

Board Meeting
November 14, 2013

AWARD HONORARY DEGREES, CHICAGO

Action: Award Honorary Doctorate Degrees

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Senate at the Chicago campus has nominated the following persons for conferral of honorary degree at Commencement exercises in May 2014. The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois recommends approval of these nominations.

Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the United Nation's World Food Program, one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Ertharin Cousin was named twelfth Executive Director of the United Nation's World Food Program in April 2012, and oversees a \$4.0 billion dollar budget and staff of 15,000 serving 100 million individuals throughout the world. Previously, Ms. Cousin served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture and head of the U.S. Mission to the U.S. Agencies in Rome. In those three years, she helped guide U.S. and international policy in response to some of the most devastating and challenging humanitarian situations in the world. She also helped to reform the Committee on World Food Security by enlarging the stakeholder platform and helping to introduce a results-based framework.

In the course of her career, Ms. Cousin worked in the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton, including serving as White House Liaison to the State Department, and received a White House appointment to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. Ms. Cousin also held the post of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Feeding America (then called America's Second Harvest) and led that organization's response to Hurricane Katrina. She came by her knowledge of food distribution and need in

the corporate sector as she led government communications and community affairs at Albertsons Foods also serving as President and Chair of the Albertsons Foundation. She is an author and an inspiring speaker, in great demand, with regards to the issues of food security and chronic malnutrition.

This passion for justice evident early in Ms. Cousin's life has guided her entire career as she has consistently sought to influence how the world nourishes its starving populations, enhances its farms and empowers its citizens. She has led numerous efforts to convert relief programs into development goals in a variety of nations and is internationally known as a champion of long-term solutions to food insecurity and hunger.

In her newest role, Ms. Cousin continues to advocate for aid strategies that not only provide relief to disaster victims, but also to include planned development efforts that provide the tools so that under-developed nations can establish sustainable agricultural programs. She has advanced collaboration among agencies, encouraged the development of results-based strategies, and promoted gender parity. Tellingly, in spite of the enormous pressures and demands on her schedule, she continues to provide communication and political training to women across the United States, encouraging them to have confidence in their abilities and to raise their voices. She has served as a role model for many.

Ms. Cousin is a 1979 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the Chicago campus and she is a source of enormous pride to the Chicago campus community.

Shing-Tung Yau, William Caspar Graustein Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University, has been a dominant force in differential geometry, and its applications to general relativity and string theory for over four decades -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

In 1982 his work was recognized with the Fields Medal, the pinnacle of achievement in mathematics, for his proof of the Calabi conjecture. The impressive results of his efforts that led to this award firmly established Professor Yau as one of the world's leading geometry theorists. And he has not stopped since, continuing to produce important results at an incredible pace.

Professor Yau has the rare combination of enormous technical prowess and deep physical intuition, allowing him to effortlessly navigate between the worlds of mathematics and physics, leveraging the tools of each to achieve results difficult to obtain without the other. This has put him at the forefront of the movement towards interdisciplinary research and has furthered his influence.

In addition to his accomplishments, Professor Yau is an education entrepreneur with a successful record of changing traditional education. He raised funds to establish mathematics centers and institutes in China, including the Institute of

Mathematical Sciences at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (1993), the Morningside Center of Mathematics in Beijing (1996), the Center for Theoretical Sciences at Taiwan (1997), the Center of Mathematical Sciences at Zhejiang University (2002) and the Mathematics Sciences Center of Tsinghua University (2009). All of these centers have an international outlook and provide each local community with “first in kind” in their respective regions.

Professor Yau is often regarded as an ambassador of mathematics. While still in Hong Kong, Yau set up the Hang Lung Award for high school students. He has also organized and participated in meetings for high school and college students. For example, the panel discussions include Why Math? Ask Masters! in Hangzhou, July 2004, and The Wonder of Mathematics in Hong Kong, December 2004.

Beyond Shing-Tung Yau’s astonishing creativity and many achievements, also lies a profound commitment both to his field and to students and aspiring mathematicians. He is certainly an inspiration to many generations of theorists to come.

Richard M. Daley, former Mayor of the City of Chicago, longest serving mayor in the city’s history -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Richard M. Daley received his J.D. from DePaul University, served in the Marine Reserves, and was an Illinois State Senator and Cook County State’s Attorney before becoming Mayor of the City of Chicago in 1989. His accomplishments over his 22-year tenure as mayor include improvements and restructuring of public transportation, public education, and the successful development of the tourism industry in Chicago that included the revitalization of Navy Pier, the original site for the University of Illinois campus in Chicago.

Mayor Daley is known for increasing quality of life projects for the residents of Chicago--beautification efforts on the city’s boulevards and streets, planting trees, and adding to Chicago’s already exemplary public spaces. He led the efforts to develop the land linked to the Adler Planetarium, which was part of Daniel Burnham’s original plan for the lakefront, called Northerly Island. This new public open space features a large prairie, a migratory bird hospital, and music venue, wedded into the wonderfully successful adjacent museum campus. Additionally, Millennium Park has become one of the most important destinations in the city, and in fact the nation.

Millennium Park is the essence of public space in its purest form. Children can be found splashing in the Crown Fountain by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa; visitors may be having pictures taken at the now must see Cloud Gate sculpture by Indian artist Anish Kapoor; and thousands may be coming throughout the summer for the Grant Park Music Festival at the Frank Gehry designed music pavilion.

During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Daley was a strong advocate for public safety, including a stand in favor of gun control as the CEO of the “Mayors against Illegal Guns Coalition.” In addition, he put Chicago on the path to being the greenest large city in the nation, incorporating a green roof atop City Hall and having established the Chicago Center for Green Technology.

Mayor Daley is extremely proud of the City of Chicago and is a staunch advocate for public higher education. As a point of history, Mayor Daley’s father, Richard J. Daley, as a state senator, introduced a resolution calling for a University campus in Chicago. This later became House Bill 108, passed in 1951, which mandated the University to create a permanent four-year campus in Chicago. The Daley family is part of the University of Illinois at Chicago family. In 2012, the Chicago campus celebrated the 30th anniversary as the outstanding unified teaching, research and service campus it is today. Additionally, July 25, 2013, marked the opening of the Richard J. Daley Collection, which contains documents and artifacts during his six terms as Mayor of Chicago and his simultaneous terms as Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Committee.

Currently, as Executive Chairman of Túr Partners, Mr. Daley brings his extensive experience as a problem solver to help businesses, municipalities and government agencies throughout North America to develop strategies for competing and thriving in the global economy including a focus on solutions around clean technology and urban sustainability.

Richard M. Daley’s achievements complement the Chicago campus’ urban mission and the focus on academic excellence, access, and success.

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 Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation.

The President of the University recommends approval.