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New U.N. Ambassador Nominee Holds Honorary Degree from Lawrence University

Posted on: June 7th, 2013 by Rick Peterson

Samantha Power, President Barack Obama's recent nominee as new U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, has a Lawrence University connection.



U.S. Ambassador to the UN nominee Samantha Power received an honorary degree from Lawrence in 2004. (Official White House Photo by Amanda Lucidon)

President Richard Warch awarded Power an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters — her first honorary degree — at Lawrence's 2004 commencement. At the time, she was a lecturer in public policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The year before Lawrence recognized her with an honorary doctorate, Power had won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in the general non-fiction category for her book "A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide," which examines U.S. responses to

genocide in the 20th century. The book also earned the 2003 National Book Critics Circle Award and the Council on Foreign Relations' Arthur Ross Prize for the best book in U.S. foreign policy.

A long-time Obama advisor, Power currently serves as the president's senior director for multilateral affairs and human rights. Her nomination is subject to U.S. Senate confirmation.

Lawrence holds its 2013 commencement Sunday, June 9. Celebrated University of Chicago Professor Martha Nussbaum will be this year's honorary degree recipient.