



Item: AS: A-1

## COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Thursday, December 13, 2012

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATE NOMINATIONS**

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### PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Request for approval of the conferral of Honorary Doctorate on James Patterson.

### 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. One candidate is being recommended at this time.

James Patterson has been nominated by Valerie Bristor, Dean of the College of Education, for his outstanding achievements in literature and his contributions in public service. A graduate of Manhattan College and Vanderbilt University, Mr. Patterson has had nineteen consecutive #1 *New York Times* bestselling novels. He has received many awards for his writing, including the Edgar Awards Mystery Writers of America, Reader's Digest Reader's Choice Award, Mystery Guild's Thriller of the Year Award, International Thriller of the Year Award and Children's Choice Book Award.

It is in the area of reading that Mr. Patterson has contributed much in the area of public service. He is the founder of the James Patterson Page Turner Awards to recognize groups and individuals for spreading the joy of reading. He also established the ReadKiddoread.com website to help adults find books that kids will love. James Patterson Scholarships have been established at Manhattan College, Vanderbilt University and Florida Atlantic University to support students pursuing careers in teaching with special emphasis on reading education.

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

If approved, this Honorary Doctorate will be conferred at a future commencement ceremony.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

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**Supporting Documentation:**

**Presented by: Dr. Brenda Claiborne, Provost**

**Nomination materials**


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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the President  
Office of the Provost

FROM: Dr. Valerie J. Bristor   
Dean and Professor

DATE: September 17, 2012

RE: Nomination for Honorary Doctorate Degree -- James Patterson

It is my pleasure to nominate Mr. James Patterson for an honorary doctorate degree from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Patterson has outstanding achievements in the arts and high distinction in public service.

Mr. Patterson received his B.A. in English from Manhattan College and his M.A. in English from Vanderbilt University. His first novel, *The Thomas Berryman Number* (1976), won an Edgar Award. According to his publisher, Mr. Patterson has sold more than 150 million books worldwide.

Mr. Patterson has received the Mystery Writers of America Award for Best First Novel (1977), the Reader's Digest Reader's Choice Award for Fiction Writing (2003), the BCA Mystery Guild's Thriller of the Year Award (2005), International Thriller of the Year ThrillerMaster Award (2007), and Children's Choice Book Award for Author of the Year (2010).

Mr. Patterson has contributed much in the area of public service. He is the founder of the James Patterson PageTurner Awards which rewarded groups and individuals for creative and effective ways of spreading the joy of reading. Mr. Patterson has also established ReadKiddoread.com, his website which helps adults find books that kids will love. In addition, he has donated thousands of books to troops overseas.

Mr. Patterson has also established James Patterson Scholarships at Manhattan College, Vanderbilt University, and Florida Atlantic University, which provides scholarship support to future teachers in an effort to strengthen his mission to get children excited about reading.

Mr. Patterson has sustained achievement of lasting significance, and I strongly recommend Mr. Patterson for this honor. I have attached a "Biography," related media documents, and a letter of support with this memo. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Attachments



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September 17, 2012

Office of the President  
Office of the Provost  
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It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I would like to recommend the author, James Patterson, for an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Mr. Patterson's accomplishments as a writer are extensive and provide evidence of outstanding achievements in his field. Additionally, he has also established himself as a writer interested in influencing the development of students who are readers and writers. To this end, he has partnered with several universities to develop scholarships that support the promotion of literacy. Recently, the Patterson Reading Scholars scholarship was established within Florida Atlantic University's College of Education. This scholarship will provide the groundwork for a program that develops strong teachers who will be on the forefront of preparing students for literacy success within local school districts.

Mr. Patterson's literary accomplishments are unmatched. As an author, Mr. Patterson has written 19 consecutive #1 New York Times best selling novels and was the first author to have #1 titles simultaneously on the Times adult and children's best sellers list. His work has reached audiences across the world. He has authored over 630 works that appear in over 4,200 publications and in 40 languages.

Mr. Patterson has funded numerous scholarships to support future teachers who will make an impact in literacy education at several institutions across the country. His most recent scholarship has been established in the Department of Teaching and Learning and Florida Atlantic University. Other universities that are the recipients of Patterson scholarship funding include Manhattan College, Vanderbilt University, the University of Wisconsin, Appalachian State University, and Michigan State University.

Mr. Patterson's work has crossed genres in literature and has reached audiences both young and old worldwide. He is truly a pioneer in his field and is dedicated to making an impact on developing literacy skills in children through the avenue that will influence the most, teacher training. I believe

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that his impact as a writer and his dedication and accomplishments in his craft are worthy of this distinguished honor. I believe that Mr. Patterson would be a worthy recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara R. Ridener". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Barbara R. Ridener, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Teaching and Learning

## JAMES PATTERSON

**Name:** James Patterson

**Position:** Author

**Resume:** Started as an advertising executive at J. Walter Thompson before dabbling with writing his first novel, *The Thomas Berryman Number*, which won an Edgar Award. He followed that with *Along Came a Spider*, launching his career as a thriller writer, and 56 *New York Times* bestsellers followed.

**Birthdate:** March 22, 1947

**Hometown:** Florida

**Education:** Graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in English from Manhattan College (1969) and summa cum laude with an M.A. in English from Vanderbilt University (1970).

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ARTS

### Overview

<b>Works:</b>	638 works in 4,267 publications in 40 languages and 463,208 library holdings
<b>Genres:</b>	Suspense fiction Mystery fiction Detective and mystery stories Science fiction Adventure fiction Young adult fiction Legal stories Adventure stories Suspense fiction, American Detective and mystery stories, American
<b>Roles:</b>	Editor, Creator, Bibliographic antecedent, Artist
<b>Classifications:</b>	ps3566.a822, 813.54

***Edgar Awards Mystery Writers of America (1977)***

MWA is the premier organization for mystery and crime writers, professionals allied to the crime writing field, aspiring crime writers, and folks who just love to read crime fiction. Founded in 1945, MWA is a storied organization with a golden past and an exciting present. Each Spring, MWA presents the Edgar® Awards, widely acknowledged to be the most prestigious awards in the genre.

Award Category: Best First Novel

Title: *The Thomas Berryman Number*

***Reader's Digest Reader's Choice Award (2003)***

Award Category: Fiction Writing

***BCA Mystery Guild's Thriller of the Year for Honeymoon (2005)***

Award Category: Thriller of the Year

Title: *Honeymoon*

***International Thriller of the Year (2007)***

Award Category: ThrillerMaster (in recognition of his legendary career and outstanding contributions to the thriller genre)

***Children's Choice Book Award (2010)***

Award Category: Author of the Year

Title: *Max*

Note: Decided on by more than 15,000 children and teen readers

***Other accomplishments [Source: [www.jamespatterson.com](http://www.jamespatterson.com)]***

He is the first author to have #1 new titles simultaneously on *The New York Times* adult and children's bestsellers lists.

Has had nineteen consecutive #1 *New York Times* bestselling novels.

Holds the *New York Times* record for most Hardcover Fiction bestselling titles by a single author (76 total), which is also a *Guinness World Record*.

His critically acclaimed Maximum Ride series debuted on the *New York Times* bestsellers list at #1 and remained there for twelve straight weeks. The series has so far made ninety-four cumulative appearances on *The New York Times* bestsellers lists, proving that kids of all ages love page turners. He captured the attention of boy readers with Daniel X series, and his third series for readers of all ages debuted in December 2009 with Witch & Wizard, which spent five consecutive weeks atop the *New York Times* bestsellers list.

Patterson is the creator of the top-selling new detective series of the past dozen years, featuring Alex Cross and including the Hollywood-adapted "Along Came a Spider" and "Kiss the Girls," starring Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman. He is also the creator of the #1 new detective series of the past five years, featuring Lindsay Boxer and the Women's Murder Club, from which the ABC television drama series was adapted. He has authored books behind six films on the Hollywood fast-track, including the upcoming *Maximum Ride* movie forthcoming from Avi Arad, the producer of X-Men and Spiderman.

He is the author of novels — from The Thomas Berryman Number (1976) to Honeymoon (2005) — that have won awards including the Edgar, the BCA Mystery Guild's Thriller of the Year, the International Thriller of the Year award, and the Reader's Digest Reader's Choice Award. And, he has won a Children's Choice Book Council's Children's Choice Awards "Author of the Year" award (2010).

He is one of *Forbes* magazine's Celebrity 100.

Patterson has made a guest appearance on the popular FOX TV show "The Simpsons" in March, 2007. He has also appeared in various episodes of "Castle" as himself.

## **Most widely held works by James Patterson [Source: worldcat.org]**

### **1st to die** by James Patterson( Book )

100 editions published between 2001 and 2009 in 18 languages and held by 3,863 libraries worldwide

Four women--a police detective, an assistant D.A., a reporter, and a medical examiner who call themselves the Women's Murder Club--develop lifelong bonds as they pursue a killer whose twisted imagination has stunned an entire city.

### **Maximum Ride : the angel experiment** by James Patterson( Book )

105 editions published between 2003 and 2011 in 5 languages and held by 3,788 libraries worldwide

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

### **2nd chance : a novel** by James Patterson( Book )

95 editions published between 1999 and 2009 in 19 languages and held by 3,743 libraries worldwide

2nd Chance reconvenes the Women's Murder Club, four friends (a detective, a reporter, an assistant district attorney, and a medical examiner) who used their networking skills, feminine intuition, and professional wiles to solve a baffling series of murders in 1st to Die. This time, the murders of two African Americans, a little girl and an old woman, bear all the signs of a serial killer for Lindsay Boxer, newly promoted to lieutenant of San Francisco's homicide squad. But there's an odd detail she finds even more disturbing: both victims were related to city cops.

### **4th of July : a novel** by James Patterson( Book )

68 editions published between 2004 and 2009 in 13 languages and held by 3,741 libraries worldwide

After losing one of its own, Lindsay Boxer and the Women' Murder Club make a courageous return for their fourth and most chilling case ever--one that could easily be their last. A young girl is killed in crossfire after a routine arrest goes terribly wrong, and Lt. Lindsay Boxer has to defend herself against a charge of police brutality. In a landmark trial that transfixes the nation, Lindsay fights to save her career and her sanity. While awaiting trial, Lindsay escapes to the beautiful town of Half Moon Bay, but the peaceful community there is reeling from a string of unspeakable murders. Working with her friends in the Women's Murder Club, Lindsay finds a link between these killings and a case she worked on years before--an unsolved murder that has haunted her ever since. As summer comes into full swing, Lindsay battles for her life on two fronts: before a judge and jury as her trial comes to a climax, and facing unknown adversaries who will do anything to keep her from the truth about the killings--including killing again. It all comes to a head before the big annual 4th of July celebration on the waterfront at Half Moon Bay.



**Cross** by James Patterson( Book )

65 editions published between 2006 and 2010 in 12 languages and held by 3,734 libraries worldwide

Years after his wife Maria is gunned down by an unknown shooter, a crime that has never been solved, psychologist Alex Cross is called in by his former partner, John Sampson, who wants his help on a case that reveals a connection to Maria's death.

**The 5th horseman** by James Patterson( Book )

61 editions published between 2005 and 2010 in 8 languages and held by 3,720 libraries worldwide

Healthy patients are dying of unknown causes in a San Francisco hospital, and the Women's Murder Club decides to investigate the hospital's personnel. They discover a hospital administrator determined to shield the hospital's reputation.

**Honeymoon : a novel** by James Patterson( Book )

88 editions published between 1999 and 2010 in 17 languages and held by 3,715 libraries worldwide

When a number of rich men come to a mysterious end, and a young investment banker dies of a supposed heart attack, FBI agent John O'Hara believes it is the work of a cold-blooded killer. Turning his eye to the only witness - the young banker's beautiful and secretive widow - O'Hara thinks he's closing in, but he's not sure whether he's pursuing justice or his own fatal obsession.

**3rd degree : a novel** by James Patterson( Book )

86 editions published between 2001 and 2009 in 16 languages and held by 3,715 libraries worldwide

Detective Lindsay Boxer is jogging along a beautiful San Francisco street when a fiery explosion rips through the neighborhood. A town house owned by an Internet millionaire is immediately engulfed in flames, and when Lindsay plunges inside to search for survivors, she finds three people dead. An infant who lived in the house cannot be found--and a mysterious message at the scene leaves Lindsay and the San Francisco Police Department completely baffled.

**The big bad wolf : a novel** by James Patterson( Book )

66 editions published between 2003 and 2010 in 10 languages and held by 3,675 libraries worldwide

At the outset of his career with the FBI, Alex Cross is instructed to track down a band of kidnapers who are snatching people and possibly selling them into slavery, a case that is complicated by a terrible threat to Cross's own family.

**Mary, Mary : a novel** by James Patterson( Book )

67 editions published between 2005 and 2010 in 14 languages and held by 3,670 libraries worldwide

When he investigates the murder of an actress outside of her Beverly Hills home, FBI agent Alex Cross learns that the attack was the latest in a series of celebrity killings linked to the elusive Mary Smith.

**Works by James Patterson** *[Source: wikipedia.org]*

**Novels**

- *The Thomas Berryman Number* (1976)
- *Season of the Machete* (1977)
- *Virgin* (1980)
- *The Midnight Club* (1988)
- *Hide & Seek* (1996)
- *Miracle on the 17th Green* (1996, w/ Peter De Jonge)
- *See How They Run* (1997)
- *When the Wind Blows* (1998)
- *Black Friday* (2000)
- *Cradle and All* (2000)
- *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* (2001)
- *The Beach House* (2002, w/ Peter De Jonge)
- *The Jester* (2003, w/ Andrew Gross)
- *The Lake House* (2003)
- *Sam's Letters to Jennifer* (2004)
- *Honeymoon* (2005, w/ Howard Roughan)
- *Lifeguard* (2005, w/ Andrew Gross)
- *Beach Road* (2006, w/ Peter De Jonge)
- *Judge and Jury* (2006, w/ Andrew Gross)
- *The Quickie* (2007, w/ Michael Ledwidge)
- *You've Been Warned* (2007, w/ Howard Roughan)
- *Sundays at Tiffany's* (2008, w/ Gabrielle Charbonnet)
- *Sail* (2008, w/ Howard Roughan)
- *Swimsuit* (2009, w/ Maxine Paetro)
- *The Postcard Killers* (2010, w/ Liza Marklund)
- *Private* (2010, w/ Maxine Paetro)
- *Don't Blink* (2010, w/ Howard Roughan)
- *Toys* (2011, w/ Neal McMahon)
- *Now You See Her* (2011, w/ Michael Ledwidge)
- *Kill Me, If You Can* (2011, w/ Marshall Karp)
- *The Christmas Wedding* (2011, w/ Richard DiLallo)
- *Guilty Wives* (2012, w/ David Ellis)

**Alex Cross series**

- *Along Came a Spider* (1993)
- *Kiss the Girls* (1995)
- *Jack & Jill* (1996)
- *Cat and Mouse* (1997)
- *Pop Goes the Weasel* (1999)
- *Roses Are Red* (2000)
- *Violets Are Blue* (2001)
- *Four Blind Mice* (2002)
- *The Big Bad Wolf* (2003)
- *London Bridges* (2004)
- *Mary, Mary* (2005)

- Cross (2006)
  - Double Cross (2007)
  - Cross Country (2008)
  - Alex Cross's Trial (2009, w/ Richard DiLallo)
  - I, Alex Cross (2009)
  - Cross Fire (2010)
  - Kill Alex Cross (2011)
  - Merry Christmas, Alex Cross (2012)
  - Free Alex Cross (2013)
- Daniel X series**
- The Dangerous Days of Daniel X (2008, w/ Michael Ledwidge)
  - Watch the Skies (2009, w/ Ned Rust)
  - Demons and Druids (2010, w/ Adam Sadler)
  - Game Over (2011, w/ Ned Rust)
  - Armageddon (2012, w/ Chris Grabenstein)
- Maximum Ride series**
- Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment (2005)
  - Maximum Ride: School's Out Forever (2006)
  - Maximum Ride: Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports (2007)
  - Maximum Ride: The Final Warning (2008)
  - MAX: A Maximum Ride Novel (2009)
  - Fang: A Maximum Ride Novel (2010)
  - Angel: A Maximum Ride Novel (2011)
  - Nevermore: The Final Maximum Ride Adventure (2012)
- Michael Bennett series**
- Step on a Crack (2007, w/ Michael Ledwidge)
  - Run for Your Life (2009, w/ Michael Ledwidge)
  - Worst Case (2010, w/ Michael Ledwidge)
  - Tick Tock (2011, w/ Michael Ledwidge)
  - I, Michael Bennett (2012, w/ Michael Ledwidge)
- Witch and Wizard series**
- Witch and Wizard (2009, w/ Gabrielle Charbonnet)
  - Witch and Wizard: The Gift (2010, w/ Ned Rust)
  - Witch and Wizard: The Fire (2011, w/ Jill Dembowski)
- Women's Murder Club series**
- 1st to Die (2001)
  - 2nd Chance (2002, w/ Andrew Gross)
  - 3rd Degree (2004, w/ Andrew Gross)
  - 4th of July (2005, w/ Maxine Paetro)
  - The 5th Horseman (2006, w/ Maxine Paetro)
  - The 6th Target (2007, w/ Maxine Paetro)
  - 7th Heaven (2008, w/ Maxine Paetro)
  - 8th Confession (2009, w/ Maxine Paetro)
  - The 9th Judgment (2010, w/ Maxine Paetro)
  - 10th Anniversary (2011, w/ Maxine Paetro)
  - 11th Hour (2012, w/ Maxine Paetro)

- Non-fiction**
- *Against Medical Advice: A True Story* (2008, w/ Hal Friedman)
  - *The Murder of King Tut* (2009, w/ Martin Dugard)

## **HIGH DISTINCTION IN PUBLIC SERVICE**

James Patterson PageTurner Awards (2005, 2006, 2007)-- rewarded groups and individuals for creative and effective ways of spreading the joy of reading.

ReadKiddoread.com – his website which helps adults find books that kids are sure to love.

Regular donation of thousands of books to troops overseas.

Manhattan College -- supported the College's Jasper Open, De La Salle Dinner and Annual Fund.

Manhattan College (2006) -- funds the James Patterson Minority Scholarship, which started in 2006 and has supported 25 students.

Vanderbilt University (2009) – established the Patterson Scholars program with 10 students receiving scholarship support; preference is given to those majoring in elementary or secondary education and specific preference is reserved for students participating in educational community service.

Manhattan College (2012) – established 16 new James Patterson Scholarships; \$5000 awarded to 16 rising seniors and juniors who exemplify hard work, determination, and leadership in the classroom and within the campus community.

Florida Atlantic University (2012) – established the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship Fund to award scholarships to eight College of Education students who are pursuing careers in teaching with special emphasis on reading education.