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For immediate release

Two honorary degrees awarded to Oklahoma’s finest

**Norman, Oklahoma (May 12, 2017)**- The University of Oklahoma awarded two honorary degrees’ yesterday during a ceremony at Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium to recognize outstanding contributions and the overall betterment of the community.

The Honorary Degrees screening committee, headed by Provost Kyle Harper, met in mid-march to decide which nominees to select this year. OU honored George T. Hale and Rachel Cabanis with the degrees.

“The process for selecting honorary degree recipients at OU is rigorous, and it is fitting and appropriate to include these two in the elite corps of recipients,” Harper said.

Hale is being awarded for his “ability to envision the future and make it a reality for the state’s telecommunications industry.” Hale has donated thousands of dollars to the development of education television for both major universities in the state.

He also built a camp for physically handicapped adults on his estate in the Arbuckle mountains. Hale sends more than 300 individuals to the camp each spring and summer for an extensive recreation-training program.

When asked how it felt to receive this honor Hale said, “I am deeply honored to be thought so highly by my beloved alma mater.”

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Cabanis, the second honoree, is an Oklahoma native, Pulitzer prize recipient and icon for women everywhere. She has been praised for her honesty, integrity, and award winning book *Breaking Through.*

Cabanis views this degree as just as high of an honor as her law degree from Harvard. She also said, “There is nothing like being recognized in your home state by the people who truly know you.”

The University Board of Regents sets the standards for an honorary degree from OU. Recipients are granted the award “only in recognition of extraordinary achievement in such fields as science and technology, the arts and humanities, business and public service; or in recognition of outstanding contributions to the welfare and/or enrichment of the University, state, nation, or world.”

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**About The University of Oklahoma:**

The University of Oklahoma was founded in 1890. It is a public state university ranked first in National Merit Scholar enrollment and among the top ten in the graduation of Rhodes Scholars. The university offers a diverse academic and cultural experience for all students and faculty.