



# COMMENCEMENT

May 2010

Iowa City, Iowa

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF IOWA

## HONORARY DEGREES

The University of Iowa confers honorary degrees to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in such areas as research, scholarship, education, artistic creation, social activism, human rights, or humanitarian outreach. Nominations are made by the faculty, with selections approved by the Provost and the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.

Honorary degrees have been awarded to the following individuals:

**Marvin Pomerantz, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, December 2007**

**Ignacio Ponseti, Honorary Doctor of Science, December 2007**

**Robert Solow, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, May 2008**

**Himie Voxman, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, December 2008**

**Johan Hultin, Honorary Doctor of Science, May 2009**

**Henry B. Tippie, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, December 2009**

The University of Iowa is pleased to make the following awards in May 2010:

### **TOM BROKAW, HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS:**

An iconic figure in broadcast journalism, Tom Brokaw was anchor and managing editor of the NBC Nightly News for more than two decades. Over his remarkable career, he reported on many of the signature events of our era live and on-the-scene, from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the World Trade Center terrorist attack. Mr. Brokaw began his college education at The University of Iowa in 1958 and graduated from the University of South Dakota with a major in political science. His many honors include the Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award, the Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement, and inductions into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. Today, Mr. Brokaw continues to produce documentaries on major social and political issues, and he has become a noted author of contemporary history books, including *The Greatest Generation* and *Boom!: Voices of the 60s*.

### **ROBERT HASS, HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS:**

Robert Hass is one of America's most distinguished poets. He has won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, two National Book Critics Circle Awards, two PEN/BABRA Translation Awards (for his work with Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz), and a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. As U.S. Poet Laureate from 1995-1997, Mr. Hass emphasized literacy and ecological awareness. He helped organize the "Watershed" project, through which writers and environmentalists taught inner-city children, and founded the "River of Words" poetry contest for schoolchildren. Mr. Hass is professor of English at the University of California-Berkeley and was chancellor of the Academy of American Poets from 2001 to 2007. He has frequently been a visiting faculty member in the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

### **JOHN PAPPAJOHNS, HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS:**

A recipient of the Horatio Alger Award and an Iowa Business Hall of Fame inductee, John Pappajohn is one of Iowa's and the nation's leading philanthropists and venture capitalists. His vision and generosity have transformed health care, empowered entrepreneurs, and brought the arts to life. Mr. Pappajohn began running his immigrant family's Mason City grocery store at age 16. A 1952 University of Iowa business graduate, he founded the Guardsman Life Insurance Company; Equity Dynamics, Inc., a financial consulting firm for which he still serves as President; and one of the earliest venture capital firms, Pappajohn Capital Resources. Education has always

been at the forefront of Mr. Pappajohn's efforts. He spearheaded the nationally acclaimed Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers at five Iowa colleges and universities, including the UI. Mr. Pappajohn and his wife Mary have profoundly influenced the UI in the areas of student scholarships, business, medicine, and health care. In 2009, the Pappajohns made the largest single gift commitment to date from individual Iowa donors to support the groundbreaking Pappajohn Biomedical Institute and Pappajohn Biomedical Discovery Building now under construction at the UI.

### **C. VIVIAN STRINGER, HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS:**

C. Vivian Stringer was the University of Iowa's women's basketball coach from 1983-1995 and is currently the head coach at Rutgers University. She is the third-winningest Division I women's coach of all time and was the first coach—male or female—to take teams at three different schools (including one UI team) to the NCAA Final Four. Coach Stringer has been inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame, and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. She has been named National Coach of the Year three times, one of the 101 Most Influential Minorities in Sports, and one of the 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America. As Coach Stringer states in her New York Times best-selling autobiography, "I am the last stop before the young women I coach take their place in society, and it is a responsibility I take seriously." Her pioneering work in coaching, education, and character-building has opened the way for all women, including women of color, to succeed on the national stage.

### **GREGS THOMOPULOS, HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE:**

Gregs Thomopoulos is CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Stanley Consultants, Inc., of Muscatine, Iowa, one of the largest engineering firms in the U.S., providing engineering, environmental, and construction services worldwide. Mr. Thomopoulos started his career with Stanley in 1965 as an engineering intern, and in 1978 became Vice President of the International Division. Under his leadership, Stanley has made outstanding contributions in the engineering field—from bringing electricity to the Philippines and safe water to Egypt, to helping to restore Kuwait after the Gulf War, to designing a state-of-the-art chemical weapons destruction analytical laboratory in Russia. Mr. Thomopoulos has shared much time, talent, and experience as speaker and mentor to students at Iowa's Regents Universities, and he has generously provided scholarship, research, and facilities support.