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## Honorary Degree Committee

### Annual Report

#### 2000-2001

The Senate Honorary Degree Committee met twice during 2000-01: October 18, at which meeting the HDC agreed to distribute a call for nominations to the University Community, and on January 28 to consider the nominations received.

Members of the 2000-01 HDC were: Walli Andersen (Associate Provost and Chair); faculty members Dagmar Cronn, Bob Gaylor, Fay Hansen-Smith, Ravi Khattree, Sean Moran, and Ronald Sudol; and student Joann L. Washington.

The Call for Nominations sent on October 31, 2000, resulted in two new nominations: Judge Damon Keith and Thomas Lynch. At its January meeting, the HDC reviewed these two candidates and recommended both for honorary degrees. The HDC also reiterated support for four candidates recommended in prior years but not awarded honorary degrees: Lance Armstrong, Dr. David DiChiera, Mrs. Rosa Parks, and Dr. C.R. Rao. Subsequently, the HDC determined that Mrs. Parks had been supported with Board action, but did not respond to OU's invitation to accept the degree.

Based on the 2000-01 HDC recommendations, honorary degrees were or will be awarded as follows:

Dr. David DiChiera, Doctor of Arts, Honoris Causa, May 2001

Judge Damon Keith, Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, May 2001

Dr. C. R. Rao, Doctor of Sciences, Honoris Causa, May 2002

The major issue for the 2000-01 HDC was that the prior two years' HDC recommendations had not resulted in honorary degrees being awarded. The HDC sent a strong recommendation for action to the Provost, suggesting that a Fall 2001 call for nominations would be pointless if the prior nominations had not been acted upon.

Thus, the 2000-01 HDC was pleased by OU's awarding of honorary degrees and recommends that the additional pending recommendations, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Lynch, be forwarded to the President early this fall for Spring awards, allowing sufficient time for processing and appropriate publicity. New nominations in 2001-02 might then be considered for Spring 2002, Fall 2002, or Spring 2003.

Submitted by,  
Walli Andersen, Chair  
Honorary Degree Committee  
10 September 2001



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