

# PR 4

Office of the President  
February 19, 2016

Members, Board of Trustees:

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding an Honorary Doctor of Science to W. David Arnett; an Honorary Doctor of Laws to Thomas Patterson Maney; an Honorary Doctor of Science to Herbert W. Ockerman; and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Eileen A. Recktenwald as approved and recommended by the University Faculty.

Background: Pursuant to the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees, the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees recommended to the elected Faculty Senators that the specified honorary degree be awarded to W. David Arnett, Thomas Patterson Maney, Herbert W. Ockerman, and Eileen A. Recktenwald. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the recipients are attached.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_

# W. David Arnett

## *Honorary Doctor of Science*

W. David Arnett grew up in Ballard County and his family roots in Kentucky go all the way back to 1820. An undergraduate physics major at the University of Kentucky, Arnett was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and graduated with honors in 1961. He was profoundly influenced by his time at UK, giving particular credit to a pair of exceptional UK Physics faculty members, Wendell DeMarcus and Marcus McEllistrem.

Arnett went on to earn his Ph.D. at Yale University, and later held academic positions at Rice University, the University of Texas, the University of Illinois, and the University of Chicago. Currently, he is Regents Professor at Steward Observatory of the University of Arizona. In 1985, while just 45 years of age, Arnett was elected to both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Today, he is one of the world's preeminent astrophysicists. Among other accomplishments, Arnett is held in high esteem for his pioneering work in understanding the nuclear processes that power stars. The highest recognition any scientist can achieve is when their peer community names a physical law after them. "Arnett's Law" describes how stars regulate energy transport as they explode. Now in his mid-70s, at an age when most people have retired, he is using state-of-the-art national supercomputer facilities to bring further clarity to our understanding of the universe.

A sampling of the awards and honors which have been bestowed upon Arnett includes the following: the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship; Yale Distinguished Graduate in Physical Sciences; the Hans Bethe Prize from the American Physical Society; and the Marcel Grossman Prize from the International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics.

Professor Arnett has published more than 400 papers and the renowned scientific book, "Supernovae and Nucleosynthesis."

While rising to the highest academic levels in scholarship, Arnett has made further contributions to his profession by serving on panels and committees of the National Research Council, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Lawrence Livermore International Laboratory. In these positions, he has provided valuable advice to the scientific community on computing, high-energy density plasmas, and astrophysics.

When asked how well the University of Kentucky had prepared him for the rigors of pursuing his doctorate, Arnett replied that on an early exam in quantum mechanics at Yale, he aced the test, equalling and surpassing his peers from Columbia, Harvard, MIT and elsewhere. Yes, UK indeed prepared Arnett for what continues to be an exciting career of scientific discovery.

W. David Arnett is most worthy of receiving an honorary degree from the University of Kentucky.

# **Thomas Patterson Maney**

## *Honorary Doctor of Laws*

As one of his nominators stated, the breadth of the achievements of Thomas Patterson "Patt" Maney might best be described in the dilemma of how he should be addressed: General or Judge. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Kentucky in 1970, as well as his military commission from the UK Army ROTC program. Later, he attended and graduated from the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

Commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves during the Vietnam War era, General Maney served in the military for 34 years, and in nearly every hot spot in the world. General Maney never hesitated to interrupt his other professional life, the law, or his personal life to serve his nation. He was sent to Panama for Operation Just Cause, to Haiti for Operation Uphold Democracy, to Bosnia for Operations Joint Guard and Joint Endeavor, and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom.

When not forward-deployed, General Maney served as deputy commander of the Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and as deputy commander of the Special Warfare Center and School, located on the same military base. He also served as commander of the 350th Civil Affairs Command in Pensacola, Florida, with operations in five states and a focus on Latin America.

General Maney's service to society extends beyond his military career. He was an attorney in private practice, first in Louisville and then in his adopted hometown of Fort Walton Beach, Florida. General Maney was elected a judge in the Okaloosa County Court in 1989 and continues as a judge today. He was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and served on the Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. His work and focus on improving the lives of American veterans led to the Florida legislature's passage of the T. "Patt" Maney Veterans Treatment Intervention Act.

His nation has recognized General Maney's service by awarding him the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Public Service, the Department of State's Meritorious Honor Award, the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart. While serving as senior advisor to the U.S. Ambassador in Afghanistan, an IED blew up the vehicle in which he was riding. What followed was 20 months of rehabilitation at Walter Reed Hospital and retirement from the Army in 2007.

"Patt" Maney is one of the very few who have attained the highest levels of recognition in two fields, the military and the law. His exemplary character and his dedication to making his community, his country, and the world a better place bring great pride to the University of Kentucky. His picture hangs on the UK Army ROTC's Wall of Fame in Buell Armory. "Patt" Maney is eminently deserving of receiving an honorary degree, the highest honor that the university can bestow.

# Herbert W. Ockerman

## *Honorary Doctor of Science*

Herbert Wood Ockerman was born in Nelson County in the small town of Chaplin, Kentucky. He came to the University of Kentucky in the fall of 1950 to play football for Coach Paul 'Bear' Bryant as a quarterback. But a knee injury changed his plans. Dr. Ockerman would graduate with distinction in 1954, with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture, and would follow that up with a master's in agriculture from UK in 1958. During this period of time, he also served in the United States Air Force as an aircraft commander, navigation trainer, and test pilot.

In 1962, Dr. Ockerman earned his Ph.D. in animal sciences from North Carolina State University. He accepted a faculty position at The Ohio State University and today, in his 84th year, continues to work there full time as a faculty member. Dr. Ockerman is a world-renowned teacher and research scientist in the areas of food chemistry and muscle biology. He was the first person to produce germ-free muscle in a natural, not denatured state. This led others to explore canning without a heat treatment, an early foray into the non-thermal processing of low-acid foods.

In addition to his significant contributions to the advancement of food science, the lives directly impacted by Dr. Ockerman include nearly 200 graduate students, visiting professors from 36 countries, and countless undergraduates. Readily found among students Dr. Ockerman has mentored are national secretaries of agriculture, deans of colleges of agriculture, and university presidents. Add to this list a number of owners of food companies and several directors of food research institutes. He has published more than 2,000 scholarly works, including 233 scientific journal publications, and well over 100 books or book chapters.

Dr. Ockerman not only has traveled the world promoting food and agricultural studies in diverse areas, he long ago established a wonderful philanthropic tradition of buying and collecting books and donating them to school and university libraries across the globe. A university in the Philippines named its library in his honor, marking only the second building at an international university to be named after an Ohio State professor. He continues to ship thousands of books each year, at his own expense, as part of the Frances J. Ockerman International Book Endowment, named in honor of his late wife. He also created a separate endowment at UK in memory of Frances.

Honored by his alma mater with induction into the University of Kentucky's Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1995, Dr. Ockerman has clearly demonstrated how one life can make a tremendous difference.

For literally turning the world into his classroom and reflecting so brilliantly upon UK, Herbert Wood Ockerman is hereby recommended to receive an honorary degree.

# **Eileen Recktenwald**

## *Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters*

Eileen Recktenwald has made helping victims of sexual assault her life's work, and in doing so, she has become an innovative national leader in the area of service to victims of sexual violence, and she has helped Kentucky become nationally prominent in the field of sexual violence prevention.

After graduating from the University of Maryland in 1973, Ms. Recktenwald moved to Eastern Kentucky and worked in child-service programs. Her career with domestic violence victims began in 1985 as director of the Big Sandy Family Abuse Center in Prestonsburg, Kentucky and continued in other positions with Mountain Comprehensive Care Center in Eastern Kentucky — working with domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual abuse victims. Her passion for her work and tireless efforts eventually encompassed the whole state as she became executive director of the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, a position she holds today overseeing 13 Kentucky Rape Crisis Centers throughout the Commonwealth.

A nominator notes that Ms. Recktenwald "transformed the way the Rape Crisis Centers approach their work...Under her leadership the centers have become not only fiercely committed to responding to crises and intervening after violence has occurred, but equally fiercely committed to true primary prevention and stopping violence before it ever occurs."

Ms. Recktenwald, one of the first graduates of the University of Kentucky College of Social Work's satellite programs in the masters of social work education in Eastern Kentucky, again found a partner in UK when developing the first ever statewide pilot of a violence prevention program to prevent violence in high school populations.

UK's researchers, working with Ms. Recktenwald, received a \$2.5 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the effectiveness of the Green Dot bystander intervention program that was created at UK. This was the first study of its kind in the nation and produced results showing the program effective in reducing incidents of sexual violence by 50 percent. Ms. Recktenwald continues her work to increase the number of schools using the program.

In Kentucky's capital, Ms. Recktenwald and her work with victims and prevention programs are well respected. Under her leadership, KASAP played an important role in the passage of House Bill 8 that expanded protective orders to dating violence and stalking victims.

For her successful efforts to improve service to victims and her strong commitment to end sexual violence, Ms. Recktenwald has received numerous awards in Kentucky from the Kentucky Victims Coalition, the Council on Child Abuse and the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, and she was inducted into UK College of Social Work's Hall of Fame. In 2014 Ms. Recktenwald was presented with the Gail-Burns Smith Award, the highest honor from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Eileen Recktenwald is deserving of an honorary doctorate from the University of Kentucky in praise of a career steeped in passionate and life-changing service to others.