

WELCOMING ADDRESS

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ABSTRACT. This Welcoming Address on behalf of Boston University, the host institution for IAU Symposium 112, was given at the Symposium Banquet, which was held at the new hall of flags of Boston University in the evening of June 19, 1984.

Professor Papagiannis, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues:

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased and honored to welcome to Boston University this Symposium of the International Astronomical Union. While the outcome of "The Search for Extraterrestrial Life" is still unknown, the scientific and intellectual distinction of the participants in this Symposium clearly establishes that there is intelligent life on Earth.

The importance of your inquiries is underlined by the array of major international scientific organizations which are co-sponsoring this Symposium. It was not so many years ago that most people, scientists and laymen alike, would have regarded as visionary the idea of a Symposium on this topic to be sponsored not only by the IAU, but also by the International Astronautical Federation and the International Academy of Astronautics, the ICSU Committee on Space Research, the International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life, and the International Union of Biological Sciences. Indeed it was visionary, and that vision was turned into reality largely by the efforts of those who are here this evening. I am convinced that when the history of science in this century is written, your initiative in this field will be recognized for the remarkable achievement it is.

Boston University is especially pleased to serve as host for this important Symposium, because the University is placing increased emphasis upon its already considerable strengths in the sciences, engineering, computer science, and mathematics. Our commitment is represented in part by the new Boston University Center for Science and Engineering in which your meetings and workshops are being held. We opened the first stage of this new facility this past fall, and expect to have it fully completed by next year. Beyond bricks and mortar, and

more importantly so, we are augmenting a most talented faculty with additional staffing of highly qualified professionals. We are, as well, launching new programs, leading to the Ph.D. degree in applied chemistry, applied physics, and modern fields of engineering.

It is most appropriate that this Symposium should be held along the Charles River, both banks of which have seen so many advances in science and technology. We hope that you will feel welcome in the scientific and intellectual community of Boston and Cambridge, and in the distinguished institutions of learning which sustain that community. We honor your efforts to discover more about the Universe and I am confident that this will be a productive occasion - not least because of the distinguished President of IAU Commission 51, Professor Michael D. Papagiannis, a past President of the Faculty Senate of Boston University, and past Chairman of our Department of Astronomy, whose imagination and dedication in the search for extraterrestrial life are so well known in the international scientific community.

It is with pride and pleasure that I extend - both personally and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Silber, our faculty and administration - the welcome of Boston University to the participants in IAU Symposium 112. I wish you well in all of your endeavors.

Thank you.