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### Title

Dedication of Keck Telescope, Mauna Kea, Hawaii

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## DEDICATION OF KECK TELESCOPE

President David P. Gardner  
University of California

Mauna Kea, Hawaii  
November 7, 1991

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Ladies and gentlemen:

In a very real sense, the story of the telescope we dedicate today began in the fall of 1977, when then-President David Saxon of the University of California met with several UC astronomers to hear a proposal to design and construct the world's largest optical telescope. Dr. Saxon's enthusiastic endorsement and encouragement of the Ten-Meter Telescope Project, as it was called then, took considerable optimism, even daring, this being especially true for the conceptual godfather of this project, Jerry Nelson. The technical challenges of building such a telescope were daunting, and the sums required for so ambitious a project were great while the prospects for finding them appeared small.

Fourteen years later, however, we are about to realize the dream of seeing farther into our universe than has ever been possible. The ingredients of this success story are few but critical. First, a partnership in the interests of science involving two great centers of learning, whose splendid achievements have transformed the field of modern observational astronomy. Second, a spectacular site, for which the

University of Hawaii deserves special thanks, having demonstrated that observational astronomy could be carried out on the towering peak of Mauna Kea, at an elevation higher than had ever been attempted before. Third, the indispensable assistance of the Keck Foundation, a model of public-spirited service to the cause of learning. The University of California is both proud and delighted to be associated with this historic project which will make enduring contributions to our understanding of the origins and mysteries of the universe.

My wish for the W. M. Keck Observatory is summed up in something the historian Daniel Boorstin once said about science. "This is a story without end," he said. "All the world is still an America. The most promising words ever written on the maps of human knowledge are terra incognita--unknown territory." May this marvelous telescope we dedicate today take us further into that vast unknown territory above us, and bring back tales that will enrich, delight, and illuminate our lives.