

Honorary Degree Recipients

1939-Present

Date	Name of Recipient	Accomplishments/Biographical Information	Degree*	VV VF**
June 5, 1939	Florence Ellinwood Allen	First woman on the US Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge	LL.D.	x
June 10, 1940	Adelaide Worth Bagley Daniels	Educator, Humanitarian, Philanthropist	LL.D.	x
June 2, 1941	Mrs. J.M. Barbee	Educator	Ed.D.	x
	Queen Carson	Educator	Ed.D.	x
Oct. 5, 1942	Annie Kiser Bost	Alumna 1903, NC Commissioner of Public Welfare	LL.D.	x
	Laura Weill Cone	Alumna 1910, Author of the Alma Mater song, Civic Leader, Writer	LL.D.	x
	Mildred Helen McAfee	Director of the WAVES, President of Wellesley College	LL.D.	x
June 7, 1943	Cornelia Jerman	Assistant Collector of Revenue of NC, Leader in suffrage movement and club work	LL.D.	
	Mary Martin Sloop	Educator, Founder and President of Crossnore School, Physician	Ed.D.	
June 5, 1944	None			
May 28, 1945	Juliette A. Graves Adams	Composer, Educator, Musician	D. Mus	x
	Gertrude Dill McKee	Educational, Social and Political Leader	LL.D.	x
June 3, 1946	Alice M. Baldwin	Educator	LL.D.	
	Mary Callum Wiley	Alumna 1894, Educator, Writer	Ed.D.	
June 2, 1947	Elizabeth O'Neill Verner	Artist from Charleston, SC	L.H.D.	

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	Ellen Woodward	Friend of Harriet Wiseman Elliott, Served in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration	LL.D.	x
May 31, 1948	Mary Sherrill	Educator, Researcher	D.Sc.	
	Ellen Black Winston	Commissioner of Public Welfare, Social Economist	D.Hum	
May 30, 1949	Inglis Fletcher	Historian, Writer	Litt.D.	x
	Mary E. Leeper	Champion of children. Educator	Ed.D.	x
	Katherine Anne Porter	Writer	Litt.D.	x
May 29, 1950	Frank Porter Graham	Diplomat, Educator, President of UNC, Senator	Ed.D.	x
	Susie Marshall Sharp	Alumna 1928x, Judge	LL.D.	x
	Helen Brooke Taussig	Doctor of Medicine, Scientist	D.Sc.	x
May 28, 1951	Sarah Gibson Blanding	President of Vassar College	LL.D.	x
	Helen Maud Cam	Educator, Historian, Scholar	LL.D.	x
	Kate Burr Johnson	NC Commissioner of Public Welfare	L.H.D.	x
June 2, 1952	Gertrude Weil	Civic Leader, Leader in suffrage movement and club work	L.H.D.	x
June 1, 1953	None			
May 31, 1954	None			

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June 6, 1955	Walter Clinton Jackson	Chancellor of WCUNC, Educator, Historian	LL.D.	
	Lucy C. Morgan	Founder and Director of Penland School of Handicrafts	L.H.D.	
	Margaret Chase Smith	US Senator from Maine	LL.D.	
June 3, 1956	Catherine F. Dennis	NC Supervisor of Home Economics Education	LL.D.	
	Frances Gray Patton	Writer	Litt.D.	
June 2, 1957	Margaret Hood Caldwell	Alumna 1933x, Leader in NC Grange, Education and Government	Litt.D.	
June 1, 1958	Margaret Castex Sturgis	Alumna 1905x, Doctor and Professor of Medicine	L.H.D.	x
May 31, 1959	Juliana Royster Busbee	Jugtown Potter, Ceramist	L.H.D.	x
	Margaret Louise Coit	Alumna 1941, Pulitzer Prize Writer	Litt.D.	x
	Katherine Elizabeth McBride	President of Bryn Mawr College, Educator, Researcher in Psychology	LL.D.	x
	Emma Lewis Speight Morris	Alumna 1900, Educator, President of Alumnae Association	L.H.D.	x
	Lorna Lavery Stafford	Educator	LL.D.	x
May 29, 1960	Bernice Kelly Harris	Writer	Litt.D.	x
	Nancy Duke Lewis	WCUNC Counselor, Dean of Pembroke College at Brown University	LL.D.	x
	Sadie McBrayer McCain	Alumna 1916, Educator	L.H.D.	x
	Anne Thomas Gary Pannell	President of Sweet Briar College	LL.D.	x
June 4, 1961	Gertrude Sprague Carraway	Alumna 1915, Civic Leader, Editor, Journalist	L.H.D.	x

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	Fay Webb Gardner	Benefactor, Humanitarian, Wife of Governor of NC	L.H.D.	x
	Dorothy Wolff	Faculty, Medical Researcher, Writer	D.Sc.	x
June 3, 1962	Lois Lenski	Illustrator, Writer	L.H.D.	x
Oct. 5, 1962	Gladys Avery Tillett	Alumna 1915, Leader for women's rights	LL.D.	x
June 2, 1963	William Whatley Pierson, Jr.	Administrator, Educator, Scholar, Twice served as Acting Chancellor of WCUNC	Litt.D.	x
May 31, 1964	Eva Le Gallienne	Actress, Author, Director, Producer	Litt.D.	x
	Lennox Polk McLendon	Trustee of UNC, Lawyer	LL.D.	x
Oct. 5, 1964	Luther Hartwell Hodges	Governor of NC, US Secretary of Commerce	LL.D.	x
June 6, 1965	Louise Brevard Alexander	Faculty, Lawyer, Scholar	LL.D.	x
	Terry Sanford	Educational Statesman, Governor of NC, Lawyer , US Senator	LL.D.	x
June 5, 1966	Henry Armfield Foscue	Businessman, President and Chairman of Board of the Southern Furniture Exposition Building, Educational Leader	L.H.D.	x
	May Gordon Latham Kellenberger	Chairman of the Tryon Palace Commission, Civic Leader	L.H.D.	x
	Virginia Terrell Lathrop	Alumna 1923, Writer, UNC Board of Governors, Community Leader	L.H.D.	x
June 4, 1967	Ethel Stephens Arnett	Writer, Faculty wife, Historian	Litt.D.	x
	Irene Parsons	Alumna 1941, Assistant Administrator of Veteran's Administration	LL.D.	x

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	Thomas Jenkins Pearsall	Lawyer, Legislator, Public Servant	LL.D.	x
	Charles Wiley Phillips, Sr.	Director of Public Relations, Civic Leader, NC State Legislator	LL.D.	x
Oct. 5, 1967	Gerald White Johnson	Journalist	LL.D.	x
	Annie Vellna Scott	Alumna, Journalist, Missionary, Physician	D.Sc.	x
June 2, 1968	Mose Kiser	Civic Leader, Mayor of Greensboro	L.H.D.	x
	Jose Limon	Dancer, Choreographer	D.F.A.	x
	Elizabeth Gray Vining	Writer	Litt.D.	x
June 1, 1969	Persia Campbell	Economic Welfare Scholar, Educator, Kathleen Price Bryan Lecturer	L.H.D.	x
	Howard Holderness	Civic Leader, Vice President of Jefferson Standard	LL.D.	x
	Willa Beatrice Player	President of Bennett College	LL.D.	x
	Thomas Storrs	Educator, President of NCNB, Public Servant	LL.D.	x
	Allen Tate	Writer	Litt.D.	x
May 31, 1970	None			
June 6, 1971	Stark Spotswood Dillard	Businessman, Arts Patron	LL.D.	x
	Dan Killian Moore	Governor of NC, Judge of NC Supreme Court	LL.D.	x
	Charles Phillips Russell	Educator, Journalist, Writer	Litt.D.	x
June 4, 1972	Lunsford Richardson Preyer	US Congressman, Federal Judge	LL.D.	x
May 13, 1973	Kathleen Price Bryan	Benefactor, Leader in the Arts and Historic Preservation	LL.D.	x

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May 12, 1974	None			
May 11, 1975	Louise Dannenbaum Falk	Alumna 1928, Advocate for Education, Arts, and Community	LL.D.	x
	Herbert S. Falk, Sr.	Civic Leader, Patron of the Arts, President of Weatherspoon Gallery Association	LL.D.	x
	Caroline Gordon	Faculty, Writer	Litt.D.	x
	Adelaide Fortune Holderness	Alumna 1934, Board of Trustees of UNC, Civic Leader, Humanitarian	LL.D.	x
May 9, 1976	Lee Hall	Alumna 1956, President of Rhode Island School of Design, Painter and Graphic Artist	D. F.A.	x
	Flemmie Pansy Kittrell	Administrator, Educator, International Home Economist	L.H.D.	x
	Eleanor Ross Taylor	Alumna 1940, Poet	Litt.D.	x
	Peter Hillsman Taylor	Faculty	Litt.D.	x
Oct. 5, 1976	Jessie M. Scott	Assistant Surgeon General of US, Nursing Leader, Researcher, Scholar	D.Sc.	x
May 15, 1977	Mereb Ethna Mossman	Faculty, Administrator	LL.D.	x
	Emily Harris Preyer	Alumna 1939, Civic Leader, Teacher	LL.D.	x
May 14, 1978	Charles Marshall Adams	Library Director	L.H.D.	x
	Benjamin Cone, Sr.	Civic Leader, Mayor of Greensboro, Weatherspoon Art Gallery Benefactor	LL.D.	x
	Genevieve Oswald	Alumna 1943, Curator of Dance Collection at the NY Public Library at Lincoln Center	D.F.A.	x
	Jane Summerell	Alumna 1910, Educator, Faculty	L.H.D.	x

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May 13, 1979	Joseph McKinley Bryan	Businessman, Civic Leader, Philanthropist	LL.D.	x
	Daniel Erincourt	Artist-in-Residence at UNCG, Concert Pianist	D.F.A.	x
	Elma Josephine Hege	Alumna 1927, Faculty	Litt.D.	x
May 11, 1980	Mary Michel Boulus	Alumna 1947, Educator, President of Sacred Heart College	LL.D.	x
	Clara Booth Bryd	Alumna 1913, Alumnae Secretary, Founder of Historical Book Club of NC	LL.D.	x
	Amanda M. Crowe	Cherokee Sculptor, Educator	D.F.A.	x
	Lynda Simmons	Alumna 1955, Architect	LL.D.	
May 10, 1981	William Clarence "Mutt" Burton	Actor, Journalist	D.F.A.	x
	Janos Scholz	Art Collector, Art Scholar, Cellist, Educator	L.H.D.	x
May 16, 1982	Durant Waite Robertson, Jr.	Faculty, Medieval Scholar	L.H.D.	x
May 15, 1983	Edward T. Cone	Arts Patron, Author, Concert Pianist, Musical Scholar	D.F.A.	x
	Samuel James Ervin, Sr.	US Senator, Lawyer	L.H.D.	x
May 13, 1984	None, offered to two people who were unable to accept			
May 12, 1985	Kathrine Robinson Everett	Alumna 1913, Durham City Council Member, Lawyer	LL.D.	x
May 11, 1986	None			

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May 10, 1987	Gail Godwin	Writer	Litt.D.	x
	Fred Simmons Keller	Educator, Psychologist	D.Sc.	x
	Ashley Montagu	Anthropologist, Educator, Social Biologist	D.Sc.	x
	Edwin Graves Wilson	Educator, University Administrator	Litt.D.	x
May 15, 1988	Jane H. Armfield	Alumna 1960 (BA) & 1967 (MA), Leader in the Arts, Education and Religion	LL.D.	x
	William C. Friday	Leader in Higher Education, President of UNC	L.H.D.	x
	Jane Goodall	British Ethnologist, Researcher on Chimpanzees	D.Sc.	x
	Virginia Avenal Henderson	Senior Research Associate Emeritus at Yale University School of Nursing	D.Sc.	
May 14, 1989	Ethel Martus Lawther	Educator, Head of WCUNC Department of Physical Education	L.H.D.	x
	Robin Murphy Williams, Jr.	Educator, Social Scientist	D.Sc.	x
May 13, 1990	Doris Waugh Betts	Alumna 1957x, Writer	Litt.D.	x
	John Hope Franklin	Civil Rights Activist, Educator, Historian	LL.D.	x
May 12, 1991	None			x
May 17, 1992	Richard C. Atkinson	Director of National Science Foundation, Educator, Scientist	D.Sc.	x
	Robert Ward	Educator, Composer, Pulitzer Prize for "The Crucible"	D.F.A.	x
May 16, 1993	Maya Angelou	Civil Rights Activist, Educator, Poet, Writer	L.H.D.	x
May 15, 1994	T. James Crawford	Educator, Writer	LL.D.	

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May 14, 1995	Mary Ellen Rudin	Educator, Mathematician Researcher	D.Sc.	x
	LeRoy T. Walker	Athletic Coach, Chancellor of NCCU, Educator, President of US Olympic Committee	D.Sc.	x
May 12, 1996	None			
Dec. 21, 1996	None			
May 11, 1997	None			
Dec. 20, 1997	None			
May 17, 1998	Carolyn R. Ferree	Alumna 1966, Physician, President of NC Medical Society	D.Sc.	
	Calvin Trillin	Columnist, Humorist, Reporter, Writer	Litt.D.	
Dec.18, 1998	Charles "Chuck" A. Hayes	Businessman	LL.D.	
May 16, 1999	Eloise Rallings Lewis	First Dean, UNCG School of Nursing, 1966-1985	L.H.D	x
	Maud Gatewood	Alumna 1954, Painter	D.F.A.	
Dec. 17, 1999	None			
May 14, 2000	Erskine B. Bowles	Greensboro native, Key figure in Clinton administrations, Politician and Businessman	LL.D.	

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Dec. 21, 2000	None				
May 13, 2001	Kenneth L. Adelman	Businessman, Political appointee in Ford and Regan administrations, College Professor	LL.D.		
	Bonnie Angelo	Alumna 1944, Award-winning journalist who broke barriers for men and women	Litt.D.	x	
	Jean Bailey Brooks	First female gynecologist in Greensboro, active in local medical community as well as in many civic organizations in city, state, and nation	D.Sc.		
Dec. 20, 2001	None				
May 19, 2002	Michael B. Fleming	Business and Civic Leader recognized for leadership in mobilizing community support for the UNCG Intercollegiate Athletics program with naming of Fleming Gymnasium	L.H.D.	x	
	Stanley Frank	Philanthropist and Community Leader, Chair and permanent life member of the UNCG School of Nursing Advisory Board	L.H.D.		
Dec. 19, 2002	H. Michael Weaver	Business and Civic Leader, Philanthropist, Chair UNCG Board of Trustees	LL.D.		
May 16, 2003	Jaylee Montague Mead	Alumna 1951, Scientist, Educator, Public Servant, and Philanthropist, NASA Astronomer	D.Sc.		
Dec. 18, 2003	None			x	
May 14, 2004	James B. Hunt	Former Governor of North Carolina, Attorney	LL.D		
Dec. 16, 2004	None				

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May 13, 2005	Muriel Siebert	First woman to own seat on New York Stock Exchange	LL.D		
Dec. 15, 2005	None				
May 12, 2006	Molly Corbett Broad	President Emeritus of the UNC System	L.H.D.		
	Henry Frye	Legislator and Chief Justice North Carolina Supreme Court	LL.D.		
	Shirley Frye	Community Activist, Educator	L.H.D.		
Dec. 14, 2006	None				
May 11, 2007	Irvin "Ike" Belk	Philanthropist and retired President of the Belk Group, Inc.	L.H.D.		
	Betty Ray McCain	Former North Carolina Secretary of Cultural Resources	L.H.D.		
	Edwin S. "Jim" Melvin	President of the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation, former UNCG Trustee, and former Mayor of Greensboro	L.H.D.		
Dec. 20, 2007	None				
May 16, 2008	Fred D. Chappell	NC Poet Laureate Emeritus and UNCG Professor Emeritus of English and Creative Writing	D.F.A.		
	Thomas W. Ross	President of Davidson College, Served on UNCG Board of Trustees from 2003-2007, and as Chair from 2005-2007	LL.D.		
	Sandra Kay Yow	Alumna 1974 (MEd), Head Women's Basketball Coach at North Carolina State University	L.H.D.		
Dec. 18, 2008	None				

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May 15, 2009	Rebecca A. Lloyd	Alumna 1950, President of Rebecca Lloyd, Inc., Retired Commander US Navy, Philanthropist	L.H.D.	
	Nido R. Quebein	Alumnus 1973 (MSBE), President of High Point University, Author, Chairman of Great Harvest Bread Company, Philanthropist	L.H.D.	
Dec. 17, 2009	None			
May 14, 2010	Margaret Maron	Attended Woman's College (now UNCG), Novelist	Litt.D.	
Dec. 16, 2010	None			
May 6, 2011	Thomas Stephens Haggai	Chairman of IGA, Inc., Author, Business Executive, and Motivational Speaker	D.Hum.	
Dec. 15, 2011	None			
May 4, 2012	Bonnie McElveen Hunter	Founder and CEO of Pace Communications, current Chairman of the American Red Cross, former U.S. Ambassador to Finland	L.H.D	
Dec. 13, 2012	None			
May 10, 2013	Norman Anderson	CEO of the American Psychological Association, grad of UNCG's MA and PhD programs in clinical psychology	D. Sc.	
Dec. 13, 2013	None			
May 9, 2014	None			
Dec. 11, 2014	None			
May 8, 2015	R. Timothy Rice	Chief Executive Officer Emeritus, Cone Health	L.H.D.	

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May 6, 2016	William F. Black		L.H.D.	
	Harold A. Schiffman		Litt. D.	
May 12, 2017	William Mangum, Jr.		L.H.D.	
	Mansukh Wani		D.Sc.	
Dec 11, 2020	Rhiannon Giddens			
	Emmy Lou Harris			
Dec 10, 2021	Ben Folds		Litt.D.	
May 6, 2022	Beth Leavel		Litt.D.	
	Dennis W. Quaintance		L.H.D.	
	Nancy King Quaintance		L.H.D.	
*D.F.A.	Doctor of Fine Arts			
*D.Hum.	Doctor of Humanities			
*D.Mus.	Doctor of Music			
*D.Sc.	Doctor of Science			
*L.H.D.	Doctor of Humane Letters			
*Litt.D.	Doctor of Letters			
*LL.D.	Doctor of Laws			

** Information located in "Honorary Degrees--Citations" and "Honorary Degrees--Recipients" vertical files of the UNCG University Archives