

To: Drake Faculty, Staff and Trustees

From: Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee: Karen Wallace, chair, James Romain, Julie Thomas, Lance Noe, Melisa Klimaszewski, and Michael Couvillon

Date: January 19, 2010

Subject: **Nominations sought for Drake Honorary Degree and Drake Medal**

The Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee solicits your nominations for these honors, to be awarded during the 2010-11 academic year. **The nomination process is confidential. Please do not inform the candidate of your nomination.**

This memo provides a brief description of the awards and the nomination process and concludes with the nomination forms for each honor. Please read the guidelines and submit nominations, along with any supporting documentation, to Karen Wallace (karen.wallace@drake.edu) no later than **March 31, 2010**. Thank you for helping us secure candidates of the highest quality.

### **DRAKE MEDAL**

The Drake Medal is awarded by the University to recognize “significant service, which has been sustained over time, to the Drake University community, reflecting personal commitment to the University’s quality and character.” The Drake Medal, a medallion of the University seal, is similar to an honorary degree in status and is bestowed at a formal academic convocation. The first Drake Medals were awarded in 1992. (See <http://www.drake.edu/president/medal.php> for a list of past recipients.)

Any University employee may nominate a candidate for the Drake Medal. Although present University faculty/administrators/staff are not eligible, emeritus faculty/administrators or retired employees may be nominated. A maximum of three Drake Medals will be awarded each year. Receipt of the Drake Medal does not eliminate an individual from being considered for an honorary degree or another University award.

### **HONORARY DEGREE**

An honorary degree provides a way for the academic community to recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals in various fields of endeavor. Granting honorary degrees is an important tradition in academia. Drake University awarded its first honorary degrees in 1884. (See <http://www.drake.edu/president/honorarydegrees.php> for a list of past recipients.)

In addition to individual merit, current selection criteria include these factors:

- a. The purposes of the University generally are best served when active and present members of the administrative staff and the faculty are excluded from consideration.
- b. The active, campaigning politician should be excluded in a year when he/she is seeking election.
- c. With the large number of fields in which recognition might appropriately be given, there should not be a preponderance of degrees given in any one field.
- d. In addition to distinguished achievement in the field of the candidate's competence, honorary degrees may recognize distinguished service to Drake University.

### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

This solicitation is for candidates who will receive a Drake Medal in Fall 2010 and for candidates who will receive an Honorary Degree at the Spring 2011 Commencement.

Please use the format of the appropriate form below to submit your nomination(s). The name of the nominee, general information describing his or her background and accomplishments and any relevant connection to Drake University are requested. Additional information on your nominee(s) may be submitted on separate sheets. The Committee may request further documentation from you at a later time.

The Committee will review all nominations and submit a recommendation regarding approval to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate votes on its recommendation, which is submitted to the Board of Trustees for final consideration.

Nominations should be sent electronically.

**Send the completed form(s) no later than March 31, 2010**

To:

Karen Wallace  
Honorary Degree Committee  
Law Library, Opperman Hall  
[karen.wallace@drake.edu](mailto:karen.wallace@drake.edu)

**Thank you.**

**DRAKE MEDAL NOMINEE**

**Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Profession or occupation:**

**Business address:**

**Home address:**

**High schools and colleges or universities attended:**

**Years attended:      Degree(s):**

**Professional or business positions held:**

**Reasons for nomination:**

**Connection(s) to Drake University:**

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Additional information may be submitted.**

**HONORARY DEGREE NOMINEE**

**Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Profession or occupation:**

**Business address:**

**Home address:**

**High schools and colleges or universities attended:**

**Years attended:      Degree(s):**

**Professional or business positions held:**

**Reasons for nomination:**

**Connection(s) to Drake University:**

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Additional information may be submitted.**