

## **Visual Factors Affecting Reading: The Big Three**

Gordon Legge

*Chair, Psychology Dept.*

*Director, Minnesota Laboratory for Low-Vision Research*

*Distinguished McKnight Univ. Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience*

University of Minnesota

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Auditorium of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science

### **Speaker Biography:**

**Dr. Gordon Legge** received a Bachelor's degree in Physics from MIT in 1971, and a Master's degree in Astronomy from Harvard in 1972. In 1976, he obtained his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from Harvard. He then spent a postdoctoral year with Fergus Campbell at the Physiological Laboratory, Cambridge University

In 1977, Legge joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota. He is now Chair of the Psychology Department at Minnesota, director of the Minnesota Laboratory for Low-Vision Research, and Distinguished McKnight University Professor of psychology and neuroscience.

Legge's research deals with visual perception and cognition. Currently, projects in his lab focus on the roles of vision in reading, object recognition, and spatial navigation. In all of these areas, he has a special interest in the problems encountered by people with low vision.

Legge's lab has been widely recognized for applying the principles and methods of basic visual science to explain the difficulties encountered by people with low vision. One practical outcome of his research is the recent development of the MNREAD Acuity Chart, designed for use in normal and low vision.

Legge is currently a member of the editorial board of Journal of Vision, and recently served on the National Advisory Eye Council. He was a member of a National Research Council committee involved with the redesign of U.S. currency bills. One result of the committee's work is the large-print numerals on the new bills which are helpful to people with low vision.

Legge's research has been recognized by an NIH MERIT award, the Lighthouse Pisart Vision Award and honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Montreal and the State University of New York.

Gordon Legge was born in Toronto. He now lives in Minneapolis with his wife Wendy, and their three cats and chocolate Labrador retriever. He enjoys running and swimming, genealogy, and creative writing. On summer weekends, Gordon and Wendy visit their cabin in northwestern Wisconsin where they enjoy the tranquility and beauty of the lake and woods.