

Board Meeting  
November 9, 2006

## HONORARY DEGREES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Authorize the Award of Honorary Doctorate Degrees, Chicago

**Funding:** No Funding Required

The Senate of the Chicago campus has nominated the following persons for conferral of honorary degrees at Commencement exercises in May 2007. The Chancellor recommends approval of these nominations.

**Robert McCormick Adams**, Secretary Emeritus, Smithsonian Institution, esteemed anthropologist and visionary educator--the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Professor Adams is a leading expert on the rise of one of the earliest centers of civilization in Sumer, the southern part of present-day Iraq. Through two decades of fieldwork and aerial photography, he discovered the sites of many villages and towns that had vanished millennia ago. His work replaced hypothetical theories of earlier scholars with concrete proof about the relationship of these villages, towns, and early states to the changing patterns of water level and agriculture. He applied the same methodology to the study of the evolution of urban life in Mexico. Professor Adams is a native of Chicago and received his undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Chicago where he remained for three decades as a distinguished professor, director, dean, and provost. He was later appointed Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, where he served for ten years and is credited with raising the level of scholarly activity as well as expanding the hiring of minorities and women. Concerned about declines in the teaching of science and math in poorer neighborhoods, Professor Adams joined efforts with the National Science Foundation to launch the "National Science Center" to improve the training of elementary and high school math and science teachers in the United States. Professor Adams is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, San Diego. He has received honorary degrees from seven institutions, including the College of William and Mary, Dartmouth, Brandeis, and Harvard Universities.

**James Tyree**, Dedicated Humanitarian, Active Corporate and Civic Leader--the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Mr. James Tyree is a true example of a caring, compassionate and generous individual serving the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois through his exemplary and extraordinary commitment to education, civic involvement, and philanthropy. Named the 2004 Person of the Year by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) of Illinois, Mr. Tyree has been involved with JDRF for more than 12 years. Beginning as a volunteer, Mr. Tyree expanded his involvement with the JDRF to include the chapter presidency, multiple chairmanships for the "Chance of a Lifetime Galas," and executive committee membership with JDRF International. He has served on numerous civic and corporate boards including those of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Roosevelt University, and the University of Chicago Hospitals and Health System, and as chair of the City Colleges of Chicago. For UIC, Mr. Tyree has served on the UIC Medical Advancement Council and on the Board of Managers and Investment Committee for both Illinois VENTURES and the Illinois Emerging Technology Fund. He received his undergraduate and MBA degrees from Illinois State University and began his career as a research associate with Mesirow Financial. He now serves as its chairman and chief executive officer. Under his leadership, Mesirow Financial has grown to a well-capitalized, consistently profitable firm.

**Shirley Welsh Ryan**, Respected philanthropist and nationally recognized advocate for children with disabilities --- the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Mrs. Shirley Welsh Ryan is a committed leader dedicated to improving the development and independent learning of disabled children. She is co-founder and chair of Pathways Awareness Foundation, a national organization promoting early detection and social inclusion of disabled infants and children, and Pathways Center, an outpatient pediatric therapy clinic providing physical, occupational and speech therapies to over 250 children twice weekly. Mrs. Ryan serves on the boards of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Arts Matter Foundation, Gallery 37 and the Art Institute of Chicago. Additionally, she has served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Chicago Community Trust, as a director of the Lincoln Park Zoological Society, and on the community board of Network Chicago WTTW. Mrs. Ryan is a general trustee of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, trustee of Old St. Patrick's Church, and an elected trustee of the University of Notre Dame. She has received many prestigious awards including the August W. Christman Award from Mayor Daley's Office for People with Disabilities, the Distinguished Service Award from Northwestern University and the Statesman of the Year 2000 Award from the Harvard Club of Chicago.

The board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs.