



Item: AS: A-3

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATE NOMINATIONS**

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approve the conferral of Honorary Doctorates on Mr. Ralph de la Vega and Mr. Marvin Weiner (posthumous).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

University Policy 2.3 (Honorary Doctorates) specifies that those nominated for Honorary Doctorates be recommended to the FAU Board of Trustees by the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee, the Provost and the President. Two candidates are being recommended:

Ralph de la Vega has been nominated by Karl Stevens and Mohammad Ilyas, Deans of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. A BSME graduate of FAU, Mr. de la Vega started his career with BellSouth as a management assistant. He has held numerous positions of increasing responsibility and is currently President and CEO of AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets. In addition, he is extensively involved in nonprofit and community organizations.

Marvin Weiner has been nominated for a posthumous Honorary Doctorate by William Miller, Dean of University Libraries. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Weiner was a successful businessman. His real love, however, was Benjamin Franklin and the idea of America. The Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection was donated to FAU several years ago. Mr. Weiner's children remain involved with FAU and will accept this Honorary Doctorate on his behalf.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

If approved, these Honorary Doctorates will be conferred at a future commencement ceremony.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

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**Supporting Documentation: Nomination materials**

**Presented by: Brenda Claiborne, Provost**

**Phone: 561-297-3062**



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September 9, 2011

Dr. Diane Alperin, Associate Provost  
Office of the Provost  
Florida Atlantic University  
777 Glades Road  
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Dear Diane:

It is my pleasure to nominate Ralph de la Vega BSME '74 for an honorary doctoral degree from Florida Atlantic University. We would like him to receive the degree during the Fall 2011 or Spring 2012 College of Engineering and Computer Science commencement ceremony. Ralph de la Vega is truly an exceptional individual and far exceeds the level of achievements expected for such an honor.

Ralph graduated from FAU in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He received an MBA from Northern Illinois University and completed the Executive Program at the University of Virginia. Ralph has been the President and CEO of AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets since October 2008. Today, he leads all consumer marketing, sales, content, converged services and customer care for the company's wireless and wired businesses. He is also the author of the book, *Obstacles Welcome: Turn Adversity into Advantage in Business and Life* (Thomas Nelson, 2009).

Previously, he served as President and CEO-AT&T Mobility where he was responsible for AT&T's wireless business since October 2007.

Prior to that, he served as group president-Regional Telecommunications and Entertainment, with responsibility for overall leadership in AT&T's regional wired business, including consumer and regional business sales and network. He was appointed to that post in January 2007, after the close of the AT&T-BellSouth merger, which consolidated ownership of Cingular.

From 2004-2006, de la Vega served as chief operating officer of Cingular Wireless, with responsibility for technology planning, network operations, marketing, sales and customer care.

Before joining Cingular in January 2004, he served as president-BellSouth Latin America, with overall responsibility for BellSouth's operations in 11 countries: Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua, Brazil and Guatemala.

He also has served as BellSouth's president of Broadband and Internet Services. In this position, he had overall responsibility for the deployment, marketing and operations of broadband services. In addition, he had responsibility for BellSouth Internet Services and BellSouth's rapidly growing data support groups.

Mr. de la Vega started his career in 1974 with BellSouth (then Southern Bell) as a management assistant. He has held numerous positions of increasing responsibility in Network Planning, Consumer Services, Engineering and Operations – including a rotational assignment at Telcordia (Bellcore) – and was responsible for all BellSouth Telecommunications Network Operations in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Mr. de la Vega also is extensively involved in non-profit and community organizations. He is the chairman of Junior Achievement Worldwide and the chairman of Hispanic initiatives for the Boy Scouts of America, and serves on the boards of the Georgia Research Alliance and the Georgia Aquarium. He was inducted into the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's prestigious Alumni Hall of Fame which honors select Hispanics for their personal achievements, contributions and service to America.

Mr. de la Vega is a member of the board of New York Life Insurance Company.

I am sure you will agree that he well deserves this honor from his alma mater Florida Atlantic University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Ilyas".

Mohammad Ilyas, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean



**Ralph de la Vega**

President and CEO—AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets

Ralph de la Vega, President and CEO-AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets, was named to his current role in October 2008. Today, he leads all consumer marketing, sales, content, converged services and customer care for the company's wireless and wired businesses.

Previously, he served as President and CEO-AT&T Mobility where he was responsible for AT&T's wireless business since October 2007.

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Mr. de la Vega is a member of the board of New York Life Insurance Company.

A native of Cuba, he holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Florida Atlantic University and a master's degree in business administration from Northern Illinois University, and he has completed the Executive Program at the University of Virginia. He is also the author of the book, *Obstacles Welcome: Turn Adversity into Advantage in Business and Life* (Thomas Nelson, 2009).

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**Stock Quote**

Price	\$31.09
Last Trade	01:36 PM May 17 2011
Change	-\$0.03
Change (%)	+0.10%
Volume	12,556,500
52 Week Low	\$23.78
52 Week High	\$31.94
Day Low	\$30.90
Day High	\$31.27

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**Leadership**

**AT&T Executive Bios**



**Randall L. Stephenson**  
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President



**Richard G. Lindner**  
Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

August 29, 2011

Dr. Brenda Claiborne  
Provost  
Administration Building  
Campus

Dear Provost Claiborne:

I would like to recommend Mr. Marvin Weiner as a candidate for a posthumous honorary doctorate, in recognition of his contributions both to scholarship and to Florida Atlantic University. We are the fortunate recipients of the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection, which includes not only thousands of 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century books, periodical publications, and pamphlets but also European volumes dating from the 16<sup>th</sup>-century, all of which bear on the idea of democracy, political reform, and the creation of America. Items from this collection, such as the first printing of the Declaration of Independence in a newspaper (dated July 6, 1776), have been exhibited at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, and at other important library and museum venues.

The acquisition of this collection, over a period of more than 50 years, was a major act of scholarship in itself, a determined intellectual pursuit to reproduce Thomas Jefferson's library and gather the publications that reflected the intellectual currents which helped to produce the American Revolution. To quote one scholar, the collection is "nothing less than the intellectual history of the origins of the American Revolution. Reaching back to classical antiquity, the collection is an extraordinary assemblage of primary sources relating to the idea of freedom in the Western tradition. It includes an especially fine collection of pamphlets documenting the spirit of revolution in 18<sup>th</sup>-century America."

Marvin Weiner, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School (1938), was a successful businessman. His real love, however, was Benjamin Franklin and the idea of America. Towards that end, he spent all of his spare time and much of his available personal resources in accumulating this collection, some of which was purchased from dealers and much of which was acquired by laborious combing through used book stores and estate sales. Mr. Weiner carefully cataloged each item in his collection, and followed leads from the key authors about what more he needed to acquire; when one of his sources cited something he did not hold, it was added to the desiderata list. In time Mr. Weiner's efforts and expertise were acknowledged not only by his alma mater but also by various bibliographic societies such as the American Antiquarian Society, the Philobiblion Society, and the Grolier Club, of which he was a member.

Mr. Weiner's scholarly acumen served the world of scholarship during the 1950s in Philadelphia, where he found a long-lost scrapbook of publications, many of them previously unknown, of the Italian-American Jewish scholar Sabato Morais, sitting unrecognized in a used bookshop. Mr. Weiner acquired this ledger and produced a scholarly inventory of it (attached here) which helped bring to light much new information about 19<sup>th</sup>-century American Judaism and augment the known corpus of Morais' works (many of which had been written anonymously) by hundreds of items. This publication would have been worthy of a full-time professor in some area of the humanities, but as the production of a working business person, purely as a labor of love, it is truly remarkable.

Approximately six years ago, Mr. Weiner agreed to donate his entire collection of Americana and related materials to the FAU Libraries. At that time, the collection was appraised at a value of several million dollars. Since his death three years ago, Mr. Weiner's children have expressed the wish to see him awarded an honorary doctorate, posthumously, as a fitting tribute to both his scholarship and his generosity. I strongly support that desire and believe that an honorary doctorate would be very appropriate in this situation. Therefore, I am requesting consideration to have this degree awarded.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



William Miller

Dean of Libraries