

Board Meeting  
July 30, 2007

APPROVE HONORARY DEGREES 2008, URBANA

**Action:** Approve the Award of Honorary Doctorate Degrees 2008, Urbana

**Funding:** No Funding Required

The Senate of the Urbana-Champaign campus has recommended that honorary degrees be conferred on the following persons at the Commencement Exercises on May 11, 2008:

**Jay Gates, Director, The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC**--the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts

Jay Gates is considered one of the most accomplished museum directors in the United States today and an outstanding contributor to the American museum profession. While serving as the Director of the Seattle Art Museum, he selected architect Robert Venturi to design a new museum which proved to be the catalyst for explosive growth in donors and collectors and helped Seattle become recognized for its ability to attract culture. At The Phillips Collection, the oldest museum of modern art in the country, Mr. Gates has been responsible for the expansion of the museum and the organization of a research center of international significance. He expertly led the museum through a period of transition from private museum to becoming a public museum. In so doing, an interdisciplinary relationship between The Phillips Collection and the University of Illinois was formed to provide ground-breaking educational programs and exhibits while exploring new ways to teach art and issues of modern art.

**Andrew Sorenson, President, University of South Carolina**--the honorary degree of Doctor of University Administration

Dr. Sorenson is a distinguished professor in the academic community and a recognized leader in American higher education. While serving as the Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Sorenson urged then

Governor Michael Dukakis to create a \$4.0 million state AIDS research council and was chosen as its chair overseeing the distribution of research grants to a number of Massachusetts institutions. Later at John Hopkins University, he spearheaded a \$33.0 million AIDS research institute and oversaw significant advances in the understanding and treatment of the disease. In 1996, Dr. Sorensen was appointed President of the University of Alabama where he led the campaign to raise the institution's academic standing and provide equal opportunities for all students and faculty. Since becoming President at the University of South Carolina, he has continued along the same lines of strengthening the institution's academic performance and bolstering opportunities for excellence for students, faculty, and staff (particularly African Americans). He is the author or editor of seven books and more than 100 articles.

**Peter Walker, renowned landscape architect--the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts**

Peter Walker is considered to be validating the cultural basis and essentiality of landscape architecture. He served as Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, and has held appointments within the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He is also a practicing landscape architect who has helped reinvent a balance between environmental preoccupations and the recognition of the man-made, cultural constitution of the landscapes in which we live. He has worked on projects ranging from large urban and architectural developments to smaller gardens both in Europe (Paris, Munich, Berlin) and throughout the United States. Mr. Walker has received scores of international and national design awards, and has had a major influence on leading Departments of Landscape Architecture throughout the country.

The Chancellor at Urbana concurs in the recommendation.

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 recommends approval.