

# 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. *Compiled by the Office of the Registrar.*

- 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.
- 1887: M. Stalker, Master of Science; first editor *Aurora*, the student newspaper; developed the curriculum in Veterinary Science.
- 1887: E. W. Stanton, Master of Science; received B.S. in 1872 from 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: Matte Locke Macomber, Master of Philosophy; received B.S. in 1872 from Iowa State in the first graduating class.
- 1897: James Wilson, Master of Agriculture; 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; 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; received B.S. in 1872 from Iowa State in the first graduating class.
- 1916: Clarence Henry Eckles, Doctor of Science; head of the Department of Dairy Husbandry Farms at St. Paul, Minnesota.
- 1916: Herbert Osborn, Doctor of Science; helped organize the Iowa Academy of Science.
- 1916: Willis Whited, Doctor of Engineering; bridge engineer in Pennsylvania with the State Highway Department.
- 1920: W.C. Armstrong, Doctor of Engineering; in charge of the building of the Northwestern Depot in Chicago.
- 1920: Joseph Charles Arthur, Doctor of Science; received M.S. degree in 1877, which was the first advanced degree from Iowa State; first librarian at Iowa State.
- 1920: Alfred Atkinson, Doctor of Science; president of Montana State College of Agriculture.
- 1920: Carlton R. Ball, Doctor of Science; agronomist with the USDA and an authority on plant rust.
- 1920: Isabel Bevier, Doctor of Science; head of the Department of Home Economics at the University of Illinois.
- 1920: Dean 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: A. S. Hitchcock, Doctor of Science; 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; 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; distinguished champion of the suffragist and peace movement and organizer of the League of Women Voters.
- 1922: Henry C. Wallace, Doctor of Laws; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.
- 1925: George I. Christie, Doctor of Science; Under Secretary of Agriculture, U.S.D.A.
- 1925: Clyde W. Warburton, Doctor of Science; head of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U.S.D.A. under James Wilson.
- 1926: Matt Luckieseh, Doctor of Science.
- 1928: George R. Chatburn, Doctor of Engineering; head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska.
- 1928: W. K. Robbins, Doctor of Science; outstanding agricultural chemist.
- 1928: J. H. Shephard, Doctor of Agriculture.
- 1928: Edward A. Sherman, Doctor of Science.
- 1929: Clifford P. Fitch, Doctor of Science.
- 1929: Thomas H. MacDonald, Doctor of Science; 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; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; was Vice President under Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- 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; 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.

1944: Rush B. Lincoln, Doctor of Science.

1945: Milton Ferdinand Beecher, Doctor of Engineering; official in the Norton Company in Worcester, Massachusetts.

1945: Thomas Ray Stanton, Doctor of Agriculture.

1947: Mabel Campbell, Doctor of Science; honorary degree conferred at the convocation celebrating 75 years of home economics at 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 Marston, Doctor of Engineering; first dean of engineering at Iowa State.

1948: Louis Bevier Spinney, Doctor of Science; received B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1892 and B.S. in electrical engineering in 1893 from 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; chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

1949: Earl Owen Shreve, Doctor of Engineering; 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; faculty member at Iowa State College for a short time; distinguished historian of American livestock; author of *American Sheep Trails*.

1952: Roscoe C. Pollock, Doctor of Agriculture; received B.S. in 1913 and a professional Master of Agriculture on June 15, 1921 from Iowa State.

1952: Ruth Buxton Sayre, Doctor of Laws; outstanding woman in Iowa agriculture; helped found Associated Country Women of the World; was 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; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

1953: Fred T. Whiting, Doctor of Engineering; employed by Westinghouse Company for many years; vice president for Westinghouse Company in charge of the Northwest district.

1954: Thomas Roy Truax, Doctor of Agriculture; 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 *Experimental Cookery*, a textbook for many American universities.

1958: Henry Dale Bergman, Doctor of Science; dean of veterinary medicine at Iowa State.

1958: Ralph Kenneth Bliss, Doctor of Science; 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; 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.

1958: Edward Bertram Evans, Doctor of Science; received D.V.M. in 1918 from Iowa State; attended Iowa State some summers in the 1930's; the centennial program carried the following, "Veterinarian, Agricultural Educator."

1958: Theodore V. Houser, Doctor of Science; president of Sears Roebuck and Co.

1958: Herbert Henry Kildee, Doctor of Science; head of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dean of Agriculture at Iowa State.

1958: Allan Blair Kline, Doctor of Science; president of the American Farm Bureau.

1958: Beth Baily McLean, Doctor of Science; received M.S. in 1933 from 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; professor of animal husbandry at Purdue from 1927-1945; president of Iowa State from 1953-1965.

1991: Raymond Baker, Doctor of Humane Letters; 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; president of the Boeing Company in 1968 and chairman of the board in 1972.

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; received B.S. in 1894; M.S. 1896; first African-American Student at Iowa State; world renowned plant scientist.

1994: Hugh S. Sidey, Doctor of Humane Letters; 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.

1995: D. Gale Johnson, Doctor of Humane Letters; teacher and researcher of the agricultural economic problems in Russia and China.

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 in 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.

1997: Emery N. Castle, Doctor of Humane Letters; 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; 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.

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 Yamamoto, Doctor of Science; internationally known research scientist and a leader in national science policy; known for his breakthrough work on steroid hormone receptors.

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; recognized specifically for his founding and ongoing support of the World Food Prize Foundation, which seeks to publicize the challenges of feeding the world's growing population and recognize significant advances in our capacity to produce, improve and distribute food.

2002: Katharine Abraham, Doctor of Science; an ISU alumna, she 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.

2002: Dr. M. Daniel Lane, Doctor of Humane Letters; recognized for remarkable contributions to research in the fields of biochemistry and nutrition; his research on the development and functions of adipocytes has made him an international leader in understanding the development and mechanisms underlying obesity; his studies have resulted in the discovery of a novel appetite-controlling drug and other important insights into basic mechanisms of appetite control; he continues to perform ground-breaking work in insulin signaling and in mechanisms underlying diabetes.

2003: Roy Whistler, Doctor of Science; an internationally recognized leader in carbohydrate research for more than half a century; Iowa State previously honored him with the Distinguished Achievement Citation, the highest award granted to university alumni.

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; provided the technical and managerial leadership for some of the country's most important technological achievements and is widely respected by the nation's military and civilian leaders, often being summoned by them for advice on how best to achieve our country's national security goals.

2006: Graham B. Spanier, Doctor of Humane Letters; 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.

2006: Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, Doctor of Humane Letters; he was educated in India and received the Ph.D in plant genetics from Cambridge University; he has been 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; he is considered a world leader in the field of 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, and also served as president of the Council of State Governments, and chairman of the National Governors' Association, Midwestern Governors' Association, Republican Governors' Association and Educational Commission of the States; he also served as a U.S. representative to the United Nations; he was 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; 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. Most of his childhood spent in Fort Dodge, Iowa; B.S. in Chemical Engr. from University of Illinois; Ph.D. in chemistry from Wisconsin; 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, founder and president of Equity Dynamics, Inc., and Pappajohn Capital Resources, a venture capital firm. Served as a director on more than 40 public and private boards. Awards include: Horatio Alger Award, Iowa Business Leader of the Year, Iowa Business Hall of Fame, Beta Gamma Sigma Medallion for Entrepreneurship, Meredith Wilson Heritage Award, Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the first Iowan to receive the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship. He and his wife launched the Pappajohn Centers for Entrepreneurship at several Iowa colleges. They received the Iowa Philanthropist of the Year Award in 1998, and were named Honorary Alumni of Iowa State University in 2005.

2008: Michael M. Crow, president of Arizona State University. Bachelor's degree in political science and environmental studies in 1977 from Iowa State University. Earned his Ph.D. in 1985 from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. Served on faculties at the University of Kentucky and Columbia University. Returned to Iowa State in 1985. He guided establishment of more than 15 new applied research centers and technology transfer organizational structures and mechanisms. Involved with the Institute for Physical Research and Technology (IPRT) and Center for Crops Utilization Research (CCUR). Served as senior adviser to the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce on science and technology policy related to intelligence and national security and is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and member, Council on Foreign Relations.