Honorary Degree Nominations

Board of Trustees
Loyola University New Orleans

December 4-5, 2014

CONFIDENTIAL ACTION ITEM

Nominees for honorary degrees will be presented for consideration as an Action Item at the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board on December 4, 2014, and on the recommendation of the Committee, presented for approval to the full Board on December 5, 2014.

Honorary degree nominations are considered confidential and for discussion only in meeting sessions in order to protect the privacy of the nominees.
CRITERIA FOR HONORARY DEGREES

The Loyola University Honorary Degrees Committee and the Board of Trustees have established the following general guideline for honorary degrees:

An Honorary Degree may be bestowed upon any person who has made outstanding achievements, particularly in those fields of endeavor which are at the heart of Loyola’s mission as a university (such as religion, scholarship, the arts, business, philanthropy, and public service). Above all, the recipient’s life and achievements should exemplify those goals and principles spelled out in Loyola’s Character and Commitment Statement: specifically, academic excellence, the pursuit of faith and justice, and service to others.

BOT approved: May 18, 1995
Fall 2014 Honorary Degree Nominees for Approval

Honorary degree nominations approved by the Board of Trustees go into a pool of names for future selection by the president. Honorary degrees are customarily awarded at commencement ceremonies. An individual must be present to receive an honorary degree.

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The Honorary Degrees Committee and President Wildes, S.J., have recommended the following nominations for approval:

John Goodman
Mr. Goodman has become an almost permanent fixture in New Orleans. He supported the city both after Hurricane Katrina and the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. In addition, he appeared in the HBO show Treme which highlights New Orleans’ unique culture while also drawing light to the city’s jarring socioeconomic gaps and deep-rooted crime issues. He also voiced a character in Disney’s The Princess and the Frog! Goodman spoke at Loyola when he premiered his movie, Inside Llewyn Davis, in 2013. Goodman is a perfect representative of the New Orleans heritage that is a huge part of our university's identity. His speech would represent some of the best characteristics of our home while being nothing short of entertaining.

Brad Pitt
Mr. Pitt’s post-Katrina activism in New Orleans, such as the Make It Right Foundation, is well documented and known worldwide. His impact on New Orleans deserves recognition for both his social justice work in the city of New Orleans, which is far more nuanced and textured, as his broader commitments to making the world a better place. His contributions to civic life exceed the expectations of celebrity activism. He is a committed father, husband, artist, and humanitarian. His impact on contemporary culture is beyond dispute. New Orleans is a city of and for the arts. Loyola is rapidly positioning itself as a premier arts institution in the region, and honoring Brad Pitt as a dynamic artist and activist who reflects the socially conscious, creative, and entrepreneurial spirit of our university would highlight our commitment to the arts – from film, writing, and design, to theater, the fine arts, and music.