



# COMMENCEMENT

May 2008

Iowa City, Iowa

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF IOWA

## HONORARY DEGREES

The University of Iowa has established a policy for the awarding of honorary degrees. The first awards were made in December 2007 to Marvin Pomerantz and Ignacio Ponseti.

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 May 2008 honorary degree awardee is:

**ROBERT SOLOW:** Professor Solow is being recognized for his groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of economic growth and technological change, for which he was awarded the 1987 Nobel Prize in Economic Science. Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1924, Professor Solow enrolled at Harvard University in 1940 and, following a two-year interruption to serve in the U.S. Army in North Africa and Italy during World War II, received his A.B. in Economics in 1947, followed by his Ph.D. in 1951. Professor Solow has spent his entire academic career at MIT, starting as an assistant professor of statistics in 1950 and ultimately being named an Institute Professor in 1973. His books include *Capital Theory and the Rate of Return* (1963), *Growth Theory: An Exposition* (1970) and *The Labor Market as a Social Institution* (1990).

His former doctoral students include current Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, former Chairs of the Council of Economic Advisors Joseph Stiglitz and Laura D'Andrea Tyson, and several fellow Nobel laureates. In 1999, President Clinton awarded him the National Medal of Science. Professor Solow has numerous ties to The University of Iowa. He has been a member of the Tippie College of Business Board of Visitors since 1984, he delivered the inaugural Howard Bowen Lecture in 1986, was an Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor, has taught in the MBA program, his son John has been a faculty member in The University of Iowa Department of Economics since 1981, and his grandson Benjamin is graduating from The University of Iowa with a B.S. in Economics and Political Science this spring.