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

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. LaPidus, 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
   Glorya 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. ’62Resnick, 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 Samueli ’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

Total: 159 Recipients

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