Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards Committee

Spring 2020

http://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Committees/Honorary-Degrees-and-Distinguished-Awards-Committee
Committee: Eight faculty members (Professor or above with strong records of teaching and research from diverse fields) elected by the Faculty Senate

Chair: Elected by committee
2019–20 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Rick Yost, Chair
- James Collins
- Berta Hernandez-Truyol
- Matt Hodge
- Raymond Issa
- Simon Phillpot
- Patrick Reakes
- Nicole Stedman
- Ruth Steiner
Awards

- Honorary Degrees
- Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Awards
- Distinguished Achievement Awards
- Stephen C. O’Connell Distinguished Service Awards
- **Formulates principles** for conferring honorary degrees and distinguished awards

- **Solicits and reviews** nominations each fall and spring

- **Diversity 2019–2020 – HDs:**
  - Nominees – 5M, 1F
  - Approved – 3M, 1F
  - 3 Distinguished Alumni this spring: 1M, 2F (1 minority)
Spring 2020
Candidates for Honorary Degree:

- Dr. Eugene Brigham
- Dr. Brian May
Dr. Eugene Brigham—HD of Commerce

- Distinguished academician and philanthropist, including UF’s colleges of Business, Journalism and Communication, Pharmacy, and Public Health and Health Professions, plus UF Performing Arts

- UF faculty member from 1971–1995; during his tenure he founded UF’s PURC (Public Utility Research Center)

- Authored/co-authored 10 textbooks, including the #1 finance text worldwide

- He established a fund to support PURC, another to create a named Chair in Finance, and has pledged funds to name the Eugene Brigham Dept. of Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate
Dr. Brian May– HD of Science

- Musician, songwriter, astrophysicist, and a major supporter of the public understanding of science
- Lead guitarist for rock band “Queen”
- Earned a PhD in Astrophysics from Imperial College London (awarded 33 years after leaving); his research was done in the observatory in the Canary Islands where UF is now a partner; presented a lecture here at UF in 2008.
- Co–written several books and participated in educational public television programs about astronomy; science team collaborator with NASA's New Horizons Pluto mission and co–founder of the awareness campaign Asteroid Day
- Philanthropist – many other causes, including the Mercury Phoenix Trust (efforts to combat HIV/AIDS)