



2022 Award Winners

Ann Berner Sexton (58BA)

As a University of Iowa senior, Ann Berner Sexton went to a luncheon where former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt urged students to take the knowledge learned to make their communities better places. Sexton was greatly influenced by this message and tried to live her life according to Roosevelt's advice.

Following graduation with an English education degree, Sexton put her degree to use—teaching at several high schools before going back to school for a master's degree in library sciences. What followed was a lengthy career as a librarian in Stamford, Connecticut, where she has been firmly involved in the community for more than four decades.

She's been involved with Friends of the Ferguson Library since 1983, including as president, board member, and chair of various community events. For the past decade, she has chaired the Books for Babies Committee, which sends a book and information on children's library programs to every child born in Stamford—giving away about 2,000 books a year. Sexton started a used book shop, with all proceeds going to the library. Throughout her career, she has also been published numerous times in Cobblestone History Magazine, a publication geared toward children and young adults.

Most recently, Sexton was honored for her lasting impact as a librarian with the Ferguson Award, having the board room of her library renamed the Ann M. Sexton Board Room, and this year, being named librarian of the year for 39 years of service.

Willard L. (Sandy) Boyd (81LHD)

Serving as University of Iowa president from 1969 to 1981 and again from 2002 to 2003, Willard L. (Sandy) Boyd has been instrumental in the university's growth and has worked tirelessly on behalf of all organizations and institutions he's led.

Boyd was president at Iowa during a very tumultuous time in the university's history, yet he was able to successfully navigate a changing world while listening to all voices on campus. Boyd, whose focus

as president was on expanding both the campus footprint and student body, was an advocate for student rights and emphasized Iowa's strength in medicine and creative writing.

Following his first presidency at Iowa, Boyd was president of Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History from 1981 to 1996—working to reconfigure the museum, as well as its exhibitions, to make it more accessible to patrons. In 1996, Boyd returned to Iowa City as the Rawlings-Miller Professor of Law within the UI College of Law. As a professor, he created what is known as the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center, which supports nonprofits that provide vital services to their communities throughout the state.

Boyd holds honorary degrees from several educational institutions, led the American Association of Universities, and has been a long-time trustee of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum in Independence, Missouri. In addition, he continues to serve as a fount of knowledge and wisdom through his mentorship of many university presidents and is currently working with and advising Barbara J. Wilson, Iowa's newest president.

Lynn Curry (65DDS)

Lynn Curry has been a leader in the Hawkeye State for his efforts to promote dental care to Iowans and for helping the next generation of dentists achieve their professional goals.

Following graduation from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Curry joined the Indian Health Service for five years before transitioning to private practice. What followed was a 50-year career serving the dental needs of patients in and around Carroll, Iowa. Throughout his distinguished career, Curry has continued to give back to his alma mater, the dental profession, and his local community.

As a member of the UI Dental Alumni Board for the past 30 years, he's led efforts to recruit and retain prospective dental students. While he served as an adjunct professor for six years at Iowa, he continues to volunteer his time with the UI Stanley Museum of Art Board of Trustees and the UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics Building Transformation campaign.

Curry has been—and continues to be—a board member and leader of various organizations in Iowa, including the Iowa Dental Board, the Iowa Dental Association, Iowa Dental Foundation, and Delta Dental of Iowa. He's also been an active volunteer with the Carroll Community School District Board, Carroll Chamber of Commerce, and the Carroll Library Board of Trustees.

Since his time at Iowa, Curry's daughter has followed in his footsteps and received her dental degree at Iowa, and two grandchildren are currently enrolled in the program.

H. Dee Hoover (67MA, 69PhD)

Whether it is working with graduate research assistants, guiding and supporting staff, or mentoring the next generation of faculty members, H. Dee Hoover has dedicated much of his life to giving back to others.

Hoover served as a measurement and statistics professor within the University of Iowa College of Education from 1969 to 2004 and was director of the Iowa Testing Program for Grade K-8 in the UI College of Education. Following his retirement, Hoover served on the Emeritus Faculty Council—which focuses on representing the interests of retirees. When the 2008 flood displaced what is now known as the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, Hoover served on an envisioning committee to help bring a permanent art museum back to campus.

He is currently an executive committee member and chair of the research committee for the Iowa Measurement Research Foundation, which is responsible for reviewing proposals and awarding research grants to faculty members throughout the UI College of Education. For more than a decade, Hoover has been a member of the committee that operates the UI Senior College and just completed a four-year stint as chair. He's taught select courses for the UI Senior College, including ones relating to antiquarian maps and educational testing.

In 2019, Hoover received the University Service Award from the UI Retirees Association.

Takako Lento (67MFA)

Takako Lento has made a lifelong commitment to making Japanese poetry available to the English-speaking world and American poetry to Japanese citizens.

Following her completion of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and taking part in what was then a pilot of the International Writing Program, Lento taught Japanese literature at the University of Iowa from 1969 to 1971, where she translated contemporary Japanese poetry for her students. She worked as an intercultural consultant and interpreter for the next three decades, and following her retirement in 2013, devoted herself to literary translation—where she has received much acclaim.

Over the past decade, Lento has been recognized for her work publishing numerous volumes of translated Japanese poetry—twice winning the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. In collaboration with W.S. Merwin, Lento won the field's top honor for the first time after translating the works of Yosa Buson and claimed an additional prize for her essential collection, "Pioneers of Modern Poetry," which was a translation of Kaneko Mitsuharu's poetry.

Throughout her translation efforts, Lento has highlighted the importance of Iowa on a global scale to international students. She's volunteered with the Princeton Festival and has helped recruit poets from around the world to the monthlong performing arts festival.

Currently, Lento is leading a team of five editors to create an anthology of modern Japanese poetry to help promote the study and enjoyment of contemporary Japanese literature.

Robert Osterhaus (52BSP, 12DSc)

Throughout his career as a pharmacist and community activist, Robert (Bob) Osterhaus has exemplified a strong belief in promoting values close to his heart—especially the opportunities that come with revitalizing rural communities.

Following his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, Osterhaus moved to Maquoketa, Iowa, and purchased what is now known as Osterhaus Pharmacy—a staple in the community for 57 years. He also served four terms in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1996 to 2004, but his leadership was not limited to politics.

Osterhaus has held leadership positions throughout the field of pharmacy, including as president of the board of the Iowa Pharmacist Association, American Pharmacists Association, and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education; chair of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy Examiners; and Community Pharmacy Section executive committee member with the International Pharmaceutical Federation. He's been recognized for his work in the field, including the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Practice of Pharmacy from the International Pharmaceutical Federation and the American Pharmaceutical Association's Remington Lecture Award—which is the profession's highest honor.

Currently, Osterhaus plays an active role in Osterhaus Pharmacy and continues to mentor students and young adults as they go through their pharmaceutical journey. He also volunteers his time with the Maquoketa Chamber of Commerce, which has revitalized and refurbished more than 20 buildings in the community's central business district.

Mary Louise Petersen (51BA, 13LHD)

Mary Louise Petersen has a strong passion for education and community involvement, and she's dedicated her life to these causes.

Following graduation with an economics degree from the University of Iowa, Petersen put her education to work as she partnered with her husband, Rand, in running the family business—Shelby County State Bank. Over the past seven decades, she's been an ardent supporter and promoter of Iowa, as well as education in general throughout the Hawkeye State.

Petersen served on the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, and has been an advocate in helping Iowa become a top-ranked, major research institution. She continues to provide support and advocacy for student aid—which has impacted countless students in their ability to achieve an education—and has been a key volunteer at Iowa, including as co-chair of the original Old Capitol restoration, a member of the leadership committee for the Hawkeye/Arena Recreation campaign, and co-chaired the Good. Better. Best. Iowa. campaign.

Currently, Petersen and her husband, Rand, actively support various programs at Iowa. In addition, she serves as lifetime honorary director for the UI Center for Advancement Board of Directors and was a speaker for the 2021 Women in Philanthropy program. Petersen also offers her time to leaders and students at Iowa, mentoring numerous university presidents, and advising Iowa students interested and eager to succeed in their collegiate education.

Shirley Sparks-Greif (55BA)

Shirley Sparks-Greif has dedicated much of her time and effort to studying and unearthing breakthroughs in the field of early childhood development.

Following her speech pathology and audiology degree from the University of Iowa, Sparks-Greif worked as a speech pathologist in New Orleans; Omaha, Nebraska; and Battle Creek, Michigan. She served, for 15 years, as an associate professor within Western Michigan University's Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and was an adjunct professor in early childhood special education at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. She also co-authored "The Art and Practice of Home Visiting"—with a second edition released this year.

Most recently, Sparks-Greif has been involved with various community and civic organizations. She's an active volunteer in promoting services for children and families affected by prenatal alcohol, as shown in fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). Sparks-Greif also runs two support groups for parents of children with FASD.

Sparks-Greif is a member of the FASD Collaborative of Northern California, which works to prevent FASD and has had FASD named a disability in public schools to ensure that those children receive the services they need. In addition, she is involved with Parents Helping Parents, a local nonprofit that supports families of children and youth with special needs, and is an advisor for Celebrating Families!, a program that helps families that have at least one parent in alcohol recovery.