




MEMORANDUM

Office of the Provost

Honorary Degrees
Committee

To: Members of the USC Community

From: Margo Apostolos 
Chair, Honorary Degrees Committee

Date: October 1, 2007

Subject: Honorary Degree Nominations

The Honorary Degrees Committee needs your help in identifying distinguished individuals to be considered for an honorary degree at future spring commencements. The honorary degree is the highest award that the University of Southern California confers. It is given to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary achievements in scholarship, the professions, or other creative activities, whether or not they are widely known by the general public; to honor alumni and other individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare and development of USC or the communities of which they are a part; to recognize exceptional acts of philanthropy to the university; and to elevate the university in the eyes of the world by honoring individuals who are widely known and highly regarded for achievements in their respective fields of endeavor.

Any USC faculty, staff, student, alumni member, or trustee may nominate a potential candidate. An individual's nomination need not come from someone in his/her academic area, and we also welcome nominations of persons with distinguished accomplishments outside of conventional academic fields. The Committee is particularly interested in candidates from diverse backgrounds, and whose own accomplishments might serve to highlight areas in which the University has developed exceptional strength.

For instructions on how to make a nomination and for a nomination form, please visit our website at www.usc.edu/admin/provost/honorarydegrees. Nominations are submitted to the Chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee, c/o the Office of the Provost, Administration Building Room 203, MC 4019.

After review by the Honorary Degrees Committee, a group of nominees of outstanding distinction and accomplishment are recommended to the President of the University, who then forwards a slate for approval to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and the full Board of Trustees.

The following individuals have received honorary degrees in the past three years:

May 2007

- **Ted Koppel**, Doctor of Laws. A member of the Broadcasting Hall of Fame and the recipient of countless awards, Ted Koppel is one of journalism's most honored figures. He delivered the commencement address.
- **Arvid Carlsson**, Doctor of Science. Nobel Prize holder Arvid Carlsson discovered the role of dopamine in the brain and explored pharmacological treatments for neurological and psychiatric disorders.
- **Clint Eastwood**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Iconic actor and a two-time Academy Award winning director, Eastwood is also a composer and film producer. Eastwood is as popular with audiences as he is with critics.
- **Joyce Kennard**, Doctor of Laws. A three-time USC alumna, Joyce Kennard has served for nearly two decades on the California Supreme Court, where she is recognized and admired as a diligent and independent-minded jurist.

May 2006

- **Vartan Gregorian**, Doctor of Humane Letters. President, Carnegie Corporation of New York. Renowned scholar and leader of public and private institutions, including Brown University; professor; historian; and author
- **Herbert G. Klein**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Retired vice president and editor-in-chief, Copley Newspapers. Long-serving USC trustee and alumnus, former White House communications director, and journalist
- **Dr. Dushanka V. Kleinman**, Doctor of Science. Deputy director, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Rear admiral and America's first female chief dental officer in the U.S. Public Health Service
- **Antonio Villaraigosa**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Mayor of Los Angeles, former city councilmember and speaker of the California State Assembly, and distinguished visiting fellow at USC's Southern California Studies Center. Mr. Villaraigosa delivered the commencement address.

May 2005

- **Neil A. Armstrong**, Doctor of Humane Letters. A USC alumnus who was the first person to walk on the moon, Neil Armstrong has distinguished himself as a skilled pilot, a brave and innovative explorer, and a dedicated citizen, educator, and war veteran. Mr. Armstrong delivered the commencement address.
- **Dennis F. Dougherty**, Doctor of Humane Letters. As USC's Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Dennis Dougherty has played a major role in USC's rapid ascent into the top ranks of premier research universities. He has developed an administrative model that is at the very forefront of American higher education.

- **Eberhardt Rechtin**, Doctor of Science. The founder of systems architecting as an academic field, USC Professor Emeritus Eberhardt Rechtin has made pivotal contributions to telecommunications technology and systems architecture through his distinguished career in the aerospace industry, in government, and in higher education.
- **Andrew J. Viterbi**, Doctor of Science. USC trustee, professor, and engineering alumnus Andrew J. Viterbi has distinguished himself as a communications pioneer, a visionary scholar, a skilled entrepreneur, and a steadfast supporter of education.
- **John Williams**, Doctor of Music. The world's foremost living composer of film music and a renowned conductor, John Williams has created music that has given voice to American culture for more than four decades.
- **Robert Zemeckis**, Doctor of Fine Arts. A USC alumnus and award-winning director renowned for his innovative blending of technological wizardry and insightful storytelling, Robert Zemeckis has revolutionized filmmaking and established new standards of artistic excellence.