

HONORARY DEGREES

JOHN PAPPAJOHN Doctor of Business Administration

With more than 50 years of experience in entrepreneurial endeavors, John Pappajohn is one of the most recognized and celebrated business leaders and philanthropists in the Midwest and beyond. He has organized and financed the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers at five universities and colleges in Iowa, which have helped create and launch more than 1,000 new companies.

Pappajohn, whose family emigrated from Greece when he was an infant, grew up in Mason City. He worked his way through college and graduated from the University of Iowa in 1952 with a bachelor of science degree in business. After graduation he launched his own insurance agency and subsequently founded Guardsman Insurance Investors, a public insurance holding company.

In 1969, Pappajohn organized Equity Dynamics, Inc., a financial consulting entity, and Pappajohn Capital Resources, a venture capital firm, in Des Moines. As one of the early venture capitalists, he has served as a director in more than 40 public companies.

Passionate philanthropists, John Pappajohn and his wife, Mary, have contributed their time, talents and funds to enable countless state, educational and fine arts initiatives. The Pappajohns' philosophy of giving has helped set the pace for learning and progress in Iowa.

MARY PAPPAJOHN Doctor of Humane Letters

Mary (Limberis) Pappajohn, a native of Minneapolis, graduated from the University of Minnesota where she earned a degree in related arts, a field similar to interior design. Drawn together by a shared love of art, John and Mary Pappajohn married in 1961. Mrs. Pappajohn has served in board positions and assisted in acquisitions for both the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Des Moines Art Center and is a former president of the Goodwill Industries Auxiliary.

Mrs. Pappajohn's passion for the arts has not only resulted in countless charitable involvements, board positions and awards, but has made a tremendous impact in the community. In September 2009, the 4.4-acre Pappajohn Sculpture Park opened in Des Moines' Western Gateway Park, made up entirely of pieces from the couple's personal collection and is now considered to be one of the most accessible major sculpture collections in the country.

In 2009, the Pappajohns were named in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy's* Philanthropy 50, an "annual list of the most-generous people in America." Their financial, civic and cultural contributions continue to enrich the lives of residents and visitors in their adopted home of Des Moines and beyond.