

JAMES MORRIS, GAIL LUMET BUCKLEY,
KENNETH DALE OWEN TO RECEIVE
HONORS AT USI COMMENCEMENT



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James Morris, president of the Lilly Endowment; Gail Lumet Buckley, author; and Kenneth Dale Owen, descendant of the Owen family of New Harmony, will receive honorary degrees at the University of Southern Indiana's 1987 Commencement. Mr. Morris also will bring the Commencement address.

Conferral of the three honorary degrees was approved Thursday at the March meeting of the USI Board of Trustees. The Board also approved a list of more than 500 USI students as candidates to receive baccalaureate and associate degrees at the May 9 Commencement ceremony.

A Doctor of Laws Degree will be conferred on Mr. Morris, who, as a former trustee of Indiana State University, was active in the early development of USI. Mr. Morris joined Lilly Endowment in 1973 and was named vice president in 1977, executive vice president in 1983, and president in 1984. Before joining the Endowment, he worked for six years as administrative assistant and chief of staff for Richard Lugar, who at that time was mayor of Indianapolis.

Through work in community development, Mr. Morris has helped formulate plans and projects for the revitalization of Indianapolis. The father of three children, he also has an abiding interest in creating opportunities for youth and providing quality education in Indiana.

Mr. Morris is a native of Terre Haute. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Indiana University in 1965 and an MBA from Butler University in 1970. He is an elder of the Second Presbyterian Church, and serves on the board of United Way, the Indianapolis Convention Association, and the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the board of American United Life Insurance Company, MSA Realty Corporation, and Hugh J. Baker Company. Mr. Morris was elected to the Executive Board of the U.S. Olympic Committee in 1984, and currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Pan American Games to be held in Indianapolis in 1987.

Mrs. Buckley, who will receive the Doctor of Letters degree, is the daughter of singer Lena Horne and has recently completed her first book, The Hornes: An American Family. Included in the carefully researched

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history is the story of her great-grandfather, Edwin Horne, who grew up in Evansville. He was a correspondent for The Evansville Journal, a daily newspaper, and later moved to New York City, where he spent much time raising his granddaughter, Lena, after her parents were divorced.

In her book -- which took two years to research and three to write -- Mrs. Buckley takes a long, hard look at what she is by noting where she came from, with careful attention paid to the social and historical context surrounding the various periods of her ancestors. She was born in 1937 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the first child of Louis Jones and his Brooklyn-born wife, Lena. Mr. Jones was a political functionary who later went into magazine publishing. The couple had another child, a son, before the marriage ended. After the divorce, Lena Jones resumed her career under her maiden name and became the first black movie star of international acclaim.

Mrs. Buckley moved to Hollywood with her mother, living there from 1941 to 1947 and becoming, in her words, a "Hollywood brat." Her years in Hollywood ended when her mother's stay there ended and she later attended a private school in New York City, a Quaker boarding school in upstate New York, and Radcliffe. She earned a degree in French at Radcliffe and moved to Paris in 1959, going to work for Marie-Claire magazine. She and film director Sidney Lumet were married in 1963 and had two daughters.

She was divorced from Lumet in 1977 and now is married to editor Kevin Buckley. She has spent most of her life as daughter, wife, and mother. With the exception of her brief employment at Marie-Claire in Paris, a 1963 stint at Life magazine, a brief period in advertising, and one off-Broadway production, her attention has been focused on more domestic activities. With The Hornes: An American Family, she enters the highly visible world of the successful writer. She considers it just the beginning because "There's so much that had to be cut, I may be able to make another book out of that material alone."

A Doctor of Science Degree will be conferred on Kenneth Dale Owen, or K. D. Owen as he prefers to be known. He was born in New Harmony in 1903. His mother, Lucille Eagle, was a granddaughter of Pierre Duclos and his father, Richard Dale Owen, was the grandson of Richard Owen and the great-grandson of Robert Owen, who established an intellectual and utopian community in New Harmony in 1824. Though K. D. Owen spent some of his early youth in California, he returned to New Harmony where he "swam in the Wabash, roamed the hills of Posey County," and attended the New Harmony public schools. He attended high school in Memphis, Tennessee, where he excelled in both academic and athletic pursuits. It was at Memphis Central High School where he earned letters in basketball and track and broke the Tennessee state record for the high jump. His summers were spent in New Harmony, where he worked on farms and gained his enduring love of the earth and animals, particularly the standard-bred horse. The summer before entering college, he worked on a survey boat of the Mississippi River survey.

Mr. Owen worked as a field geologist in Texas during the 1920s, when the oil industry was beginning to use scientific tools in exploration. Much of his work plotted the subsurface areas of south Texas and the

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coastal regions and led the way for future development of oil production. He worked first for Humble Oil, then for a subsidiary of Standard Oil Company, before working with independent oil producers. In the late '20s and early '30s, he had the opportunity to acquire some oil leases of his own and to prepare to build his own business as a consulting geologist. By combining his expertise as a geologist with two geophysicists, he was able to discover a highly productive oil field that became the financial basis for his formation of two successful companies, Gulfshore Oil and Trans-Tex Production Company, in 1943. Mr. Owen still maintains his business office in Houston, the city where he first opened an office as a consulting geologist.

Mr. Owen met his wife, Jane Blaffer of Houston, in the late '30s, when her brother took Kenneth home to dinner. They were married in July 1941 and had three daughters, Jane, Carol, and Anne.

Mr. Owen's entrepreneurial success allowed him to pursue other lifetime interests. He acquired Indian Mound Farm in New Harmony and began to raise cattle and horses. His herd of purebred Herefords was internationally known and he exported cattle to Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Spain, and Hungary. In 1981, the herd was dispersed and the auction drew bidders from around the world.

Inspired by the beautiful horse farms of the Kentucky Bluegrass region, Mr. Owen purchased his first horse in 1944 and kept it at Walnut Hall Farm near Versailles, Kentucky. He later acquired land in Pennsylvania, where he now has 30 brood mares and a complement of younger stock. His standard-bred horses compete in harness racing throughout the country and Mr. Owen himself is a director of the Hambletonian Society board.

Mr. Owen also is a member of the Equine Advisory Council of the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine and various state horse owners associations. He is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Petroleum Engineers of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, the American Petroleum Institute, Houston Geological Society, and the Petroleum Club of Houston.

Mr. Owen has retained an active interest in the restoration and preservation of Owen properties in New Harmony, where he is vice chairman of the New Harmony Commission. He also is one of seven founding members of the New Lanark Association, Ltd., in Scotland, an organization restoring the original Owen industrial properties that Robert Owen left when he came to America and New Harmony in 1824. K. D. Owen also is an emeritus member of the Cornell University Council and the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi.

In personnel action at Thursday's meeting, the USI Board approved tenure for Ms. Kathryn M. Waters, assistant professor of art, and for Dr. Sang T. Choe, associate professor of business. The following leaves were approved: 1987-88 academic year -- Mr. Abbas Foroughi, assistant professor of business; fall, 1987 -- Dr. Sherry B. Darrell, associate professor of English; and spring, 1988 -- Dr. Kenneth Creech, associate professor of communications; Dr. Daniel A. Miller, chairman of the Division of Social Science and professor of history; Dr. Joseph J. Palladino, assistant professor of psychology; Dr. Charles F. Petranek, professor of sociology; and Ms. Waters.