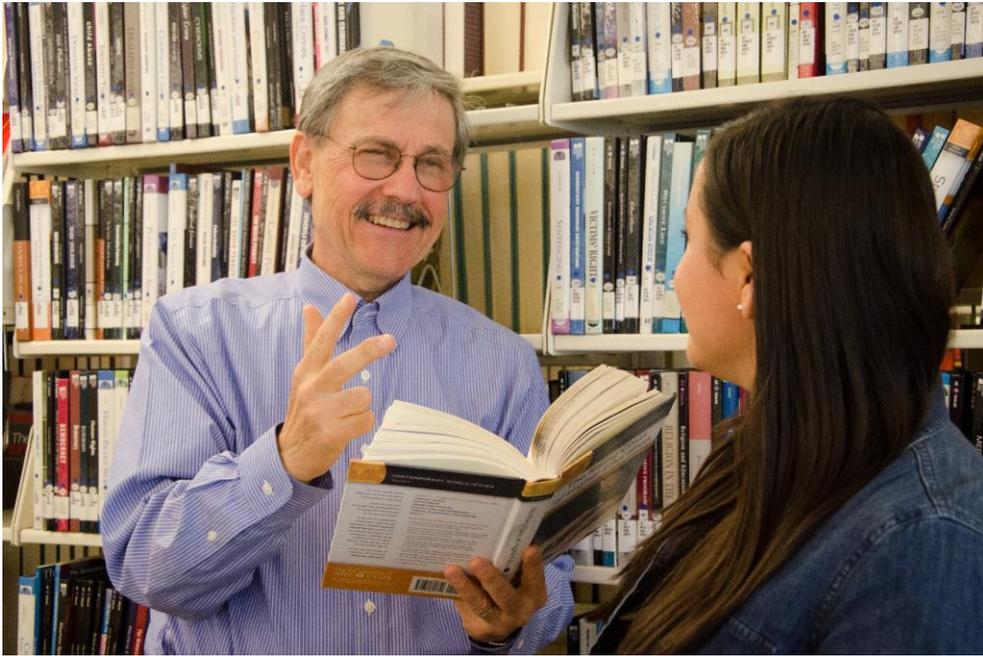


NEWS RELEASE

**Gallaudet University recognizes Fresno State
Professor Emeritus Dr. Paul Ogden
for his pioneering work on behalf of Deaf
community with an Honorary Doctorate**



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Dr. Paul W. Ogden, a pioneering leader in deaf education, author and Emeritus Professor at Fresno State, will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the nation's top university for the education of deaf students, Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

Ogden will be awarded the degree at the university's 149th commencement on May 17. Gallaudet is the premier institution of learning, teaching and research for deaf and hard of hearing students. Gallaudet is a comprehensive, liberal arts university founded in 1864 when President Abraham Lincoln signed its charter.

Ogden, who was born deaf to hearing parents, is the author of numerous books about his experiences. His [first book](#) in 1996, "The Silent Garden: Understanding

Your Hearing Impaired Child,” (co-authored with David H. Smith, Gallaudet University Press) was a groundbreaking tool to aid hearing parents raising a deaf child.

In recommending him for an honorary degree from Gallaudet, the University’s nominating committee wrote, “Dr. Ogden is an exemplary example of what it means to be a successful deaf leader who inspires people to pursue their passions so they, too, can be a source of encouragement to others. In other words, his circle of influence continues to widen over the years as the ever-expanding ripples encompass other people affected by his teachings and writings.”

In recent years, Ogden has been a tireless fundraiser and organizer of programs to make connections and build awareness in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. In 2008, Fresno State established [The Silent Garden](#) program to provide educational programs, workshops and resources to deaf and hard of hearing children’s families, teachers, interpreters and professionals in the Central California region. Today, the Silent Garden includes an endowed chair, an endowed professorship, an educational fund to provide The Silent Garden Lectures free to the public, the Silent Garden Scholars and Scarlett’s Park, which serves deaf and hard of hearing children and youth with special needs.

Another Ogden project, The SunFlowers in the Silent Garden, raises funds to provide a free copy of “The Silent Garden” book to all parents of newly identified deaf infants in California. He worked with the California Department of Education to create this opportunity. Spanish-speaking families will receive a copy of the Spanish edition of “El Jardín Silencioso,” also published by Gallaudet University Press. Along with the paperback copy, parents will have free access to the audiobook edition in their preferred language.

Social justice has been a guiding principle in Ogden’s life. His father, Dunbar Ogden Jr., was a minister who played an important role in the effort to desegregate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, escorting the nine black students into the school. As a deaf person, Paul Ogden faced discrimination himself in high school, but graduated as the only deaf person in his class and was co-valedictorian.

Ogden earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and computers from Antioch College and master’s and doctoral degrees in educational psychology and deaf education from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Ogden was named Outstanding Professor of the Year at Fresno State and in 2012 was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual conference of California Educators of the Deaf.

Although he has earned three college degrees, the Gallaudet ceremony will be the first time he can attend a commencement at which he'll get a degree. He was unable to attend the ceremonies when he earned his B.A., Master's and PhD degrees. Ogden will wear the doctoral robes of his brother, Dunbar H. Ogden, as a way to honor his older brother, who will attend the ceremony with Paul and his wife, Anne.

Through the generosity of Ogden's friends and major donors to The Silent Garden at Fresno State, Joseph S. and Mary R. Slotnick, each of the 200 graduates at Gallaudet's Graduate Awards and Hooding Ceremony will receive a copy of "The Silent Garden" book.

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(EDITORS: Dr. Ogden is available for interviews until May 10 and after May 20. He will provide an interpreter.)