



# COMMENCEMENT

December 2007

Iowa City, Iowa

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF IOWA

## HONORARY DEGREES

The University of Iowa has established a policy for the awarding of honorary degrees, and is pleased to make the first awards in December 2007.

The University 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

The December 2007 honorary degree awardees are:

**MARVIN POMERANTZ:** The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Mr. Pomerantz for his exceptional contributions to business and his service to the community, state, and nation. His business successes and his commitment to improving people's lives through philanthropy set a high standard and outstanding example for all Iowans. His entrepreneurial vision has led to significant business achievements and successes that have positively affected the Iowa economy. He has worked tirelessly to support education in Iowa at all levels, serving as president of the Board of Regents (1987-1993; 1995-1996), as head of Iowa's Commission on Educational Excellence for the 21st Century, and as a member of the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce (created by the Iowa Legislature). He has served the University of Iowa in several capacities, including the Foundation Board of Directors (1986-2007) and as co-chair of the "Good, Better, Best" capital campaign. His generosity has benefited Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa Museum of Art, University of Iowa athletics, Tippie College of Business, College of Public Health, and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

**IGNACIO PONSETI:** The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Ponseti for his groundbreaking contributions to the discipline of orthopaedics and his commitment to compassionate care, which have improved the lives of thousands of patients. Dr. Ponseti joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the College of Medicine at the University of Iowa in 1944, and officially retired in 1984, but he returned to practice a few years later, as his non-surgical method for treating clubfoot gained attention and inquiries increased from parents, pediatricians, and orthopaedic specialists regarding his method. Clubfoot, a condition in which the feet are turned inward and downward, making normal mobility impossible is one of the most common birth defects in the world. In the 1950s, he developed a revolutionary, non-invasive treatment, now known as the Ponseti Method, which involves gentle, manual manipulation of the child's foot and application of casts. Currently, he conducts clinic for a few hours one day each week and tutors pediatric orthopaedic surgeons and other health care professionals in his method.