Nomination Process

The Honorary Degree Committee, a subcommittee of the Senate Graduate Committee, is charged with the solicitation of nominations for honorary degree recipients. On behalf of the Committee, the Office of the Secretary is requesting nominations for honorary degrees for "those persons who have contributed significantly to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people. At the same time, due regard should be paid to eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance and transcend geographic limitations." A successful nominee must have an exemplary record of academic or public accomplishment in keeping with the University's standards or rigor, quality and significance.

Nominators are requested to submit a letter stating in sufficient detail their reasons for the nominations. Materials should accompany the letters to include, but not limited to, biographical information, a record of accomplishment, and supporting letters from those who can speak to that record. Because the selection committee must choose between illustrious and notable nominees, please provide as complete a nomination as soon as possible.

Policy for Awarding Honorary Degrees

The University of New Mexico wishes to recognize and thereby encourage individuals by awarding special honors to those persons who have contributed significantly to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people. At the same time, due regard should be paid to eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance and transcend geographic limitations. In no case should a passing courtesy to the University of New Mexico, such as the delivery of a commencement address, be the sole or principal cause for such honorary awards. The award of an honorary degree to a person seeking or holding a political office does not indicate endorsement by the University of New Mexico. Political involvement should not prevent selection of an individual for an honorary degree.
It is not the University’s policy to award honorary degrees to active members of the faculty, staff, or administration. This does not preclude, in an exceptional case, the awarding of an honorary degree to an emeritus member of the faculty or to a former employee whose stature remains or becomes eminent in the years following active service with the University. In such exceptions, sufficient time shall have elapsed to ensure objectivity in the process of selection.

Honorary degrees will be awarded only upon the approval of the Regents, based on recommendations from the Honorary Degree Committee, whose membership is set out in the Faculty Handbook.

Approved, Faculty 10/21/51
Amended, 12/17/52
Amended, 5/12/68
Amended, 02/23/67
Amended, 12/17/63
Amended, 03/10/52
Amended, 1/14/69
Amended, 5/12/92
Amended and Approved, Regents 11/14/96

PAST HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

- 2006 Manuel Lujan, Jr., L.H.D., Political Figure and Lobbyist
- 2006 John Perovich, L.H.D., Philanthropist and Former President of the University of New Mexico
- 2006 Wilhelmina Phone, Litt.D., Linguist and Teacher
- 2005 David Brurge, Litt.D., Anthropologist, Curator, Researcher, and Author
- 2005 Leslie Marron Silko, Litt.D., Author and Poet
- 2005 Ricardo Montalban, L.H.D., Humanitarian and Actor (Note: Montalban was approved for the honorary degree by Faculty and Regents but was not present to accept.)
- 2004 Denise Chavez, Litt. D., Writer, Actress, Director, Teacher
- 2004 Edward Lewis, L.H.D., Co-founder, Publisher, Chairman and CEO Essence Communications
- 2004 Steward L. Udall, LL.D., Political Figure, Activist and Scholar of Culture and History of American SW
- 2003 Jimmy Santiago Baca, Litt.D., Poet
- 2003 Klaus Kell, D.Sc., Scientist and Author
- 2002 Simon J. Ortiz, Litt.D., Author and Poet
- 2002 Angela Vacchio, L.H.D., Founder of a Therapeutic Preschool
- 2001 N. Scott Momaday, Litt.D. Author
- 2000 John Nichols, Litt.D., Author
- 1999 Sabine R. Ubirati, Litt.D., Author, Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico
- 1998 Bill Richardson, LL.D., United States Ambassador
- 1997 Angel Gonzalez, Litt.D., Spanish Poet, Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico
- 1996 Rudolfo Anaya, Litt.D., Author, Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico
- 1996 Leonora Curtin Paulehemi, L.H.D., Linguist, Writer, Painter
- 1996 George Clayton Pearl, D.F.A., Architect
- 1995 None awarded (Note: Agnes Martin, Artist, was approved by Faculty and Regents for Honorary D.F.A. Degree. She declined the degree. She also declined in 1981.)
- 1994 Henry Roth, Litt.D., Author
1993 Robert Creeley, L.H.D., Poet
1993 Ferrel Heady, LL.D., Educator and Former President of the University of New Mexico
1992 Andrew S. Ciechanowieski, L.H.D., Philanthropist
1991 Arne Norgle, D.F.A., Photographer
1990 Carl Gorman, L.H.D., Navajo Artist
1990 Tony Hillerman, Litt.D., Author
1990 Alberto Serradellas, L.L.D., Mexican Ambassador
1989 Robert Holzer, Sc.D., Physicist
1989 George Kubler, L.H.D., Historian (Art of Latin America)
1988 Florence Ellis, L.H.D., Anthropologist
1988 Stephen Reynolds, LL.D., State Engineer
1987 Eliot Porter, D.F.A., Photographer
1986 Frank V. Ortiz, LL.D., U.S. Ambassador to Argentina
1985 John Donald Robb, D.Mus., Dean Emeritus of Fine Arts
1985 Charles Tomlinson, Litt.D., British Poet
1985 Richard Diebenkorn, D.F.A., Artist
1985 Annie Dodge Wauneka, L.H.D., Navajo Poet (Navajo Civic Leader)
1985 Raul Alfonsin, LL.D., President of Argentina
1984 David Tenney Kimball, L.H.D., Industrialist
1984 Gordon Randolph Willey, Litt.D., Archaeologist
1983 Pele V. Domenici, LL.D., U.S. Senator
1982 Frank Angel, Jr., L.H.D., Educator
1981 Harold Emerson, L.H.D., President, Ohio State University
1981 Douglas Schwarz, Litt.D., Director, School of American Research
1981 Caswell Silver, Sc.D., Geologist
1980 John Lewis, D.Mus., Founder of the Modern Jazz Quartet
1980 Morgan Sparks, Sc.D., President, Sandia Corporation
1980 Chester C. Travelstead, L.H.D., Provost Emeritus, University of New Mexico
1979 Arturo Ortega, L.L.D., Attorney, Past University of New Mexico Regent (President)
1979 Louis Rosen, Sc.D., Physicist
1979 Kurt Frederick, D.Mus., Musician
1979 Cecil Andrus, L.L.D., U.S. Secretary of the Interior
1978 Oskar Sepulveda, L.L.D., Ambassador at Large of Mexico
1978 Pablita Velarde, Litt.D., Artist
1978 Frank Waters, Litt.D., Author
1977 Theodore Cooper, Sc.D., U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health
1977 Glenn L. Emmons, LL.D., Banker, Civic Leader, University of New Mexico Alumnus and Former Regent of University of New Mexico
1976 Roland C. Rautenstraub, LL.D., President, University of Colorado; Engineer
1975 Peter Hud, L.H.D., Artist
1975 Fray Angelico Chavez, L.H.D., Historian, Poet and Former Missionary
1974 Clayton S. White, Sc.D., President/Director, Lovelace Foundation
1973 None awarded
1972 Shirley Mount Hufstedler, LL.D., Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals
1972 Franco Vinton Scholes, L.H.D., Professor Emeritus, History; Former Academic VicePresident and Dean of Graduate School at UNM
1972 Ignacio Tinoco, Jr., Sc.D., Professor of Chemistry, University of California at Berkeley
1971 Howard C. Bratton, LL.D., U.S. District Judge
1971 Raymond Jonson, L.H.D., Artist; Professor Emeritus, Art
1970 Laura Gilpin, L.H.D., Photographer
1970 Reuben G. Gustavson, LL.D., Scientist; Former President, University of Colorado;
First President, Resources for the Future
1970 William Morgan, Sr., Litt.D., Navajo Linguist
1969 Tom L. Popejoy, LL.D., UNM President, 1948-68
1969 Stanislaw M. Ullam, Sc.D., Mathematician
1968 Robert W. Young, LL.D., Bureau of Indian Affairs
1968 Brand Blanchard, L.H.D., Philosopher
1968 Galo Plaza Lasso, LL.D., Secretary General, Organization of American States
1968 Frederick C. Robbins, LL.D., Dean, Case Western Reserve University
1968 Ramon Sender, Litt.D., Author, Teacher
1968 William A. Keeler, LL.D., Attorney, Historian
1968 H. Vearle Payne, LL.D., Federal District Court Judge, New Mexico District
1967 John O’Hea Crosby, Litt.D., General Director, Santa Fe Opera
1967 John Wainwright Evans, Sc.D., Director, Sacramento Peak Observatory
1967 Jorge Ildorado Sanchez y Sanchez, LL.D., Educator
1966 Robert D. Anderson, Litt.D., Industrialist
1966 Ward Darley, LL.D., Physician
1966 Roman Jakobson, Sc.D., Linguist, Literary Historian, Teacher
1965 Palmer Hoyt, Litt.D., Editor and Publisher, The Denver Post
1965 Ernst Krenek, D.F.A., Composer
1964 Rene d’Harmoncourt, D.F.A., Director, Museum of Modern Art
1964 William Howard Schuman, D.F.A., President, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
1964 Everly John Workman, Sc.D., President, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
1964 Lulu Wolf Hassenplug, Sc.D., Dean, School of Nursing, UCLA Center for the Health Sciences
1964 Richard Buckminster Fuller, D.F.A., Engineer, Designer, Inventor
1964 William Orlville Douglas, LL.D., Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court
1964 Henry Merritt Wriston, LL.D., Chairman, The American Assembly, formerly
President, Brown University
1964 John Dele Russell, LL.D., Former Executive Secretary, BEF
1964 Georgia O’Keefe, D.F.A., Artist (Santa Fe)
1964 Robert Moody McKinney, LL.D., Editor and Publisher New Mexican, former
Ambassador to Switzerland
1964 Felix Candela, D.F.A., Architect-Engineer (Mexico)
1963 Hugh Besette Woodward, LL.D., Businessman, Attorney, Conservationist
1963 Agapito Rey, Litt.D., Agapito Rey, Teacher, Author (Tucson, Arizona)
1963 Paul Horgan, Litt.D., Author (Middletown, Conn. And Santa Fe)
Operations Office
1963 John Walter Grunen, Sc.D., Geologist (University of Minnesota)
1962 Winfield Townley Scott, Litt.D., Writer (Santa Fe)
1962 Walter Bynner, Litt.D., Poet (Santa Fe) (degree awarded in absentia)
1962 Horace Marden Albright, LL.D., Conservationist, Corporation Consultant (U.S.
Potash, Los Angeles)
1961 Joseph Wood Krutch, Litt.D., Author (Tucson, Arizona)
1961 Clara Brignac Gonzales, L.H.D., Reservation Principal, Zuni Pueblo
1960 Arthur Newton Park, LL.D., President, Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation
- 1959 Emil Walter Haury, LL.D., Archaeologist, Chairman, Department of Anthropology and Director, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona
- 1958 Carl Michael Richter, Litt.D., Author (Pine Grove, Pennsylvania)
- 1958 Andrew Dasburg, D.F.A., Artist (Taos)
- 1957 Frank Harold Hanna Roberts, Jr., LL.D., Archaeologist (Associate Director, Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.)
- 1957 James Webb Young, LL.D., Advertising Consultant (Santa Fe)
- 1956 Thomas Sydney Bell, LL.D., Attorney, Lumberman, Businessman, Scholar, and Botanist (Pasadena, California)
- 1956 Howard Riley Raper, D.D.S., LL.D., Radiodontist, Specialist in Dental X-rays and Diagnostics (Albuquerque, NM)
- 1956 John Milne, LL.D., Educator, Superintendent of Schools (Albuquerque, NM)
- 1956 Francis Fergusson, Litt.D., Literary Critic, Professor, Department of Comparative Literature Rutgers University
- 1955 Paul Alfred Francis Walter, LL.D., Banker, Author (Santa Fe)
- 1955 Judson Eugene Owens, LL.D., Tax Agent of Santa Fe Railroad
- 1954 George Gaylord Simpson, Sc.D., Geologist, American Museum of Natural History
- 1954 George Peter Hammond, LL.D., Professor of History and Director of the Bancroft Library, University of California
- 1954 Harper Collins Donaldson, LL.D., Former Superintendent of Menaul School
- 1954 Sam Gilbert Bratton, LL.D., Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th District
- 1953 Myrtle Greenfield, LL.D., Director, N.M. Public Health Laboratory
- 1953 Rose Calvin, LL.D., Rector, St. James Episcopal Church, Scholar and Author (Clovis, NM)
- 1953 Norris Edwin Bradbury, LL.D., Director, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
- 1952 Father Berard Haile, O.F.M., LL.D., Research on Navajo Ceremonialism and Linguistics
- 1952 James Stokley Ligon, LL.D., New Mexico Game Department, formerly Regional Inspector for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 1952 Kenneth Milton Chapman, L.H.D., Professor Emeritus of Indian Art, University of New Mexico
- 1951 George Boas, LL.D., Professor, History of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University
- 1950 Harold Walter Skole, LL.D., President, Louisiana State University
- 1949 Clyde Kay Maben Klukkohn, L.H.D., Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University and Director, Russian Research Center, Harvard
- 1948 J. Anton de Haas, LL.D., Professor of International Relationships, Claremont Men’s College
- 1947 Clarence Addison Dykstra, LL.D., Provost, University of California, Los Angeles
- 1947 J. Robert Oppenheimer, Sc.D., Professor of Physics, University of California Institute of Technology (Director, Institute for Advanced Study since October 1947)
- 1947 Kirk Bryan, Sc.D., Professor Physiography, Harvard
- 1947 Ernest L. Blumenschein, M.P.A., Painter (Awarded several $1,000 prizes)
- 1947 Fray Angelico Chavez, M.A., Research in Early New Mexico History (Author)
- 1946 Robert L. Stearns, LL.D., President, University of Colorado
- 1946 Vicente Teodulo Mendoza, M.Mus., Mexican Musician and Educator (Music)
- 1946 Earl Lake Moulton, M.A., President and General Manager, Charles Iffeld Co.
- 1946 William Aloysius Keteher, M.A., Lawyer and Author
- 1946 Howard Landis Bevis, LL.D., President, Ohio State University
• 1945 None awarded
• 1944 Ernest T. Pyle, Litt.D., Scripps-Howard War Correspondent
• 1944 Alfredo Caso y Andrade, Sc.D., Mexican Lawyer and Archaeology Professor
• 1944 Jaime Torres Bodet, Litt.D., Minister of Public Education, Mexico
• 1944 Pablo Martinez del Rio, Litt.D., Mexican Historian and Educator
• 1944 Alexander Grant Ruthven, LL.D., President, University of Michigan
• 1944 Francisco Villagran Prado, LL.D., Rector National University, Mexico
• 1944 Rudolfo Brito Foucher, LL.D., Director, National Preparatory School, National Autonomous University of Mexico
• 1943 Fabien Garcia, Sc.D., Director, Agricultural Experimental Station, State College, New Mexico
• 1943 Emi Fergusson, Litt.D., Author
• 1943 Homer Price Rainey, LL.D., President, University of Texas
• 1942 Douglas Wilson Johnson, LL.D., Professor and Executive Officer, Department of Geology, Columbia University
• 1941 Joaquin Ortega, Litt.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Wisconsin
• 1941 James Ross McCollum, LL.D., Albuquerque Elementary School Principal
• 1941 Robert Lincoln Kelly, LL.D., Emeritus Executive Officer, Association of American Colleges (former President)
• 1940 Robert Gordon Sproul, LL.D., President, University of California
• 1939 Harry Llewellyn Kent, LL.D., Director, Administrative Research, Texas Technical College
• 1938 Harold L. Ickes, LL.D., Secretary of the Interior
• 1938 Rufus B. von Kleinsmid, LL.D., President, University of Southern California
• 1937 Herbert E. Bolton, LL.D., Chairman, Department of History, University of California
• 1936 Robert MacDonald Lester, LL.D., Secretary of the Carnegie Corporation
• 1935 Reed G. Tugwell, LL.D., Under Secretary of Agriculture
• 1934 Frederick Webb Hodge, LL.D., Director, Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, Ethnologist (Excavated One of the Seven Cities of Cibola)
• 1934 Alfred Vincent Kidder, LL.D., Archaeologist (Excavated Pecos, NM)
• 1934 Edgar Lee Hewett, L.H.D., Director, School of American Research and Head
• 1934 Aurelio Macedonia Espinosa y Martinez, LL.D., Professor and Head of Department
• 1933 Mary Austin, LL.D., Author
• 1933 Florence M. Bailey, LL.D., Author
• 1932 None awarded
• 1931 Herman G. James, LL.D., President, University of South Dakota
• 1930 Thomas Reed Powell, Doctor of Civil Law, Langdell Professor of Law, Harvard University
• 1929 Clarence Cook Little, LL.D., President, University of Michigan
• 1928 Ray Lyman Wilbur, LL.D., President, Stanford University
• 1927 Charles E. Hodgin, LL.D., Retired 1925 as Vice President, UNM
• 1927 David Ross Boyd, LL.D., President, UNM 1912-19
• 1926 John C. Futrell, LL.D., President, University of Arkansas
• 1925 William A. Pusey, LL.D., Professor Emeritus (Dermatology, Chicago) from 1915 on. Honored in five foreign countries, early leader in fight against syphilis, campaigned for safe birth control in 1925. President, American Medical Association, 1924.
• 1924 John J. Tigert, LL.D., U.S. Commissioner of Education