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Office of the President
March 2, 2004

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that approval be granted to awarding the honorary degree of Doctor of Science to John D. Baxter, Doctor of Letters to James W. Stuckert, and Doctor of Letters to George Carlton Wright.

Background: The Committee on Honorary Degrees has recommended to the Graduate Faculty and the University Senate that honorary degrees be awarded to John D. Baxter, James W. Stuckert, and George Carlton Wright. These three bodies have expressed their approval of the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the three recipients are attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

JOHN D. BAXTER

Dr. John D. Baxter is professor of medicine and biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California San Francisco, where he also served as director of the Metabolic Research Unit from 1981-2000 and as chief of the division of endocrinology from 1980-1997. He completed a term as president of the international Endocrine Society in 2003.

A Lexington native, Dr. Baxter graduated cum laude from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's in chemistry 1962. He was inducted into the UK's Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1980.

He went on to Yale Medical School where he won several academic awards. In 1970, he became the Dernham Senior Fellow in Oncology at University of California San Francisco, joining the faculty in 1972. His research seeks to understand how receptors in the nucleus of a cell affect human health and disease

He has produced important research while at UCSF, including cloning growth hormone genes for medical and agricultural purposes. In 1979, he cloned the gene for human growth hormone, which was only the second genetically engineered product to receive government approval. He is the author or co-author of more than 300 publications, and his work has been honored with the Henry Christian Award (1990), the Demuth Award (1990), the Goldblatt Award (1988), and the Honorable Mention Award for excellence in medical publications from the American Medical Writers Association (1982). Many of his students have gone on to win awards and recognition for their research as well.

In addition to his work at UCSF, Dr. Baxter has served as editor-in-chief of the journal *DNA* (which he founded in 1981), on the editorial boards of over ten scientific journals, and on the committees of more than twenty professional and academic organizations. He is also the founder and director of several successful biotechnology companies that have partnered with the pharmaceutical industry to develop and market treatments for heart failure, flesh wounds, obesity, high cholesterol, diabetes, hepatitis, and cataracts.

His dedication to his research has met with much acclaim. He received the George W. Thorn Award for outstanding researcher from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (1978), a "Citation for Distinguished Service" from the American Society for Clinical Investigation (1983), the Dautrebande Prize (1985), the Albion O. Bernstein M.D. Award (1987), and the Edwin B. Astwood Outstanding Research Award (1997). Most recently, he received an honorary doctorate degree from the Karolinska Institute and was elected into the National Academy of Science and the Institute of Medicine.

For his contribution to science, industry, and public health, Dr. Baxter is recommended for an Honorary Doctor of Science degree.

JAMES W. STUCKERT

Chairman and chief executive officer of Hilliard Lyons Inc., James W. Stuckert has been a tireless supporter of the University of Kentucky.

Mr. Stuckert graduated from UK in 1960 with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering and earned his master's in business administration from UK in 1961. A year later, he joined W. L. Lyons and Company, which later merged with J. J. B. Hilliard. After making partner in 1968 and serving on the board of directors since the company's incorporation in 1972, Mr. Stuckert was elected as chairman and CEO in 1995. He now leads a company with more than 3,000 employees at 120 branches in 16 states.

In addition to his service to Hilliard Lyons Inc., Mr. Stuckert is chairman of the board of the Senbanc Fund and on the boards of Royal Gold Inc. and Thomas Transportation Group. He has served on the board of governors for the Securities Industry Association and is currently the chair of the SIA Regional Firms Committee and a member of the nominating committee for the New York Stock Exchange.

While a student at UK, Mr. Stuckert amassed an impressive record, gaining membership in five academic honorary societies while also serving as business manager of the *Kentucky Engineering Magazine*, student government representative from the College of Engineering, and president of his social fraternity.

His involvement with UK did not end with graduation. His commitment to the university is evident through his forty years of leadership in the Jefferson County Alumni Club, which he helped re-establish in the mid-1960's. He has also served as president of the UK Alumni Association, remaining on the board of directors to this day. His support of UK includes serving as chair of a 2000-2003 fund-raising campaign committed to raising more than \$600 million for the university and as current chair of the UK Development Council. He also chaired the Corporate and Foundation Committee for the W. T. Young Library campaign and was a member of the Presidential Search Committee in 2000 and 2001.

Mr. Stuckert has already received much recognition for his service to UK. He has been the recipient of the UK Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award as well as the Jefferson County Alumni Club's All American Award. He was elected into the UK Hall of Distinguished Alumni and into the halls of fame for both the Carol Martin Gatton College of Business and Economics and the School of Engineering. In 2001, the UK Career Center was named after Mr. Stuckert in recognition of his philanthropic activities on behalf of the university, including membership in the UK Fellows Society at the Presidential Level. He is also a Blue and White Fund Fellow, Library Fellow, and UK Alumni Association Fellow.

For his business leadership and his unflagging devotion to the success of the University of Kentucky, Mr. Stuckert is recommended for an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

GEORGE CARLTON WRIGHT

George Carlton Wright's 2003 appointment as the seventh president of Prairie View A&M University is but the apex of a long and distinguished career as a professor, college administrator, and community leader.

Lexington native Dr. Wright attended the University of Kentucky, receiving his bachelor's in history in 1972 and his master's in history in 1974. Upon completing the doctoral program in history at Duke University in 1977, Dr. Wright returned to UK as an assistant professor before moving to the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Wright's research focuses on the lives of Kentucky's post-civil war Black population. He has published three books about Kentucky, two of which received the Governor's Award for the best book on Kentucky and one of which won an "Outstanding Book" designation from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in the United States. His research interests have also led to his co-direction of two television documentaries: "Trouble Behind" about the 1919 Corbin race riot and "Upon This Rock: the Black Church in Kentucky."

Dr. Wright's career includes an impressive list of appointments: executive vice president for academic affairs and provost (2000-2003) at the University of Texas Arlington; William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of American History (1993-1996), vice provost for university programs (1993-1995), and director of African and Afro-American Studies Program (1993-1995) at Duke University; and Mastin Gentry White Professor of Southern History (1990-1993), vice provost for undergraduate education (1990-1993), and director of the Center for African and Afro-American Studies (1986-1990) at the University of Texas at Austin.

His tenure at the University of Texas at Austin (1980-1993) received much acclaim. In addition to winning five different teaching awards, students repeatedly voted Dr. Wright onto the "Best Faculty Poll" before assigning him in the "Best Professor Hall of Fame" in 1992.

Dr. Wright's contributions extend beyond the halls of academe. He served on the board of directors of both the City of Arlington Chamber Foundation and the Medical Center of Arlington. He was also a member of the Brackenridge Hospital Foundation Board (1986-1991) and has been a yearly participant in Black History Month presentations to school, church and civic assemblies.

This college administrator, author of award winning books, recipient of numerous teaching and professional awards, and supporter of many community programs is recommended to receive an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree.