

September 27, 2009

Dear Members of the Campus Community:

I am writing to encourage you to submit nominations for candidates for honorary degrees from Carnegie Mellon.

Carnegie Mellon bestows honorary degrees on men and women who have made extraordinary contributions to their professions, to our nation, or to the world, and whose life and work are broadly connected to the highest aims and aspirations of this university. We have honored scientists such as chemist John Pople, physicist John Hall, and mathematician John Nash; environmentalists such as Al Gore, Teresa Heinz, and Paolo Lugari; artists and entertainers like Mel Bochner and Bill Cosby; and leaders of education, business and public life such as Helen Faison, Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser al-Missned and Norman Augustine. Their presence at our commencement adds luster to the occasion and makes the day memorable and inspiring for us all.

While the formal criteria are included on the nomination form, let me emphasize that nominees must be distinguished individuals who have reached preeminent levels of distinction in their fields, and who have made extraordinary contributions to society, preferably in fields that are prominent at Carnegie Mellon. It is desirable that nominees have connections to the university (e.g. alumni, former faculty, friends or collaborators). Nomination of women and underrepresented minorities are especially welcome.

Completed nomination forms are due October 31 and must be submitted using the online nomination form found at <http://www.cmu.edu/advancement/honorary/onlineform.html>. A tabulation of recent recipients of Honorary Degrees from Carnegie Mellon may also be found online via the link above.

The Honorary Degree Committee considers all nominations received, with its recommendations on each forwarded in a report to the Office of the President for further consideration. Recommendations are then submitted by the president to the board of trustees for approval. These reports and their recommendations remain active for a period of three years. Please understand that members of the committee are not authorized to discuss their deliberations or recommendations outside committee meetings, nor do they receive any advance notice of actions taken on their recommendations. Any actions leading to the granting of an Honorary Degree by Carnegie Mellon frequently are delayed for a year or more for reasons of scheduling so it is common for candidates to be honored in years subsequent to their initial nomination.

Thank you for your participation and helping to ensure that the university's honorary degree recipients will be a most deserving and distinguished group.

Sincerely,

Jared L. Cohon  
President