Honorary Degree Nominations

Board of Trustees
Loyola University New Orleans
December 6-7, 2012

CONFIDENTIAL
To: Loyola University New Orleans Board of Trustees

From: Marc K. Manganaro
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: November 8, 2012

Subject: Honorary Degree Nominations

On behalf of the Loyola University New Orleans Honorary Degrees Committee, I am pleased to present six honorary degree nominations for your consideration:

Dean Baquet
Mr. Baquet is managing editor of The New York Times and a cousin of Harold Baquet, Loyola’s photographer. He is recognized as a principled and accomplished journalist.

Germaine Bazzle
Ms. Bazzle is a pillar of the New Orleans music community and the wider community. She is a music educator noted for her work with the musician’s union and advocacy of women in music.

Tom Brokaw
Mr. Brokaw is a respected journalist with ties to New Orleans through his tireless work in support of the National World War II Museum.

Robin Roberts
Ms. Roberts is a journalist and most recently a co-anchor on Good Morning America. A Gulf Coast native, she is the sister of local television anchor, Sallie Ann Roberts.

Carl Stewart
Judge Stewart was recently promoted to Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He is an esteemed jurist who received his J.D. from Loyola in 1974.

Phyllis Taylor
Mrs. Taylor is a distinguished philanthropist dedicated to supporting educational, civic, and cultural institutions throughout Louisiana.

These nominations will be discussed and acted upon by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee on Thursday, December 6, 2012, and by the full Board on Friday, December 7, 2012.

The enclosed materials include the university’s criteria for awarding an honorary degree and copies of the nominations. Honorary degree nominations are considered confidential and for discussion only in meeting sessions in order to protect the privacy of the nominees.

Enclosures
cc: President Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D.
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 2012 HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS
Loyola University New Orleans

NOMINATIONS

DEAN BAQUET...........................................................TAB 1

GERMAINE BAZZLE. .................................................TAB 2

TOM BROKAW ............................................................TAB 3

ROBIN ROBERTS.........................................................TAB 4

CARL STEWART..........................................................TAB 5

PHYLLIS TAYLOR..........................................................TAB 6
DEAN BAQUET
From: Harold Baquet  
To: Honorary Degrees Committee  
C/O: Elizabeth Kordahl  
Date: 2 Oct 12  
Subject: Dean Baquet; Managing Editor, New York Times  

I’ve known Dean Baquet all my life. As a boy he was a voracious reader, as a young man he was a prolific writer who became an inquisitive reporter and brilliant investigator. He grew into a profoundly inspiring editor and industry leader. I remember Dean as a constant explosion of books, papers and commentary on every subject. In a different context he could have seemed like a nerdy bookworm, but his comprehensive insights and interest made books very cool.  

Growing up in a large and extended New Orleans Creole community, Dean worked in the family restaurant. People in this city have very high expectations of from any dining establishment, we expect excellence in every little detail; 'so help me', if the rice isn't perfect, we may never return and will surely proclaim the outrage to anyone who would listen. Working shoulder to shoulder with his parents and siblings, he learned the value of hard work and discipline. He grew up with a cultural sense of workmanship which insisted that excellence would follow everything he put his hands to, learning from men and women who fostered a craft-ethic that didn't care if it took him a hundred times to get it right. With that, he learned to show up and get it right, every day. His parents, Edward and Myrtle, also fostered in him a deep sense of social justice. Naturally inquisitive, Dean would soon apply his investigative talents to the governmental arena in a quest for public openness and journalistic truth.  

By his early teens, he had read all the classics and could break a sentence down like a soldier breaks down a rifle. He developed a passion for the written and spoken word and devoted countless hours to his beloved craft. Operationally, Dean will simply out read, out write, out call and research all of his contemporaries. He approaches his profession with an enthusiasm grown out of a love of language and the highest respect for journalistic ethics. As such, he is one of the most highly respected, and as his co-workers have noted publicly, most loved, industry leaders in the country.  

He is on a short list of New York Times masthead editors. His aggressive dedication to truth and public advocacy has fostered a reputation as one of the finest newspapermen in the country. He has been a tireless advocate in reconciling the differences between great journalism and the changing business model of the modern newspaper industry. In his courageous support of journalistic excellence, he has sacrificed much. In 2006, he allowed himself to be fired as editor of the Los Angeles Times rather than make the extensive staff cuts prescribed by the newspapers publisher and owners. In this time of publishing upheavals and cutbacks, Dean still inspires a product that upholds Democracy and is good for the country. He has lived an exemplary life, a life of distinguished service and consummate professionalism. In the spirit of our founder, he possesses an active love for truth, the critical intelligence to attain it and the eloquence to articulate it. Dean Baquet has done many amazing and complicated things, and has done them absolutely right. He is an excellent candidate for our Honorary Degree.
Dean Baquet
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dean P. Baquet (born in New Orleans, Louisiana) is an American journalist, who on June 2, 2011 was named to become managing editor for news operations of The New York Times effective September 6.\[^{1}\]

As of March 5, 2007, he was on the masthead of *The New York Times* as an assistant managing editor and Washington bureau chief.\[^{2}\] Baquet was previously managing editor under John Carroll, then editor, of the *Los Angeles Times*.\[^{3}\] From 1995 to 2000, he was national editor of *The New York Times*.

He is on the board of directors of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

### Notable stories

During his time with the LA Times, Baquet was the editor behind a story published a few days before the 2003 California recall election which initiated the *Gropegate* controversy, raising concerns about gubernatorial candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger's sexual misconduct. NSA Wiretap story is a notable story killed by Baquet as the LA Time editor in 2006.\[^{4}\]

While with the *New York Times*, Baquet was the editor for a story initiating the John McCain lobbyist controversy during McCain's campaign in the 2008 Republican presidential primaries, in which an improper relationship was alleged between McCain and lobbyist Vicki Iseman.\[^{5}\]

### Awards

- Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in 1988 for a piece on the corruption in the Chicago City Council.
- Peter Lisagor Award for investigative reporting, 1988

### Notes


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This Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter became the managing editor and then the executive editor of the Los Angeles Times. Like his predecessor, John Carroll, Dean Baquet refuses to fire more reporters, as each was ordered to do by the owner, Tribune Company, and both wound up leaving the newspaper. Today he is managing editor for news of The New York Times.

Career Timeline

1978
Baquet attends Columbia University, majoring in English. In the summer between his sophomore and junior years, while back in his hometown, Baquet walks in to The New Orleans States-Item and is hired for an internship. He returns to Columbia but later drops out to continue reporting in New Orleans. He joins the Times-Picayune as a police reporter.

1984
Moving to the Chicago Tribune, Baquet is an associate metropolitan editor for investigations and chief investigative reporter, covering corruption in politics and the garbage-hauling industry.

1988
Baquet shares the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting with two Tribune colleagues for their reporting on waste and corruption in the Chicago City Council. The report details widespread abuse of power and misuse of public offices and results in proposals to reform the city's zoning laws.

1990
As The New York Times attempts to improve its investigative reporting, Baquet leaves the Tribune to work as a metropolitan reporter covering investigations in New York and Washington, D.C.

1994
In multiple reports on the largest nonprofit health insurer, Baquet and a colleague are Pulitzer Prize finalists for Investigative Reporting for exposing fraud and mismanagement of Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield in New York.

1995
Reluctant to become an editor, he is persuaded by top editors at the Times to try it for a year. He begins as deputy metro editor for one month, then becomes special projects editor for the Business desk. Baquet finds he enjoys being an editor and in July is named the national editor.
2000
Courted by Los Angeles Times editor John Carroll, Baquet moves to Los Angeles to join the newspaper as the managing editor. Over the next five years, the Times staff wins 13 Pulitzer Prizes.

2005
In a dispute over staff cuts, Carroll announces his resignation. Baquet considers leaving, too, but in the end he stays and is named Carroll's successor. With this appointment, Baquet becomes the first African-American to serve as the top editor of one of the largest circulation newspapers in the United States.

2006
Baquet runs into problems with the corporate ownership similar to those of his predecessor. He refuses demands to further cut the staff to increase profits. Baquet gives a fiery speech to the Associated Press Managing Editors conference in New Orleans in October in which he urges fellow editors to push back against corporate attempts to cut back newsrooms. Shortly after the speech, Baquet is ousted from the Los Angeles Times.

2007

2011
Baquet succeeds Jill Abramson as managing editor for news at the Times when Abramson is promoted to executive editor.

Additional Information and References

Awards
1988 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting (for leading a team of three in documenting corruption in the Chicago City Council for the Chicago Tribune)
1984 Pulitzer Prize Finalist for investigative reporting for exposing fraud and mismanagement of Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield in New York

Sources
Committee to Protect Journalists
Los Angeles Times
The New York Times
Dean Baquet

Dean Baquet is the managing editor for news of the New York Times. He assumed the role on September 6, 2011 after it was announced on June 2, 2011 that Mr. Baquet would succeed Jill Abramson. Ms. Abramson became the executive editor, also on September 6, 2011.

Mr. Baquet, who before becoming managing editor for news was Washington bureau chief for The Times, rejoined paper in 2007 after several years at the Los Angeles Times, where he was editor of the newspaper since 2005, after serving as managing editor since 2000.

Previously Mr. Baquet had been national editor of The New York Times since July 1995, after having served as deputy metropolitan editor since May 1995.

Mr. Baquet joined The Times in April 1990 as a metropolitan reporter. In May 1992 he became special projects editor for the business desk and in January 1994 he held the same title but operated out of the executive editor's office.

Before joining The Times, he reported for The Chicago Tribune from December 1984 to March 1990, and before that for The Times Picayune, New Orleans, La., for nearly seven years.

While at The Chicago Tribune, Mr. Baquet served as associate metropolitan editor for investigations and was chief investigative reporter, covering corruption in politics and the garbage-hauling industry.

He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in March 1988 when he led a team of three in documenting corruption in the Chicago City Council, and was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 1994 in the investigative reporting category. Mr. Baquet has also received numerous local and regional awards.

Born on September 21, 1956, Mr. Baquet majored in English at Columbia University from 1974 to 1978. He and his wife, Dylan, have one son, Ari.

Send an E-Mail to Dean Baquet

ARTICLES BY DEAN BAQUET

Newest First | Oldest First
Page: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Next >>

A Love Poem to New Orleans
By DEAN BAQUET
I hate to turn every discussion of "The Moviegoer" into a discussion about New Orleans. It minimizes Walker Percy to perceive him as purely a Southern writer, or someone who just happened to write the greatest book about the city. But I can't resist pointing out in this final posting just how much of a [...]  
February 4, 2000

This I Believe
By DEAN BAQUET
It is easy to get caught up in the social and philosophical questions at play in the Moviegoer. But this is also a funny book. In fact it is a very funny book, and Blinx is a funny man. Some of the humor will make New Orleanians laugh the loudest. Julia caught some of [...]  
February 1, 2000

file:///Volumes/%20Dean%20Baquet%20-%20The%20New%20York%20Times.webarchive
Binx and Mercer
By DEAN BAQUET
Many relationships in "The Moviegoer" speak to the class divide in New Orleans and the South of the 1960s. Binx's interchangeable secretaries, his Marcas and Lindas, all strapping country and suburban girls, are nothing like the delicately tuned Kate. His customers are assorted gangsters, bookies and working people, unlike the customers of the bond firms [...]

January 28, 2003

How the Other Half Lives
By DEAN BAQUET
When I first read "The Moviegoer," I was as intrigued as anyone by Binx's search. But as a New Orleanian who grew up among the working poor of Treme, far from the Cutler home, what struck me, and what remains after three reads, is the portrait it offers of a certain part of New Orleans [...]

January 30, 2003

When Do We Publish a Secret?
By DEAN BAQUET and BILL KELLER
If the freedom of the press makes some Americans uneasy, it is anathema to the ideologists of terror.

July 01, 2005, Saturday

MOST POPULAR
E-MAILED | SEARCHED
2. Op-Ed Contributor: The Deadness Before the Storm
3. Op-Ed Columnist: Obstruct and Exploit
4. Well: Popular Antibiotics May Carry Serious Side Effects
5. Campaign Scope: The Ryan Sinkhole
6. Ovarian Cancer Screenings Are Not Effective, Panel Says
7. The Stone: What Work Is Really For
8. Well: Really? Using a Computer Before Bed Can Disrupt Sleep

Go to Complete List »

In Chaotic City Hospitals, A Bureaucracy to Match
By DEAN BAQUET and JANE FRITSCH
When New York City's public hospitals underwent their most major reorganization more than 25 years ago, civic leaders renewed a longstanding promise to bring medical care for the poor up to the standards of the best private hospitals. Fed up with financial mismanagement, squashed conditions and a bureaucracy out of control, they drew up plans for a sleek, modern hospital unfettered by politics: the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Forged in the more magnanimous era of the Great...

March 07, 1985, Tuesday

Obstetrical Chief Fights Fatigue in Overworked Ward
By JANE FRITSCH and DEAN BAQUET
To Dr. Joanna F. Shulman, the seventh-floor delivery suite at North Central Bronx Hospital is a war room. As the head of obstetrics, she is a high-ranking officer leading beleaguered troops into perpetual battle against fatigue, overcrowding and the emergencies, big and small, that flare up during a typical day. "It is an endless triage system," she said. "And it works fine when people are fresh."

March 06, 1995, Monday

Lack of Oversight Takes Delivery-Room Toll
By JANE FRITSCH and DEAN BAQUET
The trip from Love Njoku's gritty neighborhood in the northern Bronx to the college library takes 45 minutes on an average day, ample time to ruminate as the subway cars rattle along elevated tracks, then swoop deep underground in the South Bronx. Seven months pregnant and with a growing sense of dread, Mrs. Njoku made the trip each day for a week in 1992, slowly climbing the 75 steps to street level at the stop near Hostos Community College.

March 08, 1995, Monday

New York's Public Hospitals Fail, and Babies Are the Victims
By DEAN BAQUET and JANE FRITSCH
Each year for the last decade, dozens of newborn babies have died or been left to struggle with brain damage or other lifelong injuries because of mistakes made by inexperienced doctors and poorly supervised midwives and nurses in the teeming delivery rooms of New York City's public hospitals. Some of the most prestigious medical schools and private hospitals are paid by the city to provide the care in its sprawling hospital system. But an examination by The New York Times shows that many o...

March 03, 1996, Sunday

U.S. Supplied Arms to Iraq, Ex-Aide Says
By DEAN BAQUET
A former official of the National Security Council has asserted that the C.I.A. secretly helped a Chilean arms dealer sell sophisticated bombs to Iraq in the mid-1980's. The sales took place while the Reagan administration was professing neutrality in the war between Iraq and Iran, according to a court affidavit by Howard Telesbar, who worked for the National Security Council from 1982 to 1987 as a media adviser on the Middle East.

February 03, 1995, Sunday

U.S. Expanding Scope in Review Of Gifts to Agriculture Secretary
By DEAN BAQUET and DAVID JOHNSTON
Federal investigators examining whether Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy improperly accepted gifts from the nation's biggest poultry company have expanded their inquiries into a broader review of possible ethical violations by Mr. Espy and two of his top aides, and into whether agriculture policy has been swayed by the
Lobbyists and industry groups involved. The investigations, by the Justice Department and the Agriculture
Department's Inspector General, have hurt morale at Agriculture, a sp...

August 07, 1994, Sunday

MORE ON: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. TYSON FOODS INC. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ESPY, MIKE. UNITED STATES
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT. ETHICS. GIFTS. LOBBYING AND LOBBYISTS

Washington at Work; Ex-Aide Is Now Lobbyist With White House Ties
By DEAN BAQUET
Despite the pledge by President Clinton that his friends would not cash in on their ties, one of the most successful
new lobbyists here is a longtime Clinton adviser and confidante who has pitched a client's case while watching
college basketball at the White House. Most lobbyists struggle to arrange meetings with mid-level Government
bureaucrats, and can only dream of the kind of access enjoyed by Betsey Wright, one of the President's oldest
friends and an architect of his rise to power...

Mar. 12, 1994, Thursday

MORE ON: WRIGHT, BETSEY CLINTON, BILL. UNITED STATES. POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT. ETHICS. BIOGRAPHICAL
INFORMATION. LOBBYING AND LOBBYISTS. ARKANSAS

Saudis Pay $225 Million To Settle a B.C.C.I. Case
By DEAN BAQUET
A member of Saudi Arabia's principal banking family and an associate have paid $225 million to settle New York
and Federal charges that they looted $300 million from the depositors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce
International. The settlement of charges against Sheik Khalid bin Mahfouz, announced yesterday in New York by
Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, ends an episode that at one point strained Washington's
relationship with its most important ally in the Persian Gulf.

December 26, 1993, Tuesday

MORE ON: BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL. FAHD MORGENTHAU, ROBERT M. KHALED BIN MAHFOUZ
BANKS AND BANKING. SAUDI ARABIA

U.S. COMPANIES USE AFFILIATES ABROAD TO SKIRT SANCTIONS
By DEAN BAQUET
Seizing on porous laws and lax enforcement of United States sanctions, American corporations have used foreign
subsidiaries to conduct business openly with Cuba and Libya, according to documents and interviews. The rules
governing sanctions are so loosely drawn that law enforcement officials have had to abandon or back away from
several investigations of American companies suspected of doing illegal business abroad, an examination of some
cases shows.

December 27, 1993, Monday

MORE ON: PRICE BROTHERS CO. COASTAL CORP. CARGILL INC. BROWN & ROOT INTERNATIONAL. INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS. SANCTIONS. ECONOMIC. MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT. LAW AND
LEGISLATION. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND TRENDS. FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS. TERRORISM. CUBA. LIBYA

Agriculture Department, in Shift, Will Punish Corrupt Contractors
By DEAN BAQUET
After floating a Presidential directive for seven years, the Agriculture Department will stop giving hundreds of
millions of dollars in Government contracts to large dairies and other agricultural companies that have been
called defrauding Federal programs. The decision by Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, made under pressure
from Congress, ends the department's longstanding refusal to go along with President Ronald Reagan's 1986
directive requiring that any company found abusing a Government...

November 23, 1993, Tuesday

MORE ON: AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT. BORDEN INC. COASTAL CARRIERS INC. PET INC. ESPY, MIKE. REAGAN, RONALD
WILSON CLINTON, BILL. LEAHY, PATRICK J. WATER POLLUTION. AGRICULTURE. SUSPENSIONS. DISMISSALS AND
REIGNITATIONS. FRAUDS AND SWINDLING. BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE. EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS. CONTRACTS. LUNCH
AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS. PERJURY. MILK. DAIRY PRODUCTS. INDIAN OCEAN

SEARCH 107 ARTICLES BY DEAN BAQUET:

Match Any Word —

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Dean Baquet's role at New York Times expands

By Kevin Roderick | May 19, 2010 12:23 PM

Dean Baquet, the Washington bureau chief at the New York Times, will rotate through the managing editor chair for two months this summer. (Read the memo.) It's part of "an unusual and temporary management shuffle" to fill-in for ME Jill Abramson, who is diverting to the digital side of the NYT newsroom for six months of getting up to speed. Baquet, of course, is the former Los Angeles Times editor who resigned under pressure in 2006 over down-Zelling of the newsroom by Tribune and then-publisher David Hiller. Thus began the brief Jim O'Shea era, and before long Hiller was gone too. In his pre-L.A. days Baquet had been a rising star at the NYT, and he returned there in January 2007. Editor Bill Keller's memo today addresses (and tries to dismiss) the speculation that will naturally ensue from Baquet and two other senior editors being tapped for this temporary assignment.

More by Kevin Roderick:

Ralph Lawler of the Clippers and the age of Aquarius
Riding the Expo Line to USC 'just magical'
Last bastion of free parking? Loyola Marymount to charge students
Matt Kemp, Dodgers and Kings start big weekend the right way
LA Times writers revisit their '92 riots observations

Recent New York Times stories on LA Observed:

Touring the sites of famous Julius Shulman photos in LA
Correction o' the day
Only three+ mistakes in NYT gallery on 'Hollywood'
Frank Bruni, ex-NYT food critic, blogs about his gout
36 hours in Long Beach

Previous story: Morning Buzz: Wednesday 5.19.10
Next story: Latino L.A. represents at White House tonight *
From AJR, August/September 2006

A Bold Stance

An editor stands up to the bean counters, and goes public with it.

By Rem Rieder

Rem Rieder (rrieder@ajr.umd.edu) is AJR's editor and senior vice president.

Los Angeles Times Editor Dean Baquet had reached his limit.

The paper had shed more than 200 newsroom jobs in recent years. It was time to stop the bleeding.

So when the Tribune Co. bean counters in Chicago told him to wield the ax yet again, he said no mas.

And, remarkably, went public with it, in an article in his own newspaper, no less.

It is a brave and inspiring stance.

And a timely one. Once again, staff slashing is all the rage in the newspaper business.

The Dallas Morning News, not satisfied with last year's carnage, just lopped off more than 100 newsroom jobs through buyouts. David Black, the new owner of the Akron Beacon Journal, had barely figured out where Ohio was when he got rid of a quarter of his editorial staff. Even the Washington Post isn't immune; it just had its second newsroom buyout adventure in three years.

Tribune, which recently decided to mothball

Newsday and Baltimore Sun foreign bureaus, has already lost two outstanding editors thanks to its parsimonious ways. Baquet's predecessor, John S
Carroll, who had resurrected the Times after the
dreadful Mark Willes era, stepped down last year
rather than do any more trimming. And Bill
Marimow, now NPR’s head news honcho, was
sacked at the Baltimore Sun. Marimow had
vigorously resisted management by cutback.

Interestingly, Baquet was backed up by his
publisher, Jeffrey Johnson, who had been sent out
from Chicago to replace John Puerper, a staunch
Carroll ally. Steve Lopez, the great L.A. Times
columnist, says that Johnson has "gone native."

Cuts aren’t evil in and of themselves. Everyone can understand making them when a business is
struggling for survival. (Full disclosure: AJR, the noted cash cow, has laid people off in its quest to
keep the lights on.) And, yes, this is a challenging time for newspapers, as readers and advertisers
continue to gravitate online.

But newspapers aren’t on the verge of bankruptcy. The Times, according to an article in the paper, is
making about a 20 percent profit, which many industries would kill for.

The impetus for cuts, as everyone knows, comes from Wall Street, which is insatiable when it comes
to profits. But cuts alone won’t do it for the Street. It needs to see the potential for revenue growth
as well.

If you don’t believe me, just ask Tony Ridder.

Baquet says, if anything, his newsroom needs more people, not fewer. And that’s true for many
newspapers. Here’s why.

Belatedly, the newspaper business has recognized that its future lies not simply in the declining core
product but in a robust mix of the paper, an extensive and sophisticated online operation and a wide
array of niche products. At a time when newspapers must do much more, it makes little sense to be
shrinking the workforce.

But with a game plan of cut, cut, cut, the result is trying to survive in an increasingly competitive
market with a weaker product. Not an inspired strategy.

Scott C. Smith, the president of Tribune Publishing, says staff size is no big deal. "There is a
misperception that counting numbers of people is the right way to measure the quality of a great
newspaper," he told the Times. "You are mixing quality and quantity."

Not really. To do quality journalism takes lots of people. Enterprise reporting and investigative
journalism are very labor-intensive. As the staff shrinks, they are the first casualties. Sure, you can
cover the meetings, but it becomes harder and harder to do the in-depth reporting that truly serves
readers and distinguishes newspapers from their competitors.

As Times Publisher Johnson said, "newspapers can’t cut their way into the future."
That's why 20 prominent Angelenos sent a letter to Tribune warning against further cuts. Their action is a vivid reminder that newspapers aren't merely businesses like any other. They are, as the letter-writers said, a "special public trust."

It will be fascinating to see how the standoff between Baquet and his bosses plays out. Baquet, an outstanding journalist who had worked at the New York Times and was Carroll's managing editor, came close to resigning when Carroll did. His departure would be a devastating blow for one of the nation's journalistic treasures.

And it would tell us volumes about what really matters to Tribune.
Ousted L.A. Times Editor Is Rejoining New York Times

By Howard Kurtz
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Dean Baquet, who was ousted as editor of the Los Angeles Times last fall after refusing to make sweeping budget cuts demanded by his corporate bosses, is coming to Washington.

Baquet is rejoining the New York Times, where he worked for a decade, and will take over the paper’s Washington bureau, ending speculation that he might try to regain his old job if the Tribune Co. sells the Los Angeles paper.

"I know this will make some people at the L.A. Times sad, and leaving the L.A. Times was a sad experience for me," Baquet said yesterday. But he said he is excited to come to Washington "while there is a debate over the war, and an election that will be the most exciting since 1968."

Asked about Baquet's public defiance of Tribune executives, New York Times Executive Editor Bill Keller said: "I admire Dean's stance tremendously. I think he'll find the business side at the New York Times much more in tune with his values. . . . What Dean brings to everything he does is infectious enthusiasm and aggressive intelligence."

Baquet said he had no "inside knowledge" whether Tribune, which has accepted bids for a possible sale of the company, might spin off the California paper. He said he had "some casual conversations" with two
billionaires, Eli Broad and Ron Burkle, who have submitted a bid to purchase Tribune, and that "obviously, I thought there was a chance I could go back," as editor if they bought the paper.

"But it became clearer and clearer that wasn't likely to happen on a timetable that works for me, and the New York Times was clearer in telling me they wanted me back . . . . I hope and pray things work out really well at the L.A. Times."

The news was greeted with disappointment in Los Angeles, where many Times staffers are furious with Tribune for driving out Baquet and the former publisher, Jeffrey Johnson, who had also battled the Chicago-based company over budget cuts.

"It's a stunning loss for us, and people here are really, really disappointed," said Vernon Loeb, the paper's investigations editor. "We've all been clinging to a slender reed of hope that he would come back . . . . But now that the inevitable has happened, Dean's loss -- once and for all -- is like a punch in the stomach."

But Doyle McManus, who runs the Los Angeles Times bureau here, was more pugnacious, saying in a memo that his team would kick the rival bureau's butt. "To be low-minded about it," McManus wrote, "well, it will still be the NY Times, still encumbered by that paper's institutional weaknesses and still, even with Dean on the premises, an often unpleasant place to work."

Baquet, who takes over March 5, will replace Philip Taubman, who will receive the title of associate editor and a reporting assignment involving national security, based in California. His wife, New York Times environmental reporter Felicity Barringer, will cover her beat from here.

Taubman said he is looking forward to resuming a "writerly life," adding: "I'll be leaving the bureau in great hands and with a sense of great satisfaction about the stories the Times has broken in Washington on my watch," including the disclosure of President Bush's domestic eavesdropping program.

Baquet, 50, a New Orleans native, is a smooth-talking editor with a blunt style, a passion for investigative reporting and a knack for inspiring loyalty among his troops. He won a Pulitzer Prize at the Chicago Tribune in 1988, and was national editor of the New York Times when he left to become managing editor of the Los Angeles Times in 2000.

Five years later, when John Carroll, the L.A. Times' top editor, quit, in part out of frustration with Tribune budget-cutting, Baquet became the first black editor in the paper's history. The paper won 14 Pulitzer Prizes during Baquet's tenure as editor and managing editor.
But like many big-city papers, the L.A. Times has suffered from declining circulation and revenue. In September, Baquet threatened to quit if the Tribune didn't scale back its plan for another round of deep newsroom reductions. The newsroom staff of the Times had declined from 1,200 to 940 over five years, and the newspaper said Tribune executives wanted to shrink the staff to about 800.

Word leaked on Election Day that Baquet had been fired. He was replaced by the Chicago Tribune's managing editor, James O'Shea.

"We'd made significant cuts at the paper," Baquet said yesterday. "I understand the economics of newspapers. We just got to the point where continued cutting was going to significantly damage the paper. I didn't feel it was my job to make a paper worse. I have no regrets. I couldn't live with myself if I had done it."

Keller said he and other editors stayed in touch with Baquet but "didn't do what you'd call active recruiting until his final weeks in L.A." Baquet said he has read most of Philip Roth's novels and is eager to get back in the game.

Asked whether becoming a bureau chief is a step down, Baquet said: "My favorite thing to do at newspapers is to sit down with reporters and talk about stories, to shape coverage, and I'll get to do a million times more of that than I did as editor of a paper."

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The Other Inauguration: Dean Baquet, The New York Times’ Man in Washington

By John Koblin 1/21/09 12:48am

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On the morning of Inauguration Day, while Barack Obama and George W. Bush were traveling in a motorcade from their White House coffee talk to the Capitol for the Big Event, Dean Baquet was scarfing down his second plain bagel and cream cheese of the morning in the offices of the *New York Times* Washington bureau on 1 Street.

Out one window, Mr. Baquet could see a mob of people lining up for the inaugural ceremony; out the other, he watched two dozen or so of his reporters reading and passing around copies of Mr. Obama’s embargoved address.

He’s been the bureau chief here since March 2007, but this is the day his bureau goes from covering a lame-duck Republican to Barack Obama, the most popular president to take the oath of office in decades.

The transition has not been without its disappointments for Mr. Baquet: Between the time Mr. Obama won the election and today, the incoming president had yet to sit down with him or any of his reporters. That reward was claimed instead by their big rivals, The Washington Post, and their not-so-big rivals, *USA Today*.

“He’ll talk to us, he just will,” Mr. Baquet told *The Observer*. “Unless there’s some animosity that we have not heard of, he’ll talk to us.”

Mr. Obama’s press team has been proud of its tight management of powerful media players like The Times, but Mr. Baquet was making clear that he does not intend his bureau to be managed.

“I’m not throwing the gauntlet at him, but I’m just suggesting that it would be wise for him to talk to us,” he said.

The *Times* D.C. bureau, a place that has seen both glory days and “toxic storms,” as Bill Keller once described it, has never had more pressure to score big.
"I tend to think Dean’s biggest challenge is—like Obama’s—expectations," said Mr. Keller in email.  

"It’s a huge moment for the bureau and it’s a huge moment for the paper," said Mr. Baquet.  

"More and more papers have cut back Washington coverage and more and more papers have retreated from covering the bread and butter of Washington. The competitive pressure of competing with the couple papers that still do this, combined with the sort of moral obligation, we have to be even more aggressive because people have fewer sources for Washington news, and that puts a lot pressure on the paper and a lot of pressure on the bureau."

"Everyone recognizes the challenges and the opportunities we have here and we want to live up to it," said Times White House reporter Peter Baker, formerly of The Washington Post. "Now, how do we rise to the historical moment of a new presidency and the enormity of the crisis that confronts him?"

In many ways, the paper is incredibly well positioned to seize its moment here.

Mr. Baquet came into town with a golden ticket—fresh from the L.A. Times, with Pulitzers in his back pocket, and with a wonderful reputation for his time as an editor for The New York Times; when the paper hired him back, everyone was psyched.

In January 2007, in a note welcoming back Mr. Baquet, Mr. Keller wrote that he is a "charismatic leader, an unflinching advocate of the value and values of professional journalism, and a cool character under fire."

And it’s come with a special perk.

"I get the sense there’s more autonomy here," said one D.C. Times reporter. "Dean is viewed internally more as a player than past bureau chiefs. He’s [on the masthead], so he’s equal to a lot of those people back in New York, and it has raised the autonomy here."

Indeed, it looks, for now, as though the nasty internecine battles between Washington and the newspaper’s New York headquarters have settled into a peaceful detente. The dark cloud of Judith Miller’s reporting on weapons of mass destruction during the run-up to the war in Iraq seemed to have been dispelled in September when former bureau chief and current managing editor Jill Abramson conceded, with humility uncommon in a Washington editor (and in the uncommon context of a Times book review), that she was "too credulous."

"The reputation of the place is that you didn’t want to work there because it’s a snake pit and that people will backstab you and it’s not a pleasant place to work," said Mr. Baker.

"I don’t want to say I’m shocked, but everyone here has been terrific."

"Because of its size and importance, the bureau is always to some extent its own weather system, but it’s no secret that there have been periods when the relationship between New York and Washington was pretty dysfunctional," said Mr. Keller. "Not now."

And the people who work with him all like him. Several D.C. Times reporters described his presence as "sunny."

"With Dean Baquet at the helm, he has brought as much energy as any bureau chief I’ve ever worked under—all because of his news judgment and enthusiasm for news and his way to connect to people," said another Times reporter who didn’t want to go on the record out of fear of looking like a kiss-up to colleagues.

"He’s a guy everyone wants to work for," said Mr. Baker.

And in addition to Mr. Baker, the paper has made a spree of hires: In the past year it added Mr. Baker; Jackie Calmes from The Wall Street Journal; and Pulitzer winner Charlie Savage from...
Even with a well-burnished reputation at the paper, Mr. Baquet's future at the paper will be largely judged by what's accomplished—and what's not—with the Obama administration.

At first, reporters in D.C. figured Mr. Baquet would have had a short run as bureau chief—two years, and leave right after the election, to take a spot in New York. That was all, of course, before anyone could understand what this election, and what its immediate aftermath, would mean.

"We were all watching to see where he was living and whether he'd buy or rent, and to see if that was an indication," said one reporter.

For the record, he rented a place in D.C., but Mr. Baquet insists that's only because he sold his house at the top of the market, and with an imploding housing market, buying high didn't make too much sense once he moved himself back to the East Coast.

"The sense is he's just getting started, and he's still very new there," said one senior newsroom source.

With Mr. Keller turning 60 two days ago, and five years from mandatory retirement from the editor's chair, it's not outrageous to be thinking about the future.

Right now, our sources tell us, Ms. Abramson, who has grown close personally to Mr. Keller as part of the "Bill and Jill" duo that runs the Eighth Avenue building today, is the leader in the sweepstakes to replace him. But!

"If Dean produces some blockbuster stories and manages that bureau well, he'll keep his name in the race," the source said.

Mr. Baquet is predictably uninterested in laying odds on himself for the top spot on the masthead.

"Of course it's important to me personally," he said. "I don't think about legacies—otherwise I would have stayed in one place longer!"

jkoblin@observer.com
GERMAINE BAZZLE
September 12th, 2012

Father Kevin Wildes, President
c/o Elizabeth Kordahl
Loyola University New Orleans
6363 St. Charles
New Orleans, LA 70118

RE: Recommendation for Honorary Doctorate

Father Wildes:

I nominate Germaine Potter Bazzle for an honorary doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans. I believe that Ms. Bazzle is deserving of such a high recognition. While being one of the most talented and locally respected vocalists in New Orleans’ music history, Ms. Bazzle is most deserving of this degree for her service to others through her selfless dedication to education and through her efforts for social justice constituted by work with the musician’s union and advocacy for women in music. In this nomination, I will touch on her extraordinary talents, her educational distinctions and her advocacy.

First, Ms. Bazzle is one of the most expressive and stylized female vocalists in New Orleans’ music history. Her wide vocal range and mastery of animated dynamics, especially in her legendary “scats,” has allowed Ms. Bazzle to take ownership of jazz standards. Musicians even refer to that style as having “Bazzled” the melody. Known and respected as someone internationally under-appreciated and under-recognized, Ms. Bazzle holds the admiration of all local musicians. Legendary musician Wardell Quezergue, also a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Loyola, once said, “Germaine is the only person I know who can turn a microphone into a musical instrument.” Indeed, she is masterful among the masters.

Second, Ms. Bazzle gave up career opportunities that would have put her in the limelight to teach children. After graduating from Xavier University, she taught choir, mostly to girls, for many years at Xavier Prep, from which she is now retired. She has trained countless women in private vocal lessons. She is legendary as a tough teacher, dedicated to perfection in singing. A devout Catholic, she sings in the St. Louis Catholic Choir, where she coaches members of the choir. Each year she participates in the Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp, educating highly talented children on the New Orleans heritage of music, a multi-generational tradition which she embodies and professes. In addition, Ms. Bazzel teaches occasionally in the Heritage School of Music sponsored by the Jazz and Heritage Foundation, an outreach program dedicated to training students, especially those economically challenged, in the virtue of learning and living music. Her selfless dedication to others, especially at her own career expense, reflects the Jesuit core value of service to others.
Germaine Potter Bazzle

Third, Ms. Bazzle has been a tireless advocate for musicians’ rights. For many years, she has been a leader and member of the local musicians’ union, where is known for spearheading an initiative of advocacy for women in the music industry, entitled “New Orleans Women in Music” (NOWIM). In an industry dominated by males and many unscrupulous operators, Ms. Bazzle is a key advocate for bolstering the careers of women, especially in understanding the key business decisions faced by women. Each year, NOWIM conduct seminars and hold a fundraiser concert series in which resources are collected for social services for female musicians. Such leadership and advocacy is consistent with the key Jesuit value of Social Justice.

Father Wildes, I am honored to stand in nominating Germaine Potter Bazzle for an honorary doctorate. Her selfless stewardship of God’s talents is worthy of honor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jerry R. Goolsby
Hilton/Baldrige Eminent Scholar in Music Industry Studies
And Professor of Marketing
TOM BROKAW
The Honorary Degrees Committee  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Office of Academic Affairs, Box 7  

October 24, 2012  

Dear Committee Members,  

I write to nominate Mr. Tom Brokaw for an honorary doctorate of humane letters. Mr. Brokaw is a respected journalist whose career spans more than 40 years and is author of five best selling books, including *The Greatest Generation*.  

As a journalist, he has earned the reputation as one of the most trusted figures in broadcast journalism. For 21 years he was the anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News. He is the only person to host all three major NBC News programs: The Today Show, NBC Nightly News, and Meet the Press. Today, he serves as a Special Correspondent for NBC News and works on documentaries for other outlets. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors recognizing his journalistic excellence, including the Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award, the Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement, and two Peabody and DuPont awards.  


Throughout his distinguished career, he covered some of the most historical moments of the 20th century. His impressive list of firsts includes the first American news anchor to report that war with Iraq had begun. Additionally, he conducted the first U.S. one-on-one interview with Russian Mikhail Gorbachev; the first and only anchor to report from the scene the night the Berlin Wall fell; and was the first American anchor to travel to Tibet to report on human-right abuses and to conduct an interview with the Dalai Lama.
In honoring Mr. Brokaw with an honorary degree, Loyola would be recognizing his professional achievements, as well as his tireless work as the National D-Day chairman of America’s National World War II Museum. As Governor Pete Wilson eloquently stated, “The journalistic profession has conferred its highest honor upon Tom. But as important as his distinguished professional career achievements has been, Tom has been even more important to America by providing us a perspective that rouses us from self-absorption to self-awareness.”

There are few journalists whose professional achievements and lifetime of work match the depth, integrity, and excellence found when examining Mr. Brokaw’s career. With Loyola’s own rich history in educating generations of journalists and its service to others, it is fitting that Mr. Brokaw be honored by Loyola in its centennial year.

Thank you for considering Mr. Brokaw for an honorary degree.

Sincerely,

Sonya Forte Duhé, Ph.D.
Director and Professor
ROBIN ROBERTS
RECOMMENDATION FOR OUR 2013 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE

Last year after our commencement ceremony, my staff and a few others were having lunch and throwing out ideas on our next commencement speaker. The name of Robin Roberts came up. Everyone at the table was in full-agreement. If you are from this area you are familiar with Sally Ann Roberts, one of our local anchors for WWL-TV. You don’t have to be from this area to know Sally Ann’s sister, Robin Roberts.

Robin Roberts is very familiar with our city. She grew up in Pass Christian, Mississippi and attended Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. After graduation she went on to become a sports anchor and reporter in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. She then moved to Biloxi, to Nashville, and then Atlanta. In 1990 she joined ESPN and then in 1995 she became a featured reporter for Good Morning America. For many years, Roberts worked at both ESPN and Good Morning America. Roberts is now a co-anchor of GMA and has helped lead GMA back to the top of the ratings and became the #1 morning show after beating the TODAY show in ratings in April 2012 for the first time in 16 years. GMA has also won three consecutive Emmy Awards for Outstanding Morning program under her leadership.

We all know the anchor, co-host, Robin Roberts and now we know the personal, courageous side of Robin Roberts. In 2007, Roberts was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her courageous and public battle has been recognized with awards and honors from organizations around the country.

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, a part of the country that Roberts called home for most of her life. She traveled to the hurricane zone and reported live amid the devastation. She also launched “GMA Gets It Done”, a year-long effort to rebuild Roberts’ hometown of Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Five years after announcing that she had breast cancer, Roberts now faces another health issue. She has been diagnosed with a rare form of MDS (myelodysplastic syndrome) which may have been caused by her chemotherapy treatments. As I write this, she is currently undergoing a bone marrow transplant.

Before her cancer diagnosis, Roberts wrote a book called “From the Heart: Seven Rules to Live By”. That book is now called “From the Heart – Eight Rules to Live By”. The following is an excerpt from an interview,

“Part of the reason why I wrote this book was to strip away everything for me. If you strip everything away...if you strip away my college degree and my awards, and who I am and all that, it comes down to being a simple child of God. That’s who I am.”

I believe that Robin Roberts meets all of the criteria set forth for both an honorary degree and as our commencement speaker for our 2013 Commencement Ceremony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gros
Robin Roberts is anchor of ABC's "Good Morning America." Under her leadership, the broadcast has won three consecutive Emmy Awards for Outstanding Morning program. In 1983, Roberts graduated cum laude from Southeastern Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications. She was a standout performer on the women's basketball team, ending her career as the school's all-time leading scorer (1,446 points) and rebounder (1,034). Roberts is one of only three Lady Lions to score 1,000 career points and grab 1,000 career rebounds. During her senior season, she averaged a career high 15.2 points per game.

In 2001, Roberts was named a "Louisiana Legend" by Louisiana Public Broadcasting. She was also named to the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup Advisory Board in January 1998, a board that includes Henry Kissinger, William Simon, Christine Whitman and Lamar Hunt. In 1994, she was inducted in the Women's Institute on Sport and the Education Foundation's Hall of Fame. She is also active as a speaker for charity and civic functions.

In March 2007, Roberts' first book, "From the Heart: 7 Rules to Live By," was published by Hyperion. An updated version of the book, including an additional chapter on her battle with breast cancer, was released in 2008.

Roberts is a native of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and currently resides in New York City. In August 2005, Roberts found her personal and professional lives collide when Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast – a part of the country Roberts called home for most of her life. In the days following, Roberts traveled to the hurricane zone and reported live amid the devastation of the storm. She also launched GMA Gets It Done, a year-long effort to rebuild Roberts' hometown of Pass Christian, Mississippi. Roberts has returned to the Gulf Coast numerous times in the ensuing years to update viewers on how residents and businesses in the region are recovering post-Katrina.
CARL STEWART
Dear Honorary Degree Selection Committee,

I would like to nominate Loyola University New Orleans College of Law alumni Carl Stewart for an honorary degree.

Judge Stewart has been promoted to Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. I include below a press release announcing his appointment as Chief Judge. If the Committee would like more information about Judge Stewart, I would be happy to provide it. I am copying the Dean of the College of Law on this nomination.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 28, 2012 UNITED STATES COURTS FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 600 CAMP STREET, ROOM 100 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 PRESS RELEASE GREGORY A. NUSSEL CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE PHONE: (504) 310-7777 On October 1, 2012, Judge Carl E. Stewart of Shreveport, Louisiana, becomes the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which hears appeals from federal courts in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. Judge Stewart succeeds Chief Judge Edith H. Jones, who is stepping down from the chief judgeship. Judge Stewart’s elevation marks the second time the chief judge position has been filled by a Shreveport resident. The Court was headed from 1992 - 1999 by Judge Henry A. Politz, a long-time Shreveport resident who died in 2002.

Judge Stewart received his undergraduate degree magna cum laude from Dillard University in 1971 and his J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law in 1974. Immediately following admission to the Louisiana Bar Association in October 1974, he entered the United States Army, duty stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, and served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps until October 1977. Following his military service, Judge Stewart served as a Staff Attorney with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, Assistant United States Attorney, Special Assistant City and District Attorney, and private practitioner. In 1985, he was elected as a District Judge for the First Judicial District Court of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and was reelected without opposition five years later. In 1991, again without opposition, he was elected to the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal.

President William J. Clinton appointed Judge Stewart as United States Circuit Judge on May 9, 1994. Judge Stewart is the second African American appointed to the Fifth Circuit. The first to hold that distinction was Joseph W. Hatchett of Tallahassee, Florida, who was appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979 and served from 1996 - 1999 as Chief Judge of the “new” Eleventh Circuit, which was formed as a result of the 1981 “split” of the Fifth Circuit. Judge Stewart becomes the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit.

Judge Stewart is National Vice President of the American Inns of Court Foundation and a member of the National, Federal, Louisiana and Shreveport Bar Associations, and the Federal Judges Association. He is the immediate past Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States, a post to which he was appointed by Chief Justice of the United States William H. Rehnquist and later extended by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. He has served as a member of the Fifth Circuit Judicial Council and for seven years chaired its Space and Staffing Committee, which oversees resources for federal building construction. As Chief Judge of the Circuit, Judge Stewart will sit on the Judicial Conference of the United States, which establishes policies for federal courts nationwide.

Thanks for your consideration,
Isabel Medina

cc: Dean Lopez

M. Isabel Medina
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PHYLLIS TAYLOR
October 3, 2012

Dear Members of the Honorary Degrees Committee,

I would like to nominate Mrs. Phyllis Taylor for an honorary degree of humane letters.

As an activist and philanthropist, Mrs. Taylor continues her late husband’s legacy of providing the opportunity for scholastically-achieving high school students to attend college tuition-free via the Taylor Plan (TOPS). Her unique efforts in this area and philanthropy embody many of the Jesuit ideals we strive to attain as a university and instill in our students.

Currently, as the chairman and CEO of the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, Mrs. Taylor is the agent for the foundation’s goal of promoting public awareness about the TOPS program in Louisiana and the Taylor Plan in other states. In 1985, she and her late husband founded the foundation with an emphasis on benefitting education, law enforcement, the military, and other humanitarian efforts. The TOPS program we know today originated with Mr. Taylor’s vision. He and Mrs. Taylor worked diligently to guarantee that the opportunity to go to college be based on a child’s ability to learn, not the ability to pay. His vision became known as the Taylor Plan and it became law in Louisiana in 1989. Since Mr. Taylor’s death in 2004, 20 additional states had adopted merit-based college tuition plans. Private universities also benefit from TOPS, and almost all of our Louisiana undergraduate students receive an average of slightly more than $3200 annually to help them pay for college.

Besides ensuring the continuation of the TOPS program, Mrs. Taylor serves on numerous civic and charitable boards and has led many community initiatives ranging from support of medical and healthcare causes, military institutions, artistic organizations, and business groups. She has also supported such cultural institutions as the New Orleans Ballet Association, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and the Audubon Commission. Most notably, she recently served as chair of the Greater New Orleans Foundation, which supports a number of community causes. She is a member of the New Orleans Business Council, the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, and the Smithsonian National Board.

In addition to her board memberships on various local and national non-profits, Mrs. Taylor has received numerous honors including the United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area Alexis de Tocqueville Award. Along with her late husband, the couple was named Philanthropist of the Year by National Philanthropist.

Mrs. Taylor is a native of Abbeville, Louisiana. She graduated from University of Southwestern Louisiana with a degree in history and political science. She graduated from Tulane University School of Law in 1966, where she was one of only two women in her law class. Mrs. Taylor served as law clerk for the
Supreme Court of Louisiana and Orleans Parish Civil District Court. She began her career in the oil industry in 1972 when she became the in-house counsel for Texas oilman John W. Meacon, Sr. It was while working in this capacity that she met her future husband, Patrick Taylor. The two were married for 39 years until his death in 2004.

Mrs. Taylor has demonstrated through her business endeavors, her civic, cultural, and philanthropic work, her deep commitment to serving others, especially our youth. Thousands of Louisiana’s young citizens have been afforded a college education because of the TOPS program. Furthermore, TOPS has been an inspiration and model for other states, thereby, multiplying its effect and providing more young citizens of our nation the opportunity to attain a college degree. All of this is possible because of one man’s vision and one’s woman’s commitment to ensuring the vision remains a reality.

Thank you for considering Mrs. Taylor as a candidate for an honorary degree from Loyola.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Salvadore A. Liberto
Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost