

May 22, 2008

TO: Members of the Brown Community
FROM: Elissa Jelalian and Harvey Silverman, Co-Chairs, Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees
RE: **NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DEGREES - MAY 2009**

The Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees invites individual faculty members, staff, and students, as well as academic departments, centers, and programs, to submit nominations for honorary degrees at the University's **May 2009 Commencement**.

At Brown, the full authority for awarding honorary degrees rests with the Board of Fellows. The Advisory Committee assists the Fellows in this process by making recommendations from among the nominees it considers.

This Committee hopes to identify individuals who have achieved unquestioned distinction in some field, especially an academic field, or whose contributions to the public good and human welfare are of sufficient magnitude to warrant recognition. Individuals whose accomplishments are local or regional, as well as those of international renown, also are of interest to the Committee. It should be noted that previous association with the University confers some advantage, as does the fact of not having been similarly recognized by a large number of other institutions in the past. Nominations which have the support of several individuals, groups, or academic units carry additional weight with the Committee. The Committee especially encourages departments and individuals to submit names of individuals who may not have been previously nominated. The Committee does review names from previous years in its deliberations.

Letters of nominations should explain why Brown would wish to honor that individual at this time. Initial letters of recommendation may be brief, but ultimately additional background information on the nominee in the form of a resume, curriculum vitae, or narrative will be important to consider. Finally, materials such as descriptions of work or achievements, where appropriate; additional letters of support; newspaper articles; etc. that might be useful to the Committee are welcome. For obvious reasons, the entire process is kept confidential.

The process of selecting honorary degree nominees to recommend is rather involved, so the Committee urges all members of the Brown community, especially students, to consider nominations for the coming year at this time. Please feel free to contact any Honorary Degrees Committee member to explore the process by which nominations are made.

The Advisory Committee encourages nominations of distinguished women and members of minority groups.

Letters of nomination and related materials may be sent to the Committee on Honorary Degrees, care of Ms. Cheryl Moreau, Office of Faculty Governance, Box 1830, 402 University Hall. Nominations are welcome by May 31, 2008 so the committee can begin its work over the summer. Nominations should be sent to the Committee no later than **September 19, 2008**.

Committee Members: Kerry Coppin (Visual Art), David Gottlieb (Applied Mathematics), Elissa Jelalian (Psychiatry & Human Behavior), Naoko Shibusawa (History), Harvey Silverman (Engineering), Corey Walker (Africana Studies), Jack Wands (Medicine), Jacob Combs (Undergraduate), Alex Rosenberg (Undergraduate), Hussein Banai (Graduate)