

APPROVED BY SENATE
12/08/2014

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on Honorary Degrees
(Final; Action)

HD.15.01 Nominations for Honorary Degrees

The Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees is pleased to nominate the following individuals for an honorary degree to be conferred at the May 2015 Commencement exercises:

- Ralph J. Cicerone
- Risa Lavizzo-Mourey
- Timothy J. Nugent

Information relative to the background and achievements of these nominees is attached. Based on the criteria approved by the Senate, the Committee has selected these individuals for Senate consideration.

The Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all who participated in the process, particularly those who spent considerable amounts of time and effort in preparing documentation for these nominees.

COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

Jeremy Tyson, Chair
Stephen Cartwright
Elvira Demejia
Andrew Kim
Harrison Kim
Soo Min Kim
Connor Schickel
Jinming Zhang

Ralph J. Cicerone
President, National Academy of Sciences

EDUCATION:

B.S., Electrical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1965

M.S., Electrical Engineering, University of Illinois, 1967

Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, University of Illinois, 1970

Nominated by: William H. Sanders, Department Head and Donald Biggar Willett Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Douglas Beck, Professor, Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
May Berenbaum, Department Head and Swanlund Chair of Entomology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Andreas C. Cangellaris, Dean, College of Engineering and M. E. Van Valkenburg Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Gene E. Robinson, Director, Institute for Genomic Biology and Swanlund Chair of Entomology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BASIS FOR NOMINATION:

Dr. Cicerone is nominated for seminal contributions to research in the areas of atmospheric chemistry and global climate change, and for leadership in public policy in protecting the global environment.

EXCERPT FROM THE NOMINATION LETTER:

“Dr. Cicerone has made outstanding seminal contributions in climate science, as well as to leadership in the sciences and public policy, for more than 40 years. He is nationally and internationally renowned, and has given congressional testimony on numerous occasions over the past several years on global climate, energy and national resources, and the environment.

The focus of Dr. Cicerone’s research has been the sources and impact of greenhouse gases, including methane, chloro- and fluorocarbons, their relationship to the ozone layer, and the resulting impact on climate. In 2001, responding to a charge from President Bush, he led a National Academy of Sciences study of the state of climate change and its potential impact on the environment and human health. In 2004, he was awarded the Albert Einstein World Award in Science by the World Cultural Council, primarily for his work linking stratospheric chlorine to the depletion of ozone and for methane production resulting from agriculture.

Dr. Cicerone is a distinguished member of our Illinois family who has led an impressive scholarly career, making numerous important contributions that not only have advanced the research in global climate, but that have advanced society worldwide. As President of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Cicerone continues to make a global impact in shaping science and environmental policy.”

HONORS/AWARDS (NOT INCLUSIVE):

- 1990 Elected to the National Academy of Sciences
- 1991 Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 1999 Bower Award and Prize for Scientific Achievement, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia
- 2000 Elected to the American Philosophical Society
- 2004 Albert Einstein World Award of Science, World Cultural Council
- 2005 Foreign Member, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Rome)
- 2007 Honorary Doctor of Science, George Washington University
- 2009 Foreign Member, The Korean Academy of Science and Technology
- 2012 Foreign Member, The Royal Society

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Susan Solomon, Ellen Swallow Richards Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“Dr. Cicerone is an exemplary scholar whose personal groundbreaking work in atmospheric chemistry would amply qualify him for this distinguished honor in and of itself. Among his accomplishments is his highly cited 1974 paper with Stolarski, which first showed how chlorine could participate in a catalytic cycle that destroys stratospheric ozone. This paper is a cornerstone in our understanding of how chlorofluorocarbons deplete the planet’s ozone layer.

In addition to his own work as a scientist, Cicerone has been a distinctive and effective leader to the efforts of others, beginning with his service as Director of the Atmospheric Chemistry Division at NCAR, to his chancellorship at UC Irvine, and as President of the National Academy of Sciences. In each of these roles, Cicerone has effectively guided the organization under his stewardship, and has made extraordinary contributions to public understanding of science.”

Donald J. Wuebbles, Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, School of Earth, Society and the Environment, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois

“He is well known for his research into biogeochemical cycles, atmospheric chemistry, and the effects of various gases on the atmosphere, especially methane, nitrous oxide and several methyl halides. Also, while at the University of Michigan as a young assistant professor, he coauthored the paper in 1972 that suggested that chlorine reactions could be important to stratospheric ozone. Ralph has also been a leader in various national and international assessments on stratospheric ozone and climate change. He indeed is clearly an exemplary leader amongst his peers. He has a huge impact on science and humanity, and well deserves this honor.”

James J. Duderstadt, President Emeritus and University Professor of Science and Engineering, University of Michigan

“Dr. Cicerone’s scientific achievements have been of immense importance, both to American science and more broadly, to the sustainability of Planet Earth itself. Working with James Anderson, he discovered the role that the release of CFCs played in destroying atmospheric ozone and creating the ozone hole over Antarctica. These discoveries led to an extraordinary international treaty banning CFC emissions.

Dr. Cicerone is distinguished not only for an extraordinary career in science, but as well for his leadership in education as Chancellor of the University of California, Irvine, and in science policy through his strong participation in and leadership of the National Academies.”

Risa Lavizzo-Mourey
President and CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

EDUCATION:

M.D., Harvard Medical School, 1979

MBA in Health Care Administration, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, 1986

Nominated by: Wojtek J. Chodzko-Zajko, Head, Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BASIS FOR NOMINATION:

In her capacity as President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, over the past decade, Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey has had a profound impact on the health and well-being of Americans of all ages and colors. Under her leadership, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has implemented a number of significant campaigns to improve the health of the nation, focusing in particular on vulnerable populations including children, youth and the very old. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey is without question one of the most influential women in health care and philanthropy. By her leadership and example, by her innovative thinking, and by her unwavering commitment to overcoming disparities, Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey has proven herself to be an extraordinary role model for our students and for other future leaders in the fields of health care and beyond.

EXCERPT FROM THE NOMINATION LETTER:

“In her capacity as President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey oversees an endowment of more than \$8 billion that distributed more than \$400 million per year to support projects that impact the health and wellness of Americans. Under her leadership, the RWJF has spearheaded initiatives to combat childhood obesity that have been credited as playing a major role in decelerating growth of the obesity epidemic among America’s children and youth.”

HONORS/AWARDS (NOT INCLUSIVE):

- 1995 Elected to American Clinical and Climatological Society
- 1997 Elected to Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science
- 2001 Master, American College of Physicians
- 2005 Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Colby College
- 2006 Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Syracuse University
- 2006 Distinguished Service Award, National Medical Fellowships
- 2009 Honorary Doctor of Science, Pennsylvania State University
- 2010 Honorary Doctor of Law, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013 Honorary Doctor of Medical Science, Brown University
- 2014 Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

James Firman, President and CEO, National Council on Aging

“The focus and discipline that the [Robert Wood Johnson] Foundation has brought to bear on combatting the epidemic of childhood obesity is producing great benefits to the long-term health of our nation.

Recently, Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey led the Foundation to make an even more fundamental shift in health philanthropy: from a primary focus on access, quality and affordability of health and medical services to a focus on creating a culture of health in the United States. This is a profound sea-change that is in its infancy, but I believe is essential to achieving our vision for a health and engaged society.”

Shelly Y. Pfohl, Executive Director, President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition

“In June 2010, Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a member of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. In her work with the PCFSN, Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey helps to guide the Council and advance our mission to engage, educate, and empower all Americans to adopt a healthy lifestyle that includes regular physical activity and good nutrition. In her career as a physician and as President and CEO of the RWJF, she is a leader and ambassador who has helped transform our nation’s health care system and create a national culture of health.

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey is a true visionary in her field. We are fortunate to have her expertise as a member of the President’s Council, and our nation benefits from the great work that she does in her capacity as President and CEO of the RWJF. She is the type of leader that we need working on behalf of the American people, to leave a legacy of health for generations to come.”

James F. Sallis, Distinguished Professor and Chief, Division of Behavioral Medicine, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of California at San Diego

“Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey has led the RWJF to play major roles in shaping health care reform, improving addiction treatment and prevention, highlighting the crucial need to prioritize health equity, and setting the course for a broader model of prevention. The Commission for a Healthier America she led identified the critical need for non-health sectors ... to be actively engaged in finding ways to help all Americans be healthier. This cross-sector approach can now be seen in the National Prevention Strategy that, for the first time, brings together all federal departments to make plans to improve health.

I believe Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey’s most significant achievement and what she will be best known for is championing the cause of childhood obesity prevention. ... There is no doubt that Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey can take credit for creating a consensus about how to approach this complex problem.

She has made her mark on the history of American medicine and public health. Of the many extraordinary leaders in the health field, few are as well known, and very few have had the demonstrable impact on health as Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey.”

Timothy J. Nugent
Professor and Director Emeritus, Division of Disability Resources and
Educational Services, University of Illinois

EDUCATION:

B.S., Health & Physical Education, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI

M.S., Health Sciences & Physical Education, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Nominated by: Tanya M. Gallagher, Dean, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BASIS FOR NOMINATION:

Tim Nugent's ground-breaking work and tireless advocacy transformed the national landscape for persons with disabilities. The program which he founded at Illinois in 1948 was the first and for many years the only program in the country to provide accommodations for students with disabilities. It remains to this day the national leader in disability.

EXCERPT FROM THE NOMINATION LETTER:

"A World War II Army veteran himself who was decorated with the Bronze Star, the Belgium Fourragée, and a Presidential Citation, [Tim] wanted to make it possible for WWII veterans with disabilities to utilize the educational benefits of the GI Bill and pursue post-secondary education. He was relentless in his effort to accomplish what was at that time considered to be unthinkable.

Under his 38-year leadership Illinois' inter-related research, education and service programs led to innovative breakthroughs that changed the world for persons with disabilities. Among them were the first curb cuts for persons with disabilities, the first bus equipped with a wheelchair lift, architectural accessibility standards that were later adopted nationally, the founding of collegiate wheelchair sports programs that led to the formation of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, the first study abroad program for students with disabilities, and the transformation of national and international perceptions of persons with disabilities from incapacity to ability. The core principle Tim espoused, that still guides our ongoing work, is that disability is not defined by impairments alone but by the interactions of impairments and environments, all environments - physical, technological and social. The strength of the foundational work he did here is evident in the sustained leadership of a program that continues to work toward building a society that embraces all people."

HONORS/AWARDS (NOT INCLUSIVE):

- 1957 President's Public Personnel Award, "For Distinguished Service in Encouraging and Promoting the Employment of the Physically Handicapped", awarded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower
- 1985 "Tim Nugent Day" Proclamation, Governor James Thompson, State of Illinois
- 1990 Charter Member of the James Naismith Museum and Basketball Hall of Fame
- 1993 Distinguished Service Award, "For Distinguished Service to America in Promoting the Dignity, Equality, Independence and Employment of People with Disabilities", awarded by President Bill Clinton
- 1999 10th Annual Henry B. Betts Award, American Association of Peoples with Disabilities
- 1999 Special Citation, Mayor Richard M. Daley and City Council of Chicago
- 2007 Chancellor's Medallion, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2011 Lincoln Laureate

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

B. Joseph White, James F. Towey Professor of Business and Leadership, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"Suffice it to say that for decades, he persistently and bravely championed the right of people with disabilities to participate in both athletics and the full life of the University. ... Tim never accepted conventional wisdom about people with disabilities. He fought it successfully and replaced it with a philosophy of respect, dignity, challenge and achievement. Tim Nugent literally changed the world in an incredibly positive and lasting way."

Sue Suter, Associate Commissioner of the Office of Employment Support Programs, Social Security Administration

"Dr. Nugent's work provided major breakthroughs in knowledge in the field of disability, and he made distinguished contributions in administration, legislative activity, and innovation that advance inclusion in all segments of society for individuals with disabilities."

Ann Cody, Three-time U.S. Paralympian and Member of the International Paralympic Committee Governing Board

"It is rare that an individual has such a profound impact on the lives of so many. Tim Nugent is such a person and he is extremely deserving of an Honorary Degree from the University of Illinois.

I was fortunate to have been at Illinois as an undergraduate during Tim's tenure as Director of DRES. The University of Illinois was an oasis for me and many other students with disabilities from all over the country. The majority of colleges and universities in the U.S. were not accessible to young people with disabilities for decades.

Attending the University of Illinois had a profound impact on my life. I remain indebted to Tim Nugent for having had the vision to make a college education accessible to students with disabilities."