

60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION & INVESTITURE  
OF LAUREATES TO  
THE LINCOLN ACADEMY OF ILLINOIS

Saturday, the thirteenth day of April  
Two thousand twenty-four

The Chicago History Museum  
McCormick Auditorium  
Chicago, Illinois

*Lincoln appreciated the power of 'living histories' as a source of wisdom and inspiration for future generations. The Lincoln Academy of Illinois was created to recognize the living histories of those who walk among us believing, as Lincoln did, that those living histories remind future generations of the endless possibilities ahead. We gather to recognize the living histories of our time – individuals who exemplify the highest ideals of their respective callings, whose lives and contributions to society perpetuate the complete spectrum of human endeavor. They are the 'Lincoln hearted' people among us.*

*Dr. Thomas F. Schwartz  
Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois  
Illinois State Historian  
1993-2011*

# **The Lincoln Academy of Illinois**

*Honoring the Great Citizens of Today –  
Celebrating the Great Citizens for Tomorrow*

## **Welcoming Music**

VanderCook College of Music

## **Call to Order**

Sergeant at Arms Eric Trimble, Regent of the Academy

## **Processional\***

The Governor of the State of Illinois, The Chancellor of the Academy,  
Class of 2024 Lincoln Laureates, Officers & Regents,  
General Trustees, Rectors, Academic Trustees

VanderCook College of Music  
Courtney DeVenuto and Matea Hernandez, violin; Dr. Yu-Sui Hung, piano

## **Invocation\***

Bob Muzikowski  
Founder, Chicago Hope Academy

## ***The National Anthem\****

Elora Maniatis, soprano  
Dr. Yu-Sui Hung, piano

## **Convocation Welcome & Opening Address**

The Honorable Ronald D. Spears, Chancellor

*\*Please stand as you are able*

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## Decoration of Laureates

EVELYN BRANDT THOMAS

LEWIS COLLENS

THE HONORABLE RITA B. GARMAN (RET.)

ALISON KRAUSS

LESTER H. MCKEEVER, JR.

RAUL I. RAYMUNDO

JAMES H. THOME

The Honorable JB Pritzker, President of the Academy, and The Honorable Ronald D. Spears, Chancellor of the Academy, will preside.

*Citation Presenters:* Claire Manning presenting Evelyn Brandt Thomas; Stephanie Pace Marshall presenting Lewis Collens; The Honorable Anne Burke presenting The Honorable Rita B. Garman; Ethel Holladay presenting Alison Krauss; Graham Grady presenting Lester H. McKeever, Jr.; Ricardo Estrada presenting Raul Raymundo; and Doug Stewart presenting James H. Thome.

### Remarks

The Honorable JB Pritzker  
Governor of the State of Illinois

### *Illinois*

Elora Maniatis, soprano  
Dr. Yu-Sui Hung, piano

### Recessional\*

VanderCook College of Music

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## History of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

The Lincoln Academy was established by proclamation of the Governor of Illinois in 1964, shortly after the New York World's Fair. During the World's Fair a reception was given for some of our state's most celebrated sons and daughters which impressed Governor Otto Kerner and gave birth to a program to recognize distinguished Illinoisans annually through the establishment of the Order of Lincoln.

The *Order of Lincoln* honors individuals whose contributions to the betterment of humanity have been accomplished in Illinois, or whose achievements have brought honor to the state because of their identity with it, whether by birth or residence. It is the state's highest civilian award for professional achievement and public service.

Funds raised at the Academy's Order of Lincoln Convocation help provide the Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement awards and the 'Lincoln Medallion' which will be presented by the Academy's President to each of 55

*Student Laureates* at a separate ceremony held in Springfield later this year.

Thus, the Lincoln Academy honors the Great Citizens of Today and Celebrates the Great Citizens for Tomorrow -- knowing that now, as always, our state and nation need what Vachel Lindsay called 'Lincoln-hearted' men and women.

The insignia of the Order of Lincoln is a variant of the Maltese cross (with ten points rather than eight). The obverse displays the Arms of the State of Illinois encircled by the inscription 'Palmarum Qui Meruit, Ferat' ('Let him who merits bear the palm'—words from Horatio Viscount Nelson). The reverse central disc features the likeness of President Lincoln in gold. The cross is suspended from a ribbon in the colors of the state's symbols: red for the state bird, the cardinal; violet for the state flower; and green for the state tree, the oak.

The first Convocation and Investiture of Laureates to the Order of Lincoln was held on our 16th President's birthday, February 12, 1965, at the Chicago Historical Society. Convocations have been held in locations across the state every year since then. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009, a special Bicentennial Edition of the Order of Lincoln was established, and thirty distinguished Lincoln scholars, collectors, artists, and curators from around the world were honored.

In 1992, Governor Jim Edgar, President of the Lincoln Academy, initiated the creation of a Hall of Fame of Historic Illinoisans whose achievements and contributions were made prior to the establishment of the Lincoln Academy in 1964. Fifty Hall of Fame Honorees were selected. In 2018, in recognition of the Bicentennial of Illinois, the Hall of Fame was re-constituted. Six new members of the Hall of Fame were selected by Academy Trustees.

The mission of the Lincoln Academy was expanded in 1975 by the Student Laureate Program, in which an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting colleges and universities in Illinois and one student representing our state's community colleges are honored. Since inception over 2,500 young Illinois leaders have been honored.

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## *Evelyn Brandt Thomas*

For over a century, **Evelyn Brandt Thomas** has lived—and made a difference—in Illinois. She is a dedicated and active philanthropist, businesswoman, and mentor, described by *Farm World* as “a pioneer who helped create an agricultural empire.” Her remarkable contributions began on a farm near Pleasant Plains, where like many farm kids, she learned the “family business” through daily chores, acquiring skills that would serve her well in the future as a resilient and resourceful leader.

In the early 1950s, Brandt Thomas and her brother, Glen, started a business to supplement the family’s income on the farm. Evelyn, a graduate of Illinois Business College, helped nurture and manage the growing company. Today, more than 70 years later, the company that would become BRANDT, Inc. is a global powerhouse, providing innovative solutions to farmers throughout the world. Loyal to its roots, the company remains in Springfield and employs hundreds. Brandt Thomas continues to be active with the BRANDT Board of Directors, guiding the company’s corporate strategy.

Brandt Thomas’ success in the boardroom is only the start of her inspirational contributions. Her philanthropy reaches far and wide, starting with a special place in her heart for young people. An advocate of youth engagement and leadership programs, such as 4-H and FFA, Brandt Thomas extends her support to help students reach their higher education dreams by providing vital scholarship resources. In addition, she also has made significant investments across dozens of other endeavors, from civic organizations to medical facilities. In 2012, Brandt Thomas announced the formation of The BRANDT Foundation to organize the company’s generous giving, and later helped create the Foundation’s Glen Brandt Prize for Ag Entrepreneurism. She established The Educational Center for the Visually Impaired (ECVI) in Springfield in 2014. And she dedicated the Gordon R. Thomas and Evelyn Brandt Thomas Garden of Hope at the Simmons Cancer Institute of the SIU School of Medicine in memory of her husband of more than 50 years in 2008.

Brandt Thomas’ leadership positions are too numerous to list, but among them, she has served on boards including the Pleasant Plains State Bank, The Illinois State Museum Founders Society, Memorial Medical Foundation Board and the Community Foundation for Land of Lincoln. The awards and recognitions fittingly follow her incredible depth of involvement. She was named one of the Top 500 Women Business Owners by *Working Women* and one of the most prominent women in agriculture by *Solutions* magazine. For her service to her community, Brandt Thomas received the 2009 Athena Award from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and she was granted an honorary doctorate from the University of Illinois Springfield in 2014. She was named the *Illinois State Journal-Register* First Citizen in 2022, and she was inducted into the Fertilizer Hall of Fame in 2023.

As a trailblazer for women in business, a role model of philanthropy, and a devoted civic leader, Evelyn Brandt Thomas’ sustained impact has elevated the quality of life for her fellow Illinoisans.

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## *Lewis Collens*

Lifelong Illinoisan Lewis Collens is a transformational leader in higher education, credited with the revitalization and strategic reshaping of two major Chicago institutions, the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and its Chicago-Kent College of Law. From his earliest days, forging his way as an “academic entrepreneur” to his retirement as one of the longest-serving and most successful university presidents in Illinois history, Collens established his enduring and deep commitment to the highest academic standards. During his tenure there was significant innovation, enhanced support for research and scholarship, and a dramatic increase in enrollment and admission standards.

Collens joined the faculty of Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1970 and served as its Dean from 1974-1990. During his time as Dean, Chicago-Kent rose more than 100 places to reach the top 30 in rankings of faculty scholarship and was named the country’s foremost “up-and-coming law school” by U.S. News and World Report.

In 1990, Collens assumed the presidency of Illinois Institute of Technology, as the hundred-year-old university was facing a financial crisis. In taking the helm, he strategically reshaped the direction of IIT by building a consensus for change among faculty with the advice of a nationally prominent commission of academic and business leaders. As a result, significant research centers and institutes were built, the Interprofessional Projects Program (IPRO) was created, student quality and enrollment dramatically improved, and the university’s endowment increased sixfold. Due to this remarkable growth and improvement, IIT received two of the largest personal gifts ever made to a university at the time from the Robert Pritzker and Robert Galvin families.

Collens fully embraced the responsibility of stewardship of the national landmark Mies van der Rohe campus, restoring the internationally acclaimed S.R. Crown Hall. He invited prominent architects to be the jury for an international architectural competition to build the first new building in half a century. The winner of the competition, Rem Koolhaas, designed the McCormick Tribune Campus Center, creatively incorporating the nearby “L” tracks. Shortly thereafter, famed architect Helmut Jahn was selected to design the construction of a dramatic new residence hall, the Jean and John Rowe Village.

Collens is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Chicago Law School. Shortly after graduating from law school and while practicing at a leading Chicago law firm, he co-founded the bar review educational company now known as BARBRI.

When Collens left the IIT presidency in 2007, he became an active civic leader by serving as a trustee, director and advisor of numerous organizations including the Civic Federation, Advance Illinois, WTTW, Tawani Foundation, JB and MK Pritzker Foundation, and the Newberry Library. He shared his remarkable career with his family, inspired by his late wife, Marge and their son, Steven.

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## *The Honorable Rita B. Garman (retired)*

Serving at every level of the Illinois courts, Oswego native **Rita B. Garman** retired in 2022 as an Illinois Supreme Court Justice after nearly five decades of service to the citizens of Illinois. A champion of legal aid and a strong advocate of pro bono service, she shaped the legal landscape as an exceptional jurist, role model, and inspiration to others.

Garman graduated from Oswego High School as valedictorian. She then enrolled at the University of Illinois, where she pursued her passion for law and commerce despite obstacles stacked against her at a time when female lawyers were rare. She went on to complete her degree in 1965, garnering numerous awards along the way, including the university's highest academic honor, the Bronze Tablet. Accepted at the University of Iowa College of Law, she was one of eight women in the entering class and was one of the five to graduate.

Garman met her husband, the late Gill Garman, while attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. They both joined the University of Iowa College of Law and were wed after their second year. In 1968, they both graduated and passed the Illinois bar exam. Although the job market could be sparse for female lawyers, a door opened for Garman at the Vermilion County Legal Aid Society, and her career quickly took off. One year later, she was hired to handle family law cases in the State's Attorney's Office, and in 1973, she joined the law firm of Sebat, Swanson, Banks, Lessen, and Garman.

In 1974, Garman was appointed associate judge in Vermilion County, which made her the first female judge in the Fifth Judicial Circuit. She served as an associate judge for twelve years, until 1986, when she was elected to a full circuit judgeship, again making history as the first woman to be elected in the circuit. She remained there for almost a decade, serving as Presiding Judge in Vermilion County for the majority of her tenure. In 1995, she was appointed to the Fourth District Appellate Court and was then elected to that position for a ten-year term in 1996. She was the Fourth District's first female appellate court judge.

In 2001, Justice Garman was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court, and went on to serve in its highest role, Chief Justice, from 2013-2016. She was only the second woman to hold that position. Her time on the Supreme Court bench spanned 21 years during which she authored more than 420 decisions of the court, with far-reaching effects on the interpretation of our Illinois constitution. Garman also served as the Court's liaison to the Illinois Conference of Chief Circuit Judges, the Committee on Judicial Performance Evaluation, and the Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission.

In March of 2017, the Vermilion County Board unanimously voted to rename the county courthouse the "Rita B. Garman Vermilion County Courthouse" in her honor. Named a Pillar of the Bar by the Champaign County Bar Association, Justice Garman's career exemplifies that of an outstanding public servant.

Garman recently moved to Champaign County from Vermilion County. She and her late husband have two children, daughter Sara Doyle (John Doyle) and son Andy (Meredith), and five grandchildren.

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## *Alison Krauss*

Born in Decatur and raised in Champaign, **Alison Krauss** is a multi-Grammy award winning bluegrass singer and fiddle player. She was signed to Rounder Records at the age of just 14 and became the then-youngest member of the Grand Ole Opry at the age of 21. She has sold more than 12 million records to date.

Commencing her musical career in 1985, Krauss has to her credit 14 albums, including five solo projects – seven with her longtime band and music collaborators, Union Station, and two collaborations with Robert Plant. Among her countless honors are 27 Grammys from 42 nominations, nine Country Music Association Awards, 14 International Bluegrass Music Association Awards, two Academy of Country Music Awards, and two Gospel Music Association Awards. She is second only to Beyonce in receiving more Grammys than any other female in the history of the award and is tied for fourth all-time by any artist in Grammy history.

Adding to her impressive honors, in 2019, Krauss received the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor given to artists by the United States government. She has performed for three U.S. Presidents, including George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama. In 2021, Krauss was inducted into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame. She has two Oscar nominations and performed on the Oscars for the movie *Cold Mountain*. She also has performed at the Kennedy Center’s “American Voices” festival, created and hosted by Renee Fleming.

Krauss has frequently collaborated with artists from various genres – among them, Yo-Yo Ma, Dolly Parton, Taylor Swift, Garth Brooks, Phish, Willie Nelson, Sting, Brad Paisley, Johnny Mathis, Merle Haggard, Def Leppard, Shania Twain, James Taylor, and Andrea Bocelli. As a producer, Krauss’s album credits include artists Reba McEntire, Alan Jackson, Nickel Creek, and the Cox Family.

Her recent solo album, *Windy City*, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Albums and Top Bluegrass Albums charts and received two Grammy nominations. Film and television also benefit from Krauss’s talent, as she has been the singing voice for various characters, contributes songs to motion picture soundtracks including *O’ Brother, Where Art Thou?*, and makes countless appearances on shows such as Oprah Winfrey, Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Jimmy Kimmel, Stephen Colbert, David Letterman, *Austin City Limits* and the children’s favorite, *Sesame Street*.

Krauss’s extraordinarily successful career continues to accelerate as she creates more music. Her most recent release, *Raise the Roof*, teamed her once again with former Led Zeppelin vocalist Robert Plant; it is the long-awaited follow-up to 2007’s *Raising Sand*, which was certified platinum and won six Grammys, including Album of the Year and Record of the Year.

Krauss received an honorary doctorate in 2012 from The Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts and attended the University of Illinois.



# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## *Lester H. McKeever, Jr.*

Born and raised in Chicago, Lester H. McKeever, Jr. has spent a lifetime focused on making a meaningful difference through all his endeavors. Days before his high school graduation, McKeever learned he would receive a college scholarship from Francis and Allen Beasley. McKeever graduated from the University of Illinois in 1955 with a degree in accounting and subsequently became only the 60th Black Certified Public Accountant in the United States.

McKeever's emerging career faced challenging roadblocks. Despite demonstrated excellence in his accounting studies, the Big 8 firms of the era refused to hire him or any black individual. Only one firm was willing to even interview him. Under pressure from Illinois, McKeever became a Big 8 firm's first interview of a black person, though with the caveat that he could not be hired. McKeever persevered, took an accounting job at a life insurance company, then was drafted into the Army.

McKeever's impressive aptitude test scores prompted the Army to immediately offer him an opportunity to go to Officer Candidate School and become a Lieutenant. Requiring another year of service, McKeever turned it down. He was classified as a Scientific and Professional and assigned to Dugway Proving Grounds. He achieved the rank of Specialist 4, earning letters of commendation.

Returning to civilian life, McKeever met the first Black female CPA in the nation who hired him at the firm of Washington and Pittman. He excelled and made partner. McKeever then attended Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago Kent College of Law at night, made the law review, graduated with Distinction in 1971 and segued to teaching tax law there as an adjunct professor. Ultimately, Washington and Pittman became Washington, Pittman and McKeever with McKeever its Managing Principal.

As a public servant, McKeever led the board as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. He served on several corporate boards, including the Peoples Energy Corporation, MBIA Corporation, and other privately held companies. His civic boards included the Chicago Urban League and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. McKeever also led the first black group to host harness racing in North America then became the first Black President of the Harness Tracks of America, an international organization that represents the US and Canada.

McKeever has served decades as Treasurer of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Moreover, McKeever paid forward the generosity he received by being instrumental in sending hundreds of kids to college. He is a founding member of the CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois.

McKeever's numerous awards and honors include the most prestigious honor of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the 2018 Gold Medal Award of Distinction. He has been awarded the 2019 Lifetime Leadership Award from United Way of Metro Chicago, the Illinois CPA Society created the "Lester H. McKeever Jr. Advancing Diversity Award" and the Urban League established the "Lester H. McKeever Individual Service Award." In 2013, a South Side Chicago street was named in his honor.

Most importantly, McKeever has achieved a wonderful family life with his wife of more than 65 years, Nancy C. McKeever. They are proud to have sired two children, Steven B. McKeever and Susan McKeever Larry, as well as five grandchildren.

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## *Raul I. Raymundo*

With seed capital of \$30,000 from six area parishes in 1990, **Raul I. Raymundo**, an immigrant from Mexico who grew up in the Pilsen neighborhood, co-founded The Resurrection Project (TRP), which has gone on to leverage those initial funds into more than \$640 million in community investments, benefiting nearly a quarter of a million people throughout the western suburbs and the city's southwest side.

As CEO of TRP, Raymundo has successfully created a social impact organization that blends community development, community organizing with human services delivery and advocacy. Along with the monumental success of TRP, Raymundo is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. He is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, and mentors community leaders throughout Chicago and the nation.

Through his innovative and entrepreneurial initiatives, Raymundo has led TRP to create more than 800 affordable homes and developed a plethora of community facilities, including early childhood centers, senior centers, community centers, and a charter school serving thousands of families. His visionary leadership and creativity have led to job creation, strategic community engagement, and improved the quality of lives for countless individuals in the Chicagoland area.

Through additional civic and professional engagement, Raymundo serves on the board of trustees for his alma mater, Carleton College, and several local and national boards, including Chair of the Board of Self-Help Federal Credit Union with its multi-state operations and national policy impact. He is also Chair of the National Association of Latino Asset Builders (NALCAB), Co-Chair of the American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC), and a board member of START EARLY, Illinois Justice Project Advisory, and St. Anthony Hospital Ministry, in addition to serving on the leadership team for United Power for Action and Justice.

Raymundo's financial acumen and leadership were instrumental in helping many to avoid foreclosure during the failure of a financial institution. He remains active on several bank advisory boards, including, BMO, CIBC Bank, Huntington Bank, and local divisions of Self-Help Federal Credit Union.

Raymundo continually demonstrates what it truly means to give back to communities and to serve as an inspiration and advocate for others. TRP provides essential support and resources at the local level, enabling individuals to feel safe and heard, with the goals of building financial security, access to affordable housing, and defending immigrant rights.

Lifelong residents of the Pilsen community, Raymundo and his wife MariaLuisa have three children, Raul Jr., and twin daughters Bela and Maya.

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## *James H. Thome*

Peoria native **James H. Thome** is not only a remarkably accomplished professional athlete recognized as a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (first ballot), but he also has been applauded by both Major League Baseball (MLB) and his fellow players for his dedication to community and for understanding the deep value of helping others.

On the field, Thome first distinguished himself as an athlete at Limestone High School and went on to play for Illinois Central College, where the Cougar baseball alum has a sports complex named in his honor. Professionally, he played twenty-two seasons for MLB teams including the Cleveland Indians, Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago White Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers, Minnesota Twins, and Baltimore Orioles. A five-time All-Star, he won a Silver Slugger Award and was American League Comeback Player of the Year in 2006. In addition to his prestigious place in Cooperstown, he also is a member of the Cleveland Guardians Hall of Fame, the Philadelphia Phillies Wall of Fame, and he joined the 500-home run club during his three-season tenure with the Chicago White Sox. Cleveland retired Thome's number 25 in 2018. Impressively, of the more than one thousand athletes from Illinois who have played Major League Baseball, power hitter Thome ranks first in home runs (612), runs batted in (1,699), on-base percentage (.402) and slugging (.554). He is one of only eight Illinoisans to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Off the field, Thome is equally applauded for his commitment to community. He was named MLB's 2002 Roberto Clemente Award Winner, bestowed annually to the player who best represents the game through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy, and positive contributions. His fellow athletes, through the MLB Players Association, named him the 2001 and 2004 Marvin Miller Man of the Year, recognizing his inspirational contributions to others. In 2024 he received the prestigious Lou Gehrig Memorial Award, an honor given annually to the major league player who best exhibits the character and integrity of the late Lou Gehrig.

Thome further elevated his role as a leader among his peers serving as President of the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association, a group created in 1982 to promote baseball, raise funds for charity, inspire and educate youth through positive sport images and project the dignity of the game. Thome shares his philanthropic journey with his wife, Andrea. The couple is committed to helping others in the communities in Peoria and Chicagoland, as well as Cleveland and the other cities in which Jim played during his career.

The Thomes reside in a suburb of Chicago in addition to having a downstate lodge. They have two children, daughter Lila and son Landon. Thome continues to dedicate his free time to coaching youth baseball for both his son's travel team and as a volunteer coach at Nazareth Academy, passing along his talent, passion, and kindness to a new generation of aspiring athletes. His impact on the sport continues through his executive position with the Chicago White Sox, a role he has held for more than a decade. He is also a monthly special commentator for MLB Network.

## In Gratitude to Our Convocation Sponsors

### *A. Lincoln Signature*

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# **The Lincoln Academy of Illinois**

## **Appreciation to Convocation Host Committee Members**

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank the Host Committee for their work in planning tonight's event. The Committee was led by Chairs Todd Shapiro and Smita Shah. Committee Members were Pat Basu, Lincoln Laureate William Brodsky, Michelle Collins, Ric Estrada, Scott Gendell, Graham Grady, Maria del Socorro Pesqueira, and Marc Schulman.

## **Gratitude to this Evening's Guests**

Thank you for attending this evening's ceremony to recognize the 60th Class of Lincoln Laureates. Your support of this ceremony provides the necessary funds to recognize Lincoln Laureates in a respectful manner. Your support, as well as gifts to the Spirit of Lincoln Endowment, including named funds, advance and sustain the Academy's commitment to educate our next generation with the leadership and character attributes recognized in Abraham Lincoln. With a deep commitment to Illinois, the Lincoln Academy of Illinois seeks to ignite and inspire leadership in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln.

## **The Spirit of Lincoln Endowment Fund & The Elizabeth Hubert Malott Education Endowment Fund**

Endowment funds enable the Academy to expand our visibility, provide sustained support of current activities, and allow for expanded initiatives that enhance the vibrancy and impact of the Academy across the state of Illinois and beyond. The top priority for the Fund is establishing sustaining funds for the annual Student Laureate Civic Engagement Awards.

## **Organization of the Academy**

The Lincoln Academy is a nonpartisan organization governed by a Board of Regents and a membership of General Trustees. Illinois' Governor is the President of the Academy, and the Board of Regents elects a Chancellor who serves as Chief Executive Officer. The General Trustees are appointed by the Governor or are elected by the Academy. Nine Rectors assist in identifying potential nominees for The Order of Lincoln. The Academic Trustees are the chief executive officers of all four-year colleges and universities in Illinois and three members at-large.

## **Former Chancellors of the Academy**

Michael Butler, Chicago (1965-1969)  
Robert Bone, Bloomington (1969-1971)  
William K. Alderfer, Chicago (1971-1975)  
Thomas R. Mulroy, Chicago (1975-1979)  
Marshall L. Burman, Chicago, (1979-1985)  
John Trutter, Chicago (1985-2001)

The Honorable John B. Simon, Chicago (2001–2010)  
Thomas S. Johnson, Rockford (2010-2015)  
William Bennett, Chicago (2015 – 2016)  
Stephanie Pace Marshall, PhD, Chicago (2016 – 2019)  
Frank Clark, Chicago (2019-2022)

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

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*\*Sustaining Member*

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## *Hall of Fame of Historic Illinoisans*

Created in 1992 to recognize early contributions to our state's heritage  
prior to the establishment of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Robert Sengstacke Abbott	Mary 'Mother' Jones
Jane Addams	John Jones
John Peter Altgeld	Keokuk
Philip Danforth Armour	Kenesaw Mountain Landis
Priscilla Baltimore	Julia Lathrop
Frank L. Baum	Victor Freemont Lawson
Black Hawk	Abraham Lincoln
Shadrach Bond	Mary Lincoln
Myra Colby Bradwell	Vachel Lindsay
Williams Jennings Bryan	Gen. John A. Logan
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David Davis	George William Mundelein
Charles Gates Dawes	Walter Loomis Newberry
Eugene Debs	Archange Chevallier Ouilmette
John Deere	James Cleveland 'Jesse' Owens
Walter Elias Disney	Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable
Stephen A. Douglas	George Mortimer Pullman
Theodore Dreiser	Julius Rosenwald
Otis Duncan	Carl Sandburg
Ninian Edwards	Louis Henri Sullivan
Enrico Fermi	Lorado Zadoc Taft
Eugene Field	Christian Theodore Thomas
Marshall Field	Emmet Till
Lucy Louisa Coues Flower	Fr. Augustine (Augustus) Tolton
Melville Weston Fuller	Lyman Trumbull
Harold 'Red' Grange	Harriet Elizabeth Vittum
Ulysses S. Grant	Aaron Montgomery Ward
Marion Mahoney Griffin	Ida Bell Wells-Barnett
William Rainey Harper	Frances E. Willard
Ernest Hemingway	Daniel Hale Williams
William Henry Herndon	Frank Lloyd Wright
Henry Horner	William Wrigley, Jr.
William Lebaron Jenney	Florenz Ziegfield

# Laureates of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

## Laureates Inducted in 2023

*59<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
House of Representatives,  
State Capitol & Abraham  
Lincoln Presidential Museum*

His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory  
Karen Hasara  
John W. Rogers, Jr.  
Thomas E. Skilling III  
Jayne Carr Thompson  
Paula Wolff

## Laureates Inducted in 2022

*58<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Elmhurst  
Hammerschmidt Memorial  
Chapel, Elmhurst University*

William Brodsky  
Debra Cafaro  
Rebecca Carlisle Doyle  
John M. McCarter, Jr.  
Prof. Martha C. Nussbaum  
Hon. Robert R. Thomas

## Laureates Inducted in 2021

*57<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Chicago  
Robert R. McCormick Theater  
Chicago History Museum*

Capt. Scott D. Altman  
Carol Ross Barney  
Maj. Gen. John Borling  
John Andrew McQuown  
Prof. John Rogers  
Tommy Shimoda  
Joanne C. Smith, MD\*  
Mavis Staples

## Laureates Inducted in 2020

*56<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Normal  
Braden Auditorium in the  
Bone Student Center  
Illinois State University*

Douglas ‘Doug’ Collins  
Dr. Robert ‘Robb’ Fraley  
Hon. Donald F. McHenry

## Laureates Inducted in 2019

*55<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
House of Representatives,  
State Capitol & University of Illinois  
Springfield Student Union*

Jerry Colangelo  
Edgar J. Curtis  
Sheila C. Johnson  
Hon. Benjamin K. Miller\*  
Dr. Olufunmilayo Olopade  
George F. Will

## Laureates Inducted in 2018

*54<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Rockford  
Coronado Performing Arts Center*

Emily Bear  
Richard ‘Dick’ Butkus\*  
Steven Shih Chen  
Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.  
Melody Hobson  
Ed McMillan  
Dr. Louis Philipson  
Dave Rydell

## Laureates Inducted in 2017

*53<sup>rd</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Robert R. McCormick Theater  
Chicago History Museum*

Frank M. Clark  
Richard H. Driehaus\*  
Hon. James F. Holderman\*  
R. Eden Martin  
Ryne Sandberg  
Samuel Knox Skinner  
Harrison I. Steans\*

## Laureates Inducted in 2016

*52<sup>nd</sup> Convocation – Peoria  
Cotillion Ballroom  
Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel*

Robert Gilmore  
Hon. Nancy Goodman Brinker  
Hon. Ray LaHood  
Leo Melamed

Scott Simon

Dr. Kevin Stein

## Laureates Inducted in 2015

*51<sup>st</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
House of Representatives,  
State Capitol & Abraham Lincoln  
Presidential Museum*

Arthur H. ‘Hy’ Bunn  
Ertharin Cousin  
J. Roland Folse  
Hon. Sara Vaughn Gabbard  
Gary Slutkin  
W. Russell Withers, Jr.\*

## Laureates Inducted in 2014

*50<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Simpson Auditorium &  
Stanley Field Hall*

*The Field Museum*  
John A. Canning, Jr.\*  
Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Michael Krzyzewski  
Newton N. Minow\*  
Bernard Rands  
& Augusta Read Thomas  
Rev. Donald Senior, C.P.\*  
Glenn F. Tilton

## Laureates Inducted in 2013

*49<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Rock Island  
Centennial Hall & Wallenberg Hall  
on Augustana College Campus*

Brenda C. Barnes\*  
William Hammer  
G. Timothy Johnson  
Robert Lane  
Robert Ontiveros\*  
Chad Pregracke



**Laureates Inducted in 2012**

*48<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
House of Representatives, State  
Capitol & PNC Bank Atrium*

Jean Driscoll  
W. James Farrell  
James A. Lovell, Jr.  
Naomi Burgos Lynn  
Robert J. Miller\*  
William R. Schnirring\*  
N. Ronald Thunman

**Laureates Inducted in 2011**

*47<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Urbana-  
Champaign*

*Krannert Center for the  
Performing Arts  
University of Illinois*  
Richard Gray\* &  
Mary Lackritz Gray

Shahid R. Khan  
Shirley Madigan  
Dawn Clark Netsch\*  
Timothy J. Nugent \*

**Laureates Inducted in 2010**

*46<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Chicago  
Rubloff Auditorium*

*The Art Institute of Chicago*  
William J. Bauer  
Doris K. Christopher  
Mary A. Dempsey  
Mannie Jackson  
The Joffrey Ballet  
Lester B. Knight, III

**Laureates Inducted in 2009**

*45<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial*

*Abraham Lincoln  
Presidential Museum*  
Jean H. Baker  
Gabor Boritt  
Michael Burlingame  
Richard Carwardine  
Julie Cellini  
Cullom Davis  
Eric Foner  
Allen C. Guelzo  
Harold Holzer

Charles M. Hubbard  
Ron Keller  
Philip B. Kunhardt III &  
Peter W. Kunhardt  
John McClarey  
Edna Greene Medford  
LeRoy Neiman\*  
Don Pollack  
Robert Provost Jr.  
Bob Rogers  
Thomas F. Schwartz  
Jack Smith  
Lowell\* & Rhoda Sneller  
Louise Taper  
Wayne C. Temple  
Lily Tolpo\*  
Daniel R. Weinberg  
Frank J. Williams  
Douglas L. Wilson &  
Rodney O. Davis

**Laureates Inducted in 2008**

*44<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Carbondale  
Shyrock Auditorium*

*Southern Illinois University*  
David Herbert Donald \*  
Irl F. Engelhardt  
Joel M. Flaum  
William R. Norwood  
Kenneth A. Shaw  
Thomas M. Siebel

**Laureates Inducted in 2007**

*43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation - Chicago  
James Simpson Theatre*

*The Field Museum*  
Judith S. Block  
Norman R. Bobins  
Rev. Dr. John M. Buchanan  
Mary Ann G. McMorrow\*  
Linda Johnson Rice

**Laureates Inducted in 2006**

*42<sup>nd</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
Sangamon Auditorium*

*University of Illinois Springfield*  
Rev. Thomas J. Behrens  
Richard H. Moy\*  
William A. Osborn  
Garry Wills  
The Zhou Brothers

**Laureates Inducted in 2005**

*41<sup>st</sup> Convocation - Edwardsville  
Dunham Theatre*

*Southern Illinois University*  
Edward A. Brennan\*  
David S. Broder\*  
Nick Holonyak, Jr.\*  
George E. Inglett  
Jacqueline Joyner-Kersee  
Stephanie Pace Marshall

**Laureates Inducted in 2004**

*40<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Chicago  
Rubloff Auditorium*

*Chicago Historical Society*  
Michael Beschloss  
Harry L. Crisp, II  
George A. Ranney, Jr.  
Louis “Studs” Terkel\*  
Ernest R. Wish

**Laureates Inducted in 2003**

*39<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Normal  
Braden Auditorium*

*Illinois State University*  
Sister Rosemary Connelley, RSM  
Ronald J. Gidwitz  
John W. Maitland, Jr.  
Sherrill Milnes  
Edward B. Rust  
Rev. Addie L. Wyatt\*

**Laureates Inducted in 2002**

*38<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
Sangamon Auditorium  
University of Illinois Springfield*  
Frank W. Considine\*  
Lou Conte  
Jack M. Greenberg  
Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman  
Bernard Shaw\*  
James B. Stewart

**Laureates Inducted in 2001**

*37<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Rubloff Auditorium  
The Art Institute of Chicago*  
M. Cherif Bassiouni\*  
Henry B. Betts\*  
Roger Ebert\*  
Marian F. (Cindy) Pritzker  
Orion Samuelson  
The Rev. John P. Smyth\*

**Laureates Inducted in 2000**

*36<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
Illinois State Library*  
Gwendolyn Brooks\*  
Lynn Martin  
Monsignor Ignatius McDermott\*  
Andrew J. McKenna\*  
Robert Eugene Richards\*  
Harold B. Steele\*  
Scott F. Turow

**Laureates Inducted in 1999**

*35<sup>th</sup> Convocation –  
Urbana-Champaign  
Krannert Center  
for the Performing Arts  
University of Illinois*  
Lester Crown  
Jim Edgar  
Robert D. Novak\*  
Stansfield Turner\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1998**

*34<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
James R. Thompson Center*  
Peter B. Bensinger  
Preston Jackson\*  
Martin E. Marty  
Patrick G. Ryan  
John M. D. Shalikhvili\*  
Paul Simon\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1997**

*33<sup>rd</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Gwendolyn Brooks\*  
Leonard H. Lavin\*  
Ramsey E. Lewis, Jr.\*  
Robert H. Michel\*  
Jerry M. Reinsdorf  
Seymour Simon \*  
Joseph Cardinal Bernardin\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1996**

*32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation - Evanston  
Pick-Staiger Concert Hall  
Northwestern University*  
Willard L. Boyd\*  
Stanley O. Ikenberry  
Jeane J. Kirkpatrick\*  
Sid Luckman\*  
Alan Schriesheim

**Laureates Inducted in 1995**

*31<sup>st</sup> Convocation - Carbondale  
Shyrock Auditorium  
Southern Illinois University*  
James S. Brady\*  
Joseph B. Kirsner\*  
William H. Kurtis  
Robert H. Malott\*  
Arnold W. Weber\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1994**

*30<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Alan J. Dixon\*  
Robert W. Galvin\*  
Steven R. Nagel\*  
Rev. John T. Richardson\*  
Kay Smith\*  
Anthony J. Watson

**Laureates Inducted in 1993**

*29<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Merle Reskin Theatre  
DePaul University*  
Etta Moten Barnett\*  
John H. Bryan\*  
Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar\*  
Lester E. Fisher\*  
Richard Hunt\*  
James J. O'Connor\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1992**

*28<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Decatur  
Kirkland Fine Arts Center  
Millikin University*  
Marajen Stevick Chinigo\*  
William B. Graham\*  
John O. Honnold, Jr.\*  
Paul C. Laterbur\*  
Osvaldo I. Lopez  
W. Clement Stone\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1991**

*27<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Arnold O. Beckman\*  
Harry A. Blackmun\*  
Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley\*  
Norman A. Ross\*  
James R. Thompson\*  
Elmer H. Wavering\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1990**

*26<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Rockefeller Chapel  
University of Chicago*  
Mortimer J. Adler\*  
Marshall L. Burman\*  
James S. Kemper, Jr.\*  
Leon M. Lederman\*  
James B. Stockdale\*  
William C. Warfield\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1989**

*25<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Normal  
Braden Auditorium  
Illinois State University*  
John C. Corbally\*  
C. Geraldine Freund\*  
Eugene D. Funk, Jr.\*  
Hannah H. Gray  
Elizabeth N. Paepcke\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1988**

*24<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Dwayne O. Andreas\*  
John Chancellor\*  
Abraham Lincoln Marovitz\*  
Raymond Joseph Meyer\*  
Patrick L. O'Malley\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1987**

*23<sup>rd</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
James R. Thompson Center*  
Michael Butler\*  
Paul Harvey\*  
Walter Massey  
Walter Payton\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1986**

*22<sup>nd</sup> Convocation – Peoria  
Dingeldine Auditorium  
Bradley University*  
James Beré\*  
William Harrison Fetridge\*  
Lawrence Rossi\*  
Maria Tallchief\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1985**

*21<sup>st</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Ardis Krainik\*  
Hiram Henry Lesar\*  
Ruth Page\*  
Daniel James Terra\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1984**

*20<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Evanston  
Pick-Staiger Concert Hall  
Northwestern University*  
Leigh B. Block\*  
Virginia L. Marmaduke\*  
Arthur C. Neilsen, Jr.\*  
John L. Strohm\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1983**

*19<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Edwardsville  
Communications Building  
Theater  
Southern Illinois University*  
Thomas R. Mulroy\*  
Ralph Newman\*  
Mike Royko\*  
Bobby Short\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1982**

*18<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Urbana-  
Champaign, Krannert  
Center for the Performing Arts,  
University of Illinois*  
Donald L. Bitzer  
John R. Block\*  
Marva N. Collins\*  
Delyte W. Morris\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1981**

*17<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Thomas G. Ayers\*  
James W. Cronin\*  
Ronald W. Reagan\*  
Adlai E. Stevenson III\*  
John T. Trutter\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1980**

*16<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
The Chicago Cultural Center*  
Paul Findley\*  
John Hope Franklin\*  
Arthur Rubloff\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1979**

*15<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Carbondale  
Shyrock Auditorium  
Southern Illinois University*  
John B. Anderson\*  
Joan Walsh Anglund\*  
William Alexander Hewitt\*  
Robert Stephen Ingersoll\*  
Leon Orris Jacobson\*  
Albert Jenner, Jr.\*  
Clayton Kirkpatrick\*  
Marjorie Lawrence\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1978**

*14<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Robert Gehlmann Bone\*  
Irving Lee Dilliard\*  
Ann Landers\*  
Brooks McCormick\*  
Samuel H. Shapiro\*  
William G. Stratton\*  
Daniel Walker\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1977**

*13<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Peoria  
Scottish Rite Cathedral*  
Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith\*  
Charlton Heston\*  
Celeste Holm\*  
Otto Kerner\*  
Hyman George Rickover\*  
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1976**

*12<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Rev. Preston Bradley\*  
Gaylord A. Freeman, Jr.\*  
Louis Goldblatt\*  
Burl Ives\*  
Edward Hirsh Levi\*  
Louis Courtenay Sudler\*

**Laureate Inducted in 1975**

*11<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Lincoln  
Johnson Center for the  
Performing Arts,  
Lincoln College*  
Samuel Weiler Witwer, Sr.\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1974**

*10<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Orchestra Hall*  
William Russell Arrington\*  
Saul Bellow\*  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Benjamin (Benny) Goodman\*  
William John Kuhfuss\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1973**

*9<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Moline  
Administration Center  
Deere & Company*  
Richard B. Ogilvie\*  
Frank Everson Vandiver\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1972**

*8<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Jack Benny\*  
David Dodds Henry\*  
Percy Lavon Julian\*  
Mark Van Doren\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1971**

*7<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Rockford  
Maddox Theatre  
Rockford College*  
Archibald MacLeish\*

**Laureate Inducted in 1970**

*6<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Paul McClelland Angle\*  
Ernest (Ernie) Banks\*  
William J. Campbell\*  
William C. Westmoreland\*

**Laureate Inducted in 1969**

*5<sup>th</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Palmer House*  
David Matthew Kennedy\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1968**

*4<sup>th</sup> Convocation - Springfield  
House of Representatives  
Illinois State Capitol*  
Ivan LeLorraine Albright\*  
John B. (Jack) Brickhouse\*  
Katherine Dunham\*  
Arthur Goldberg\*  
William Edward McManus\*  
Edward L. Ryerson\*  
Rabbi Jacob Joseph Weinstein\*  
Roy Wilkins\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1967**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Convocation – Springfield  
Senate Chambers  
Illinois State Capitol*  
William Carl Ackermann\*  
Roger Adams\*  
Paul H. Douglas\*  
Hugh Downs\*  
Charles (Chick) Evans, Jr.\*  
The Fine Arts Quintet– Leonard Sorkin\*,  
Abram Loft\*, George Sopkin\*,  
Gerald Stanick\*  
Richard Buckminster Fuller\*  
John Simpson Hastings\*  
Raymond Marcellus Hilliard\*  
Charles Brenton Huggins\*  
Mahalia Jackson\*  
Wayne Andrew Johnston\*  
Irving (Kup) Kupcinet\*  
George Littlewood Luthy\*  
James Winchester Montgomery\*  
Charles B. Shuman\*  
Martin Wagner\*  
Robert Elkington Wood\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1966**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Chicago Historical Society*  
George Wells Beadle\*  
Edwin Carlos (Bill) Berry\*  
Edgar Hugh Storer Chandler\*  
Everett McKinley Dirksen\*  
Marshall Field IV\*  
Carol Fox\*  
George Stanley Halas, Sr.\*  
Ben Walter Heineman, Sr.\*  
John Harold Johnson\*  
Karl Albert Meyer\*  
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe\*  
Franklin Faller Offner\*  
James Michael Roche\*  
Walter V. Schaefer\*  
Robert Martin Trueblood\*  
Benjamin Coppage Willis\*

**Laureates Inducted in 1965**

*1<sup>st</sup> Convocation – Chicago  
Chicago Historical Society*  
John Bardeen\*  
Joseph Leopold Block\*  
John Stephen Boyle\*  
Richard Gibbs Browne\*  
Avery Brundage\*  
James Edwards Day\*  
Rudolph Ganz\*  
William H. (Bill) Mauldin\*  
Albert Cardinal Meyer\*  
Nathan Mortimer Newmark\*  
William Alan Patterson\*  
Ward Louis Quaal\*  
Adlai E. Stevenson II\*

\* *Laureates who are deceased*