Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa

Citation

Mark Charles Pigott, in your life the four worlds of family, commerce, education and the arts have joined as one and you have orchestrated their confluence with a masterful touch.

As the fourth generation of your family to lead PACCAR, a truly historic American and now global company, founded over a century ago by your great-grandfather, you have taken the storied legacy of your forebears and raised it, through visionary leadership, technological innovation, and an unwavering demand for quality, to new heights. PACCAR is the original Seattle based technology company and today is one of the world’s leading global technology and transportation companies. It has set the industry standard for vehicle design and safety, while making environmental stewardship a central tenet of its enterprise. For six consecutive years Forbes magazine ranked you among the top 10 CEOs in North America and in 2009 the Harvard Business Review named you as one of the top 50 CEOs in the world.

You are deeply committed to improving the lives of people in your own community and abroad. Your quiet philanthropy has been highlighted by its enormous generosity and your caring and personal engagement. You have supported educational pursuits around the globe, volunteered your time teaching business students at the UW and abroad, and helped countless others achieve their dreams. On the University of Washington campus, PACCAR Hall, together with the faculty endowments in engineering, business, arts, information technology, humanities and athletics, as well as the diversity scholarships you have established, give testimony to your commitment to the public promise of the University of Washington.

You have said, “Everything revolves around libraries,” and your steadfast support has enabled the preservation of historic materials in major world libraries as well as those in smaller communities. Your generosity has ensured that future scholars will share in a vital cultural legacy.

Inspired by a true passion for the arts and history, you have long served as a key benefactor for the Royal Shakespeare Company America and in England. You helped restore St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, and established the Pigott Education Center at London’s National Gallery, which welcomes more than 80,000 school children annually. Your tireless involvement with our University’s Burke Museum of Natural History and The Henry Art Gallery has made innovative exhibits possible for the benefit of thousands in our community.

In recognition of your good works and service to humanity, the nations of Belgium, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have bestowed upon you their most prestigious honorary titles. In 2012, you were awarded the title of Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for your role in strengthening business and cultural ties between the United States and the United Kingdom.

For opening the doors of educational opportunity to countless students around the world, for your dedication to preserving the accumulated knowledge and artistic expression of humankind, for instilling social responsibility as a core value of your industry worldwide, and for being a true and compassionate friend of this institution, the University of Washington is proud to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

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