RESOLVED, that the Macaulay Honors College award Marion Nestle the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, at the college’s annual commencement ceremony on June 8, 2016.

EXPLANATION: Marion Nestle, Paulette Goddard Professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University, has a longstanding commitment to public knowledge and transparency in food politics, and her blend of scholarship and activism in this area characterizes the highest ideals of Macaulay Honors College and higher education. She has contributed to Macaulay’s Science Forward curriculum and is widely recognized as a leading voice in public science education and the advancement of critical thinking about scientific issues.
MARION NESTLE

The author of nine extraordinary books and an engaging blog at foodpolitics.com, Marion Nestle has been called the #1 foodie to be thankful for in America. As the Paulette Goddard Professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University, Nestle’s research focuses on food and nutrition policy development; the politics of food safety; and the effects of food industry marketing on diet and health. She has held faculty positions at Brandeis University and the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine. In addition, Nestle was the senior nutrition policy advisor in the Department of Health and Human Services.

With a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from University of California at Berkeley and a Master’s degree in Public Health Nutrition, Dr. Nestle is perfectly poised to understand and explain the science behind our public policies surrounding food. In her books and on her blogs, she has interpreted USDA regulations about nutrition guidelines and analyzed the relationship between obesity and the government’s laws about food labeling. Her most recent book, Soda Politics: Taking on Big Soda (And Winning), forces us to consider why soda has come to occupy such a large place in our palate and our politics.

Dr. Nestle has been widely recognized for her expertise in nutrition and her fearlessness in condemning popular fad diets and food trends. In particular, Nestle has critiqued both the effects of excess sugar consumption and the soda companies’ product marketing, particularly to children, low-income, and minority communities. She has bravely demonstrated that certain corporate actions, like charitable giving for example, can obscure the deleterious effects of successful marketing practices that ultimately endanger our health.

Marion Nestle has been a good friend to Macaulay Honors College. She has participated in our Science Forward curriculum development, offering her time and expertise pro bono. Science Forward is Macaulay’s innovative approach to teaching critical thinking in basic science, with a focus on important current issues in the scientific world and the “Science Senses.” In her contributions to our “Challenge of Food” video, Dr. Nestle provided clear and engaging communication about the political aspects of food distribution and production. More importantly, she supported and strengthened Macaulay’s goal of producing well-informed, successful leaders in evaluating scientific information, by explaining and emphasizing the need to sharply analyze and critique scientific studies as well as reporting in the popular press.

In awarding Marion Nestle the Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, Macaulay Honors College honors her longstanding commitment to public knowledge and transparency in food politics. Her blend of scholarship and activism characterizes Macaulay’s highest ideals.