

**UMass Boston
Honorary Degree Recipients*
(by year)**

Recipient	Background/qualifications	Year	Type of degree	Comments
Gordon, Ruth	Quincy-born actress, playwright, author	1979	Fine Arts	
Manning, Frank J.	Public servant, advocate for older Americans	1979	Laws	
Smith, Cyril Stanley	Businessperson, expert on history of metals	1979	Science	
Stackpole, Edouard A.	Historian, author, editor	1979	Humane Letters	
Thompson, Benjamin	Architect, historical preservationist	1979	Fine Arts	Commencement Speaker
Luscomb, Florence	Women's rights advocate	1980	Laws	
McNiff, Philip J.	Director of Boston Public Library	1980	Humane Letters	
Pei, I.M.	World-renowned architect	1980	Fine Arts	
Young, Andrew	Civil rights and religious leader, U.N. Ambassador	1980	Laws	
Carroll, Bishop Edward G.	Pastor, educator, community leader	1981	Humane Letters	
Kennedy, Rose Fitzgerald	Philanthropist, advocate for handicapped children	1981	Humane Letters	Speaker/Senator Kennedy
Russell, Harold J.	Veteran, advocate for handicapped rights	1981	Humane Letters	
Troy, Frederick S.	Scholar, teacher, Umass trustee	1981	Humane Letters	
Auerbach, Arnold	Boston Celtics coach	1982	Humane Letters	
Edelman, Marian Wright	Social reformer, child advocate	1982	Humane Letters	Commencement Speaker
Handlin, Oscar	Historian	1982	Humane Letters	
Hussey, Louise	Nantucket historian and librarian	1982	Humane Letters	
Caldicott, Helen M. M.B., B.S.	Physician, peace advocate	1983	Humane Letters	Commencement Speaker
Fenn, Jr. Dan Huntington	John F. Kennedy Library Director	1983	Humane Letters	
Kenneally, George Jr.	Public servant, higher education supporter	1983	Humane Letters	
Walker, Alice	Pulitzer Prize-winning author	1983	Humane Letters	
Allen, James K., Reverend	Pastor, First Parish Church in Dorchester, educator	1984	Humane Letters	
Jackson, Ellen	Writer, education rights activist, METCO leader	1984	Humane Letters	
MacDougall, Roderick M.	Businessperson, philanthropist	1984	Laws	
Nelson, David G., Hon.	Federal District Court judge	1984	Laws	Commencement Speaker
O'Connell, Richard H.	Boston Red Sox General Manager, philanthropist	1984	Humane Letters	
O'Leary, James	Public servant, distinguished alumnus	1984	Laws	
Hume, John	Peace advocate, Nobel Prize laureate	1985	Humane Letters	Commencement Speaker
Jacobson, Natalie	Award-winning journalist	1985	Humane Letters	
McNamara, Eugene P., Reverend	Human service advocate	1985	Humane Letters	
Ryan, Alvan S.	Writer, educator, UMB professor	1985	Humane Letters	
Sweeney, Stephen J.	Businessperson, philanthropist	1985	Humane Letters	
Tauro, Joseph L.	Federal judge, social justice advocate	1985	Laws	
West, Dorothy	Writer	1985	Humane Letters	
Wharton, Clifton R., Jr.	Higher education leader	1985	Humane Letters	
Cullinane, John	Businessperson, philanthropist	1986	Humane Letters	
Jones, Anna Faith	Businessperson, philanthropist	1986	Humane Letters	
Kurzman, Stanton I.	Businessman, education advocate	1986	Humane Letters	

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Moakley, John Joseph	Public servant, Congressman, human rights advocate	1986	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Rosovsky, Henry	Economist, higher education leader	1986	Humane Letters	
Chisholm, Shirley	Public servant, civil rights activist	1987	Laws	
Giamatti, A. Bartlett	President of Yale University, Baseball Commissioner	1987	Humane Letters	Commencement Speaker
Phillips, Edward E.	Businessperson, education advocate	1987	Humane Letters	
Shannon, William V.	Author, educator, US Ambassador to Ireland	1987	Humane Letters	
Wilson, Laval S.	Superintendent of Boston Public Schools	1987	Humane Letters	
Fye, Paul M.	Educator, scientist (Woods Hole Oceanographic Inst.)	1988	Science	
Homer, Ronald A.	Businessperson, minority business advocate	1988	Humane Letters	
Kerry, John F., Hon.	United States Senator	1988	Laws	Commencement Speaker
O'Keefe, Bernard J.	Engineer, entrepreneur, community leader	1988	Humane Letters	
Ummerson, Clare Van	Higher education leader	1988	Science	
Boyer, Ernest L.	Education leader	1989	Humane Letters	
Hunter-Gault, Charlayne	Emmy-winning journalist	1989	Humane Letters	
Johnston, Philip	Public servant, Democratic Party leader	1989	Humane Letters	
Koop, Everett C., MD	Health Advocate, Surgeon General of the U.S.	1989	Science	Commencement Speaker
Kuhn, Margaret E.	Author, elder law advocate	1989	Laws	
Solow, Robert M.	Economist, author	1989	Science	
Williams, John T.	Musician, composer, Boston Pops Conductor	1989	Fine Arts	
Bok, Joan Toland	Businessperson, education and literacy advocate	1990	Laws	
Frank, Elsie	Advocate for senior citizens	1990	Laws	
Hampton, Henry	Award-winning television producer	1990	Humane Letters	
Lewis, Elma	Teacher, arts advocate, community leader	1990	Fine Arts	at 25th Anniversary Celebration
Mitchem, Arnold L.	Education leader	1990	Laws	at 25th Anniversary Celebration
Osborn, Arthur R.	Labor advocate	1990	Laws	
Redford, Robert	Director, actor, environmentalist	1990	Science	Remarks at Commencement
Schlesinger, Arthur M. Jr.	Historian. Pulitzer Prize-winning author	1990	Humane Letters	
Woods, Donald James	Journalist, author, anti-apartheid activist	1990	Humane Letters	Commencement Speaker
Bok, Sissela	Philosopher, writer	1991	Humane Letters	
Budd, Wayne	Attorney, community leader	1991	Laws	
Eban, Abba	Author, statesman	1991	Laws	
Escalante, Jaime	Education leader	1991	Science	
Flemming, Arthur S.	Educator, advocate for elderly	1991	Laws	
Kingston, Maxine Hong	Writer, teacher	1991	Humane Letters	
Lederman, Leon	Physicist, Nobel Prize winner	1991	Science	Commencement Speaker
Bromley, D. Allan	Physicist, presidential advisor	1992	Laws	
Cahn, Sammy	Musician, composer	1992	Fine Arts	at Gerontology Graduation
Carson, Benjamin S.	Pediatric surgeon, community leader	1992	Science	Commencement Speaker
Dresselhaus, Mildred	Leader in physics and engineering	1992	Science	

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Lerner, Gerda	Scholar, pioneer in women's history	1992	Humane Letters	
Lynch, Peter	Financier, philanthropist	1992	Laws	at College of Management Convocation
Quinn, Robert H.	Public servant, a founding father of UMB	1992	Laws	
Batson, Ruth	Education leader, advocate for children	1993	Laws	
Donnelly, Brian	Public servant, Congressman	1993	Laws	
Gates, Henry Louis "Skip"	Educator, author	1993	Humane Letters	
Meyer, Roelof Petrus	South African anti-apartheid leader	1993	Laws	Commencement Speaker
O'Brien, Paul C.	Businessperson, higher education supporter	1993	Laws	
Ramaphosa, Matamela Cyril	South African anti-apartheid leader	1993	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Terkel, Louis "Studs"	Author, radio personality	1993	Humane Letters	
Beatty, Jack	Journalist, editor of the "Atlantic Monthly"	1994	Humane Letters	
Haynes, Michael E., Reverend	Community leader	1994	Humane Letters	
Morrison, Philip	Physicist, astronomer, educator	1994	Science	
Richards, Lloyd G.	Director, arts advocate	1994	Humane Letters	
Shriver, Eunice Kennedy	Philanthropist, founder of Special Olympics	1994	Humane Letters	
Kim, Elaine	Writer, activist	1995	Humane Letters	
Marks, Bruce	Professional dancer, artistic director Boston Ballet	1995	Fine Arts	
Minehan, Cathy E.	Businessperson, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston	1995	Laws	
Rossello, Pedro, Hon.	Governor of Puerto Rico	1995	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Shapiro, Arnold	Television producer	1995	Fine Arts	
Belafonte, Harry	Singer, human rights leader	1996	Laws	
Brightman, Alan J.	Advocate for people with disabilities	1996	Science	
DiCara, Lawrence S.	Attorney, public servant	1996	Laws	
Kanter, Rosabeth Moss	Businessperson, scholar, teacher	1996	Laws	
Morgenthau, Ruth S.	Public servant, political advisor	1996	Laws	
Norman, Jessye	World famous opera singer and arts advocate	1996	Fine Arts	Commencement Speaker
Fine, Sidney	Historian, educator	1997	Laws	
Monan, J. Donald, SJ, Reverend	Higher education leader, President of Boston College	1997	Laws	
Sherr, Lynn	Journalist, author	1997	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Summer, Donna	Professional singer	1997	Fine Arts	
Taylor, William O.	Businessperson, publisher	1997	Laws	
Vaughn, Maurice "Mo"	Athlete, community builder	1997	Laws	
Dulles, Reverend Avery, SJ	Theologian, author, lecturer	1997	Laws	
Heinz, Teresa	Businessperson philanthropist	1998	Laws	
Henley, Donald H.	Musician, environmentalist	1998	Laws	
Lewis, Carl	Olympic athlete	1998	Laws	
McCullough, David	Historian, author	1998	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Yzaguirre, Raul	Businessperson, public servant, Hispanic leader	1998	Laws	
Goleman, Daniel	Journalist, behavioral science writer	1999	Laws	

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Jamison, Judith	Artistic Director Alvin Ailey Dance Theater	1999	Fine Arts	
Lewis, John	Civil rights leader	1999	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Patten, Christopher F.	International civil rights leader, Northern Ireland	1999	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Rodman, Donald E.	Businessperson, community leader	1999	Laws	
de Carlotto, Estela Barnes	Human rights leader in Argentina	2000	Humane Letters	
de Roisinblit, Rosa Tarlovsky	Human rights leader in Argentina	2000	Humane Letters	
Durand, Robert	Civic leader, environmentalist	2000	Humane Letters	
Fish, Lawrence K.	Businessperson, community leader	2000	Humane Letters	
Glassman, Robert A.	Businessperson, community leader	2000	Humane Letters	
Hammond II, Raymond Alexander	Pastor, community leader	2000	Humane Letters	Commencement Speaker
Pepper, Claude D.	Public servant, Congressman from	2000	Laws	
Taylor, W. Davis	Journalist, publisher of "The Boston Globe"	2000	Humane Letters	
Brett, James T.	Public servant, business leader	2001	Laws	
Mazzone, A. David	Federal District Court Judge	2001	Laws	
McDonough, Will	Journalist	2001	Laws	
Schell, Jonathan	Journalist, peace activist	2001	Laws	
Swaminathan, M.S.	Agricultural scientist	2001	Science	Commencement Speaker
Yeh, Lily	Artist, social activist	2001	Humane Letters	
Achebe, Chinua	Author	2002	Humane Letters	
Russell, Bill	Athlete	2002	Laws	
Russert, Tim	Journalist, Moderator of "Meet the Press"	2002	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Shields, Thomas F.	Businessperson, philanthropist	2002	Laws	
Neely, Cam	Athlete, philanthropist	2003	Laws	
O Muircheartaigh, Iognaid G.	President, National University of Ireland	2003	Laws	
Forry, Ed	Newspaper publisher, community leader	2004	Humane Letters	
Lehane, Dennis	Bestselling author	2004	Humane Letters	Commencement Speaker
Pinn, Vivian	Public health policy leader	2004	Science	
Takaki, Ronald	Diversity scholar, author	2004	Humane Letters	
Fernandez, Leonel	President of the Dominican Republic	2005	Laws	
Rooney, Emily	Journalist	2005	Humane Letters	Commencement Speaker
Ruffin, John	Minority health leader	2005	Science	
Snowden, Gail	Businessperson, community development leader	2005	Humane Letters	
Tyler, Steven	Professional singer	2005	Humane Letters	
Hughes, Marvalene	President of Dillard University, New Orleans, LA	2006	Laws	
Obama, Barack	U.S. Senator from Illinois	2006	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Payzant, Thomas	Superintendent of Boston Public Schools	2006	Laws	
Poggioli, Sylvia	Sr. European Correspondent for Nat'l Public Radio	2006	Humane Letters	
Kraft, Robert K.	Businessperson, philanthropist, owner of NE Patriots	2007	Laws	
Termeer, Henricus ("Henri") A.	Humanitarian, pioneer in drug development	2007	Science	

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Logue, Ronald E.	Businessperson, philanthropist, CEO of State Street	2008	Laws	
Moten, Sarah	Education Div Chief of Africa Bureau for USAID	2008	Laws	
Rea, Dan	Journalist, Radio Host on WBZ1030	2008	Humane Letters	
White-Hammond, Gloria	Reverend, Pediatrician, Humanitarian	2008	Science	Commencement Speaker
Kennedy II, Joseph P.	Social Entrepreneur, CEO of Citizen's Energy	2009	Laws	
Leonard, Margaret	Sister, Community Leader	2009	Humane Letters	
Moses, Edwin C.	Olympic Athlete, philanthropist	2009	Science	
Kennedy, Victoria Reggie	Advocate for families, gun safety	2010	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Russell Jr., George A.	Businessperson, community leader, philanthropist	2010	Laws	
Ikeda, Daisaku	Buddhist leader, educator, writer	2010	Humane Letters	Awarded in Japan on Nov 21, 2010
Lucchino, Lawrence (Larry)	Businessperson, philanthropist, CEO of Red Sox	2011	Laws	
Rose, Charles Adrian	Community leader, founder of City Year	2011	Humane Letters	
West, Frances Wang	Businessperson, advocate for disabled (IBM)	2011	Science	
Lynton, Ernest	Leader in higher education, professor	2012	Science	Awarded Posthumously
Lynton, Carla	Philanthropist, advocate for the blind	2012	Science	
Wuye, James	Pastor, peacebuilder, mediator	2012	Laws	
Ashafa, Muhammad	Imam, peacebuilder, mediator	2012	Laws	
Jenkins-Scott, Jackie	President of Wheelock College, educator	2012	Laws	
Dangermond, Jack	President of Esri	2013	Science	
Speth, James Gustave "Gus"	Natural Resources Defense Council and the World Resou	2013	Laws	Commencement Speaker
Trent, Tererai	Speaker, philanthropist	2013	Science	
Figueres, Christiana	speaker, environmentalist	2014	Laws	Commencement Speaker
King, Melvin H.	former politician, civic leader	2014	Humane Letters	
WU, Feng	environmental	2014	Science	
Connors Jr., John "Jack" M.	philanthropist, businessperson	2015	Laws	
ZHANG, Haidi	advocate for disabled (CFDP), speaker	2015	Arts and Humane Letters	
Osher, Bernard	philanthropist, businessperson	2015	Humane Letters	
Patrick, Deval L.	former governor	2015	Laws	
Ireland, Roderick L., Hon	MA Supreme Court Justice	2016	Laws	
Lee, Suzanne	former BPS administrator, community leader	2016	Laws	
Mboya, Susan Akello	president, Coca-Cola International Foundation	2016	Science	
Stokes, Louis, Hon	Congressman from Ohio	2016	Science	Awarded Posthumously, rec'd by daughter
Wyner, Yehudi	chamber musician/composer	2017	Fine Arts	
Chan, Gerald L.	biomedical researcher & investor	2017	Science	Graduate Commencement Speaker
Pollack, Eileen	prolific, award-winning author	2017	Science	
Bokova, Irina	first woman director-general, UNESCO	2017	Science	Undergraduate Commencement Speaker
Frank, Barnett "Barney"	former Congressman, politician	2018	Humane Letters	Graduate Commencement Speaker
Canada, Geoffrey	urban education advocate & leader	2018	Humane Letters	Undergraduate Commencement Speaker
Anastas, Paul T.	green chemistry leader	2018	Science	

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Mills, Barry	former interim chancellor	2019	Laws	Graduate Commencement Speaker
Rankine, Claudia	poet and author, Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry at UMass Lowell	2019	Humane Letters	
Gumbonzvanda, Nyaradzayi	human rights lawyer and activist, CEO of Rozaria Memorial Foundation	2019	Laws	
Bonauto, Mary L.	Civil Rights Project Director at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders	2019	Laws	
English, Paul	CTO of Lola.com, cofounder of KAYAK	2019	Science	
Rabin Siegal, Robert	Director of Vieques Historic Archive	2020	Humane Letters	Awarded virtually on November 30, 2020
Hildreth, Robert	Founder & President of Hildreth Institute, Inversant, LaVidua	2022	Humane Letters	
Cléirié, Marie-Marguerite B.	Doctor of Humane Letters	2022	Humane Letters	
Salès, Guylène Bouchereau	Doctor of Humane Letters	2022	Humane Letters	
Siegal '77, Robert L. Rabin	Doctor of Humane Letters	2022	Humane Letters	Awarded Posthumously
Ramos, Jorge	Journalist, media/television	2023	Humane Letters	
Ramanathan, Veerabhadran	Climate Scientist	2023	Science	
Gallardo, Roberto Andrés	Judge, President of Pan-American Committee of Judges for the Americas	2024	Humane Letters	
Stone, Cathleen Douglas	President, James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation	2025	Humane Letters	
Walsh, Martin J.	Former Mayor of Boston and U.S. Secretary of Labor	2025	Humane Letters	

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