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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OU AWARDS THE NEWEST HONORARY DEGREES

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA (Oct. 14, 2020) - On Friday, May 10, OU's Honorary Degrees Screening committee, led by Interim Provost Dr. Jill Irvine, will grant new honorary doctoral degrees to two deserving professionals. This year's recipients are George T. Hale and Rachel Cabanis.

George T. Hale, age 63, graduated from OU in 1965, and since then has been known for his "ability to envision the future and make it a reality for the state's telecommunications industry." As a previous president of his own corporation, Hale Communication Inc., Hale now donates thousands of dollars to further the educational television industry. On top of that, Hale has worked to create a recreation-training space for handicapped adults on his own estate in the Arbuckle Mountains. Hale expresses his gratitude by saying "I am deeply honored to be thought of so highly by my beloved alma mater. When I walked across the commencement stage in 1965, returning in this manner was beyond my wildest dreams. Thank you, OU. Thank you, President Harrox. Thank you, Board of Regents."

An Oklahoma City University graduate, Rachel Cabanis, age 44, spent 20 years working under her husband as a legal secretary until she decided to go back to school at Harvard. Cabanis, now divorced from her husband, is known as an icon to women everywhere when it comes to breaking free and learning to create a new life. Cabanis wrote a book about her endeavors at law school, *Breaking Through*, which won her a Pulitzer Prize and is known as "the greatest statement of one woman's choices written in this decade." This year at the

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ceremony she will be recognized for her “honesty and integrity in making difficult choices in a complex world and succeeding despite numerous obstacles.”

The University of Oklahoma was approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to award honorary doctoral degrees to prominent professionals in 1991. Since then, approximately 100 people have been recognized for their efforts in the professional world. “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”, Irvine says.

Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a public research university located in Norman, Oklahoma. OU serves the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. For more information visit www.ou.edu.

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