

Board Meeting  
November 14, 2013

AWARD HONORARY DEGREE, URBANA

**Action:** Award Honorary Doctorate Degree

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Senate at the Urbana-Champaign campus has recommended that an honorary degree be conferred on the following person at Commencement Exercises on May 17, 2014:

**George E. Andrews, the Evan Pugh Professor of Mathematics at Pennsylvania State University**--the honorary degree of Doctor of Science

George E. Andrews received his Ph.D. in 1964 at the University of Pennsylvania, where his advisor was the esteemed number theorist Hans Rademacher. The scholarly contributions of Dr. Andrews' include several monographs and over 250 research and popular articles on q-series, special functions, and combinatorics. He is considered to be the world's leading expert on the theory of integer partitions. His book, *The Theory of Partitions*, is the standard reference on the subject around the globe. While visiting the library at Trinity College (Cambridge) in England during 1976, Dr. Andrews discovered the "Lost Notebook" of the world-renowned mathematician Ramanujan. Ramanujan made substantial contributions to the analytical theory of numbers and worked on elliptic functions, continued fractions, and infinite series. During the last four decades, Dr. Andrews and colleagues have presented proofs for many of the theorems included in the Ramanujan's "Lost Notebook". In 1990, Dr. Andrews was credited with solving a 200-year-old mathematical puzzle on number theory posed by Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler. Similarly in 1987, he and a student explained the partition function of a mathematical problem posed by physicist Freeman Dyson in 1944. Dr. Andrews has received many awards for his teaching and service to the profession, including the 1999 Centennial Award from the Department of Mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania "in recognition of (his) contributions to pure mathematics and mathematics education." Dr. Andrews was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1997, and he became a member of the National

Academy of Sciences in 2003. For two years in 2009 and 2010, he was president of the American Mathematical Society (AMS). In 2012, he became a fellow of AMS. Dr. Andrews holds honorary doctorates from the University of Parma in Italy, SASTRA University in India, and the University of Florida.

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 Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Vice President, University of Illinois concurs with this recommendation.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs recommends approval.

The President of the University concurs.