



News Release

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85

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Albany, November 18--The State University Board of Trustees today designated 29 distinguished Americans and world citizens to receive honorary degrees from 16 SUNY campuses. Nearly all will be awarded at Spring commencement exercises.

State University began to award honorary degrees in 1981, when the State Legislature acted to enable SUNY to recognize excellence and extraordinary achievement in disciplinary fields and in human endeavor and philanthropy.

Although conferred by each campus, the degrees are awarded by the University's Board of Trustees and signed by Chairman Donald M. Blinken and Acting Chancellor Jerome B. Komisar. At each campus ceremony, the degrees will be presented by a University Trustee or designee of the Board.

Campuses at which honorary degrees will be given, dates of award, recipients, degrees to be conferred and citation excerpts:

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State University of New York at Albany

May 15

James W. Mayer (Doctor of Science) an inventor, scholar engineer and teacher, his invention of the solid state detector for ionizing particles has evolved into the modern medical x-ray system and the computer-aided tomography (CAT scan) apparatus. He is Francis Norward Bard Professor of Material Science and Engineering at Cornell University.

Eugene Ionesco (Doctor of Fine Arts) is internationally recognized as one of the greatest living dramatists. He is one of the originators of the Theater of the Absurd and several of his plays are considered modern classics. A prolific writer in other forms and an inspiring teacher, he has been elected to the French Academy.

May 21

Gerhard L. Weinberg (Doctor of Humane Letters) is the leading American historian of the history and pre-history of the Second World War, whose work has made available to generations of researchers the most important primary source on German policy and actions from 1933 to 1945. He is Rand Kenan Jr. Professor of History at the University of North Carolina.

State University at Binghamton

May 22

John Hope Franklin (Doctor of Letters) is one of America's most distinguished historians best known for his pathbreaking book, From Slavery to Freedom considered by many as the most important book in Afro-American history. The first Black to be president of the American Historical Society, he currently is Professor Emeritus of History at Duke University.

Alvin M. Liberman (Doctor of Science) is president of Haskins Laboratories, pioneers in the study of the acoustical and physiological basis of speech perception, paving the way for applications in areas as diverse as machine synthesis and sensory aids for the deaf and blind. He is on the faculty of Yale University and the University of Connecticut.

Aryeh Neier (Doctor of Humane Letters) is vice chairman of the Fund for Free Expression and of the three human rights committees associated with it: The Americas, Helsinki and Asia Watches, which monitor and promote observance of free expression and other human rights throughout the world. He was executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union from 1970 to 1979.

State University of New York at Buffalo

May 21-22

Claude Lenfant (Doctor of Science) is director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for the National Institute of Health. He has been a major contributor in his chosen field, comparative physiology, particularly in the area of gas transport and hemoglobin. He developed a high flow blood filter for extracorporeal circulation during open heart surgery.

State University of New York at Stony Brook

May 15

Bernard Greenhouse (Doctor of Music) is a member of the Beaux Arts Trio, which tours internationally and is considered the outstanding piano trio performing today. He was a distinguished member of Stony Brook's Department of Music for nearly 20 years, when he also conducted master classes throughout the country.

Barrett Hazeltine (Doctor of Science) has earned a reputation as a leader in the development of engineering education, particularly in the area of developing nations. His efforts have centered on formulating engineering education programs that support technology planning and transfer. He is Professor of Engineering and Associate Dean of the College at Brown University.

Theodore Lowi (Doctor of Letters) is the John L. Senior Professor of American Institutions at Cornell University. He has long been considered America's most eminent living political scientist and his Politics of Disorder is regarded as a classic in his field. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Frederick Morgan (Doctor of Letters) is editor of The Hudson Review, one of the leading literary publications in the United States. He founded the quarterly in 1948 along with two other Princeton graduates and has been its guiding presence for 40 years. A poet, he received a National Book Award nomination in 1972.

Health Science Center at Syracuse

May 15

Bernard Lown, M.D. (Doctor of Science), Professor of Cardiology at Harvard's School of Public Health, has been a pioneer in research on sudden cardiac death. He invented the defibrillator and the cardioverter and introduced Lidocaine, used to prevent fatal cardiac arrhythmias. In 1985 he shared the Nobel Peace Prize with fellow physician Evgueni Chazov of the Soviet Union.

George D. Lundberg, M.D. (Doctor of Science) is a distinguished pathologist, educator and editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association. He also has received many honors for his work in the fields of alcoholism and chemical dependency. He is Clinical Professor of Pathology at Georgetown University and Professor of Clinical Pathology at Northwestern University.

Gordon K. Moe, M.D. (Doctor of Science) director of Research at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Utica, has made fundamental contributions to modern cardiology. His mathematical model of fibrillation, begun at Harvard in 1941, remains a classic in the study of the mechanism of arrhythmias, and his work has influenced two generations of physicians and scientists.

College at Buffalo

May 20

Paul G. Bulger (Doctor of Humane Letters) was president of the college during its evolution from a Teacher's College to a College of Arts and Science. As a result of his dedication, the campus is regarded as one of the best of its kind in the nation. He is now Professor Emeritus at State University at Albany and recipient of many awards for outstanding service to education.

College at Cortland

May 14

Newell "Spiegle" Willcox (Doctor of Music) a native of Cortland, has earned an international reputation as a Dixieland musician. Recognized as a historically important creator of jazz, he was recently recognized by a concert at Carnegie Hall. At 87 years of age he is a loved and respected citizen of Cortland and often appears at the college.

Empire State College

Date to be determined

K. Patricia Cross (Doctor of Letters) is a nationally renowned educator, administrator, scholar and consultant, who is presently chair of the Department of Administration, Planning and Social Policy at Harvard University. She received the 1984 New York State Regents Medal in recognition of her contributions to adult education.

June

Thomas R. Donahue (Doctor of Laws) has been secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO since 1979 and has served the trade union movement in a variety of positions over the past 40 years. He was President Lyndon Johnson's assistant secretary of labor, 1967-69, and is a recipient of the Histadrut Humanitarian Award.

To be determined

Charles Muscatine (Doctor of Letters) is a nationally and internationally known medieval scholar teacher, author and educational consultant. He has held the post of Professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley since 1960, is the author of many scholarly books and textbooks and been recognized for scholarship and leadership through numerous awards and honors.

College at New Paltz

May 22

Charles Andrew Loockerman Bassett, M.D. (Doctor of Humane Letters) is recognized throughout the world for his contributions to orthopedic surgery and cell physiology. His techniques in the area of magnetic fields have been applied clinically since the early 1970s. He is currently the Director of the Bioelectric Research Center, Inc.

College at Oneonta

May 14

Frank W. Cyr (Doctor of Humane Letters) is one of the world's leading authorities on rural education and, in cooperative effort with manufacturers and school and Federal officials, helped develop the now familiar yellow-painted school bus. He also was a prime mover in the development of the BOCES idea and an early advocate of television instruction in rural schools.

College at Plattsburgh

May 1

Jose Antonio Alonso (Director of Humane Letters) of Mexico, is an internationally recognized scholar whose research has focused on three primary areas: the impact of urbanization on the workforce; the changing role of women in the work place in Mexico and Central America; and the sources of conflict in Central America. He is Professor of Sociology at Universidad Nacional Autonomista de Mexico.

Rockwell Blake (Doctor of Music) is an internationally known tenor who is a native of the Plattsburgh Area and sings regularly with such companies as the San Francisco Opera, the Vienna Staatsoper, the Chicago Lyric Opera and the Theatre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. He also has toured this country with the New York City Opera.

College at Potsdam

May 8

Lynne Ray Sykes (Doctor of Science) has conducted research which resulted in major contributions on plate tectonics, earthquake predictions, and discernment of underground nuclear explosions from earthquakes. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

College at Purchase

May 15

Paul Taylor (Doctor of Fine Arts) has been a dominant force in dance throughout the world for over 30 years, since his debut as a member of Martha Graham's dance troupe. He also has danced in the Merce Cunningham Company and the New York City Ballet. Since 1957, his own company has been one of the most important in the world.

College of Technology at Utica/Rome

May 21

Harry E. Figgie, Jr. (Doctor of Humane Letters), a prominent American executive, has been instrumental in creating programs for educating teachers in the field of economic education. He is chairman, Chief Executive Officer and founder of Figgie International, Inc. and Chairman of the Board for Clark-Reliance Corp., which he also founded.

College of Environmental Science and Forestry

December 11, 1987

Josiah L. Lowe (Doctor of Science) world famous for his research on wood-inhabiting fungi, was Research Professor at Forestry until his retirement in 1975. A past president and 50-year member of the Mycological Society of America, he received the organization's Distinguished Mycologist Award in 1985. Three species have been named in his honor.

College of Optometry

June 5

Matthew Alpern (Doctor of Science) is presently a Professor of Psychology and Physiological Optics at the University of Michigan and is regarded as one of the world's most influential vision scientists. His current innovative research deals with color blindness and photopigments which are involved in color vision.

Lawrence Stark (Doctor of Science) is Professor of Physiological Optics and Engineering Science at the University of California, Berkeley, and is considered a world leader in neurological control, with emphasis on the oculomotor system. He is founder of the renowned Neuro-Optometry Clinic at Berkeley.