

1979

Special Ceremony, Golden Year Celebration, September 16, 1979

William Coit Ackerman '24, UCLA pioneer, coach
John E. Canaday '27, former president, UCLA Alumni Association, UC regent

1980

Special Ceremony, Charter Day, March 2, 1980

J.D. Morgan '41, director, Intercollegiate Athletics

Commencement, June 15, 1980

Gordon H. Ball, professor, zoology
Joseph Kaplan, professor, geophysics
Earl J. Miller, professor, economics
Flora Murray Scott, professor, botanical sciences
Marion A. Zeitlin, professor, Spanish

Special Ceremony, Reception in Honor of Byron Atkinson, September 29, 1980

Byron Harry Atkinson '40, M.A. '50, Ed.D. '60, administrator

1981

Commencement, June 21, 1981

Warren Minor Christopher, attorney and diplomat
Shirley Ann Mount Hufstedler, attorney and judge
William Polk Longmire, Jr., founder, UCLA department of surgery

1982

Commencement, June 20, 1982

Simon Ramo, co-founder of TRW
Richard Callender Maxwell, former dean, UCLA School of Law
Dorothy Buffum Chandler, arts patron and UC regent

1983

Commencement, June 19, 1983

Tom Bradley '41, mayor, City of Los Angeles
Elinor Raas Heller, UC regent
Laurence Olivier, actor
David Stephen Saxon, president emeritus, University of California

1984

Commencement, June 17, 1984

Anna Bing Arnold '40, philanthropist and humanist
Franklin David Murphy, UCLA chancellor emeritus
Isaac Bashevis Singer, author and Nobel Prize recipient

1985

Commencement, June 16, 1985

Carol Burnett '54, actress
Edward William Carter '32, businessman and UC regent
John Robert Wooden, former UCLA men's basketball coach

1986

Commencement, June 22, 1986

Robert Howard Ahmanson '49, president, Ahmanson Foundation
John Hope Franklin, historian
William W. Melnitz M.A. '43, Ph.D. '47, former dean, UCLA College of Fine Arts
Robert Bruce Merrifield '43, Ph.D. '49, biochemist and Nobel Prize recipient
Toshiro Mifune, Japanese actor

1987

Commencement, June 14, 1987

Richard Diebenkorn, artist
Ella Fitzgerald, performer
John W. Ryan, educator

1988

Commencement, College of Fine Arts, June 11, 1988

Robert E. Wise, Academy Award-winning director

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 12, 1988

Frank Press, geophysicist
Rufino Tamayo, artist
Robert Vosper, university librarian

1989

Special Ceremony, UCLA Campaign Celebration/Academic Convocation, April 7, 1989

Lauro F. Cavazos, secretary of education, the United States of America

Commencement, School of Law, May 21, 1989

Harry A. Blackmun, associate justice of the Supreme Court

Commencement, College of Fine Arts, June 17, 1989

Walter Mirisch, film producer

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 18, 1989

Rosemary Park, educator
John Brooks Slaughter M.S. '61, president of Occidental College
Robert McCormick Adams, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution

1990

Commencement, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, June 16, 1990

Warren J. Haas, librarian

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 17, 1990

Anna L. Fisher '71, M.S. '87, M.D. '76, astronaut
I.M. Pei, architect
Roald Z. Sagdeev, Soviet physicist

1991

Commencement, Anderson Graduate School of Management, June 14, 1991

James D. Hodgson, former United States ambassador to Japan

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Physical Sciences, June 16, 1991
 Carl E. Sagan, planetary physicist

Special Ceremony, Academic Convocation, October 25, 1991
 Václav Havel, president of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

1992

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, June 5, 1992
 Gordon L. MacDonald, founder, MacDonald Group, Ltd. (awarded posthumously*)
 * *Due to his passing after he had accepted the nomination*

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Physical Sciences, June 14, 1992
 Stephen Jay Gould, evolutionist and historian of science

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding, June 14, 1992
 Orlando Patterson, historian and author

1993

Commencement, School of Law, May 23, 1993
 Dorothy Wright Nelson '50, LL.B. '53, United States circuit judge

Commencement, School of Theater, Film and Television, June 19, 1993
 James Earl Jones, actor

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Humanities, June 19, 1993
 Carlos Fuentes, ambassador and author

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Social Sciences, June 20, 1993
 Elizabeth Glaser, co-founder of Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Physical Sciences, June 20, 1993
 Donald J. Cram, chemist and Nobel Prize recipient

1994

Special Ceremony, Tribute to Henry Mancini - A 70th Birthday Celebration, April 19, 1994
 Henry Mancini, musical composer

Special Ceremony, Board of Directors Meeting, School of Medicine, May 10, 1994
 Phillip L. Williams, vice chairman emeritus, Times-Mirror Company

Special Ceremony, Academic Convocation, 75th Anniversary of UCLA, May 20, 1994
 William Jefferson Clinton, president of the United States of America

Commencement, School of the Arts, June 17, 1994
 Jane Alexander, actress and chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Physical Sciences, June 19, 1994
 George E. Brown, Jr. '46, congressman

Commencement, School of Theater, Film and Television, June 19, 1994
Francis Ford Coppola M.F.A. '67, film producer and director

Special Ceremony, Official Visit and Public Lecture, October 6, 1994
Shimon Peres, foreign minister of Israel

1995

Special Ceremony, Official Visit and Public Address, April 12, 1995
Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan

Commencement, School of Law, May 21, 1995
Janet Reno, attorney general of the United States of America

Special Ceremony, Anderson School Dedication, June 8, 1995
John E. Anderson '40, president, Topa Equities, Ltd.

Commencement, School of the Arts and Architecture, June 17, 1995
Quincy Jones, musician

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding, June 18, 1995
Stanley Engerman, professor, University of Rochester

Commencement, AGSM Executive M.B.A. Program, September 9, 1995
Benjamin Cayetano '68, governor of Hawaii

1996

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, May 31, 1996
Michael Ovitz, '68, president, the Walt Disney Company

Commencement, School of Theater, Film and Television, June 15, 1996
Marvin Neil Simon, playwright

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Social Sciences, June 16, 1996
Lew Wasserman, chairman emeritus, MCA, Inc.

1997

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, May 30, 1997
Leslie and Susan Gonda, founders, Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Foundation

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Humanities, June 14, 1997
Dennis B. Ross '70, special Middle East coordinator

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Life Sciences, June 14, 1997
Jerry Lewis '56, congressman

Commencement, School of the Arts and Architecture, June 14, 1997
Harold M. Williams '46, president and CEO, Getty Trust

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Physical Sciences, June 15, 1997
Fred Lawrence Whipple '27, astronomer

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding Ceremony, June 15, 1997
Leroy Hood, scientist

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Social Sciences, June 15, 1997
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar '69, basketball player

1998

Special Ceremony, "A Nobel Experience" Lecture, April 9, 1998
Paul D. Boyer, professor of chemistry and Nobel Prize recipient

Special Ceremony, Official Visit and Public Address, April 22, 1998
Kofi Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations

Commencement, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, June 20, 1998
Richard Riley, secretary of education of the United States of America

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Social Sciences, June 21, 1998
Oscar Arias Sanchez, former president of Costa Rica and Nobel Prize recipient

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding, June 21, 1998
Michael Apple, professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Special Ceremony, Donor Luncheon, July 18, 1998
Edie Wasserman, UCLA supporter and humanitarian

Special Ceremony, Lecture and Reception, November 2, 1998
William F. Sharpe '55, M.A. '56, Ph.D. '61 Nobel Prize recipient

Special Ceremony, Charles E. Young Library Renaming, December 6, 1998
Charles E. Young '55, M.A. '57, Ph.D. '60, UCLA chancellor emeritus

1999

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Humanities, June 19, 1999
Mario Vargas Llosa, Peruvian poet and humanitarian

2000

Special Ceremony, Center for the Book and Joint Degree Announcement, January 21, 2000
James Billington, librarian of congress

Special Ceremony, June 1, 2000
Frank W. Clark, Jr., former UC regent

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding, June 15, 2000
Jules B. LaPirus, president, Council of Graduate Schools

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Life Sciences, June 17, 2000
Rita Colwell, director, National Science Foundation

Commencement, School of the Arts and Architecture, June 17, 2000
Gloria Kaufman, UCLA supporter

Commencement, School of Public Health, June 18, 2000
Rob Reiner, actor, writer, child advocate

Special Ceremony, Brodie Lecture, November 1, 2000
Jimmy Carter, former president of the United States of America

Special Ceremony, November 30, 2000
Stanley A. Dashew, entrepreneur, industrialist and inventor

2001

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, June 1, 2001
Iris Cantor, chairman and president, Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, Humanities, June 16, 2001
Andrea L. Rich '65, M.A. '66, Ph.D. '68, president, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

2002

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, May 31, 2002
Lynda and Stewart '59, J.D. '62 Resnick, co-chair and chair, Roll International Corporation

Commencement, School of Theater, Film and Television, June 14, 2002
Kirk Douglas, actor, director and producer

2003

Commencement, School of Law, May 11, 2003
Lee Hamilton, Woodrow Wilson Intl. Center for Scholars director, former congressman

Commencement, School of Nursing, June 14, 2003
Lois Capps, California congresswoman, healthcare advocate

2004

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding, June 17, 2004
George Aratani, founder, Mikasa Dinnerware/Kenwood Electronics, community leader

Commencement, School of Public Policy and Social Research, June 18, 2004
George Mitchell, former US senator, international peacemaker

2005

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, June 3, 2005
Jane and Terry Semel, founder, ijane.inc., and chairman and CEO, Yahoo

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 17, 2005
Umberto Eco, scholar and author

Commencement, School of Theatre, Film and Television, June 17, 2005
Anthony Hopkins, actor

Commencement, School of the Arts and Architecture, June 18, 2005
Frank Gehry, architect

Commencement, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, June 18, 2005
James Banks, professor and director, Center for Multicultural Education, Univ. of Washington

2006

Special Ceremony, Campaign Closing Legacy Ball, April 21, 2006
Bob and Marion Wilson, UCLA supporters

Commencement, School of Theatre, Film and Television, June 16, 2006
Samuel Goldwyn, Jr., director, writer, producer

Commencement, School of the Arts and Architecture, June 17, 2006
Edythe and Eli Broad, founders, The Broad Foundations

2007

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, June 1, 2007
Chien Chung Pei, architect

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding, June 14, 2007
Morgan Chu, attorney

Commencement, School of Public Affairs, June 15, 2007
Norman Y. Mineta, former secretary of transportation of the United States of America

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 15, 2007
Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor, City of Los Angeles

2008

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, May 27, 2008
Lloyd Cotsen, businessman and founder, Cotsen Family Foundation

Commencement, Anderson School of Management, June 13, 2008
Richard Ziman, founding chairman and CEO, Arden Realty, Inc.

Commencement, School of Engineering and Applied Science, June 14, 2008
Charles M. Vest, president, National Academy of Engineering

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding, June 12, 2008
Linda Griego, former deputy mayor of Los Angeles, and former president and CEO, Rebuild LA

2009

Special Ceremony, Lester Breslow Distinguished Lecture, April 16, 2009
Jonathan E. Fielding, doctor

Special Ceremony, UCLA Day, May 9, 2009
Rachel A. Robinson '42, social activist, civic leader and nurse

Commencement, School of Theatre, Film and Television, June 12, 2009
Haskell Wexler, cinematographer, director

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 12, 2009
Dolores Huerta, labor activist

2010

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, January 14, 2010
Eugene S. Rosenfeld '56, businessman

Special Ceremony, Bernard Brodie Lecture on the Conditions of Peace, March 2, 2010
Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the United Nations

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, June 4, 2010
Gerald S. Levey, dean emeritus, School of Medicine

Commencement, School of Engineering and Applied Science, June 12, 2010
Henry Samuelli '75, M.S. '76, Ph.D. '80, businessman

2011

Special Ceremony, The College of Letters and Science Awards Dinner, March 29, 2011
Elinor Ostrom '54, M.A. '62, Ph.D. '65, professor and Nobel Prize recipient

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 10, 2011
Aaron S. Williams, director, Peace Corps

2012

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 15, 2012
Paul I. Terasaki '50, M.A. '52, Ph.D. '56, professor emeritus of surgery, medical pioneer

2014

Special Ceremony, Luskin School of Public Affairs Lecture, January 29, 2014
Madeleine Albright, former secretary of state of the United States of America

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, March 3, 2014
Larry Brilliant, physician, epidemiologist, and former director of Google.org

Special Ceremony, Royce Hall, March 5, 2014
Hillary Rodham Clinton, former secretary of state and former U.S. senator from New York

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, May 8, 2014
James L. Easton '59, businessman

Commencement, School of Medicine, Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, May 30, 2014
David Geffen, record executive, film and theatrical producer

Commencement, School of Dentistry, June 1, 2014
Gary Parker D.D.S. '77, oral and maxillofacial surgeon

Commencement, The College of Letters and Science, June 13, 2014
Randy Schekman '71, professor and Nobel Prize recipient

2015

Commencement, Graduate Division, Doctoral Hooding, June 11, 2015

Shirley Malcom M.A. '68, STEM education advocate

Special Ceremony, Royce Hall, October 5, 2015

Toni Morrison, author, professor, Nobel laureate

2016

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, March 7, 2016

Laurence D. Fink, author, businessman

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, May 6, 2016

James '50 and Carol Collins, UCLA supporters

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, May 17, 2016

Rafer Johnson '59, Olympian, actor

2017

Special Ceremony, Royce Hall, April 10, 2017

John Robert Lewis, congressman

Special Ceremony, Luskin Conference Center, June 8, 2017

Raphael Montañez Ortiz, artist, professor of visual art

Commencement, School of Music, June 16, 2017

Herb Alpert, artist, musician, recording industry executive

Special Ceremony, Royce Hall, October 30, 2017

Juan Felipe Herrera '72, poet and professor

Special Ceremony, Schoenberg Music Building, November 12, 2017

Plácido Domingo, opera singer, conductor

Special Ceremony, David Geffen Hall, December 4, 2017

Loretta Jones, civil rights activist, health policy advocate, social architect

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, December 4, 2017

Peter Guber, music and film producer

2018

Special Ceremony, Chancellor's Residence, January 11, 2018

Martine Rothblatt, '77, M.B.A '81, J.D. '81, CEO, lawyer, author, and entrepreneur

Special Ceremony, Luskin School of Public Affairs Lecture, October 9, 2018

Jorge Ramos, journalist and author

Total: 160 Recipients

Updated: October 10, 2018