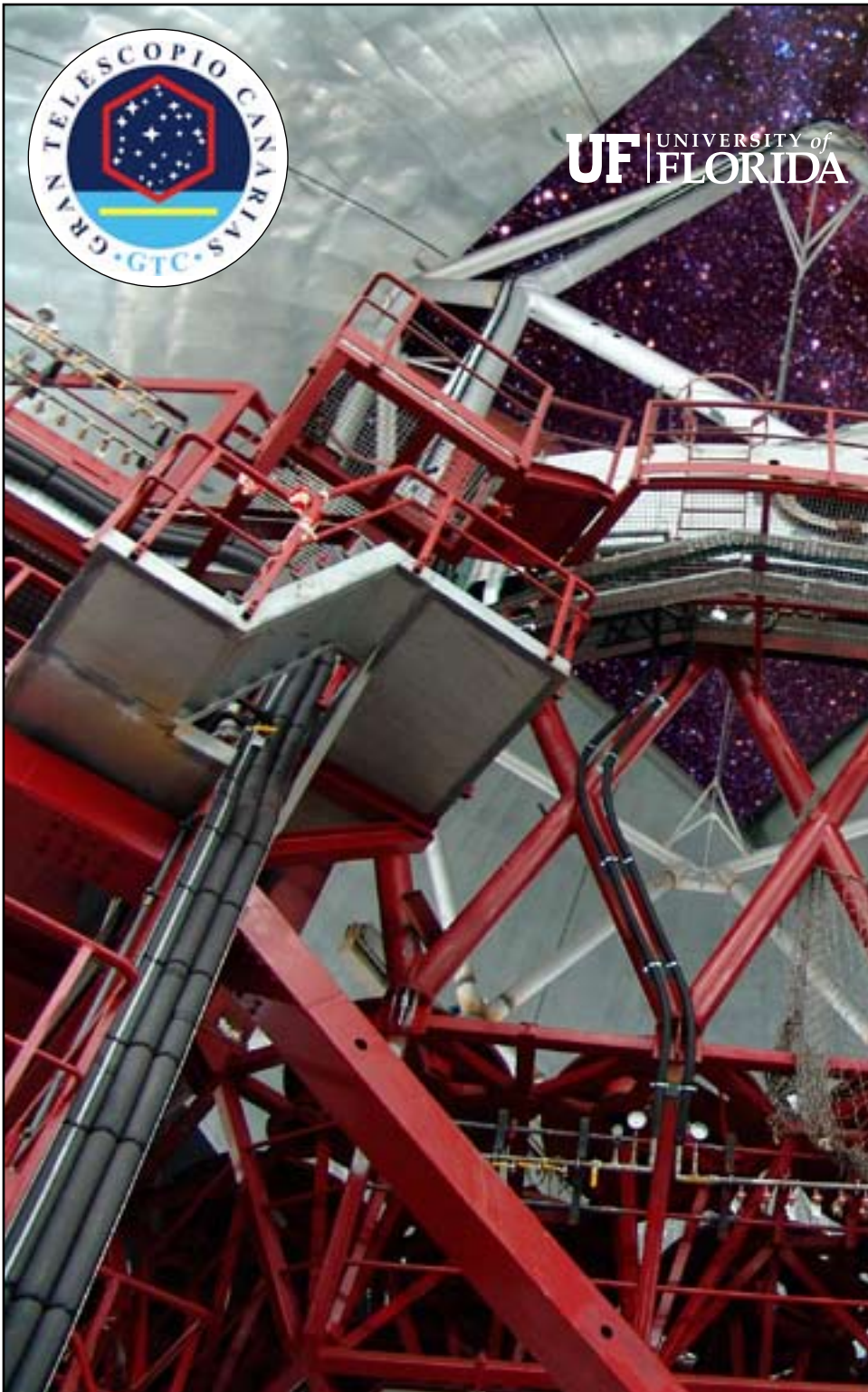




**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
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# DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

## HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY PROF. FRANCISCO SÁNCHEZ

SATURDAY  
MAY 3, 2008

9:00 a.m.  
GRADUATION CEREMONY  
*in the O'Connell Center*  
*Prof. Francisco Sánchez will be awarded an  
honorary degree at the beginning of the ceremony*

1:30 p.m.  
PRESENTATIONS IN  
PUGH HALL AUDITORIUM  
*participants*

**Prof. Stanley Dermott**  
*University of Florida*

**Dr. Brian May**  
*Liverpool John Moores University*

**Prof. Francisco Sánchez**  
*Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias*

**Prof. Rafael Guzmán**  
*University of Florida*

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

THE AWARD OF THE  
HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE TO  
**PROFESSOR FRANCISCO SÁNCHEZ**  
DIRECTOR OF THE  
INSTITUTO DE ASTROFÍSICA DE CANARIAS

Starting in 2001, UF partnered with astronomers in Spain and Mexico to build the world's largest optical telescope, the Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC). The GTC is being constructed in the Canary Islands and will begin operations in 2009. Its superb image quality will allow the GTC to "see" both the faintest and the most distant objects in the universe—from nearby, newborn planets and stars, to the most distant galaxies.

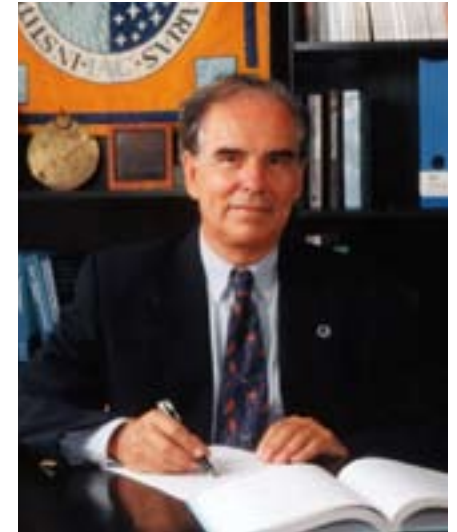
Our partnership with Spain and Mexico has led to the development of multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art infrared cameras for the GTC, an area of astronomical instrumentation where UF has earned world-wide recognition. In addition, we have implemented a very successful program

to bring Spanish graduate students and young postdocs to UF to acquire expertise in astronomical research and, in particular, astronomical instrumentation.

Professor Francisco Sánchez, who is recognized worldwide for his work in astronomy and astrophysics and is the founding director of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, has been the driving force behind the planning and construction of the GTC, and the success of the international partnership with UF and Mexico. This partnership will allow us to pursue new joint initiatives and be best prepared to face the challenges ahead of building world-class instrumentation for the new generation of Giant Telescopes that will be operative in the years ahead.

Born in Toledo, Spain in 1936, Professor Francisco Sánchez was a pioneer in the development of astrophysical research in Spain. He created the country's first astrophysics research group and trained its first astrophysicists. He had the vision to recognize that Spain's Canary Islands had the potential of becoming one of the best sites in the world for astronomical observations, and his leadership and tenacity resulted in the development of the European Northern Observatory on the island of La Palma.

He has been recognized around the world for his contributions to advancing the frontiers of astronomy and astrophysics and the promotion of international collaborations. His many honors include Commander of the Academic Palms of France, Commander of the Royal Order of the Polar Star of Sweden, Knight of



the Royal Order of Orange-Nassau in The Netherlands, and he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. We are proud that he has now accepted an honorary doctorate from the University of Florida.

