

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil M. Gorsuch



Outstanding young scholars, scientists, and entrepreneurs gathered together in London and Oxfordshire, England, to exchange ideas with the world's leaders in the arts, business, science and public service for the 52nd annual International Achievement Summit, October 17-21, 2017.

52nd International Achievement Summit

For the second time in its history, the American Academy of Achievement traveled to London, England for an International Achievement Summit steeped in history and overflowing with the wisdom of leading thinkers from both sides of the Atlantic.



Wayne R. Reynolds, Summit Host Catherine B. Reynolds, and the 2017 delegates at Claridge's Hotel in London, England, prior to the opening reception and dinner during the 52nd annual International Achievement Summit.

From October 17 to 19, 2017, the 52nd International Achievement Summit brought 75 of the world's outstanding young scholars, scientists, entrepreneurs and public servants to London to meet with the Academy's new honorees and its Awards Council, made up of past recipients of the Academy's Golden Plate Award. These attendees included ten recipients of the Nobel Prize, two Presidents, two Supreme Court Justices, and legendary figures from the worlds of arts and letters, music and motion pictures. Thirty new honorees were inducted into the Academy during two days of fascinating discussions held at the storied hotel Claridge's in the heart of London's elegant Mayfair district.



Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States: Anthony M. Kennedy presents the Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to Neil Gorsuch during the 2017 International Achievement Summit at Claridge's in London.

Much has happened in the world since the Academy's first London Summit in 2000. Commentators lament the decline of civility in public discourse and decry the increasing polarization of public opinion into irreconcilable camps, each unwilling to entertain alternative points of view. The International Achievement Summit provides an opportunity to transcend such antagonisms, and to promote the exchange of ideas between disciplines, between nations and generations, and across conventional divisions of ideology.



Academy Awards Council member Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States, with 2017 honoree English actor Sir Michael Caine and guests at the honoree reception prior to the Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies.

The Academy's 2017 delegates included some of the world's most promising young scholars, scientists and entrepreneurs — Marshall Scholars, Soros Fellows, medical students and young physicians of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Harvard-MIT Medical Scientist Training Program — as well as scholars from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel. Many have founded their own companies, nonprofits and NGOs. One is the Mayor of Ithaca, New York, and another is a member of Israel's parliament.



Academy Awards Council member and broadcast journalist Chris Wallace with 2017 Summit delegates (left to right): Elizabeth Byrne, Hannah Schneider, Megan Musilli, and Ruth Kagan at Claridge's Hotel in Mayfair, London.

Among the public servants attending the 2017 Summit were the 42nd President of the United States, [William Jefferson Clinton](#); Supreme Court Justices [Anthony M. Kennedy](#) and Neil Gorsuch; the President of Rwanda, His Excellency Paul Kagame; the former Prime Minister of Israel, [Ehud Barak](#); former CIA Director [David Petraeus](#); ACLU Director [Anthony Romero](#); attorney [Barry Scheck](#); financier and philanthropist Lord Jacob Rothschild; and His Eminence Cardinal Ernest Simoni.



Council member Lord Jacob Rothschild presents the Golden Plate Award to British architect Lord Norman Foster.

Leading scientists participating in the Summit included the pioneer of CRISPR technology, [Dr. Jennifer Doudna](#); integrative medicine pioneer [Dr. Andrew Weil](#); biomedical engineer [Dr. Robert Langer](#); the Astronomer Royal, [Lord Martin Rees](#); Chief of Surgery at the National Cancer Institute [Dr. Steven Rosenberg](#); and the following recipients of the Nobel Prize: [Sir Andre Geim](#), [Sir John Gurdon](#), [Dr. F. Duncan M. Haldane](#), [Dr. Brian Kobilka](#), [Dr. Robert Lefkowitz](#), [Dr. Randy Schekman](#), [Dr. Joseph Stiglitz](#) and [Sir Venki Ramakrishnan](#), President of the Royal Society.



Awards Council member and former Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Barak presents the Golden Plate Award to Nobel Prize recipient Svetlana Alexievich at a ceremony during the 2017 International Achievement Summit in London.

Major literary figures in attendance included recipients of Britain's Man-Booker Prize **John Banville** and A.S. Byatt, and two Nobel laureates in Literature, **Svetlana Alexievich** and **Kazuo Ishiguro**. Other journalists and authors in attendance included Pulitzer Prize recipients Rick Atkinson and photojournalist **Lynsey Addario**, bestselling author and documentary filmmaker Sebastian Junger, and broadcasters Charlie Rose and Chris Wallace. More domains of art were represented by legendary fashion designer Valentino Garavani and world-renowned architect **Lord Norman Foster**.



Academy member and award-winning British theater and costume designer John Napier presents the Golden Plate Award to English novelist and essayist Dame Antonia Susan Byatt at the 2017 Summit in Mayfair, London.

Business leaders at the Summit included iPod mastermind [Tony Fadell](#); McLaren Technology founder Ron Dennis; Boots-Walgreens CEO Stefano Pessina; and Two Sigma founders John Overdeck and Dr. David Siegel. Among the honorees, guests and Awards Council members from the worlds of film and theater were Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher, Oscar-winning film director [Sir Peter Jackson](#), and Oscar-winning actors [Jeremy Irons](#) and [Sir Michael Caine](#).



Two members of the Academy Class of 2017: Award-winning English singer-songwriters Peter Gabriel and Sting.

Musical luminaries appearing at the Summit were world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell, now the director of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields; Genesis founder and two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honoree **Peter Gabriel**; legendary guitarist and Led Zeppelin founder **Jimmy Page**; and 16-time Grammy Award winner Sting.



Academy Awards Council member and Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Sir Trevor Nunn, presents the Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to critically-acclaimed Irish novelist John Banville.

The world of sport was represented by Sir Roger Bannister — whose breaking of the four-minute mile was ranked by *Sports Illustrated* as the greatest sporting achievement of the 20th century — and by America's most decorated gymnast, four-time Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles.



Council member General David H. Petraeus, USA presents the Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to the CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Stefano Pessina, during a ceremony at Claridge's Hotel in Mayfair, London.

The 2017 Summit Host was Catherine B. Reynolds, Chairman and CEO of The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation. The Summit was made possible by a generous grant from The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation.



Two members of the Class of 2017: fashion designer Valentino Garavani, the “Living Martyr” of Albania, Cardinal Ernest Simoni, with the Academy’s 52nd annual International Achievement Summit Host, Catherine B. Reynolds.

Delegates and honorees alike gathered on the evening of Tuesday, October 17 — an unseasonably mild, clear day for London in autumn — in the celebrated Art Deco ballroom of Claridge’s, the legendary haunt of royalty, film stars and the international set. Summit Host Catherine B. Reynolds welcomed the assembled guests before introducing a longtime member of the Academy, Supreme Court Justice [Anthony M. Kennedy](#).



Anthony M. Kennedy, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, addresses Academy Summit delegates.

Justice Kennedy warmly recalled his student days at the London School of Economics and praised the civility he observed then among ideological antagonists, even between demonstrators and police at the height of Britain's "Ban the Bomb" movement. The Justice identified a "crisis of civility" in our own time, and called for a return to the principle of civic dialogue, born in ancient Athens and essential to democracy today.



Bartlett Sher, Tony Award-winning theater director and member of the Class of 2017, addresses Summit delegates.

A member of the Academy's Class of 2000, Oscar-winning actor [Jeremy Irons](#), took the stage to introduce Tony Award-winning Broadway director Bartlett Sher and present him with the Academy's Golden Plate Award as the first inductee of the Academy's Class of 2017. Bartlett Sher spoke passionately of his life in the theater, and the ways in which a play such as *Oslo*, which deals with the Middle East peace process, took on completely different significance, in the light of current events, when he staged it in different cities over a period of less than two years.



Awards Council member and British cosmologist Lord Martin Rees presents the Golden Plate Award to Demis Hassabis, a British pioneer of artificial intelligence and Founder & CEO of DeepMind, at a ceremony in London.

A member of the Academy's Class of 1999, Britain's Astronomer Royal, **Lord Martin Rees**, introduced the next honoree, **Dr. Demis Hassabis**, founder of artificial intelligence company DeepMind. As Hassabis put it, at DeepMind he has set his colleagues the task of "solving intelligence, then solving everything else." A former chess prodigy and international computer games champion, he described his successful effort to build a program that can play the ancient Chinese strategic game Go, and learn from its interaction with human players. The complexity of the game, and its masters' reliance on intangibles such as intuition, make it a perfect challenge for the development of artificial intelligence.



Jimmy Page, 2017 honoree, English guitarist, and founder of the rock band Led Zeppelin, addresses the delegates.

The evening's contemplation of the problems of artificial intelligence and the nature of mind was broken by a blast of electric guitar pyrotechnics — a film clip of fretboard wizard **Jimmy Page** of Led Zeppelin performing his rock classic “Stairway to Heaven.” Following the film clip, Jimmy Page himself took the stage to give a disarmingly humble and self-effacing account of his rise in the world of music. He credits his success to his passion for the music and his persistence in mastering his craft. He shared a sincere pride in the lasting popularity of the music he created, a popularity he attributes to the absolute conviction he and his Led Zeppelin bandmates brought to their work.



Joshua Bell, Academy member and celebrated virtuoso violinist, performs with the renowned chamber orchestra The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields during the opening dinner of the 2017 International Achievement Summit.

From the electric rock of Led Zeppelin, the evening turned to musical excellence of another kind with a visit from Academy member Joshua Bell, a world-renowned violinist and now director of the venerable Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. Along with ten members of his orchestra, Bell presented a fascinating study in musical contrasts. They opened with a spirited performance of the “Summer” movement from Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons,” followed by another musical depiction of summer from “The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires” by the 20th-century Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla. Joshua Bell and his ensemble brought the same breathtaking energy and near-telepathic precision to Vivaldi’s shimmering Baroque cadences as they did to Piazzolla’s propulsive tango rhythms. After the stimulating discussion and dazzling performances of the evening, conversation among delegates and honorees continued into the small hours at a sumptuous reception in the elegant French Salon at Claridge’s.



Academy member Dr. Robert S. Langer, David H. Koch Institute Professor at MIT, addresses the Summit delegates.

The Summit program resumed early Wednesday morning at Claridge's with a fascinating audiovisual presentation by a member of the Academy's Class of 2003, Dr. Robert Langer of MIT, the most prolific inventor and entrepreneur in the field of biotechnology. A mentor to many of the most adventurous thinkers in the field today, Dr. Langer's work offers the potential to grow human tissues in the laboratory for the replacement or repair of damaged organs.



Simone Biles, 2017 honoree and first U.S. gymnast to win four Olympic gold medals, addresses Summit delegates.

Four-time Olympic gold medalist [Simone Biles](#), a 2017 honoree, gave a graceful and articulate account of her progress from an impoverished childhood, abandoned by her drug-addicted mother, to her reign as America's most decorated gymnast.



Nobel Prize-winning British author and 2017 honoree Kazuo Ishiguro addresses the Academy Summit delegates.

Kazuo Ishiguro, author of the international bestsellers *The Remains of the Day* and *Never Let Me Go*, was already one of Britain's most honored novelists when he was invited to attend the International Achievement Summit as an honoree. Less than two weeks before the Summit, he was awarded the world of letters' highest honor, the Nobel Prize in Literature. The Japanese-born, British-educated author described the small moments of discovery that enabled him to find himself as a writer, in terms of both technique and subject matter.



Nobel Prize-winning structural biologist and 2017 honoree Dr. Venki Ramakrishnan addresses Summit delegates.

Another intriguing speaker that morning was **Sir Venki Ramakrishnan**, the president of the world's oldest scientific association, Britain's Royal Society. Born in India and educated in the United States, he made a crucial decision to take up the study of biology after he had already completed a doctorate in physics. This unusual choice made it difficult for him to pursue an academic career in the United States, but he eventually won a position as chief of the molecular biology lab at Cambridge University. His exploration of the molecular structure of the ribosome, and its implication for protein synthesis and the antibiotic function, earned him the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.



Peter Gabriel, English singer-songwriter and humanitarian, addresses Academy Summit delegates at Claridge's.

Peter Gabriel is a two-time honoree of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, as founder and lead singer of the progressive rock band Genesis, and for his stellar career as a solo artist. Looking back at his early struggles as a musician, he urged his listeners to heed their inner voices and leave the criticism to others. He also recalled the experiences that led to his interest in international human rights causes, and his efforts to promote world music through the WOMAD Festival.



Cardinal Ernest Simoni addresses Academy Summit delegates and members in London. Cardinal Simoni endured 28 years of dire imprisonment and forced labor under Albania communist rulers for refusing to renounce his faith.

A member of the Academy's Class of 1998, **Dr. Andrew Weil** is a pioneer of integrative medicine, the synthesis of Western medicine with medical knowledge derived from other sources and traditions. A trained botanist, his study has embraced a vast variety of medicinal herbs and organic substances. On this occasion, he spoke about the history, chemistry, and biology of cannabis. As a fourth-year student at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Weil conducted the first double-blind placebo study of cannabis. In a briskly erudite survey, Dr. Weil moved from the culinary and industrial uses of hemp products to the medicinal potential of cannabis and the legal and political obstacles to its thorough study and exploitation.



2017 honoree Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, addresses Summit delegates in Mayfair, London.

Cardinal Ernest Simoni, who survived a lifetime of persecution for his faith under a Communist dictatorship in Albania, recalled the circumstances that led to his arrest and imprisonment. Twice sentenced to death, his sentence was commuted to hard labor. Cardinal Simoni, who speaks both Albanian and Italian, delivered his remarks through an Italian interpreter. He affirmed his belief that God's power is love and noted that he forgave his oppressors at every turn, prayed for them and said mass for them.



Awards Council member Lord Jacob Rothschild presents the Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to Dr. Jennifer A. Doudna, co-developer of the CRISPR gene editing technology, in a ceremony at Claridge's in London.

Anthony Romero, the Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, discussed the experience of his immigrant parents, and his own life growing up in New York City, to explain the origins of his interest in social justice issues, and the passion that drove him to become the first member of his family to go to college, and then on to law school and success as an attorney. During a question-and-answer session with the Academy's delegates, Romero was asked if he thought the right of free speech should be balanced against the need to protect the vulnerable from hurtful or offensive speech. Romero's answer was blunt. The First Amendment guarantee of the right of free speech exists specifically to protect unpopular speech, he insisted. In an academic setting, the opportunity to hear speech one disagrees with is an essential part of education, he asserted, and the contest of opinions in an open marketplace of ideas is the foundation of democracy.



Jeremy Irons, Academy Awards Council member and English stage and screen actor, addresses Summit delegates.

The last speaker of Wednesday morning's session was the President of Rwanda, His Excellency Paul Kagame. He detailed his country's struggle to overcome its tragic past and heal the wounds left by war and genocide.



Nobel Prize recipients: Council member Dr. Peter C. Agre presents the Golden Plate Award to Sir John B. Gurdon.

First, President Kagame related how he won the war against the Rwandan government that perpetrated the genocide of the Tutsi people. He then explained how his government set out to win the peace, encouraging victims and perpetrators to meet through a traditional process of reconciliation known as *Gacaca*. The President engaged in a thoughtful exchange with the Academy's student delegates — several from African countries — over issues of postwar reconciliation and economic development. He emphasized that each country must effect its own solutions rather than relying on the outside world for help.



2017 honoree John Overdeck, math genius and co-founder of Two Sigma Investments, addresses the delegates.

Wednesday afternoon's program resumed after lunch with a presentation by Dr. Jennifer Doudna of the University of California at Berkeley. She is a pioneer of CRISPR technology, the ingenious new technique of genome editing that holds enormous promise for preventing birth defects and treating inherited disease. Dr. Doudna's charisma and flair for communication made the complex science underlying her discoveries immediately comprehensible.



2017 honoree Sebastian Junger, journalist and filmmaker, addresses Academy delegates at Claridge's in London.

Academy members and delegates had enjoyed hearing briefly from acclaimed stage and motion picture actor **Jeremy Irons** on the first evening of the Summit. On Wednesday afternoon Irons gave a charming impromptu talk, discussing the path that led him to discover his life's passion, along with the challenges and rewards of an actor's life.



2017: Awards Council member Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz presents the Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to Dr. Brian K. Kobilka during the Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies in London, England. In 2012, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded jointly to Drs. Lefkowitz and Kobilka "for studies of G-protein-coupled receptors."

Sir John Gurdon, the recipient of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, reviewed his work in the fields of cell nucleus transplantation and cloning, breakthroughs that initiated a new era of stem cell research. A former master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and the longtime leader of Wellcome's cancer research arm, now known as the Gurdon Institute, Sir John demonstrated in a few minutes the charm and wisdom that have endeared him to generations of young scientists at Cambridge.



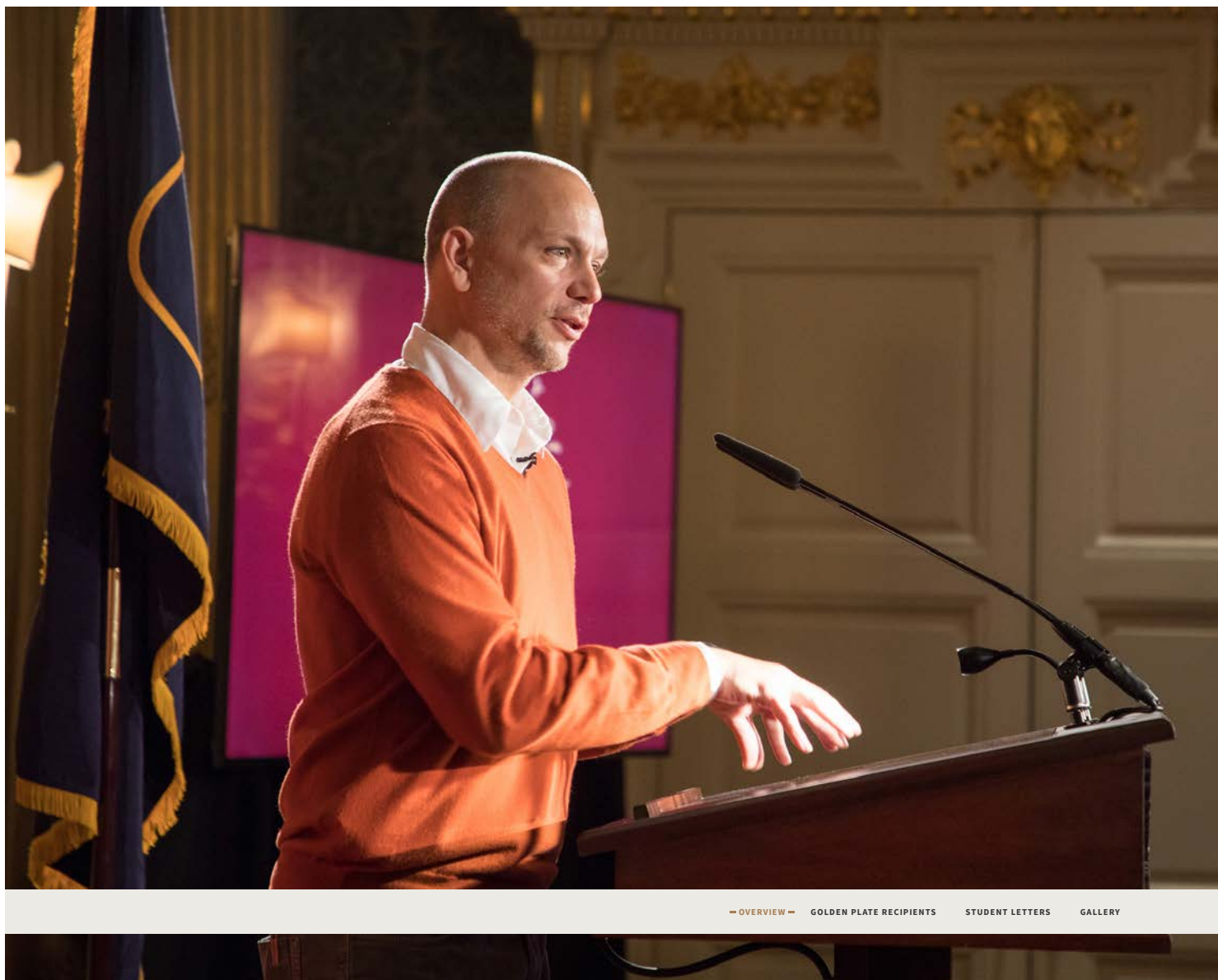
Lord Jacob Rothschild presents the Golden Plate Award to Ron Dennis, the founder of McLaren Technology Group.

John Overdeck is a founder and Co-CEO of the revolutionary investment firm Two Sigma, which deploys cutting-edge data mining to uncover hidden value in the world's markets. He shared the story of his evolution from teenage math prodigy to executive at Amazon and founder of Two Sigma.



Sir Andre K. Geim, 2017 honoree and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics, addresses the Academy delegates.

One of the most gripping presentations of the Summit came from author and documentary filmmaker Sebastian Junger. Author of the bestseller *The Perfect Storm*, among others, he showed a trailer for his new film, *Hell on Earth: The Fall of Syria and the Rise of Isis*. Junger looked back at his experiences as a war correspondent and shared the insight that men and women living through horrific circumstances may experience a depth of meaning in their relationships that they cannot easily recapture when they return to everyday life.



— OVERVIEW — GOLDEN PLATE RECIPIENTS STUDENT LETTERS GALLERY

Tony Fadell, Academy member and co-creator of the iPod and Nest Labs, addresses Summit delegates in London.

The youngest member of the United States Supreme Court, Justice Neil Gorsuch, a former Marshall Scholar, shared the impact that his studies in Britain and his experience as a federal judge have had on his understanding of the Constitution, and the importance of tolerance, decency, and respect for the truth.



Dr. Joseph E. Stiglitz, Awards Council member and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics, presents the Golden Plate Award to Dr. David Siegel, a quantitative hedge fund pioneer and the co-founder of Two Sigma Investments.

The most successful team chief in the history of Formula 1 racing, Ron Dennis recently retired as Chairman of McLaren Technology Group, the family of companies he created over 30 years ago. A longtime leader in British industry and engineering, he retraced his life's journey, from his first travels as a teenage mechanic to taking over the company he worked for, revolutionizing the manufacture of high-performance cars, and building a diversified multibillion-dollar company employing thousands of people. None of this would have been possible, he noted, without the passion for cars, racing, and technology that drove him from the very beginning.



Justice Anthony M. Kennedy takes a question from delegate Stav Shaffir, Israel's youngest member of the Knesset.

A recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Sir Andre Geim demonstrated that excellence in research and a sense of humor are not mutually exclusive. A native of Russia who now makes his home in England, he laced his audiovisual presentation with dry humor. He retraced the route that led him from Russia, where he was born and educated, to Manchester, England, where he now teaches and conducts his research. With startling visual aids, he explained the experiments with magnetism that eventually led to his historic creation of graphene, a strong and highly conductive form of carbon, a single atom thick, with virtually unlimited applications in science and industry.



Kim Petras, Academy delegate and singer-songwriter, performs at 2017 Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies.

A love of music first inspired inventor **Tony Fadell** to create a pocket-sized digital music player, the forerunner of the iPod. Fadell recalled how Apple Computer chief Steve Jobs saw the potential of Fadell's idea and hired him to develop the iPod, and later the iPhone, devices that have changed our way of life. In his warm, unassuming address, Fadell emphasized the experience of failure and the determination to overcome it as essential components of success. In his own career, he persisted in a long uphill struggle to develop new consumer devices for digital media, when investors were only interested in online services, not new hardware. In a lively question-and-answer session, he considered the social impact of handheld devices and the future role of artificial intelligence.



President Bill Clinton presents the Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to singer and songwriter Sting.

Computer scientist Dr. David Siegel, a founder and Co-CEO of Two Sigma Investments, further pursued the transformative potential of artificial intelligence, while cautioning his listeners of the cultural and economic dislocations it may cause. In a question-and-answer session, he criticized the short-term thinking of many in the venture capital community and called for a greater degree of government oversight and for greater diversity within government itself.



Sting performing an acoustic concert to close the Banquet of the Golden Plate dinner held at Claridge's Ballroom.

Having opened the Summit's proceedings on Tuesday evening, Justice Kennedy closed them on Wednesday afternoon. He returned to the theme of civic discourse and the pursuit of truth as the foundation of a free society and urged the Academy's young delegates to revisit the values underlying our Constitution and find ways to preserve them in our new age of digital communications. "You can't preserve what you haven't studied," he reminded his listeners. "You can't protect what you've not discussed. You cannot defend what you do not know."



Dr. Robert Langer and wife, Laura, with young biotechnology leaders from around the world, Summit delegates (left to right): Dr. Oliver Jonas, Dr. Mark Tibbitt, Dr. Molly Stevens, Dr. Armon Sharei, and Dr. Kathryn A. Whitehead.

The 2017 International Achievement Summit culminated in the Banquet of the Golden Plate, held in the famous ballroom at Claridge's, dramatically lit for the occasion and overflowing with flowers. As a member of the Academy's Awards Council presented the Golden Plate Award to each new honoree, Jeremy Irons read a brief citation celebrating the inductee's accomplishments.

During the course of the evening, the assembled members, guests, and delegates heard a song from one of the Academy's delegates, the young German singer and songwriter Kim Petras, who at age 23 is already making waves in the music world.



Awards Council member Tony Fadell presents the Golden Plate Award to Led Zeppelin founder Jimmy Page.

As the last presenter and honoree at the evening's ceremony, President **William Jefferson Clinton** presented the Golden Plate to the singer and songwriter Sting. Following dinner, President Clinton returned to the stage to share some memories of his friend. He recalled traveling on a relief mission to Haiti in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake, and his surprise at encountering Sting delivering relief supplies to a remote village. Following President Clinton's warm introduction, Sting took the stage, guitar in hand. Accompanied by a second guitarist and a drummer, he performed exquisite acoustic arrangements of his most famous songs, including "Every Breath You Take" and "Roxanne." Although he could easily have held the audience rapt for hours more, he ended the set with a song he noted is often broadcast during times of crisis or catastrophe — "Fragile."



A panel discussion with two Academy delegate alumni and one current delegate: International human rights attorney Jennifer Robinson (Academy Class of 2008), founder and CEO of GoldieBlox Debbie Sterling (Academy Class of 2014), and 2017 delegate and youngest serving member of Israel's parliament, the Knesset, Stav Shaffir.

Following the Banquet, the honorees, guests, and delegates swarmed the salons and drawing rooms of Claridge's, celebrating new friendships and continuing their explorations of the many issues they had heard discussed over the course of the day. The final program of the London portion of the Summit convened Thursday morning, with another sequence of fascinating speakers.

A dramatically-lit view of the iconic hotel Cliveden House, a grand, stately home with panoramic views over the Berkshire countryside and the River Thames. The house is surrounded by 376 acres of National Trust formal gardens and parkland. The original Cliveden was built in 1666 for the 2nd Duke of Buckingham, and the present Italianate mansion was built in 1851 by architect Charles Barry for the 2nd Duke of Sutherland. Queen Victoria was famously "not amused" at the Duke of Westminster's decision to sell Cliveden to the Astor family in 1893. In 1942, the family gave Cliveden to the National Trust with the proviso that the family could continue to live in the house.

As at previous Summits, the Academy conducted a comprehensive series of video interviews with its honorees to preserve their personal journeys for students and teachers around the world. The interviews will be featured on the Academy website as well as the popular "What It Takes" podcast series. The Academy members who were interviewed at the 2017 Summit included President Bill Clinton, Jimmy Page, Simone Biles, Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, Kazuo Ishiguro, John Banville, Lord Norman Foster, and Lord Martin Rees.



Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire: Blenheim Palace was built as a gift to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, from Queen Anne and a grateful nation in thanks for his victory at the Battle of Blenheim on 13th August 1704. Today, the palace is home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family, and to one of the most important and extensive collections in Europe, which includes portraits, furniture, sculpture and tapestries.

The morning's second speaker, famed broadcaster Charlie Rose, invoked the power of questions as a tool for finding truth in the midst of controversy. The Irish novelist **John Banville**, winner of the Man-Booker Prize for his 2005 novel, *The Sea*, gave a witty account of his lifelong passion for literature. Filmmaker **Sir Peter Jackson**, best known for his Oscar-winning trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*, described his youth in a small town in New Zealand, and his early passion for filmmaking. A homemade horror film he created with his friends led him to the Cannes Film Festival and a career as one of the most successful filmmakers of all time. Dr. F. Duncan M. Haldane, a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics, described his research into exotic states of matter, such as his discovery of topological quantum matter and his exploration of the physics of light.



British Imperial Military Band greets Academy members and Marshall Scholars at the entrance of Blenheim Palace. The band is made up of ex-military musicians from the British services; The Army, The RAF and The Royal Marines.

The last symposium session of the 2017 International Achievement Summit concluded with a panel discussion with three of the Academy's delegate alumni. Jennifer Robinson attended the 2008 Summit as a Rhodes Scholar. She is now an international human rights attorney, whose clients include WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Debbie Sterling attended the 2014 Summit as a delegate. She is the founder and CEO of GoldieBlox, a unique and successful line of construction toys designed to interest young girls in building and engineering. Stav Shaffir, a delegate to the 2017 Summit, is the youngest serving member of Israel's parliament —the Knesset — and the youngest female parliamentarian in Israel's history. Prior to her election, she was a nationally known journalist and social activist. In a freewheeling discussion with their fellow delegates, they compared the influences and imperatives that led them to their respective courses in life.

Oxford Youth Girls Choir performs "Le Ruisseau" (Gabriel Fauré), "Corpus Christi Carol" (Benjamin Britten), and "Tundra" (Ola Gjeilo), as Academy guests enter the Long Library for dinner. Behind the choir is the Willis Organ, the largest organ in private ownership in Europe, with its four manuals and pedals, 2300 pipes and 53 speaking stops.

While Summit delegates returned to their respective studies and careers, Academy members participated in a retreat to the English countryside to explore the stately homes of Southeast England's home counties. Academy members and guests stayed at historic Cliveden House, set among classical gardens, where they enjoyed panoramic views of the idyllic countryside and the glittering River Thames, and relaxed in the house's graceful salons, adorned with paintings, tapestries, statuary and antique armor.



Charles James Spencer-Churchill, 12th Duke of Marlborough, welcomes the Academy guests to Blenheim Palace.

In Cliveden's ornate French Dining Room, Academy members and guests heard Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Rick Atkinson recount the dramatic history of the house. Previously home to the Dukes of Buckinghamshire and Somerset, and the Prince of Wales, in the 20th century it was purchased by William Waldorf Astor, an expatriate American who was ennobled for his services to Britain during the First World War. The first Viscount Astor gave the estate as a wedding present to his son Waldorf Astor and Waldorf's American wife, Nancy, whose likeness can be seen in the house's Great Hall in a radiant portrait by John Singer Sargent. In time, Waldorf became the 2nd Viscount Astor, and his wife the first woman to take a seat in Parliament. Through the decades preceding the Second World War, their house became a favorite gathering place for Britain's literary and political intelligentsia.



Academy member and track and field legend Sir Roger Bannister seated with Jeremy Irons during dinner in the Long Library at Blenheim Palace. Earlier during the program, Wayne Reynolds gave a touching tribute highlighting Sir Roger's achievements through the years. Sir Roger, immortalized for running the first sub-four-minute mile, completed medical school, had a distinguished career as a neurologist, and was later knighted by the Queen.

In the evening, the company traveled to an even more storied location, majestic Blenheim Palace, built in the first years of the 18th century to honor John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, for his victories over the armies of Louis XIV. For 400 years it has been home to successive Dukes of Marlborough and their families. Britain's wartime prime minister, Winston Churchill, a grandson of the 7th Duke, was born there in 1874.

Justice Neil M. Gorsuch and his wife, Louise, at dinner in the Long Library at Blenheim Palace. The Long Library is thought to be the second longest room in any house in England. The library is home to more than 10,000 books collected by the 9th Duke of Marlborough. As well as portraits of past monarchs, the room houses a number of portraits of members of the Marlborough family. Above the bookcases are portraits of Queen Anne, King William III and the 1st Duke, together with those of three of the Duke's daughters: Elizabeth, Countess of Bridgewater; Anne, Countess of Sunderland; and Mary, Duchess of Montagu. At the end of the elegant library, the magnificent Willis Organ was installed by the Duke and Duchess in 1891. It bears the inscription: "In memory of happy days and as a tribute to this glorious home we leave thy voice to speak within these walls in years to come when ours are still."

Joining 70 Marshall Scholars from nearby Oxford, Academy members were greeted on their arrival at Blenheim by a British Army band, resplendent in red coats and bearskin hats. The party toured the palace's public rooms, hung with tapestries illustrating the first Duke's victories, and admired the portraits of successive Dukes and their families, created by Britain's most famous artists. The assembly dined in the palace's justifiably famous Long Library. With the entire party of 102 seated at a single long table, Charles James Spencer-Churchill, the 12th Duke of Marlborough, personally welcomed the company to his home.



At the conclusion of dinner, guests move to the Palace's courtyard and enjoy a final song by the Oxford Choir.

Over dinner, guests were serenaded by the Oxford Girls' Choir. Retired **General David Petraeus**, former director of the CIA, discussed the special relationship between the United States and Britain. He focused on the role played by Winston Churchill, the son of an American mother, in forging a wartime alliance, through his close collaboration with President Franklin Roosevelt and General Dwight Eisenhower.



Academy of Achievement guests are treated to a dramatic display of fireworks as they depart Blenheim Palace.

Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch shared with the Marshall Scholars some warm memories of his own experiences as a Marshall Scholar at Oxford. Following dinner, the guests exited by way of the palace's immense courtyard, where they were treated to a spectacular display of fireworks, soaring over the Oxfordshire countryside.



Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire, England: Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild wanted an estate where he could escape London in the summer months to entertain family and friends for weekend house parties. Ferdinand wanted the exterior of the house to be in the style of the French Renaissance châteaux of the Loire Valley and engaged a French architect, Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur. In 1883, the house was completed. After the war, James de Rothschild bequeathed Waddesdon to the National Trust, with a large part of the collections and an area of the garden. His widow, Dorothy, oversaw the opening of the house to the public in 1959. Lord Rothschild, her heir, expanded the project into a complete renovation of the house and its services. The Rothschild Foundation continues to manage the property on behalf of the National Trust, as well as providing the majority of the funding.

On Friday afternoon, the Academy members traveled from Cliveden to another of the historic homes of Southeast England, Waddesdon Manor, built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the style of a French chateau.

Catherine B. Reynolds with Academy members Lord Jacob Rothschild, General David H. Petraeus, USA, and Ehud Barak in the White Drawing Room at Waddesdon Manor. Lord Jacob Rothschild, a distinguished philanthropist and arts patron, hosted Academy members and spouses to an intimate luncheon in the White Drawing Room, one of Waddesdon's dining rooms, which houses a collection of 18th-century French furniture and British portraits. After the luncheon, Lord Rothschild gave a private tour of the wine cellars with historic wines dating back to 1868.

The Academy was given a private tour of the manor's art treasures by Baron Jacob Rothschild, who hosted an intimate luncheon party in one of the manor's exquisite drawing rooms. After lunch, Lord Rothschild took his guests for a tour of the manor's cellar, a veritable wine museum maintained by the Rothschild family, well known for their many wine estates in France.



Academy members and spouses enjoy an intimate luncheon in the White Drawing Room at Waddesdon Manor.

On their return to Cliveden that afternoon, the Academy members heard from the Academy's last new honoree of 2017. The courageous photojournalist [Lynsey Addario](#) was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *The New York Times Magazine* photo essay "Talibanistan." While her stunning photographs were projected on a large video screen, she recounted the extraordinary dangers and ordeals she had endured to cover her stories, including capture and imprisonment during Libya's civil war. [General David Petraeus](#) and Rick Atkinson presented the Academy's Golden Plate Award to Addario following her presentation. The last speaker of the afternoon was [Lord Martin Rees](#), the Astronomer Royal, who shared his witty and imaginative speculations about the future of such phenomena as the independent evolution of intelligent machines in outer space.



Awards Council members Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and journalist, and General David H. Petraeus, USA, former Director of the CIA, present the Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Lynsey Addario following her presentation at iconic Cliveden House in Berkshire.

Following the last dinner at Cliveden, Academy members and guests repaired to the Great Hall, where, comfortably seated in overstuffed chairs, they enjoyed the final presentation of their stay. Academy Chairman Wayne Reynolds recounted his meeting with the late **Judge Frank M. Johnson**, a hero of the civil rights era. He played a short video of Judge Johnson's interview, recorded by the Academy, and discussed plans to build a museum in Montgomery, Alabama, honoring Judge Johnson's role in history.



Academy members enjoy a quiet conversation before the final dinner of the Summit: Academy Award-winning director Peter Jackson and Barry Scheck, co-founder of The Innocence Project, in The Great Hall, Cliveden House.

Chairman Reynolds showed a second video clip of another Academy member, author **James A. Michener**, describing the turning point of his life, a brush with death during World War II that motivated him to live the rest of his life “as though I were a great man.” Michener’s literary career began with his book *Tales of the South Pacific*, which inspired a classic Broadway musical. In 2008, Academy honoree Bartlett Sher won a Tony Award for directing an acclaimed revival of the show. After his presentation, Chairman Reynolds introduced the star of that production — Kelli O’Hara.



Academy of Achievement Chairman Wayne R. Reynolds recounts a meeting with the late Judge Frank M. Johnson, a hero of the civil rights era, before introducing a video of Judge Johnson's interview, recorded by the Academy.

O'Hara confirmed her reputation as Broadway's brightest star, performing songs from *South Pacific*, and from another Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, *The King and I*. In 2015, O'Hara won Broadway's Tony Award for her starring performance in *The King and I*, also directed by Bartlett Sher. She was joined in duets by a rising star of television and Broadway, Drew Gehling. O'Hara's infectious personality, dramatic gifts, and soaring voice captivated the audience and left the Academy members glowing and inspired to continue their impressive works in their respective careers.



Tony Award-winning soprano Kelli O'Hara performs songs from the Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway musicals *The King and I* and *South Pacific* by the portrait of Nancy Astor by John Singer Sargent in the Great Hall at Cliveden.

For four days in London and the English countryside, exceptional men and women of many backgrounds, different nations, different generations, diverse philosophies and divergent strains of belief had celebrated our common humanity by exchanging ideas in a civilized atmosphere, without competition, envy or rancor. As Academy members return to their vocations, and the Academy's young delegates discover their own, we hope they will carry the same generous, open-minded spirit wherever they go.

< OUR HISTORY

Golden Plate Awards Council



Lynsey Addario
Pulitzer Prize-winning Photojournalist



Peter C. Agre, Ph.D.
Nobel Prize in Chemistry



James P. Allison, Ph.D.
Nobel Prize in Medicine



Dame Julie Andrews
Stage and Screen Actress



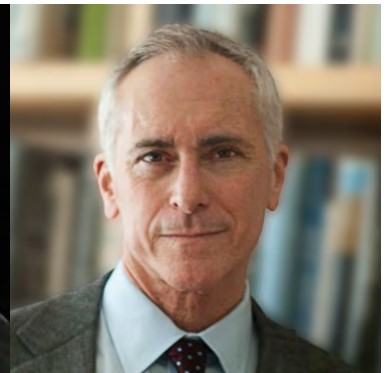
Frances H. Arnold, Ph.D.
Nobel Prize in Chemistry



Rick Atkinson
Pulitzer Prize for History



John Banville
Acclaimed Irish Novelist



A. Scott Berg
Pulitzer Prize for Biography



Joshua Bell
Violin Virtuoso



Simone Biles
Gymnast and Olympic Gold Medalist



James W. Breyer
Investor and Philanthropist



Sergey Brin
Co-founder of Google Inc.



Larry Page
Founding CEO of Google Inc.



Sir Michael Caine
British Film Icon



Jimmy Carter
Nobel Prize for Peace



Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, National Institutes of Health



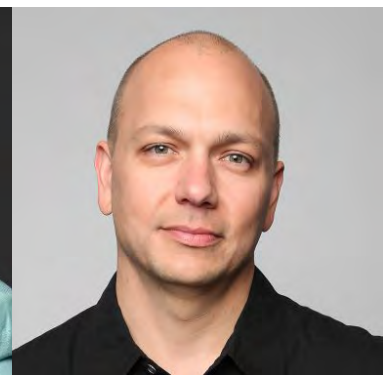
David Doubilet
Pioneer of Underwater Photography



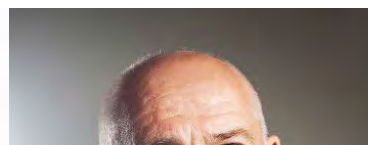
Rita Dove
Pulitzer Prize for Poetry



Sylvia Earle, Ph.D.
Undersea Explorer



Tony Fadell
iPod Mastermind and Founder of Nest





Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.
Immunology and Global Health



Lord Norman Foster
Gold Medal for Architecture



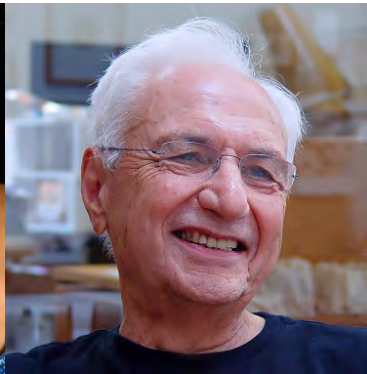
Peter Gabriel
Singer, Songwriter and Humanitarian



William H. Gates III
Co-Chair of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Leymah Gbowee
Nobel Prize for Peace



Frank O. Gehry
Gold Medal for Architecture



Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Justice, Supreme Court of the United States



Dame Jane Goodall
Primatologist and Anthropologist



Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D.
Pulitzer Prize for History



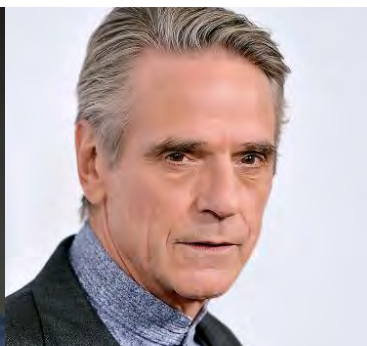
Neil M. Gorsuch
Justice, Supreme Court of the United States



Sir John Gurdon
Nobel Prize in Medicine



Demis Hassabis, Ph.D.
Pioneer of Artificial Intelligence





Thomas Heatherwick
Designer of the Extraordinary



Jeremy Irons
Stage and Screen Actor

Sir Kazuo Ishiguro
Nobel Prize in Literature

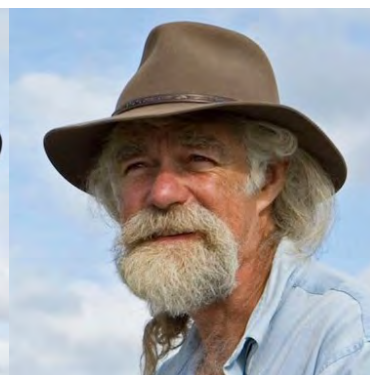
Sir Peter Jackson
Oscar for Best Director



James Earl Jones
Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement



Beverly Joubert
Filmmaker and Conservationist



Dereck Joubert
Filmmaker and Conservationist



Paul Kagame
President of Rwanda



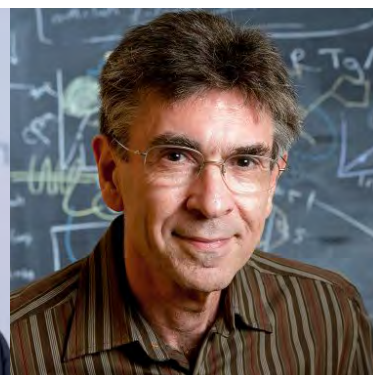
Janusz Kaminski
Two Oscars for Cinematography



Anthony M. Kennedy
Retired Justice, Supreme Court of the
United States



Robert S. Langer, Sc.D.
Biomedical Engineering



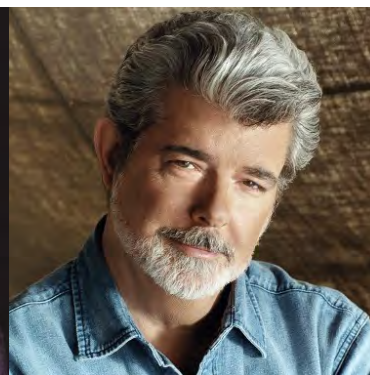
Robert J. Lefkowitz, M.D.
Nobel Prize in Chemistry



Congressman John R. Lewis
Champion of Civil Rights



Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber
Musical Theatre Composer



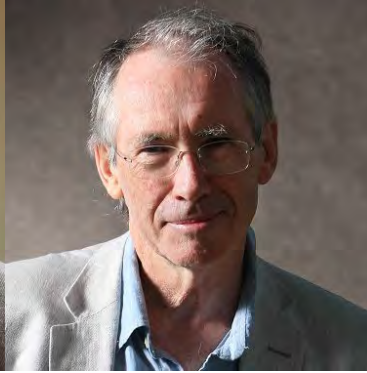
George Lucas
Motion Picture Production



Wynton Marsalis
Pulitzer Prize for Music



David McCullough
Two Pulitzer Prizes for Biography



Ian McEwan
Novelist and Screenwriter



Sir Trevor Nunn
Theatrical Director



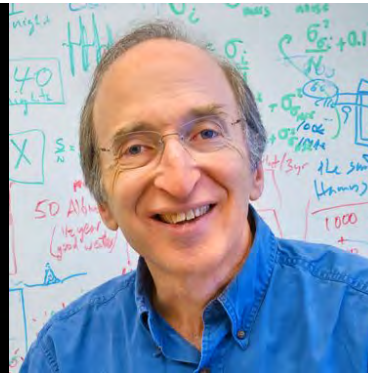
Jimmy Page
Guitarist and Founder of Led Zeppelin



Armando Christian Pérez
Musician, Activist and Entrepreneur



Itzhak Perlman
Virtuoso of the Violin



Dr. Saul Perlmutter
Nobel Prize in Physics



General David H. Petraeus, USA
Soldier and Scholar



Sidney Poitier
Oscar for Lifetime Achievement



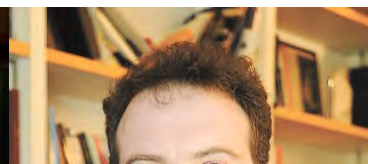
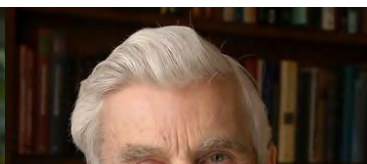
General Colin L. Powell, USA
Former Secretary of State, United States of America



General Joseph W. Ralston, USAF
Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander

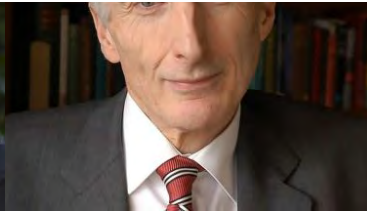


Venki Ramakrishnan, Ph.D.
Nobel Prize in Chemistry





Lisa Randall, Ph.D.
Theoretical Physics



Lord Martin Rees
Astronomer Royal



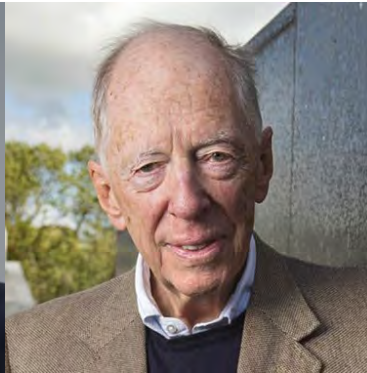
Adam G. Riess, Ph.D.
Nobel Prize in Physics



Anthony D. Romero
Executive Director, ACLU



Martine Rothblatt, Ph.D.
Founder, SiriusXM and United
Therapeutics



Lord Jacob Rothschild
Financier and Philanthropist



Barry Scheck
Co-Founder, The Innocence Project



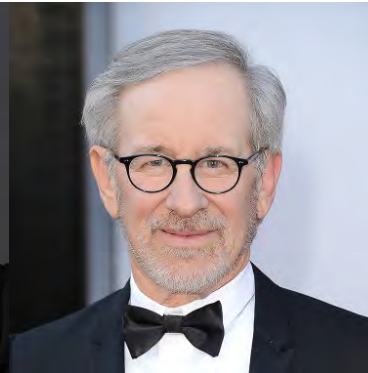
Bartlett Sher
Theatrical Director



Carlos Slim Helú
Financier and Philanthropist



Sonia Sotomayor
Justice, Supreme Court of the United
States



Steven Spielberg
Film Director and Producer



Donna Strickland, Ph.D.
Nobel Prize in Physics



Brendan V. Sullivan, Jr.
Defense Attorney

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Nobel Prize for Peace

James D. Watson, Ph.D.
Discoverer of the DNA Molecule

Andrew Weil, M.D.
Father of Integrative Medicine



Oprah Winfrey
Media Entrepreneur



Feng Zhang, Ph.D.
Co-Developer, CRISPR Gene Editing Technology

This is a partial list. Each member is a past recipient of the Golden Plate Award.



[◀ OUR HISTORY](#)

Golden Plate Awardees

The Golden Plate Award has been presented since 1961 by the American Academy of Achievement to approximately 25 guests of honor at the International Achievement Summit. Chosen by the Academy's Awards Council and other distinguished authorities, these men and women of exceptional accomplishment in the sciences, the professions, business, industry, arts, literature, sports, entertainment, and public service are acclaimed ... not as winners, but as visionaries and achievers who represent the many who excel.

FEATURED HONOREES

The Arts



1960s

Thomas Hart Benton	Painter and Muralist
Herbert L. Block	Three Pulitzer Prizes for Editorial Cartooning
Bob Hope	Oscar for Lifetime Achievement
Yousuf Karsh	Portrait Photography
Theodore Roethke	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
William Wyler	Three Oscars for Best Director
Robert Stack	Actor, TV Series <i>The Untouchables</i>
King Vidor	Oscar for Lifetime Achievement
David Merrick	Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement
Lee J. Cobb	Film and Stage Actor
Allan Nevins, Ph.D.	Two Pulitzer Prizes for History
Allen Drury	Pulitzer Prize for <i>Advise and Consent</i>
Philippe Halsman	101 Covers for <i>Life</i> Magazine

William H. Goetzmann, Ph.D.	Pulitzer Prize for History
Hanson W. Baldwin	Pulitzer Prize for WW II Reporting
David L. Wolper	Television Producer

1970s

Shirley Temple Black	Film Actress and Diplomat
George Cukor	Oscar for <i>My Fair Lady</i>
John Wayne	Legendary Film Actor
James A. Michener	Storytelling Phenomenon
Irving Stone	Master of the Biographical Novel
Louis I. Kahn	The Philosopher Architect
Lowell Thomas	Broadcaster and Author
Frank Capra	Three Oscars for Best Director
Peter Graves	Actor, TV Series <i>Mission: Impossible</i>
Helen Hayes	First Lady of the American Theater
Rosalind Russell	Actress and Humanitarian
Lorne Greene	Actor, TV Series <i>Bonanza</i>
Cloris Leachman	Television Hall of Fame
Jimmy Stewart	Oscar for Lifetime Achievement
Ray Charles	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Art Linkletter	Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement
George Pal	Oscar for Lifetime Achievement
Will and Ariel Durant	Pulitzer Prize for History
Stevie Wonder	Singer, Songwriter and Activist
Edward Asner	Television Hall of Fame
John Chancellor	Broadcast Journalism
Alex Haley	Pulitzer Prize for <i>Roots</i>
Erma Bombeck	Humorist and Bestselling Author
Dame Olivia de Havilland	Two Oscars for Best Actress
Colleen McCullough	Author, <i>The Thorn Birds</i>
Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.	Pulitzer Prize for <i>A Thousand Days</i>
Henry Fonda	Oscar for Lifetime Achievement
Louis L'Amour	Congressional Gold Medal

1980s

Clint Eastwood	Motion Picture Actor and Director
Norman Lear	Television Producer
Edmund Morris	Pulitzer Prize for <i>The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt</i>
Charles M. Schulz	Cartoonist, Creator of "Peanuts"
Cicely Tyson	Award-winning Actress
Lawrence Welk	Television Impresario
Henry Winkler	Actor, TV Series <i>Happy Days</i>
Larry Hagman	Actor, TV Series <i>Dallas</i>
John Forsythe	Actor, TV Series <i>Dynasty</i>
Quincy Jones	Music Impresario
John Travolta	Trendsetting Motion Picture Actor
David McCullough	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Biography
Mortimer J. Adler, Ph.D.	Philosopher and Author
Lionel Richie	Singer and Musician
Elizabeth Taylor	Two Oscars for Best Actress
Clare Boothe Luce	Author and Diplomat
Loretta Lynn	Legend of Country Music
Marsha Norman	Pulitzer Prize for Drama
Joseph Papp	Theatrical Producer and Director
Leontyne Price	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Robert Rauschenberg	Prolific American Painter
Steven Spielberg	Film Director and Producer
Herman Wouk	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
John L. Ashbery	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
Suzanne Farrell	Ballerina Extraordinaire
Jim Henson	The Muppet Master
Lloyd Richards	Tony Award-winning Director
Diane Sawyer	Broadcast Journalism
Roy Acuff	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Bernard Bailyn, Ph.D.	Two Pulitzer Prizes for History
Johnny Cash	Country Music Hall of Fame
Tom Clancy	Master of Military Thrillers

E. L. Doctorow	American Book Award
Michael Douglas	Oscar for Best Actor
Ahmet M. Ertegun	Music Industry
Wynton Marsalis	Pulitzer Prize for Music
August Wilson	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama
Tom Brokaw	Television Journalist and Author
Henry Mancini	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Mike Nichols	Motion Picture and Stage Director
Tom Selleck	Actor, TV Series <i>Magnum P.I.</i>
Beverly Sills	Legendary Opera Soprano
Dinah Shore	Television Hall of Fame

1990s

Maya Angelou	Poet and Historian
Peter Martins	New York City Ballet
Neil Sheehan	Pulitzer Prize for <i>A Bright Shining Lie</i>
Audrey Hepburn	Actress and Humanitarian
Ken Burns	Documentary Classics
Chuck Jones	Animation Pioneer
Dizzy Gillespie	Jazz Musician, Composer and Bandleader
Robert A. M. Stern	Architecture
Philip C. Johnson	Dean of American Architects
Peter Matthiessen	Naturalist and Novelist
James Merrill	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
Martin Scorsese	Film Director, Screenwriter and Producer
Wallace Stegner	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
Barbara Walters	Broadcast Journalism
Michael Crichton, M.D.	Bestselling Author
Judith Jamison	Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Jessye Norman	Legendary Opera Soprano
Dolly Parton	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Oliver Stone	Motion Picture Production
Barbra Streisand	53 Gold Albums and Two Oscars for Best Actress

Russell Baker	Recipient of Two Pulitzer Prizes
Naomi Judd	Humanitarian and Entertainer
Betty Comden	Musical Comedy Author
Pat Conroy	Bestselling Novelist
John Grisham	Bestselling Author
Charles Kuralt	Television Hall of Fame
Thomas McGuane	Novelist and Journalist
N. Scott Momaday, Ph.D.	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
Agnes Nixon	Television Hall of Fame
Twyla Tharp	Dancer and Choreographer
Judy Blume	Bestselling Children's Author
Art Buchwald	Pulitzer Prize-winning Humorist
Dale Chihuly	Master Glass Artist
Francis Ford Coppola	Filmmaker, Producer and Screenwriter
Robert De Niro	Actor, Director and Producer
Rita Dove	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
Harrison Ford	Motion Picture Actor
David Halberstam	Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting
John Napier	Theatre Design
Lesley Stahl	Broadcast Journalism
Tommy Tune	Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ph.D.	Education and Literature
Frank O. Gehry	Gold Medal for Architecture
James M. McPherson, Ph.D.	Pulitzer Prize for <i>Battle Cry of Freedom</i>
Trevor Nunn	Theatrical Director
Mike Wallace	CBS News Correspondent
Richard Wilbur	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry
Robin Williams	Comedian, Actor and Activist
Lanford Wilson	Pulitzer Prize for Drama
Bob Woodward	<i>The Washington Post</i>
John Hope Franklin, Ph.D.	Educator and Historian
Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D.	Pulitzer Prize for History
John Guare	Award-winning Playwright

James Earl Jones	Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement
Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall	Motion Picture Production
Richard Meier	Gold Medal for Architecture
Amy Tan	Bestselling Novelist
Joyce Carol Oates	National Book Award
David Herbert Donald, Ph.D.	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Biography
Gloria Estefan	Presidential Medal of Freedom
Stephen E. Ambrose, Ph.D.	Biographer and Historian
Vince Gill	Country Music Hall of Fame
Ron Howard	Oscar for Best Director
James Cameron	Film Futurist
Morgan Freeman	Master Screen Craftsman
Alice Waters	Culinary Revolution
A. Scott Berg	Pulitzer Prize for Biography
Shelby Foote	Novelist and Historian
Aretha Franklin	The Queen of Soul
Frank McCourt	Pulitzer Prize for Biography

2000s

Christiane Amanpour	Broadcast Journalism
Clive Davis	Music Industry
Jeremy Irons	Stage and Screen Actor
Ricardo Legorreta	Gold Medal for Architecture
Maya Lin	Artist and Architect
Edna O'Brien	Novelist and Memoirist
Salman Rushdie	Novelist and Essayist
John Williams	Award-winning Composer
Ernest J. Gaines	Author, <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>
Dan Rather	Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Chuck Berry	Father of Rock and Roll
Bono	Musician and Activist
Xingjian Gao	Nobel Prize in Literature
Plácido Domingo	Internationally Acclaimed Tenor

Bob Dylan	Icon of American Culture
Thomas L. Friedman	Three Pulitzer Prizes for Journalism
Dame Julie Andrews	Stage and Screen Actress
James Brown	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
José Carreras	Internationally Acclaimed Tenor
B.B. King	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Santiago Calatrava	Gold Medal for Architecture
Emmylou Harris	Musician and Humanitarian
Norman Mailer	National Book Award for Lifetime Achievement
John Updike	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Fiction
Edward Albee	Three Pulitzer Prizes for Drama
Sally Field	Two Oscars for Best Actress
John Irving	National Book Award
Toni Morrison	Nobel Prize in Literature
Itzhak Perlman	Virtuoso of the Violin
Tim Russert	Moderator of <i>Meet the Press</i>
Stephen Sondheim	Composer and Lyricist
Denzel Washington	Oscar for Best Actor
Tom Wolfe	America's Master Novelist
Joan Didion	Novelist and Essayist
Carlos Fuentes	Mexico's Greatest Novelist
Sir Peter Jackson	Oscar for Best Director
Samuel L. Jackson	Actor and Activist
Sonny Rollins	Saxophone Colossus
Julie Taymor	Theater, Opera and Film Director
Gore Vidal	Novelist and Social Critic
Nora Ephron	Author and Filmmaker
Suzan-Lori Parks	Pulitzer Prize for Drama
Harold Prince	Broadway Producer and Director
Rick Atkinson	Pulitzer Prize for History
Joshua Bell	Grammy Award-winning Violinist
David Doubilet	Pioneer of Underwater Photography
Janusz Kaminski	Two Oscars for Cinematography

Nicholas D. Kristof	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Journalism
W. S. Merwin	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry
Michael Ondaatje	Author, <i>The English Patient</i>
Brian Wilson	Music Producer and Performer
Tony Bennett	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Nadine Gordimer	Nobel Prize in Literature
Wole Soyinka	Nobel Prize in Literature

2010s

Louise Glück	Former Poet Laureate of the United States
Natasha Trethewey	Poet Laureate of the United States
Audra McDonald	Six Tony Awards
Carol Burnett	Television Hall of Fame
Athol Fugard	Playwright, Actor and Director
Carole King	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Jeff Koons	Contemporary Art Phenomenon
Sidney Poitier	Oscar for Lifetime Achievement
Diana Ross	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Wayne Shorter	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Thomas Keller	Culinary Impresario
Lynsey Addario	Pulitzer Prize-winning Photojournalist
Svetlana Alexievich	Nobel Prize In Literature
John Banville	Acclaimed Irish Novelist
Dame Antonia Susan Byatt	English Novelist and Essayist
Sir Michael Caine	British Film Icon
Lord Norman Foster	Gold Medal for Architecture
Peter Gabriel	Singer, Songwriter and Humanitarian
Sir Kazuo Ishiguro	Nobel Prize in Literature
Sebastian Junger	Journalist and Filmmaker
Jimmy Page	Guitarist and Founder of Led Zeppelin
Bartlett Sher	Tony Award-winning Theater Director
Sting	Songwriters Hall of Fame
Ron Chernow	Pulitzer Prize for Biography

6/9/2020	Golden Plate Awardees Academy of Achievement				
Judy Collins	Singer, Songwriter and Activist				
Roger Daltrey	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame				
Denyce Graves	Mezzo-Soprano and Cultural Ambassador				
Buddy Guy	Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award				
Thomas Heatherwick	Designer of the Extraordinary				
<div><div>— THE ARTS —</div><div>PUBLIC SERVICE</div><div>SCIENCE & EXPLORATION</div><div>BUSINESS</div><div>SPORTS</div></div>					
Ian McEwan	English Novelist and Screenwriter				
Sir Van Morrison	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame				
James Nachtwey	Photojournalist and War Photographer				
Lynn Nottage	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama				
Orhan Pamuk	Nobel Prize in Literature				
Justin Peck	Tony Award for Choreography				
Armando Christian Pérez	Musician, Activist and Entrepreneur				
Smokey Robinson	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame				
T.J. Stiles	Pulitzer Prizes for History and Biography				
Pete Townshend	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame				
Steven Tyler	Songwriters Hall of Fame				
Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber	Musical Theatre Composer				

[VIEW ALL HONOREES](#)



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Theodore Roethke	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
William Wyler	Three Oscars for Best Director
Robert Stack	Actor, TV Series <i>The Untouchables</i>
King Vidor	Oscar for Lifetime Achievement
David Merrick	Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement
Lee J. Cobb	Film and Stage Actor
Allan Nevins, Ph.D.	Two Pulitzer Prizes for History
Allen Drury	Pulitzer Prize for <i>Advise and Consent</i>
Philippe Halsman	101 Covers for <i>Life</i> Magazine

William H. Goetzmann, Ph.D.

Pulitzer Prize for History

Hanson W. Baldwin

Pulitzer Prize for WW II Reporting

David L. Wolper

Television Producer

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Shirley Temple Black

Film Actress and Diplomat

George Cukor

Oscar for *My Fair Lady*

John Wayne

Legendary Film Actor

James A. Michener

Storytelling Phenomenon

Irving Stone

Master of the Biographical Novel

Louis I. Kahn

The Philosopher Architect

Lowell Thomas

Broadcaster and Author

Frank Capra

Three Oscars for Best Director

Peter Graves

Actor, TV Series *Mission: Impossible*

Helen Hayes

First Lady of the American Theater

Rosalind Russell

Actress and Humanitarian

Lorne Greene

Actor, TV Series *Bonanza*

Cloris Leachman

Television Hall of Fame

Jimmy Stewart

Oscar for Lifetime Achievement

Ray Charles

Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement

Art Linkletter

Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement

George Pal

Oscar for Lifetime Achievement

Will and Ariel Durant

Pulitzer Prize for History

Stevie Wonder

Singer, Songwriter and Activist

Edward Asner

Television Hall of Fame

John Chancellor

Broadcast Journalism

Alex Haley

Pulitzer Prize for *Roots*

Erma Bombeck

Humorist and Bestselling Author

Dame Olivia de Havilland

Two Oscars for Best Actress

Colleen McCullough

Author, *The Thorn Birds*

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

Pulitzer Prize for *A Thousand Days*

Henry Fonda

Oscar for Lifetime Achievement

Louis L'Amour

Congressional Gold Medal

1980s

Clint Eastwood	Motion Picture Actor and Director
Norman Lear	Television Producer
Edmund Morris	Pulitzer Prize for <i>The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt</i>
Charles M. Schulz	Cartoonist, Creator of "Peanuts"
Cicely Tyson	Award-winning Actress
Lawrence Welk	Television Impresario
Henry Winkler	Actor, TV Series <i>Happy Days</i>
Larry Hagman	Actor, TV Series <i>Dallas</i>
John Forsythe	Actor, TV Series <i>Dynasty</i>
Quincy Jones	Music Impresario
John Travolta	Trendsetting Motion Picture Actor
David McCullough	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Biography
Mortimer J. Adler, Ph.D.	Philosopher and Author
Lionel Richie	Singer and Musician
Elizabeth Taylor	Two Oscars for Best Actress
Clare Boothe Luce	Author and Diplomat
Loretta Lynn	Legend of Country Music
Marsha Norman	Pulitzer Prize for Drama
Joseph Papp	Theatrical Producer and Director
Leontyne Price	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Robert Rauschenberg	Prolific American Painter
Steven Spielberg	Film Director and Producer
Herman Wouk	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
John L. Ashbery	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
Suzanne Farrell	Ballerina Extraordinaire
Jim Henson	The Muppet Master
Lloyd Richards	Tony Award-winning Director
Diane Sawyer	Broadcast Journalism
Roy Acuff	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Bernard Bailyn, Ph.D.	Two Pulitzer Prizes for History
Johnny Cash	Country Music Hall of Fame
Tom Clancy	Master of Military Thrillers

E. L. Doctorow	American Book Award
Michael Douglas	Oscar for Best Actor
Ahmet M. Ertegun	Music Industry
Wynton Marsalis	Pulitzer Prize for Music
August Wilson	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama
Tom Brokaw	Television Journalist and Author
Henry Mancini	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Mike Nichols	Motion Picture and Stage Director
Tom Selleck	Actor, TV Series <i>Magnum P.I.</i>
Beverly Sills	Legendary Opera Soprano
Dinah Shore	Television Hall of Fame

1990s

Maya Angelou	Poet and Historian
Peter Martins	New York City Ballet
Neil Sheehan	Pulitzer Prize for <i>A Bright Shining Lie</i>
Audrey Hepburn	Actress and Humanitarian
Ken Burns	Documentary Classics
Chuck Jones	Animation Pioneer
Dizzy Gillespie	Jazz Musician, Composer and Bandleader
Robert A. M. Stern	Architecture
Philip C. Johnson	Dean of American Architects
Peter Matthiessen	Naturalist and Novelist
James Merrill	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
Martin Scorsese	Film Director, Screenwriter and Producer
Wallace Stegner	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
Barbara Walters	Broadcast Journalism
Michael Crichton, M.D.	Bestselling Author
Judith Jamison	Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Jessye Norman	Legendary Opera Soprano
Dolly Parton	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Oliver Stone	Motion Picture Production
Barbra Streisand	53 Gold Albums and Two Oscars for Best Actress

Russell Baker	Recipient of Two Pulitzer Prizes
Naomi Judd	Humanitarian and Entertainer
Betty Comden	Musical Comedy Author
Pat Conroy	Bestselling Novelist
John Grisham	Bestselling Author
Charles Kuralt	Television Hall of Fame
Thomas McGuane	Novelist and Journalist
N. Scott Momaday, Ph.D.	Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
Agnes Nixon	Television Hall of Fame
Twyla Tharp	Dancer and Choreographer
Judy Blume	Bestselling Children's Author
Art Buchwald	Pulitzer Prize-winning Humorist
Dale Chihuly	Master Glass Artist
Francis Ford Coppola	Filmmaker, Producer and Screenwriter
Robert De Niro	Actor, Director and Producer
Rita Dove	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
Harrison Ford	Motion Picture Actor
David Halberstam	Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting
John Napier	Theatre Design
Lesley Stahl	Broadcast Journalism
Tommy Tune	Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ph.D.	Education and Literature
Frank O. Gehry	Gold Medal for Architecture
James M. McPherson, Ph.D.	Pulitzer Prize for <i>Battle Cry of Freedom</i>
Trevor Nunn	Theatrical Director
Mike Wallace	CBS News Correspondent
Richard Wilbur	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry
Robin Williams	Comedian, Actor and Activist
Lanford Wilson	Pulitzer Prize for Drama
Bob Woodward	<i>The Washington Post</i>
John Hope Franklin, Ph.D.	Educator and Historian
Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D.	Pulitzer Prize for History
John Guare	Award-winning Playwright

James Earl Jones	Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement
Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall	Motion Picture Production
Richard Meier	Gold Medal for Architecture
Amy Tan	Bestselling Novelist
Joyce Carol Oates	National Book Award
David Herbert Donald, Ph.D.	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Biography
Gloria Estefan	Presidential Medal of Freedom
Stephen E. Ambrose, Ph.D.	Biographer and Historian
Vince Gill	Country Music Hall of Fame
Ron Howard	Oscar for Best Director
James Cameron	Film Futurist
Morgan Freeman	Master Screen Craftsman
Alice Waters	Culinary Revolution
A. Scott Berg	Pulitzer Prize for Biography
Shelby Foote	Novelist and Historian
Aretha Franklin	The Queen of Soul
Frank McCourt	Pulitzer Prize for Biography

2000s

Christiane Amanpour	Broadcast Journalism
Clive Davis	Music Industry
Jeremy Irons	Stage and Screen Actor
Ricardo Legorreta	Gold Medal for Architecture
Maya Lin	Artist and Architect
Edna O'Brien	Novelist and Memoirist
Salman Rushdie	Novelist and Essayist
John Williams	Award-winning Composer
Ernest J. Gaines	Author, <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>
Dan Rather	Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Chuck Berry	Father of Rock and Roll
Bono	Musician and Activist
Xingjian Gao	Nobel Prize in Literature
Plácido Domingo	Internationally Acclaimed Tenor

Bob Dylan	Icon of American Culture
Thomas L. Friedman	Three Pulitzer Prizes for Journalism
Dame Julie Andrews	Stage and Screen Actress
James Brown	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
José Carreras	Internationally Acclaimed Tenor
B.B. King	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Santiago Calatrava	Gold Medal for Architecture
Emmylou Harris	Musician and Humanitarian
Norman Mailer	National Book Award for Lifetime Achievement
John Updike	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Fiction
Edward Albee	Three Pulitzer Prizes for Drama
Sally Field	Two Oscars for Best Actress
John Irving	National Book Award
Toni Morrison	Nobel Prize in Literature
Itzhak Perlman	Virtuoso of the Violin
Tim Russert	Moderator of <i>Meet the Press</i>
Stephen Sondheim	Composer and Lyricist
Denzel Washington	Oscar for Best Actor
Tom Wolfe	America's Master Novelist
Joan Didion	Novelist and Essayist
Carlos Fuentes	Mexico's Greatest Novelist
Sir Peter Jackson	Oscar for Best Director
Samuel L. Jackson	Actor and Activist
Sonny Rollins	Saxophone Colossus
Julie Taymor	Theater, Opera and Film Director
Gore Vidal	Novelist and Social Critic
Nora Ephron	Author and Filmmaker
Suzan-Lori Parks	Pulitzer Prize for Drama
Harold Prince	Broadway Producer and Director
Rick Atkinson	Pulitzer Prize for History
Joshua Bell	Grammy Award-winning Violinist
David Doubilet	Pioneer of Underwater Photography
Janusz Kaminski	Two Oscars for Cinematography

Nicholas D. Kristof	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Journalism
W. S. Merwin	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry
Michael Ondaatje	Author, <i>The English Patient</i>
Brian Wilson	Music Producer and Performer
Tony Bennett	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Nadine Gordimer	Nobel Prize in Literature
Wole Soyinka	Nobel Prize in Literature

2010s

Louise Glück	Former Poet Laureate of the United States
Natasha Trethewey	Poet Laureate of the United States
Audra McDonald	Six Tony Awards
Carol Burnett	Television Hall of Fame
Athol Fugard	Playwright, Actor and Director
Carole King	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Jeff Koons	Contemporary Art Phenomenon
Sidney Poitier	Oscar for Lifetime Achievement
Diana Ross	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Wayne Shorter	Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement
Thomas Keller	Culinary Impresario
Lynsey Addario	Pulitzer Prize-winning Photojournalist
Svetlana Alexievich	Nobel Prize In Literature
John Banville	Acclaimed Irish Novelist
Dame Antonia Susan Byatt	English Novelist and Essayist
Sir Michael Caine	British Film Icon
Lord Norman Foster	Gold Medal for Architecture
Peter Gabriel	Singer, Songwriter and Humanitarian
Sir Kazuo Ishiguro	Nobel Prize in Literature
Sebastian Junger	Journalist and Filmmaker
Jimmy Page	Guitarist and Founder of Led Zeppelin
Bartlett Sher	Tony Award-winning Theater Director
Sting	Songwriters Hall of Fame
Ron Chernow	Pulitzer Prize for Biography

6/9/2020	Golden Plate Awardees Academy of Achievement				
Judy Collins	Singer, Songwriter and Activist				
Roger Daltrey	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame				
Denyce Graves	Mezzo-Soprano and Cultural Ambassador				
Buddy Guy	Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award				
Thomas Heatherwick	Designer of the Extraordinary				
<div><div>— THE ARTS —</div><div>PUBLIC SERVICE</div><div>SCIENCE & EXPLORATION</div><div>BUSINESS</div><div>SPORTS</div></div>					
Ian McEwan	English Novelist and Screenwriter				
Sir Van Morrison	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame				
James Nachtwey	Photojournalist and War Photographer				
Lynn Nottage	Two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama				
Orhan Pamuk	Nobel Prize in Literature				
Justin Peck	Tony Award for Choreography				
Armando Christian Pérez	Musician, Activist and Entrepreneur				
Smokey Robinson	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame				
T.J. Stiles	Pulitzer Prizes for History and Biography				
Pete Townshend	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame				
Steven Tyler	Songwriters Hall of Fame				
Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber	Musical Theatre Composer				

[VIEW ALL HONOREES](#)



 SUMMIT OVERVIEW

The Summit

2009 Summit, South Africa

Summit Overview

The American Academy of Achievement, founded in 1961, held its inaugural International Achievement Summit program at Budapest, Hungary in June 1999.

Prior to the occasion of the first International Achievement Summit in Budapest, the American Academy of Achievement had, since 1961, provided life-changing experiences to thousands of American high school students at the annual Salute to Excellence program.



1999: The American Academy of Achievement's Inaugural International Achievement Summit held in Budapest, Hungary. Left: Academy of Achievement delegates and members gather on the steps of the Hungarian Parliament Building following their participation in the XVI NATO Workshop. Right: His Excellency Árpád Göncz, first President of post-Communist Hungary, addressing the Academy delegates and members at the Hungarian Palace of Justice.

The International Achievement Summit enabled the Academy to expand its reach outside the United States for the first time by generating a dialogue between eminent international achievers and the most promising young leaders of tomorrow. The Academy's global Summit adhered to the legacy of its domestic Salute to Excellence

program by bringing together men and women of exceptional accomplishment to share their experiences with remarkable young people from around the world, with an adjusted focus toward graduate-level scholars.



Justice Anthony M. Kennedy addresses the Academy delegates at the 2014 Achievement Summit in San Francisco.

For the inaugural Summit in Budapest, more than 100 outstanding international graduate students were selected by the Academy from nominations submitted by administrators of such international exchange programs as the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, Truman Scholarship Foundation and Fulbright Scholarship program.



Awards Council member, theoretical physicist and futurist Dr. Freeman Dyson presenting the American Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to Dr. Francis H.C. Crick, recipient of the Nobel Prize as the co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, during the 1987 Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies in

Scottsdale, Arizona; Physicist and astronaut Dr. Sally K. Ride, the first American woman in space, addresses delegates and members at a symposium during the 2004 International Achievement Summit in Chicago, Illinois; Awards Council member and Nobel Prize laureate Dr. Charles H. Townes presenting the American Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to British biochemist Dr. Frederick Sanger, recipient of two Nobel Prizes in Chemistry, at the 2000 Summit in Hampton Court.

Delegate nominations were also provided by the faculty of more than 25 institutions, including the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton, Institute of Political Studies in Paris, School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins, Stanford Business School, Harvard Law School, United States Military Academy, Naval Academy and Air Force Academy.



Chicago 2004: Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page, former Academy delegates at 2000 International Achievement Summit, returned as Golden Plate Awardees and symposium presenters at the 43rd annual Summit.

During the four-day International Achievement Summit, the Academy delegation of young scholars joined hundreds of distinguished guests — including heads of state, leaders of industry, foreign ministers, ministers of defense, military commanders and diplomats — in an extraordinary series of symposia and roundtable discussions. The Academy members and graduate students participated in a number of memorable and inspiring events during the Summit, highlighted by presentations in the Palace of Justice from His Excellency Árpád Göncz, President of the Republic of Hungary, and Dr. Bronislaw Geremek, Foreign Minister of Poland, on their imprisonment by communist governments and their commitment to democracy.



2003: Awards Council member and pioneer of rock and roll music Chuck Berry presents the American Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award to the legendary singer-songwriter and musician Bob Dylan at the Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies during the 42nd annual International Achievement Summit held in Washington, D.C.

The 1999 International Achievement Summit also included a dialogue on the expansion of NATO with His Excellency Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, in the historic Parliament building; a summary of the Kosovo crisis by General Wesley K. Clark, USA, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe; and a conversation on the pursuit of NATO membership with Her Excellency Nadezhda Mihailova, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, and His Excellency Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania.



Golden Plate Awards Council member President Bill Clinton with the acclaimed singer and musician, Ray Charles, a 1975 American Academy of Achievement guest of honor, at the 2003 Banquet of the Golden Plate in Washington.

The second International Achievement Summit took place at Claridge's in London, England, in October 2000. The American Academy of Achievement invited 30 men and women of exceptional accomplishment to share their wisdom and experience with 200 outstanding graduate students in the disciplines of law, medicine, the sciences, economics and international affairs. The assembled students represented over 40 different countries and more than 25 institutions of higher learning. Featured speakers included Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister of the

Republic of Ireland; Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga; NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson; Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan; Lech Walesa, the former President of Poland; and Mikhail Gorbachev, former Premier of the Soviet Union.



Actor and comedian Robin Williams performing a spontaneous “Academy rap” with the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow at the 2006 Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies during the 45th annual International Achievement Summit held in Los Angeles. Awards Council member and filmmaker Steven Spielberg presenting the Academy of Achievement’s Golden Plate Award to Sheryl Crow after her performance at the Banquet ceremonies.

In June 2002, the 41st annual Salute to Excellence program and the third International Achievement Summit took place simultaneously in historic Dublin, capital of the Republic of Ireland. The Academy of Achievement invited 50 men and women of exceptional accomplishment (30 past honorees and 20 new awardees) to share their wisdom and experience with 200 outstanding graduate students from 40 countries in the disciplines of law, medicine, genetics, the sciences, engineering, economics, finance, journalism, international relations and diplomacy.



South Africa's Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu receives the American Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award from Council member Coretta Scott King during the 2003 International Achievement Summit in Washington, D.C.

The student delegates for the 2002 Summit were selected by prestigious international exchange programs, including the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, the White House Fellows program, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Truman Scholar Foundation, and the Marshall and Fulbright Scholarship programs.



1991: Academy guest of honor and screen legend Audrey Hepburn with famed fashion designer and Golden Plate Awards Council member Ralph Lauren at the American Academy of Achievement's dinner held in New York City.

Additional student delegates were designated by the faculty of leading institutions around the world, including Harvard Law School, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, the Sanger Centre at Cambridge, MIT School of Engineering, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, Sofia University School of International Relations in Bulgaria, University College Dublin, the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, Moscow Institute of International Relations, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, and the United States Military Academy, Naval Academy and Air Force Academy.



Three Titans of Tech: (Left) Steven P. Jobs, the 26-year-old co-founder and the board chairman of Apple Computer Company, with General David C. Jones, USAF, Golden Plate Awards Council co-chairman and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the American Academy of Achievement's 1982 Banquet of the Golden Plate in New Orleans, Louisiana; (Center) Microsoft's Co-Founder and Chairman, Bill Gates, receives the Golden Plate Award from Awards Council member, Dr. Arno A. Penzias, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics, during the 1992 American Academy of Achievement Summit in Las Vegas; (Right) Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon.com, addressing the Academy student delegates and members during the 2001 Academy of Achievement Summit program in San Antonio, Texas.

Subsequent International Achievement Summits have occurred in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, as well as Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, Cape Town, South Africa, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and London, England.



2012: Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin is joined onstage by Awards Council member General Colin Powell during her memorable musical performance to close the evening of the 50th annual Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies.

In 2012, the 50th anniversary gathering of the Academy of Achievement in Washington, D.C. brought the most promising young social media innovators and technology entrepreneurs from 30 nations to the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court and other historic venues for symposium discussions with the leaders of American government, business and science. Many of the delegates were selected based on recommendations by the U.S. State Department, which partnered with the Academy to identify exceptional young people from around the world who have employed social media platforms and emerging technologies to effect significant change within their respective homelands.





Academy student delegate Taylor Swift performs her hit songs at the 2008 Banquet of the Golden Plate in Hawaii.

The 2014 International Achievement Summit in San Francisco saw the convergence of 100 preeminent leaders of our times with 100 youth delegates; Rhodes Scholars, Marshall Scholars, Soros Fellows, medical students and young physicians of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Harvard-MIT Medical Scientist Training Program, as well as scholars from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel.



Hal Prince receives the Golden Plate Award from Awards Council member and Nobel laureate Toni Morrison during the American Academy of Achievement's 2007 Banquet of the Golden Plate gala ceremonies in Washington, D.C.; Composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim receives the Academy's Gold Medal from Awards Council member James Earl Jones at the 2005 International Achievement Summit during a Broadway symposium in New York City; Awards Council member and Astronomer Royal Lord Martin Rees presents the Golden Plate Award to Nobel Prize-winning British novelist, screenwriter, and short-story writer Kazuo Ishiguro at the 2017 Achievement Summit in London.

Ideas flowed freely through symposium sessions and informal gatherings, as participants shared their views of the latest developments in medicine, technology, commerce and public affairs. The Academy's 2017 International Achievement Summit was held in London and Oxfordshire, England, and the 2019 International Achievement Summit was held in New York City.



2017: Jeremy Irons, Justice Neil M. Gorsuch and his wife, Louise, join Academy members and 70 Marshall Scholars at a dinner hosted by the Duke of Marlborough in The Long Library at Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

The International Achievement Summit provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the most gifted young leaders of the rising generation to interact with, to learn from — and even to inspire — the world's most accomplished and influential leaders from across the spectrum of human endeavor.



2019: Academy Chairman and CEO Wayne R. Reynolds, Summit Host Chairman Catherine B. Reynolds, the Summit Co-Host John Overdeck, and delegates at Four Seasons, New York during the International Achievement Summit.

See printable version (PDF) of [Summit Overview](#).

