

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Honorary Doctorate of Science Degree to Roy L. Whistler, ISU
Date: May 12, 2003

Recommended Action:

Approve awarding an honorary doctorate of science degree to Roy L. Whistler at Summer Commencement.

Executive Summary:

1938 Graduate
of ISU

Iowa State University requests approval to award an honorary doctorate of science degree to Roy L. Whistler. The University wishes to recognize Dr. Whistler for internationally recognized and leading work in carbohydrate research for more than half a century. Since earning his doctoral degree from Iowa State University in 1938, Dr. Whistler has published more than 480 scientific publications, produced many patents, and edited or authored more than twenty books.

Dr. Whistler has
Received Many
Awards

Dr. Whistler is the recipient of every major award for carbohydrate chemistry and research. The American Chemical Society, for example, has given him the Hudson Award for carbohydrate research and the Anselme Payen Award for wood and fiber chemistry. The Association for Cereal Chemists has given him the Alsberg-Schoch Award for starch chemistry research and the Osborne Medal for the most distinguished contribution to cereal science. The US Department of Agriculture has given Dr. Whistler its greatest recognition for research excellence, the Sterling B. Hendricks Award, and the Institute of Food Technologists has given him the Nicholas Appert Award, and the American Institute of Chemists awarded him the Gold Medal.

Dr. Whistler has
Made Many
Contributions to
Field

Among his notable scientific contributions, Dr. Whistler established the systematic nomenclature of polysaccharides, elucidating the structure and properties of hemicellulose, developing classical carbohydrate analytical methods, and establishing structure-function relationships for polysaccharides, and developing chemical modification processes for polysaccharides. His latest endeavor in Central America involves developing banana starch, a previously untapped starch resource, and this could create a new use for bananas determined as not suitable for produce stand sales, helping economic progress in developing countries.

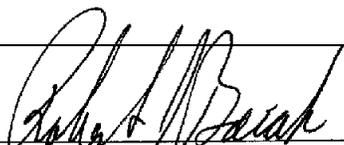
Dr. Whistler has served as President of the American Association of Cereal Chemists and as President of the American Institute of Chemists. He wrote the first book on Polysaccharide Chemistry, established and edited the Methods in Carbohydrate Chemistry series, the Industrial Gums reference book, the Starch: Chemistry and Technology reference books, and, again, more than 480 refereed articles.

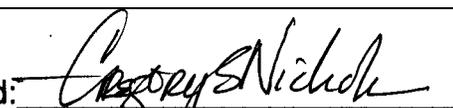
Proud to be an
"Iowa Stater"

Dr. Whistler received his B.S. degree from Heidelberg College, his M.S. from The Ohio State University, and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Very frequently, Dr. Whistler speaks with pride of being an Iowa Stater. He regularly provides support and encouragement to Iowa State graduates.

Nominated by
Several ISU
Departments

The Departments of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology and of Chemistry and of Food Science and Human Nutrition have nominated Dr. Whistler for the honorary degree. The Faculty Senate Honorary Degrees Committee unanimously supported the recommendation, as did the Faculty Senate Executive Board. The Office of the Provost also supports the recommendation, which President Gregory Geoffroy is pleased to present to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.


Robert J. Barak

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols