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HD.24.06

December 4, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

(Final; Action)

HD.24.06 Nomination for Honorary Degree Awards – Anderson, Lee, Smarr

The Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees is pleased to nominate the following individuals for an honorary degree award to be conferred at the May 2024 Commencement exercises:

- James D. Anderson
- I-Min Lee
- Larry Smarr

Information relative to the background and achievements of these nominees is attached. Based on the criteria approved by the Senate, the Committee has selected these individuals for Senate consideration.

The Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all who participated in the process, particularly those who spent considerable amounts of time and effort in preparing documentation for these nominees.

COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

Prasanta Kalita, Chair

Paul Davidson

Robert Mannis

Pollyanna Rhee

Pedro Rodrigues Curi Hallal

Celestina Savonius-Wroth

Kai Shinbrough

Laura Wilhelm-Barr, *ex officio*

James D. Anderson
Dean Emeritus, William and Jane Marr Gutgsell Professor Emeritus
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

EDUCATION:

BA, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1966
M.Ed, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 1969
Ph.D., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

*Nominated by: Chrystalla Mouza, Dean and Gutgsell Professor of Education, College of Education,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Venetria Patton, Harry S. Preble Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Yoon Pak, Head, Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, University
of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Christopher Span, Associate Chancellor for Administration, Office of the Chancellor,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

BASIS FOR NOMINATION:

Dr. James D. Anderson has had a distinguished career in both scholarship and service. He has been part of the University of Illinois for almost one third of the University's history and mentored hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students. He is Dean Emeritus of the College of Education, the William and Jane Marr Gutgsell Professor Emeritus and was a member of countless committees during his tenure at Illinois.

Dr. Anderson's impact goes beyond the University. He is widely recognized as an expert on the history of U.S. education and the history of African American education. He has authored over 80 publications and his book, *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935* (1988) serves as the definitive history on African American education.

Dr. Anderson has received 25 awards and honors. In 2012 he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for Colleges and Teacher Education (AACTE). This prestigious award honored and recognized Dr. Anderson for his lifelong commitment to improving student learning and his extraordinary contributions to research. The AACTE also named their dissertation award after Dr. Anderson to honor his commitment to graduate student development.

Dr. Anderson received the American Education Research Association's Presidential Citation, the organization's highest award in 2020. He also was elected to the American Academy of Art and Sciences in 2021.

EXCERPT FROM THE NOMINATION LETTER:

"We can say with utmost confidence that we have never met a person more committed to diversity or the advancement of opportunity and excellence than Dr. James D. Anderson. For more than 50 years he has been a stalwart advocate of college access, diversity, inclusion, and opportunity for everyone. He epitomizes the transformative and democratizing power of education, equity, and access and is an excellent candidate for this prestigious honor and recognition.

The Illinois State Senate presented Dr. Anderson with a proclamation in 2022 for his remarkable contributions to the field of education. He was recognized for his teaching, scholarship, and mentorship which have had an impact on countless students not only in the State of Illinois but also around the world.

During the last half century, Dr. Anderson has embodied the mission, vision, and values of our internationally recognized institution, while also staying true to our historic obligation as a land-grant university. He has prepared generations of scholars and educators to use their research and classrooms to change the face of education and nation for the better. He is a distinguished scholar, humanitarian, and leader deserving of the highest praise and recognition that comes with being a University of Illinois honorary degree recipient. He truly is a role model to everyone he meets and is most deserving of this special honor and recognition.”

HONORS/AWARDS (NOT INCLUSIVE):

2008	Elected to the National Academy of Education
2008	AERA Distinguished Career Contributions Award from the American Educational Research Association’s Committee on Scholars of Color in Education
2012	AACTE Lifetime Achievement Award, American Association for Colleges and Teacher Education
2012	AERA Fellow for Outstanding Education Research presented by the American Educational Research Association
2016	American Educational Research Association Palmer O. Johnson Memorial Award for Outstanding Article in AERA Journals
2020	Presidential Citation Award, American Educational Research Association
2021	Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Joy Williamson-Lott, Dean, The Graduate School, University of Washington

“Dr. Anderson’s scholarly footprint and national/international reputation is no less stellar. He is the most famous and most highly regarded historian of education in the entire field. His book, *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935*, shifted the discipline when it was published in 1988 and has yet to be supplanted. He turned assumptions about black education – that black people had never valued education and completely lacked educational self-determination – on its head through vast rigorous research. ... As a reviewer stated when it was published and as contemporary historians would still agree, “this is history of education at its best.”

Stanley O. Ikenberry, President Emeritus, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“As a leader and scholar, Jim Anderson is one of the most powerful voices to be found. Whether on the national/international stage or on campus, he is a force in his field, nurtures the next generation, and is leaving a legacy of greatness. He brings a depth of knowledge and “wisdom” both needed and rare, while he has the commanding presence of a caring and compassionate mentor, always ready to help, never without “time,” invariably with a smile.”

William Bernhard, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Jim showed generations of faculty across campus what it meant to be truly committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. It was not just about hiring more underrepresented faculty or recruiting more students of color. It was about changing the climate, creating an environment where everyone felt welcome and valued. Through his actions, through his example, he set a standard for all who assumed leadership positions on our campus.

At the University of Illinois, we emphasize our land grant mission, a mission that calls everyone on our campus – faculty, staff, students – to serve our community and society as a whole. ...Jim lived that mission every day. He is the standard for excellence at our institution. We are so much richer because of his contributions.”

I-Min Lee
Professor of Medicine
Professor of Epidemiology
Harvard University

EDUCATION:

MBBS, Medicine/Surgery, National University of Singapore, 1984
MPH, Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health, 1987
ScD, Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, 1991

Nominated by: Kim C. Graber, Professor and Head, Department of Kinesiology & Community Health, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Pedro Hallal, Alvin and Ruth Sandall Professor of Kinesiology, Director, Master of Public Health Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BASIS FOR NOMINATION:

Professor I-Min Lee is arguably the leading physical activity and health researcher in the world. Professor Lee is currently the principal investigator of a long-standing prospective cohort study of 33,000 Harvard alumni begun by Professor Ralph Paffenbarger in the 1960's. In the early 90's, Professors Lee and Paffenbarger published three landmark articles on the prospective associations between physical activity and cancer risk. Professor Lee also serves as Multiple Principal Investigator of the Women's Health Study (WHS), originally a clinical trial testing low-dose aspirin and vitamin E for preventing cardiovascular disease and cancer among 40,000 women, whose participants now continue to be followed. Within the WHS, Professor Lee is principal investigator of a study that measured physical activity with accelerometers in 18,000 women from 2011 to 2015; participants are not being followed for various health outcomes. Professor Lee has published >450 scientific articles, is the lead editor of the textbook *Epidemiologic Methods in Physical Activity Studies*, and is co-editor of *Physical Activity Epidemiology*. Professor Lee has served on national and international expert panels for developing physical activity guidelines, including the 2008 US Physical Activity Guidelines, the 2010 WHO Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, and the 2013 AHA/ACC Guideline on Lifestyle Management to Reduce Cardiovascular Risk. Professor Lee is also a member of the steering committee for the Lancet Physical Activity Series (publishes in 2012, 2016, and 2021).

In addition to all these contributions to science broadly and to the field of physical activity and health more specifically, Professor Lee's Lancet article published in 2012 deserves special recognition. Using data from >100 countries, Professor Lee and colleagues estimated that physical inactivity was responsible for >5 million deaths per year worldwide. As of September 29, 2023, this article has been cited 10,180 times on Google Scholar. In addition, the BBC piece "inactivity as deadly as smoking" received widespread attention in the media and is arguably the most divulged finding of the history of the field of physical activity and health. Additionally, according to Google Scholar, she has been cited more than 128,380 times and has an h-index of 146.

HONORS/AWARDS (NOT INCLUSIVE):

1999	Young Epidemiologist Award, Royal Society of Medicine, United Kingdom
2007	William G. Anderson Award, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
2009	Charles C. Shepard Award (most outstanding peer-reviewed research paper, Prevention and Control category), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2011	Citation Award, American College of Sports Medicine

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Michael Pratt, Professor and Director, Institute for Public Health and MPH Program, Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health & Human Longevity Science, University of California San Diego

“She was an initial faculty member of the CDC University of South Carolina Physical Activity and Public Health course in 1995 and remains on the faculty today. More importantly she is recognized by fellow faculty and every cohort of students who pass through this course as the pre-eminent epidemiologist working on physical activity and public health. Her publication record is unmatched but even more notable is her incredible ability to distill complex methods and data into compelling and insightful presentations. Nobody in our field can match I-Min as a teacher and conference presenter. Not surprisingly when a Lancet series for physical activity and global health was conceived, I-Min led the landmark 2012 paper that demonstrated that physical inactivity underlies more than five million deaths each year. This paper is one of the most cited publications in the field (10,302 citations, Google Scholar 11 November 2023). Her work is constantly evolving and is always at the cutting edge of research further establishing the importance of physical activity to public health.”

Adrian Bauman, Emeritus Professor, Sydney School of Public Health and the Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney

“Professor I-Min Lee is the world’s leading physical activity epidemiologist. She is a physician who specializes in epidemiological research, applying her prodigious talents and abilities to the physical activity and health outcomes area. She is globally known, extremely well respected, and one of the most inspirational researchers in the physical activity and health field anywhere in the world.

She has been a prolific academic author, with 600+ peer-reviewed published academic papers, as well as authoring or co-authoring textbooks in this area that are widely used internationally. Her work is known in every country where physical activity is considered, particularly in relation to the prevention of noncommunicable disease.”

Ulf Ekelund, Professor, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences

“It is without exaggeration that Dr. Lee’s name is one of, if not, the most recognizable globally in the field of physical activity epidemiology, because of her significant contributions to the field. Dr. Lee is currently principal investigator of one of the first large-scale epidemiologic studies using accelerometers to measure physical activity and sedentary behavior among 18,000 participants in the Women’s Health Study. Key publications from this study include a paper examining the associations between volume and intensity of steps with all-cause mortality (JAMA Int Med 2019). The results questioned whether the generally accepted 10,000 steps rule is necessary to reduce the risk for premature death in elderly women.”

David M. Buchner, Professor Emeritus, Department of Kinesiology & Community Health, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Prior to joining the faculty at UIUC in 2008, I was Chief of the Physical Activity and Health Branch at CDC. While at CDC, I led the federal team of scientists that wrote the text of the *Guidelines* based upon the Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee (PAGAC) evidence review. I-Min was a member of the PAGAC for the 2008 *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans* released by DHHS and I saw firsthand I-Min’s remarkable skill in synthesizing evidence.”

Michelle Williams, Joan and Julius Jacobson Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, School of Public Health, Harvard

“Dr. Lee has contributed to significant research projects that have added new generalizable knowledge concerning the epidemiology of physical activity and sedentary behavior on the health and well-being of populations in the US and globally.”

Larry Smarr
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Computer Science and Engineering
University of California San Diego

EDUCATION:

B.A., University of Missouri, 1970
M.S., University of Missouri, 1970
M.S., Stanford University, 1972
Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1975

*Nominated by: Gene Robinson, Director, Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign
William Gropp, Director, National Center for Supercomputing, University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign*

BASIS FOR NOMINATION:

Dr. Larry Smarr's pioneering of new computational technologies has transformed how scientists collaborate and share information and has led to major advances in many disciplines. His efforts to create a high-speed interconnected network of supercomputers have shaped the interconnectivity of humans, and the world as we know it.

EXCERPT FROM THE NOMINATION LETTER:

"Smarr is a physicist and world leader in scientific computing and cyberinfrastructure. His vision and advocacy for creating and linking supercomputers in national centers across the country was critical in laying the foundation for today's internet. Smarr has received numerous awards, including the Franklin Institute's Delmer S. Fahrney Medal for Leadership in Science or Technology, the Telluride Tech Festival Award of Technology, the IEEE Computer Society Tsutomu Kanai Award, the Golden Goose Award, and Fellow American Physical Society. He also has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Smarr's pioneering efforts in computer science have transformed how scientists collaborate and share information, and have led to advancements in research that are both interdisciplinary and innovative. It is no exaggeration to state that Smarr's leadership in developing a high-speed interconnected network of supercomputers has shaped human interconnectivity, and the world as we know it."

HONORS/AWARDS (NOT INCLUSIVE):

1988	Fellow, American Physical Society
1990	Franklin Institute's Delmer S. Fahrney Gold Medal for Leadership in Science or Technology
1994	Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
1995	Member, National Academy of Engineering
2005	Telluride Tech Festival Honoree
2006	IEEE Computer Society Tsutomu Kanai Award for distributed computing systems achievements
2014	Golden Goose Award
2016	Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Daniel Reed, Presidential Professor, Professor of Computer Science and Electrical & Computer Engineering, Kahlert School of Computing, The University of Utah

“Beyond this vision, which begat a national program whose organizational descendants continue to shape scientific and engineering research across the country and around the world, the culture Larry created at NCSA attracted a cadre of enormously talented young people who believed anything they could dream could become a reality. From advances in scientific visualization, advanced networking, distributed collaboration, and data analytics, NCSA was the place to be. It was this culture that birthed Mosaic, itself the latest in a series of collaboration tools that followed NCSA Telnet and Collage.

In addition to Larry’s work on computational science, he recognized and embraced the notion that advanced computing could also be a tool to enhance U.S. economic competitiveness. The NCSA Industrial Partner Program brought both advanced computing and NCSA’s technical expertise to bear on domains as diverse as early cellular network design (Motorola), data analytics and logistics supply chains (Caterpillar), insurance pricing (Allstate), airline route and pricing optimization (American Airlines), drug design (Lilly), and design optimization (Boeing), to name just a few.”

Horst Simon, Director, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) Lab,

“In California, Dr. Smarr continued to break new ground. He proposed the creation of the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), linking departments and researchers at UC San Diego and UC Irvine. As the Director of Calit2, Dr. Smarr oversaw groundbreaking interdisciplinary research, marrying technology with various fields of study. Dr. Smarr’s leadership at Calit2 also led to significant advancements in high-performance computing applied to genomic research. He was the Principal Investigator on the NSF OptIPuter LambdaGrid Project, an “optical backplane for planetary scale distributed computing,” and the CAMERA Project, which provided a high-performance computing resource for genomic research.

Furthermore, Dr. Smarr’s early advocacy for grid computing at NCSA marked him as a pioneer in this field, significantly impacting computational science. His work in embracing massively parallel computing, including the promotion of the installation of a Thinking Machines Connections machine at the NSF Center, further highlights his foresight and innovative spirit.

Dr. Smarr’s extensive and diverse contributions have not only advanced scientific research but have also had a profound societal impact. His work at the University of Illinois and beyond has been central to establishing foundational infrastructures for supercomputing and the internet.”

Edward Seidel, President, University of Wyoming

“Never content with merely leading a field, as he has done by making truly unparalleled contributions to the fields of computer science and telecommunications, as well as in physics, astronomy, and health sciences, his goals are usually aimed at nothing less than changing the world. And he has actually managed to do this multiple times. In doing so, he has inspired countless others around the world to aim higher than they thought possible, creating a ripple effect that few individuals could replicate.

In 1983 as a beginning Assistant Professor in Astronomy, he was so bold as to submit an unsolicited proposal (the so-called “Black Proposal”) to NSF, for which there was no existing program. This ultimately led to the creation of NCSA with an initial grant of nearly \$43M but just as importantly, it led to the creation of a national centers program with five national centers being funded, that have been a model for the world ever since.”