

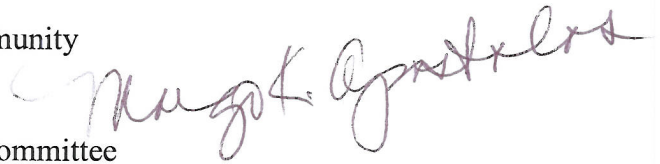
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the USC Community

From: Margo K. Apostolos
Chair, Honorary Degrees Committee

Date: September 21, 2011

Subject: Honorary Degree Nominations



Office of the Provost

Honorary Degrees
Committee

On behalf of the USC Honorary Degrees Committee, I encourage you to nominate distinguished individuals to be considered for an honorary degree from USC. The committee is currently reviewing nominations for the May 2013 commencement ceremony and later.

The honorary degree is the highest and most public award that USC confers and recognizes a recipient's extraordinary accomplishments or service. More specifically, it is given for one or more of the following reasons:

- 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 USC 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.
- 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.

Only USC faculty, staff, students, alumni, or trustees may submit a nomination. A nomination need not come from someone in the candidate's field, and the committee also welcomes 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.

Confidentiality is crucial to the nomination process. Nominees must not know that they are under consideration. Further, the nominator should not solicit letters of support from individuals outside of the university. A breach of confidentiality will result in immediate disqualification of the nominee.

After review by the Honorary Degrees Committee, a slate of nominees of outstanding distinction and accomplishment is recommended to the president of the university and the Board of Trustees, who choose the final recipients. Approved nominations are active for three years from the date of approval.

Please note that the Honorary Degrees Committee does not choose the commencement speaker, though the speaker is often awarded an honorary degree.

For more information about honorary degrees and to download a nomination form and detailed instructions, please visit the USC Honorary Degrees website at www.usc.edu/honorarydegrees.

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

May 2011

- **Steven A. Ballmer**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Chief executive officer of Microsoft Corporation and the first business manager hired by Bill Gates. Mr. Ballmer delivered the commencement address.
- **Ann E. Dunwoody**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Current commanding general of the U.S. Army Material Command (AMC), one of the largest commands in the army with more than 70,000 employees. In 2008 Ms. Dunwoody became the first woman in the history of the U.S. military to achieve four-star rank.
- **Ming Hsieh**, Doctor of Humane Letters. USC trustee and alumnus who is also an entrepreneur and philanthropist. Mr. Hsieh earned two degrees from USC before founding AMAX Technology in 1987 and Cogent Systems in 1990. He has distinguished himself as a dedicated supporter of the Viterbi School of Engineering through his naming of the USC Department of Electrical Engineering and as a visionary proponent of collaborative research through the creation of the Ming Hsieh Institute for Research on Engineering-Medicine for Cancer.
- **Girish Karnad**, Doctor of Humane Letters. One of a group of writers who collectively reshaped Indian theater as a national institution in the second half of the twentieth century. He has received numerous honors for his work, including the Jnanpith Award, India's most prestigious literary award.
- **Albie Sachs**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Served for 15 years as a justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Mr. Sachs has a long history of human rights activism, and was at various times imprisoned, exiled and attacked for his work on behalf of the unjustly persecuted. During his time on the court, Mr. Sachs helped abolish the death penalty and overturn the laws criminalizing homosexuality. In 2005, he wrote the opinion in the court's ruling that legalized same-sex marriage.

- **Harald zur Hausen**, Doctor of Humane Letters. German virologist who discovered the role that the human papilloma virus (HPV) plays in causing cervical cancer. His discovery led to the development of the HPV vaccine, introduced in 2006. His contributions to the advancement of science earned him the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2008.

May 2010

- **William J. Bratton**, Doctor of Laws. L.A.'s former police chief. Law enforcement executive whose innovations and leadership reduced crime in three major American cities. Builder of bridges between the L.A.P.D. and the city's diverse communities.
- **John Hood**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Visionary leader in higher education and in global business. Former vice chancellor of the University of Auckland and of the University of Oxford.
- **Ting-Kai Li**, Doctor of Science. Professor, physician, and pioneering scientist. Influential scholar and national health advisor who transformed societal attitudes about alcoholism as the first researcher to demonstrate its genetic roots.
- **Festus G. Mogae**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Past president of Botswana. Tireless leader in building his country into a model of democracy and good governance, and in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.
- **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, Doctor of Music. Preeminent composer, conductor, and advocate of contemporary music. Principal conductor and artistic advisor of the London-based Philharmonia Orchestra. Former music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

May 2009

- **Anita K. Jones**, Doctor of Science. Professor, computer scientist, and former federal director of defense research and engineering, Jones' insightful leadership paved the way for USC's Institute for Creative Technologies.
- **Elena Poniatowska**, Doctor of Literature. Renowned journalist and influential and award-winning author, Poniatowska is a steadfast champion of the marginalized and underserved peoples of Mexico.
- **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Visionary leader, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and internationally known actor, Schwarzenegger is California's 38th governor. He delivered the commencement address.
- **Frances Wu**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Social worker and founder of the Chinese-American Golden Age Association, Wu is a long-time advocate for older Americans and a distinguished USC alumna and benefactor.