

Members of the GW Community are invited to nominate candidates for honorary degrees to be conferred at the commencement exercises of The George Washington University.

Honorary degree recipients are selected on the basis of their professional achievements, contribution to the betterment of society, and connection to GW, if any. "Professional achievements" is broadly interpreted and can include everything from distinguished achievement in the field of cellular biology (His Imperial Highness Prince Masahito Hitachi, the Prince of Japan, Doctor of Science *honoris causa*) to holding the record as the world's most successful female tennis player (Martina Navratilova, Doctor of Public Service, 1996) to an outstanding career as a classical musician (Isaac Stern, Doctor of Music *honoris causa*, 1993) to the presidency of the United States (Ronald Reagan, Doctor of Public Service, 1991). In all cases, "professional achievements" means that a candidate has had a long and distinguished career and is generally recognized as being at the top of his or her profession.

Nominations should state how the nominee meets the selection criteria and why the nominee should be honored by the university and must include contact information for both nominee and nominator. The process of nominating and selecting honorary degree recipients is confidential; therefore, nominators should include as much biographical information as possible about the nominee **but should not ask the nominee for information or inform the nominee of the nomination**. The University's Board of Trustees makes the final decision on all honorary degree nominations. Official letters of invitation to persons selected for an honorary degree by the Board are sent by the president of the university.

Nominees from fields that have not been recognized by honorary degrees in recent years are particularly encouraged. A list of persons who have received honorary degrees from The George Washington University can be found at [http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/OfficeVicePresident/pdf/Honorary\\_Degrees\\_Past\\_Recipients.pdf](http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/OfficeVicePresident/pdf/Honorary_Degrees_Past_Recipients.pdf). Please note that the university does not consider current faculty or trustees for honorary degrees but emeriti faculty and trustees are eligible.

A downloadable copy of the nomination form is available at [http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/OfficeVicePresident/Honorary\\_Degree\\_Nomination\\_Form\\_NEW.doc](http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/OfficeVicePresident/Honorary_Degree_Nomination_Form_NEW.doc).

Completed nominations **in hard copy format only** should be returned to Professor Jill Kastle, the University Marshal, Room 601R, Media and Public Affairs Building, 805 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20052. If you have any questions about the honorary degree process, please see the website for detailed criteria and Frequently Asked Questions or contact Professor Kastle at (202) 994-8213 or [kastle@gwu.edu](mailto:kastle@gwu.edu). Early submission of a nomination increases the chances that the nomination will be considered by the trustees in the current year.

An honorary degree is the highest honor that the university confers. Your participation in the nomination process is encouraged.