

BOARD OF REGENTS

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

SECTION:

DATE:

September 16, 2008

HONORARY BACCALAURETTE DEGREE AWARDED FALL 2008:

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the awarding of honorary baccalaureate degrees to Dann Florek, professional actor/director (Law & Order: Special Victims Unit) during the Fall 2008 semester—hopefully Homecoming weekend and to George Gervin, professional athlete, during the Fall 2008 semester.

Both Dann Florek and George Gervin have been recommended by Dr. Donald Loppnow, Provost and Executive Vice-President, as well as the students and faculty of the EMU Theatre.

SUMMARY:

Descriptive summaries of Dann Florek's and George Gervin's professional involvement and contributions, as well as their involvement and service to Eastern Michigan University follows on the next page.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and it is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer
Provost and Executive Vice President

9/8/08
Date

TO: Board of Regents **DATE:** August 28, 2008

FROM: Donald Loppnow
Provost and Executive Vice President

RE: Honorary Baccalaureate Degrees

The Board of Regents approves all honorary degree recipients. Although Eastern has only awarded two honorary baccalaureate degrees in the past, other colleges and universities have used these honorary degrees to recognize distinguished individuals who have attended the college or university but did not graduate. Often the recipients are donors, prospective donors or others individuals of influence that the institution would like to engage.

At the September 16, 2008 Board of Regent's meeting, the Division of Academic Affairs would like to nominate the individuals listed below to receive an Honorary Baccalaureate Degree. The degree would be presented at a special ceremony in the fall semester.

On numerous occasions, Dann Florek has made invaluable contributions to the University, in particular EMU Theatre. When his schedule permitted, Dann has returned to campus as a guest lecturer in classes, as well as a guest artist. He also has served as guest speaker for EMU fundraising events including the Beaux Arts Ball.

George Gervin – Professional basketball player and community relations
representative for the Spurs

George Gervin, one of the all-time greats in Eastern Michigan University men's basketball history, went on to a tremendous pro career from 1972-1986 playing for the Virginia Squires of the American Basketball Association, and both the San Antonio Spurs and the Chicago Bulls of the NBA. He was named one of the Top 50 Greatest Players in the history of the National Basketball Association, and was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (1996). Additional pro basketball honors include: All-NBA first-team (1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982); All-NBA second-team (1977 and 1983); a nine-time NBA All-Star (1977-85); and the NBA All-Star MVP (1980).

While at EMU, Gervin earned All-American honors as a sophomore in 1971-72 and lead the Eastern Michigan University basketball team to the Final Four of the NCAA College Division National Championship. He finished his EMU career with 1,044 points and 562 rebounds. EMU has honored Gervin twice, first by retiring his No. 24 jersey in 1986, and then inducting him into the school's E-Club Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. Since his induction, Gervin has been active in the EMU Men's Basketball Booster Club and has attended several EMU Men's Basketball Golf Outings.