver Medal, in the 2013 announcement to:

- Miguel Lafarga Coscojuela, at the proposal of the Departments of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Medicine and Psychiatry and Physiology and Pharmacology.
- Andrés Lebeña Bada, at the proposal of the Rector.
- José Antonio Revilla Cortezón, at the proposal of the Department of Sciences and Water and Environmental Technology, the Student Council, the Institute of Environmental Hydraulics, the Civil Engineering School, and the Department of Transports and Technology of Projects and Processes.

As proof, I hereby issue this certificate which carries approval from the Honourable Rector of the University in Santander, on 28th October 2013.

THE RECTOR,



José Carlos Gómez Sal



## SPEECH GIVEN BY MIGUEL ÁNGEL LAFARGA COSCOJUELA

Honourable President of the Government of Cantabria,  
Honourable Rector  
Civil and Academic Authorities  
Colleagues  
Dear Students  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have received the University of Cantabria Silver Medal with honor and gratitude I interpret this as recognition for 38 years of professional dedication to this institution, and in particular to my participation in the construction and development of the Faculty of Medicine and the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. In any case, this enrichment has been mutual.

Please allow me first of all to thank Professors Juan A. García-Porrero and Juan Hurlé, for promoting my candidacy; the Board of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and the Departments of Medicine and of Physiology and Pharmacology, particularly to its Directors, Professors José Antonio Riancho and Maruja Hurle, for supporting proposal of the concession. I also want to express my appreciation to the Rectoral Team and the Governing Council of the UC for approving it.

This distinction is also the result of the collaboration and effort of teachers and professors of the Faculty, of the young researchers working in the laboratory and of students, the main objective of my academic activity. I would like to emphasize that for generations their “feedback” has kept my motivation and enthusiasm alive in teaching Cell Biology and Histology.

In particular, I would like to share this recognition with Professor María Teresa Berciano, with whom I have developed a great part of my teaching and research activity. Her tenacity, wisdom and dedica-



tion to teaching and research are a fundamental engine in our work group.

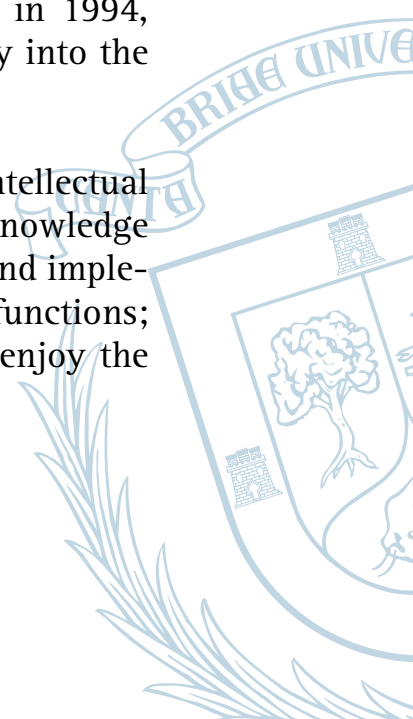
I extend this tribute to other Founder Professors in the Faculty of Medicine, who played a vital role in its construction and development, in conditions of great precariousness of human and economic resources.

I joined the Faculty in 1975, a few months before the building was opened. A huge effort was necessary, as well as the great passion necessary in every new beginning, I would say, to set up the first laboratories to be used for lab work and research; set up the teaching programmes; obtain great research teams, when there were no public calls for infrastructure. And so it was. The academic and research activity which has brought us here then started.

In my academic career, I have carried out management tasks such as Secretary of the Faculty, General Secretary of the University and for 12 year, Director of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. In this last task, together with Elvira Colvée, the Assistant Director, I shared the exhilarating task of improving education and research facilities, manage promotion and provide teaching staff and contribute to maintaining its teaching prestige. Thank you Professor Colvée.

However, as I mentioned before, it has been teaching which I have dedicated my greatest efforts and dreams to. Since 1975, I have been teaching the subject of Histology, - the discipline of Santiago Ramón y Cajal-, with a modern vision of structure-dynamic correlation and clear Biomedical importance. Thereafter, in 1994, promoting the incorporation of the subject of Cell Biology into the Medicine study plan.

With greater or lesser success, I have always faced the intellectual challenge of motivating my students towards scientific knowledge with great enthusiasm; guiding them in the development and implementation of the fundamental concepts that govern cell functions; introduce them in the cell basis of disease and let them enjoy the beauty of cell architecture.



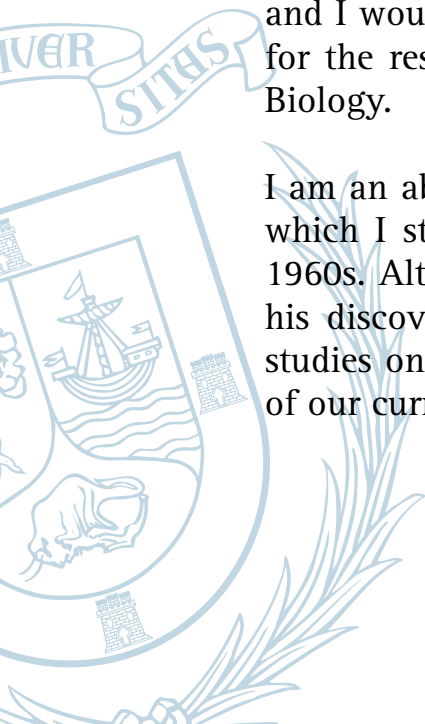
In the words of Georges Palade, one of the fathers of Biology and the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology in 1974, the aesthetic sensations of Cell Biology, when he said that the images of electron microscopy of the cell produced in him the effect of a siren's song: "compelling and fascinating". This effect becomes even more impressive nowadays, when new microscopy technologies allow students to examine the organization and dynamics of living cells.

During the course of teaching, we have been demanding a high-level from students in the knowledge and application of the basic concepts of Biology. Facing those in favour of educating students only for medical assistance, we consider that the degree of Medicine, which includes the Degree and Master's Degree, should prepare them for Medicine in the 21st Century, with a solid scientific base in Cell and Molecular Biology and a greater implication of future doctors in Biomedical research.

With this task at hand, and taking the current context into account, I must express my concern about the generational replacement of Professors and Researchers, which is at risk, due to the restrictions to cover staff posts. This situation can seriously compromise the quality of teaching and research in our Faculty of Medicine. It also upsets me to see how severe cutbacks in R&D on a state level are leaving young and brilliant researchers in Spain, educated in the best scientific institutions, without any opportunities of getting a job, a loss of human capital which compromises the future of science in our country.

To them, students and future scientists, I dedicate this distinction and I would also like it to give recognition to Cajal, an inspiration for the research activity of our group in the field of Nuclear Cell Biology.

I am an absolute admirer of the scientific work of the Nobel Prize, which I started to discover when I was a Medical student in the 1960s. Although Cajal is considered the father of Neuroscience for his discovery of the neural architecture of the nerve centers, his studies on the neuronal nucleus have provided the structural basis of our current knowledge of Nuclear Cell Biology.



We feel proud to have contributed to emphasizing the importance of the scientific work of Cajal and that his name, as well as the name of Golgi, has been associated since 1999 with a cell structure, “Nuclear Cajal body” or “Cajal body” in international literature.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude for the cooperation received from the following Professors; Dolores Delgado, Javier Leon and José Carlos Rodríguez Rey, as well as point out the contribution of Professor José Ángel Berciano. This has allowed us to study some cell mechanisms involved in neurodegenerative processes and contribute to the training of residents in Neurology. I would also like to deeply thank Professor Alberto Muñoz for inviting us to collaborate in the study of nuclear mechanisms involved in carcinogenesis.

I now conclude, affirming my teaching and research commitment with the University of Cantabria. From the perspective of a promising retiree, I hope to retain mental clarity to continue teaching our students, together with motivation and enthusiasm, and to modestly contribute to the development and prestige of this institution.

Thank you very much.



## SPEECH GIVEN BY ANDRÉS LEBEÑA BADA

Honourable Rector, Rectoral Team, Authorities who are present, Colleagues and Friends.

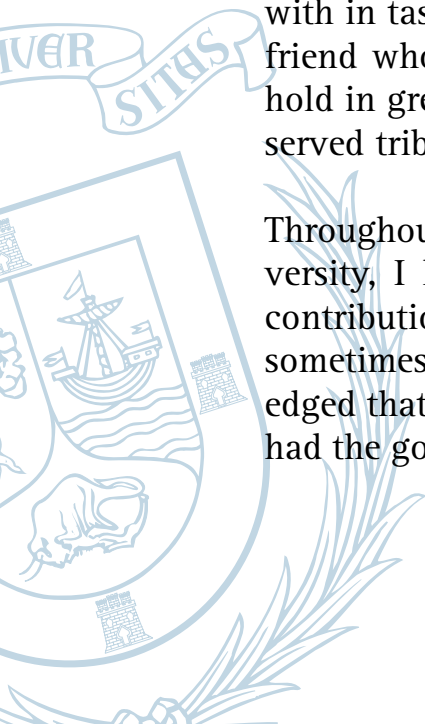
The truth is that it is quite daunting having to say a few words to so many people that I think highly of, but well, this is what I have to do.

It seems only yesterday that I joined the University in 1973. Everything was still to be done, but 40 years have suddenly gone by and many events, which would be difficult for me to count, have accumulated. The beginning was difficult and at that moment, when I started out as a novice, I wondered if I had made a mistake. But following the good advice of my parents, who appreciated me and told me that you should always face up to challenges, I forged ahead and here I am.

First of all, I must say that I would never have imagined myself worthy of this recognition. The medal fills me with pride for what it stands for, to feel appreciated and valued, which is the most important thing.

I am doubly pleased to receive this distinction and to be accompanied by people as worthy as Professor Lafarga, whom I collaborated with in tasks which crossed our paths and Professor Revilla, a good friend whom I met when he was in his student days and whom I hold in great esteem. I sincerely congratulate them for this well-deserved tribute.

Throughout my career, which has always been linked to the University, I have tried, from my humble position, to make a small contribution and fulfill those obligations which corresponded to me, sometimes with more success than others. But it must be acknowledged that things cannot be accomplished if you set out alone and I had the good fortune to meet up with good colleagues, great friends



and great masters, in this case, during my time in the UIMP, before joining the University of Cantabria, when it started up, and currently at the University of Cantabria; those from whom I have learned greatly and those who have greatly supported me; I always knew I could depend on them. I have been very fortunate.

During this entire period there have been good and bad times. Someone said that in this life you must always be grateful, and this is true. To be grateful is one of the most beautiful gestures and for this I thank and acknowledge all those who have thought about me and have shown their appreciation and consideration for me, possibly undeserved as I said previously, and when I say this, I am thinking about so many good and competent members of our Institution who are worthy of such a distinction. From here, I would like to share it with them.

I have always believed that it was vital to work in a good atmosphere and I have always tried to ensure this as much as possible, because it is a great worth that falls into our hands and one which we must continue to nurture. I think this is shared by all of us who make up the university family, in such a way that each of us collaborates in order to succeed in all the projects and challenges the University has marked out and set them in the place they deserve.

I have been a long time in the Institution and I will continue to feel like a member of it when I have to move onto the new phase, which as I mentioned in the memory, would correspond to me this year, and as I consider myself a member of it, I will always be at your disposal whenever deemed necessary.

My warmest thanks Honourable Rector, Rectoral Team, my good friends, excellent colleagues and to all the community in general who have thought about me, for your recognition and esteem. I will treasure some great memories. Thank you.

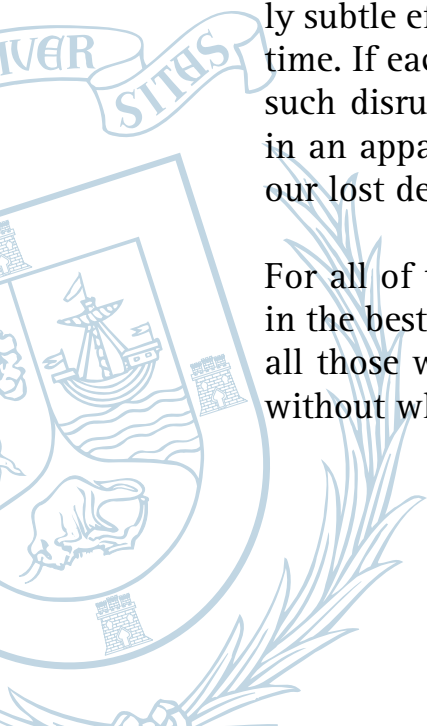


## SPEECH GIVEN BY JOSÉ ANTONIO REVILLA CORTEZÓN

I imagine that a speech of these characteristics, more so if it is short, as required by Protocol, must start and finish by giving thanks for the great honour it means to receive the University of Cantabria Silver Medal. Previously, it has been awarded to people who captured all my attention, my appreciation and my admiration for their humane, personal, academic and scientific values. And all this when I think, and believe me when I say it without any type of false modesty, that the only thing I have done throughout this long or short period of time during which my professional career has lasted in our University, has been just the same as my colleagues from different schools and faculties, to faithfully comply with the Institution in everything that I honourably thought was my duty.

What is certain however, is that here, in this ceremony, I feel completely overwhelmed, disproportionately over-valued and very happy about this recognition, which I understand must not be only for me, but it should be extended to all those people, and there are many of them, who have accompanied, helped and encouraged me during this time. I say this because I am one of those people who is convinced that the objectives each person achieves in life depends not only on the qualities one has, regardless of how excellent they are. Throughout our existence, there are circumstances of apparently subtle effects, but which are capable of transforming a whole lifetime. If each of us thought about it, we would no doubt find several such disruptions which have conditioned the rest of our existence in an apparently disproportionate way. It is as though we re-found our lost destiny.

For all of the above, I think that I now have a unique opportunity, in the best settings and at the best time, to show my appreciation to all those who have accompanied me on my path in a special way, without whom I would probably not be here at this moment.

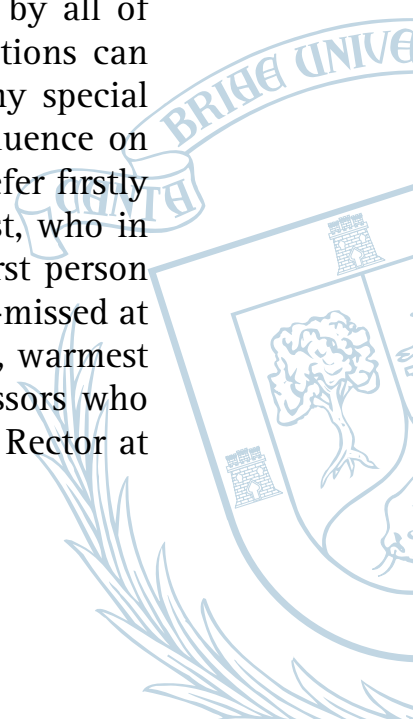




Firstly, I must say that I am a scientific and professional product of the University of Cantabria, because apart from a few years spent in a private company working as an engineer, in the traditional meaning of the word, and some stay-periods at other universities, here is where I studied my undergraduate degree, received my PhD and here is where I developed my teaching and research career.

I began my studies in Civil Engineering in Santander in 1966, where my professional “path” crossed with someone very much appreciated by me, who at that time was also starting out, and who today is object of the same honour as myself; I am referring to Andrés Lebeña. How curious! We started out together in the same place when we were practically children and after following our own paths, we finished up together again, almost fifty (?) years later, in the same place. I am very happy about this; I could not have better companions than those I find myself with at the moment: Andrés and Professor Miguel Lafarga, whose brilliant academic and professional career is known by everyone.

Well! From that period of time I can't help remembering that group of people, many of them engineers, but also graduates from other fields (chemistry, physics, architects... etc.), who were determined to bring about a new Civil Engineering School for Spain, here in Santander, as the only one that existed then, and which had been operating for more than 150 years, was in Madrid. They did things very well and I feel that they were never recognized enough, in an explicit way, for being the creators of the seed which later resulted in the University of Cantabria. This year, Professor García and Diaz de Villegas, the last of those pioneers, has retired and I would like to convey my gratitude to him for the great work done by all of them. Those of us who have served in institutional positions can understand the immense work carried out. Now come my special thanks to two people from that era who had a great influence on my subsequent professional and human development. I refer firstly to Alberto, more popularly known as “Pater” or the Priest, who in addition to being a great comforter of spirits, was the first person to teach us young students to speak about freedom, much-missed at that time. Secondly, from here I wish to dedicate the best, warmest and most loving of my memories to one of those professors who came to teach us, and who was later the first democratic Rector at

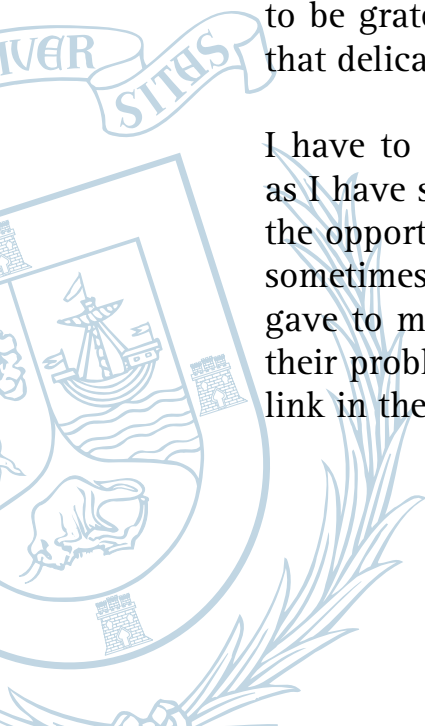


the University of Cantabria; Professor Gómez Laa, a great teacher and an even greater friend, whom we still miss, especially at these times. I will never forget his vast culture and the long and fruitful conversations we had.

The incorporation, for the first time, of Doctorate Professors who worked with exclusive dedication in the Civil Engineering School made a great impact on our plans and it gave me two great teachers and friends: Enrique Castillo, the Director of my Thesis, and Miguel Angel Losada whom I accompanied on numerous academic projects which I will never forget. Two extraordinary people who clarified my scientific and vital criteria with their powerful personalities, full of good judgment, scientific wisdom, a vision of the future and human values. The thesis was carried out under the active direction of Enrique; it was read out on 2nd September 1976, and made a very important international impact. It turned out to be the first thesis which was read out at the University of Cantabria. I will never forget those years of frenetic teaching and research activity that I spent with Enrique, nor be able to thank him enough for everything he taught me. It is no surprise therefore that our personal relationship has transcended a purely academic one and currently stands at a level of deep friendship.

After a few years in a private company working as an engineer, my return to University took place at the beginning of the 1980s, after a call from Angel Uriarte, who was the Director at that time. He made a proposal concerning the organisation of the teachings of some disciplines which are very important to Civil Engineers, such as Hydraulics and Hydrology. Here, I have someone else that I have a lot to be grateful for, because if he had not placed his trust in me for that delicate task, I would probably have left the University forever.

I have to thank the students, the best thing about the University, as I have stated so publicly in institutional events when I have had the opportunity; the trust they always had in me and their support, sometimes very critical but always constructive, but which they gave to me at all times. I never stopped feeling close to them and their problems, because for me they have always been the weakest link in the University network.





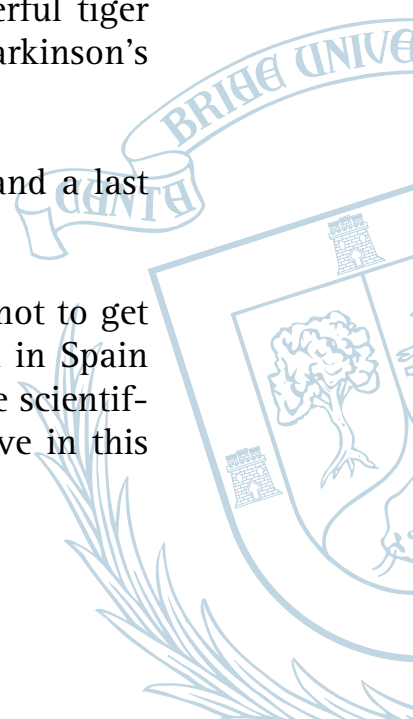
As a result of the institutional positions I have held, I have had the opportunity to work with many members of the Administration and Service staff and I must express my gratitude to all of them, because I have always felt very satisfied with the collaboration and spirit with which things have been carried out. In particular, I have always defended the possibility that some of the posts and existing positions that can now only be occupied by lecturers open up the chance of being occupied by them.

Now the only thing left to speak about within the University is the importance my colleagues and friends have had in all the works and merits assigned to me. I can only express this with one word: enormous. Neither the teaching nor the research that I carried out could have been done without such close collaboration as we have had, in the Department as well as in the Research group, mainly in the Submarine Emissaries and Environmental Hydraulics groups, which I have been directing during the twenty two years it has existed. I think that all the Awards we received (National Environment Award, Social Council Award and others) were largely thanks to the spirit of coexistence and work that we had achieved. All this has given rise to a whole host of friends who would be impossible to list at this moment, but I don't mind because they already know that they share with me the merits which are attributed to me in this Ceremony.

And thus, I am reaching the end, where I say goodbye to everyone with my heart full of gratitude, and although it is now very close, I am leaving before normal retirement age, when my wish was to have continued a bit longer, like many of my colleagues. But I must devote all my energy in trying to tame and face a powerful tiger which has come to visit and settle inside me; it is called Parkinson's Disease and it will keep me very busy.

And now just to finish off, let me make a plea, a wish and a last thank you:

MY PLEA to the Authorities who are present is for them not to get rid of the posts of those of us who are leaving. Research in Spain needs to create expectations for many researchers who are scientifically established and incorporate young people who serve in this



tremendous army of unemployed people which this shameless capitalism, prevailing throughout the world, is leaving behind.

MY WISH is that our Civil Engineering School, by using a lot of imagination and asserting its peculiar strengths, just as it has done so many other times, overcomes the rough patch it is going through, due mainly to the huge number of schools which have been set up and to the number of unemployed people among its graduates, caused by over-construction within the country.

MY FINAL THANK YOU is to my family: my parents, who can no longer be here; they sacrificed themselves so that I could start the professional career which is now coming to an end; to my blood brothers, and those others, who always encouraged me in my work; and especially to my wife Mila and my children Eva, Ana, Pepe, Lucas, Antonio and Maria, because without their constant support, tolerance, patience and love, nothing of what I have been commenting would have been possible. Thank you very much for allowing me this speech, and farewell.





