



HONORARY DEGREE CITATION

Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D.
Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*

Growing up as the eldest of six high-achieving daughters in Colorado, your early accomplishments as a scholar, athlete and leader could have taken you to the top of any number of fields. It is the great good fortune of our oceans, our planet, and the creatures that inhabit them that a college class at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute focused your formidable talents on scientific research and public advocacy for their health.

As a distinguished professor at Oregon State University, your academic contributions to the study of oceans, climate change and the interactions between the environment and human well-being have made you one of the most highly-cited ecologists in the world, with eight of your numerous publications recognized as Science Citation Classics.

In addition to being elected to the National Academy of Sciences, you have served in numerous national and international leadership roles, presiding over the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the International Council for Science, and the National Science Board. At the same time, you have helped to expand dialogue between the scientific establishment and the public, co-founding the Leopold Leadership Program, the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea, and Climate Central to improve communication of scientific knowledge to the citizens, policy makers, the media and industry.

While any of these would be career-making accomplishments for most scientists, in 2009 you were confirmed by the United States Senate as chief administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere, the first woman and the first marine ecologist to occupy the post. At NOAA you were a guiding force through the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2009, and have been a tireless advocate for a comprehensive national response to the environmental challenges of rising seas, declining fish stocks, and the increasingly precarious health of marine ecosystems and coastal communities.

For your pivotal contributions to our understanding of the relationship between ecological sustainability and the future of all species on earth, for blazing new channels of communication between science and society, and for bringing both to bear on your leadership of environmental policy at a national level, Western Washington University is proud to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Shepard".

Bruce Shepard, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Madsen".

Dennis Madsen, Chair, Board of Trustees