

# PAST HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

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The first honorary degree was conferred in 1877. Following is a list of those receiving honorary degrees, starting with the year they received the degree, followed by their name and the honorary degree they received. In some cases a notation is included about the individual if that information is available.

**1877: Isaac R. Roberts, Master of Agriculture.** Farm Superintendent at Iowa State University.

**1879: J. L. Budd, Master of Horticulture.** Established ISU's Department of Horticulture at Iowa State.

**1879: James L. Geddes, Master of Philosophy.** Distinguished career in the British and Union Armies; first professor of military tactics at Iowa State.

**1887: A. A. Bennett, Master of Science.**

**1887: Luther Foster, Master of Agriculture.** B.S., 1872, Iowa State.

**1887: M. Stalker, Master of Science.** B.S., 1873, Iowa State; first editor Aurora, the student newspaper; developed the curriculum in Veterinary Science.

**1887: E. W. Stanton, Master of Science.** B.S., 1872, Iowa State in the first graduating class; Acting President of Iowa State four times.

**1890: Charles Keffer, Master of Horticulture;** received another honorary degree in 1914. Only two people in Iowa State history have received two honorary degrees.

**1895: Mattie Locke Macomber, Master of Philosophy.** B.S., 1872, Iowa State in the first graduating class.

**1897: James W. Wilson, Master of Agriculture.** B.S., 1896, Iowa State; became U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; was the first of four Iowa State graduates to serve as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

**1903: Robert B. Armstrong, Master of Philosophy.**

**1903: W.T. Hornaday, Master of Philosophy.** World-famed naturalist and zoologist.

**1907: J. C. Blair, Master of Agriculture.**

**1907: I. B. Schreckengast, Master of Philosophy.**

**1908: Virginia Corbett, Master of Philosophy.** B.S., 1893, Iowa State; Dean of Women at Colorado State at Fort Collins.

**1909: Norman J. Coleman, Doctor of Science.**

**1909: Seaman A. Knapp, Doctor of Science.** Appointed president of Iowa State College from 1883-1885.

**1909: James W. Robertson, Doctor of Science.**

**1914: Charles Keffer, Doctor of Science.**

**1914: George L. McKay, Doctor of Science.** Recognized for his work in dairying.

**1914: James Wilson, Doctor of Science.**

**1915: Marion Dorset, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.**

**1915: LaVerne Noyes, Doctor of Engineering.** B.S., 1872, Iowa State in the first graduating class.

**1916: Clarence Henry Eckles, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1895, Iowa State; head of the Department of Dairy Husbandry Farms at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**1916: Herbert Osborn, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1879, Iowa State; helped organize the Iowa Academy of Science.

**1916: Willis Whited, Doctor of Engineering.** B.S., 1879, Iowa State; bridge engineer in Pennsylvania with the State Highway Department.

**1920: W.C. Armstrong, Doctor of Engineering.** B.S., 1881, Iowa State; in charge of building the Northwestern Depot in Chicago.

**1920: Joseph Charles Arthur, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1872, M.S., 1877, Iowa State, which was the first advanced degree from Iowa State; first librarian at Iowa State.

**1920: Alfred Atkinson, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1904, Iowa State; president of Montana State College of Agriculture.

**1920: Carlton R. Ball, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1893, Iowa State; agronomist with the USDA and an authority on plant rust.

**1920: Isabelle Bevier, Doctor of Science.** Head of the Department of Home Economics at the University of Illinois.

**1920: Deon Eugene Davenport, Doctor of Science.** Dean of the School of Agriculture at the University of Illinois.

**1920: Arthur P. Davis, Doctor of Engineering.** President of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

**1920: Albert S. Hitchcock, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1884, Iowa State; agronomist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**1920: L. S. Klinek, Doctor of Science.** President of the University of British Columbia.

**1920: John R. Mohler, Doctor of Science.** Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**1920: Wilmon Newell, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1897, Iowa State; responsible for the eradication of the citrus canker in the U.S.

**1920: R. A. Oakley, Doctor of Science.** Agronomist in charge of seed distribution in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**1920: Thomas L. Smith, Doctor of Engineering.** Prominent mechanical engineer and inventor.

**1921: Carrie Chapman Catt, Doctor of Laws.** B.S., 1880, Iowa State; distinguished champion of the suffragist and peace movement and organizer of the League of Women Voters.

**1922: Henry C. Wallace, Doctor of Laws.** B.S., 1892, Iowa State; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

**1925: George I. Christie, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1903, Iowa State; Under Secretary of Agriculture, U.S.D.A.

**1925: Clyde W. Warburton, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1902, Iowa State; head of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U.S.D.A. under James Wilson.

**1926: Matt Luckiesh, Doctor of Science.**

**1928: George R. Chatburn, Doctor of Engineering.** B.S., 1884, Iowa State; head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska.

\* Distinguished Achievement Citation, the highest award granted to university alumni

**1928: W. K. Robbins, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1878, Iowa State; outstanding agricultural chemist.

**1928: J. H. Shephard, Doctor of Agriculture.**

**1928: Edward A. Sherman, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1896, Iowa State.

**1929: Clifford P. Fitch, Doctor of Science.**

**1929: Thomas H. MacDonald, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1904, Iowa State; first Secretary and Highway Engineer for the Iowa Highway Commission.

**1932: John Hammond, Doctor of Science.**

**1932: A. J. Kluyer, Doctor of Science.**

**1934: Henry Agard Wallace, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1910, M.S., 1920, Iowa State; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; was Vice President under Franklin D. Roosevelt; DAC recipient in 1964.\*

**1935: Duncan Marshall, Doctor of Agriculture.**

**1936: Ronald Alymer Fisher, Doctor of Science.**

**1936: Raymond Mollyneaux Hughes, Doctor of Laws;** president of Iowa State from 1927 to 1936; his Handbook for College Trustees was well regarded.

**1940: Maria M. Roberts, Doctor of Laws.** B.S., 1890, Iowa State; professor of mathematics and dean of the Junior College at Iowa State.

**1942: George Harrison Shull, Doctor of Science.**

**1942: Wilbur M. Wilson, Doctor of Engineering.** B.S., 1900, Iowa State.

**1944: Rush B. Lincoln, Doctor of Science.**

**1945: Milton Ferdinand Beecher, Doctor of Engineering.** B.S., 1910, Iowa State; official in the Norton Company in Worcester, Massachusetts.

**1945: Thomas Ray Stanton, Doctor of Agriculture.**

**1947: Mabel V. Campbell, Doctor of Science,** honorary degree conferred at the convocation celebrating 75 years of home economics at Iowa State. B.S., 1905, Iowa State.

**1947: Hazel Steibling, Doctor of Science;** honorary degree conferred at the convocation celebrating 75 years of home economics at Iowa State. Chief of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

**1948: Anson S. Marston, Doctor of Engineering.** First dean of engineering at Iowa State.

**1948: Louis Bevier Spinney, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1892; B.S., 1893, Iowa State; taught physics and electrical engineering in the Beardshear administration; later became head of the Department of Physics.

**1948: Lyle Ford Watts, Doctor of Agriculture.** B.S., 1913, Iowa State; chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

**1949: Earl Owen Shreve, Doctor of Engineering.** B.S., 1904, Iowa State; vice president of General Electric.

**1949: William Wesley Waymack, Doctor of Science.** Editor of the Des Moines Register.

**1951: Harry C. Murphy, Doctor of Engineering;** president of the Burlington Railroad System.

**1951: Edward Norris Wentworth, Doctor of Agriculture.** B.S., 1907, M.S., 1909, Iowa State; faculty member at Iowa State College; distinguished historian of American livestock; author of American Sheep Trails.

**1952: Roscoe C. Pollock, Doctor of Agriculture.** B.S., 1913, M.S., 1921, Iowa State.

**1952: Ruth Buxton Sayre, Doctor of Laws.** Outstanding woman in Iowa agriculture; helped found Associated Country Women of the World; appointed by President Eisenhower to the Agricultural Advisory Committee in 1950; held posts in local, state and national Farm Bureau women's organizations.

**1953: Ezra Taft Benson, Doctor of Agriculture.** M.S., 1927, Iowa State; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

**1953: Fred T. Whiting, Doctor of Engineering.** B.S., 1913, Iowa State; vice president for Westinghouse Company in charge of the Northwest district.

**1954: Thomas Roy Truax, Doctor of Agriculture.** B.S., 1912, Iowa State; head of the Forest Products Division of the U.S.D.A. at Madison, Wisconsin; honorary degree conferred at the 50th anniversary of the Department of Forestry.

**1955: Almon H. Fuller, Doctor of Engineering.** Head of the Department of Civil Engineering at Iowa State.

**1955: Bernard W. Hammer, Doctor of Agriculture.** Involved in Dairy Bacteriology at Iowa State.

**1956: John Foster Dulles, Doctor of Laws.** U.S. Secretary of State.

**1957: Belle Lowe, Doctor of Science.** Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D.C., 1923-1924; food scientist and professor at Iowa State College from 1918 until retirement in 1956; recognized for research on preparation, quality, and preservation of poultry, meats, and fats; published textbook: Experimental Cookery.

**1958: Henry Dale Bergman, Doctor of Science.** D.V.M., 1910, Iowa State; dean of veterinary medicine, Iowa State.

**1958: Ralph Kenneth Bliss, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1905, Iowa State; director of Agriculture and Home Economics Extension at Iowa State.

**1958: Florence Alberta Fallgatter, Doctor of Science.** Head of the Department of Home Economics Education at Iowa State.

**1958: Charles Edwin Friley, Doctor of Science.** Served as Acting President from 1935 to 1936; president from 1936-1953.

**1958: Robert Earle Buchanan, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1904, Iowa State; dean of industrial science, head of the Department of Bacteriology, Dean of the Graduate College, and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Iowa State.

**1958: John Walter Coverdale, Doctor of Science.** Official in Rath Packing Company.

**1958: Gertrude Mary Cox, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1929, Iowa State.

**1958: Edward Bertram Evans, Doctor of Science.** D.V.M., 1918, Iowa State; the centennial program carried the following, "Veterinarian, Agricultural Educator." DAC recipient in 1968.\*

**1958: Theodore V. Houser, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1915, Iowa State; president of Sears Roebuck and Co.

**1958: Henry H. Kildee, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1908, M.S., 1917, Iowa State; head of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dean of Agriculture, Iowa State.

\* Distinguished Achievement Citation, the highest award granted to university alumni

**1958: Allan Blair Kline, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1938, Iowa State; president of the American Farm Bureau.

**1958: Beth Baily McLean, Doctor of Science.** M.S., 1933, Iowa State; the centennial program carried the following, "Home Economist, Business Woman."

**1958: James Lewis Morrill, Doctor of Laws.** President of the University of Minnesota.

**1958: George Waddel Snedecor, Doctor of Science.** Organized the Statistical Laboratory; first head of the Department of Statistics.

**1958: Fred R. White, Doctor of Science.** Chief engineer for the Highway Commission.

**1965: James H. Hilton, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1923, Iowa State; professor of animal husbandry, Purdue (1927-1945); president, Iowa State (1953-1965).

**1991: Raymond P. Baker, Doctor of Humane Letters.** B.S., 1935, Iowa State; director of research at Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.

**1992: Norman Borlaug, Doctor of Humane Letters.** 1970 Nobel Peace Prize recipient for work in developing wheat varieties.

**1993: Thornton A. Wilson, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1943, Iowa State; President of the Boeing Company in 1968 and chairman of the board in 1972; DAC recipient in 1973.\*

**1993: Charles Concordia, Doctor of Science.** One of the most distinguished power systems engineers in the world.

**1994: George Washington Carver, Doctor of Humane Letters.** B.S., 1894, M.S., 1896, Iowa State; first African-American Student at Iowa State; world renowned plant scientist.

**1994: Hugh S. Sidey, Doctor of Humane Letters.** B.S., 1950, Iowa State; staff member and columnist for Time magazine for more than 30 years; first recipient of James W. Schwartz Award for "Distinguished Service to Journalism and Mass Communication; DAC recipient in 1972. \*

**1995: D. Gale Johnson, Doctor of Humane Letters.** B.S., 1932, Ph.D., 1945, Iowa State; teacher and researcher of the agricultural economic problems in Russia and China; DAC recipient in 1995. \*

**1996: M. E. "Gene" Ensminger, Doctor of Humane Letters.** Achievements for his work in animal science, education and international agriculture.

**1997: Simon Estes, Doctor of Humane Letters.** studied voice at the University of Iowa from 1956-1963; from 1964 to 1965 studied at the Julliard School of Music; distinguished faculty member at Julliard since 1986; recognized for extraordinary achievements in operatic music, philanthropy, and generosity to disadvantaged children; named Honorary Alumnus in 2007.

**1997: Emery N. Castle, Doctor of Humane Letters.** Ph.D., 1952, Iowa State; recognized for his outstanding achievements in agricultural economics helping to improve the quality of life in rural America.

**1997: Edwin G. Krebs, Doctor of Science.** Co-winner of the 1992 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine; recognized for outstanding contributions in biochemistry and medicine.

**1998: Federico Mayor, Doctor of Science.** Recognized for his extraordinary achievements as a biochemist and for promoting peace in the Middle East and throughout the world.

**2000: John Vincent Atanasoff, Doctor of Science.** M.S., 1926, Iowa State; with the help of graduate student Clifford Berry, designed, assembled and demonstrated the first electronic digital computer, the Atanasoff-Berry Computer, in the basement of Iowa State University's Physics Building; he remains an inspiration to generations of Iowa Staters with his legacy of inquiry and excellence in the physical sciences and engineering; DAC recipient in 1984. \*

**2000: Morris Soller, Doctor of Science.** Recognized for leading the way in the actual discovery of genetic science.

**2000: Jean Marie Dubois, Doctor of Science.** One of the world's leading researchers in the area of quasicrystals; credited with fostering and guiding collaborative research on useful applications for quasicrystals, including a project involving scientists at Iowa State University and the Ames Laboratory.

**2001: Keith R. Yamamoto, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1968, Iowa State; internationally known research scientist and a leader in national science policy; known for his breakthrough work on steroid hormone receptors; DAC recipient in 1997.\*

**2001: John Ruan, Doctor of Humane Letters.** Chairman and CEO of The Ruan Companies, Des Moines; recognized for his generosity to the city of Des Moines, his home state of Iowa and the international community; founder and ongoing supporter of the World Food Prize Foundation, publicizes the challenges of feeding the world and recognize significant advances in our capacity to produce, improve and distribute food.

**2002: Katharine Abraham, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1976, Iowa State; occupied one of the most important professional positions in the U.S. government dealing with economic performance and economic policy, the Bureau of Labor Statistics; under her direction, the bureau improved its method for collecting employment statistics, initiated a program to collect data on job vacancies and improved the way the Consumer Price Index is measured; DAC recipient in 1999.\*

**2002: Dr. M. Daniel Lane, Doctor of Humane Letters.** Contributions to research in the fields of biochemistry and nutrition; international leader in understanding the development and mechanisms underlying obesity; contributed to development of appetite-controlling drug; ground-breaking work in insulin signaling and in mechanisms underlying diabetes.

**2003: Roy Whistler, Doctor of Science.** Ph.D., 1938, Iowa State; an internationally recognized leader in carbohydrate research for more than half a century; DAC recipient in 1999.\*

**2003: Joanne Eicher, Doctor of Humane Letters.** Played a key role in developing an understanding of and respect for African textiles in this country.

**2006: Vance Coffman, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1967, Iowa State; widely respected by the nation's military and civilian leaders, often sought for advice on national security goals; DAC recipient in 1999. \*

**2006: Graham B. Spanier, Doctor of Humane Letters.** B.S., 1969, M.S., 1971, Iowa State; president of the Pennsylvania State University; known as one of the nation's premier leaders in higher education issues and helping universities meet the changing needs of the society and world; recipient of Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004.

**2006: Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, Doctor of Humane Letters.** Ph.D in plant genetics from Cambridge University; acclaimed by TIME magazine as one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th century and one of three from India, the others being Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore; considered a world leader in sustainable food security.

**2006: Robert D. Ray, Doctor of Humane Letters.** an attorney in Des Moines for 14 years; he served an unprecedented five terms as Governor of Iowa, from 1969-1983, served as a U.S. representative to the United Nations; named “Most Influential Iowan” at the turn of the century and holds honorary degrees from 17 colleges and universities.

**2007: Robert Byron Bird, Doctor of Science.** B.S., University of Illinois; Ph.D., Wisconsin; Vilas Professor Emeritus of chemical and biological engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; known for five decades of books and research in chemical engineering and thermal science; Fulbright Lecturer and Guggenheim Fellow at Technische Universiteit, Delft, The Netherlands; Fulbright Professor at Kyoto University and Nagoya University, Japan; Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia; and a visiting professor at universities in the United States, China and Belgium.

**2007: John Pappajohn, Doctor of Humane Letters.** Founder and president of Equity Dynamics, Inc., and Pappajohn Capital Resources, a venture capital firm; director on more than 40 public and private boards; launched the Pappajohn Centers for Entrepreneurship at several Iowa colleges; Iowa Philanthropist of the Year Award in 1998, and Honorary Alumni of Iowa State University in 2005.

**2008: Michael M. Crow, Doctor of Humane Letters.** B.S., 1977, Iowa State; Ph.D., 1985, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University; president, Arizona State University; faculty member: University of Kentucky, Columbia University, Iowa State (1985-1991). Helped establish more than 15 applied research centers and technology transfer organizational structures and mechanisms. Involved with Institute for Physical Research and Technology (IPRT) and Center for Crops Utilization Research (CCUR). Served as senior adviser to U.S. Departments of State and Commerce on science and technology policy related to intelligence and national security; a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration; and member, Council on Foreign Relations.

**2008: Kenneth M. Quinn, Doctor of Humane Letters.** Graduate of Wahlerl High School and Loras College; former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia; president, World Food Prize Foundation; member, American Foreign Service; member, Henry Kissinger’s National Security Council; Special Assistant to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke; Narcotics Counselor at US mission to the United Nations in Vienna; humanitarian efforts on behalf of refugees; Chairman of the Inter-agency Task Force on POW/MIAs; and member of the US-Russia POW/MIA Commission.

**2009: J. Dwayne McAninch, Doctor of Science.** Founder, McAninch Corporation; adviser to the board of Caterpillar/Trimble Control Technologies, LLC; provided leadership for applying GPS technology to construction methods.

**2009: Chan Koo Park, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1976, Iowa State; Chairman and CEO of chemical operations, Kumho Asiana Group; leader and innovator in the petrochemical industry; helped establish Asiana Airline, Kumho Express and Kumho Telecomm divisions; awards include: Gold Tower Industry Honor, Korea’s highest corporate CEO award, Korea’s Environment-Friendly Award, and several awards from the Office of the Korean President for contributions to the national economy, industry safety standards, labor relations, the environment and social responsibility.

**2009: M. Patricia Quinlisk, Doctor of Science.** B.S. University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point; Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University; and M.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Epidemiologist and Medical Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health for the state of Iowa.

**2010: Harold L. Brock, Doctor of Science.** Apprenticed with Henry Ford at the Ford Trade and Apprentice School at age 15 and became Henry Ford’s personal engineer; founding member of the board of directors of Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo; the Brock Student Center at Hawkeye Community College named in his honor; Director of Tractor Research and later Manager of Product Engineering at the John Deere Waterloo Tractor Works; designed the Deere 4020 tractor and brought it into production in 1963; founding member and president of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), Mississippi Valley Section; recipient of the Cyrus Hall McCormick-Jerome Increase Case Gold Medal from the ASABE.

**2010: Jonathan D. Rich, Doctor of Science.** B.S. Iowa State; Ph.D. University of Wisconsin; over 20 years of experience in the silicones industry, starting as a research chemist and progressing to CEO of the second-largest producer of silicones and silicone derivatives in the world; director of Momentive Performance Materials Inc. in June 2007; joined Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in 2000, serving as director of chemical R&D, president of Goodyear Chemical, and in 2002 was named president, North American Tire, and Chairman of the Board, Goodyear Dunlop Tires NA; serves on Iowa State University’s Institute for Physical Research and Technology (IPRT) Industrial Advisory Board.

**2011: Harold Scheraga, Doctor of Science.** B.S., 1941, City College of New York; A.M., 1942 & Ph.D., 1946 Duke University; one of the world’s leading physical chemists working on macromolecules, primarily proteins and nucleic acids, member of the National Academy of Science and American Academy of Arts and Science, and a Fellow of the American Chemical Society, Biophysical society, and American Association for the Advancement of Science, six-time Fogarty Scholar of the National Institutes of Health. Four of his papers have been designated as “citation classics” by the journal Current Contents, and in the March 1982 issue, he was listed as the most frequently cited physical chemist in the world. In a 2009 ranking of the 2,000 most notable living chemists, he was ranked 11th

**2011: Robert N. Shelton, Doctor of Science.** B.S., Stanford University; M.S. & Ph.D., University of California; 19th president of the University of Arizona, affiliated with the Ames Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy at ISU, in 1987, he joined the faculty at the University of California, Davis, as professor and chair of the Department of Physics, was appointed Vice Chancellor for Research in 1990, and Vice Provost for Research of the University of California system in 1996, in 2001, he joined the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, as Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, Dr. Shelton’s research has focused on collective electron effects in novel materials, and he made many significant contributions to the advancement of superconductivity and superconductive materials.

\* Distinguished Achievement Citation, the highest award granted to university alumni

**2011: Benjamin J. Allen, Doctor of Humane Letters.** B.S., Indiana University; M.S. & Ph.D., University of Illinois; president of the University of Northern Iowa since 2006; former professor, dean, vice president and provost at Iowa State University from 1979 to 2006; and a member of the Washington State University faculty from 1974 to 1979, including a year as a Brookings Economic Policy Fellow in the U.S. Department of Transportation; nationally known researcher and educator in transportation and logistics, with particular expertise in regulatory reform, deregulation and public transportation policy; appointed by Iowa Governor Branstad to co-chair, the Iowa STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council; co-chairs the Iowa Business Council's Education Excellence in Iowa Roundtable, a non-partisan forum of business and education leaders focused on improving pre-K-16 academic achievement and establishing career development opportunities.