This is our annual request for commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient nominations for the Class of 2006 Commencement, and future commencement exercises.

The conferral of honorary degrees is a long-standing academic tradition that not only recognizes individuals of singular achievement but also brings honor and recognition to the Institute. I urge you to give some thought to the nomination of individuals who deserve to be honored for their accomplishments and who would honor Rensselaer by their participation in commencement.

The four categories of honorary degrees at Rensselaer are: Engineering, Science, Arts and Humane Letters, and Laws. A candidate for an honorary degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute should have made an outstanding contribution to society, and should have made a significant contribution to his or her professional field. Special attention will be given to candidates who have achieved outstanding success in fields that are related to the educational objectives of the Institute. Appropriate candidates should also embody the basic ideals of personal integrity and good citizenship that the Institute seeks to foster. Candidates for commencement speaker need to have strong oratorical skills.
Additional criteria for degree recipients and a nomination form are attached. The form is also available on Rensselaer’s web site (www.rpi.edu) as a link off of the President’s page. The Faculty Honors Committee and the President’s Committee on Honors will evaluate all nominations in developing a list of nominees to be submitted to the Board of Trustees.

Please send nominations to Theresa Hobbs, Board of Trustees’ Office, Room 3031, Troy Building. Nominations received by April 1, 2005 will be considered for the 2006 Commencement.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important tradition. Your participation in this process will ensure that we have a creative list of qualified candidates to consider.

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**Additional Criteria**

Each degree recipient should be at least one of the following:

1. a major contributor to science, engineering, architecture, the arts, management, or public policy, exemplifying Rensselaer’s tradition of excellence.

2. an interpreter of science, engineering or architecture as writer, artist, critic, humanist, or educator, including secondary school level.

3. a leader in industry, an innovator in the application of science and technology to the productive needs of society.

4. an original thinker or influential spokesperson in relating scientific and technological activity to public policy and needs.

5. an outstanding Rensselaer alumnus or friend who has shown special interest in and support of Rensselaer.

Members of the academic/nonacademic staff and active Trustees of Rensselaer are not eligible candidates. A candidate must be present in person to receive the degree.
HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATION FORM

Candidate's full name: _______________________________ Date of Birth: _______________________________

Present position: ________________________________________________________________________________

Address & Zip: _______________________________ Phone: _______________________________

Reason for awarding the degree: _______________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Degrees earned and institution: _______________________________ Date: __________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Previous Honors and organization awarding: _______________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Suggested as: ___ Commencement Speaker ___ Honorary Degree Recipient

Suggested honorary degree to be awarded: _______________________________

Proposed by: _______________________________

(Can be more than one person)

Title(s): _______________________________

Address: _______________________________

City, State, Zip: _______________________________

Phone Number: _______________________________

Please return to: Theresa Hobbs

Board of Trustees' Office

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

3031 Troy Building

Troy, New York 12180-3590

NOTES: 1. Nominees will not be considered without the nominator's statement of reason for awarding the degree.

2. Please attach biographical information such as “Who's Who” clippings, internet biography, education, etc.