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## Harvard awards 9 honorary degrees

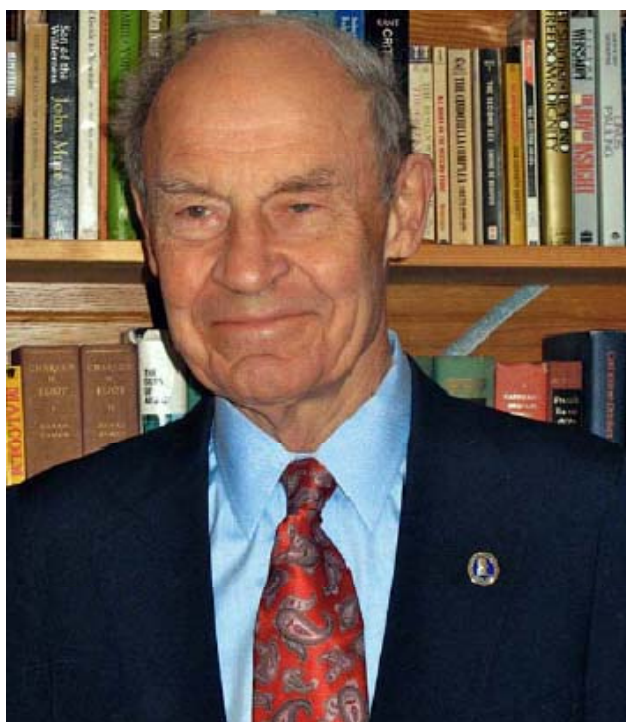
President Faust to present degrees during Morning Exercises

By Corydon Ireland, Katie Koch, Alvin Powell, and Colleen Walsh

Harvard Staff Writers

Thursday, May 26, 2011

**DR. HERSCHBACH EARNS ONE OF THEM — WAY TO GO DR. HERSCHBACH!!!**



Dudley Herschbach is the Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science Emeritus at Harvard and winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize in chemistry for work that advanced the understanding of basic chemical reactions. Herschbach has seen his early work on methods and theory of studying single collisions in chemical reactions move from the fringe to the mainstream. His work has also encompassed several other chemical frontiers, including high-pressure molecular transformations that illustrated that hydrocarbons could be formed under conditions found in the Earth's mantle. Long a proponent of improving science education at all levels, Herschbach for 20 years taught general chemistry for freshmen and, since becoming emeritus, has taught a freshman seminar on molecular motors. He also has continued to pursue research, as a visiting fellow at the Carnegie Institution of Washington and as a professor of physics at Texas A&M University.

In addition to the Nobel Prize, shared with Yuan T. Lee and John C. Polanyi, Herschbach has received many prizes and awards, including the National Medal of Science in 1991. He is a fellow of scientific societies, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. Herschbach received bachelor's and master's degrees from Stanford University before coming to Harvard, where he received a doctorate in chemical physics in 1958. Herschbach was an assistant and associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1959 to 1963, returning to Harvard as professor of chemistry in 1963. He became Baird Professor of Science in 1976. During his years at Harvard, Herschbach has served as chair of the chemical physics program and of the Chemistry Department, as a member of the Faculty Council, and, with his wife, Georgene, as co-master of Currier House. In support of his efforts to improve science understanding, he has delivered many talks in middle and high schools, written popular articles, and made many radio and television appearances, including a stint as a guest voice on "The Simpsons" television show.