Gies College of Business Awards

Distinguished Alumnus Award
Established in 1984, this award recognizes graduates of Gies College of Business for outstanding career achievement. The title and company listed with each honoree were accurate at the time the award was presented.

1984 Kenneth W. Perry '53
Professor of Accountancy, Illinois

1985 Jerome S. Gore '41
Chairman Emeritus, Hartmarx Corporation

1986 Arthur R. Wyatt '49, '50, '53
Principal, Arthur Andersen

1987 Gerald E. Schultz '63
President & COO, Bell & Howell

1988 Judd D. Malkin '59
Chairman, JMB Realty Corporation

1988 Neil G. Bluhm '59
President, JMB Realty Corporation

1989 Charles A. Bowsher '53
U.S. Comptroller General

1990 Richard H. Frank '65
President, The Walt Disney Studios

1991 Samuel K. Skinner '60
Secretary, Department of Transportation

1993 Richard L. Wellek '60
President & CEO, Varlen Corporation

1994 William G. Karnes '33
Chairman of the Board, Beatrice, Retired

1995 Sybil C. Mobley '64
Dean of School of Business, Florida A&M

1996 Lester H. McKeever, Jr. '55
Managing Partner, Washington, Pittman and McKeever

1997 John Brogan '36
Chairman, Ryan Insurance Group, Retired

1998 Stanley C. Golder '51
General Partner
Golder, Thoma, Cressey, Rauner, Inc., Retired

1999 Leonard C. Hoef't '47
Chairman of the Board, Wm. H. Ziegler Co., Inc., Retired

2000 Thomas A. Murphy '38
Chairman of the Board & CEO
General Motors Corporation, Retired

2001 Michael Krasny '75
Founder & Chairman, CDW Computer Centers

2002 Conrad Hewitt '58
Superintendent of Banks, State of California, Former

2003 Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught '52
USAF, Retired

2004 Avy H. Stein '77
Co-Chairman & Co-CEO, Willis & Stein Partners

2005 Albert Wohlers '39
Founder, Albert H. Wohlers & Co., Retired

2006 Michael Tokarz '73
Chairman, MVC Capital

2007 John D. Zeglis '69
Chairman & CEO, AT&T Wireless Service, Retired

2008 Douglas C. Mills '62
Chairman of the Board, First Busey Corporation

2009 Melvin L. Katten '58
Founding Partner & Senior Counsel
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

2010 Jill Smart '81
Chief Human Resources Officer, Accenture

2011 Thomas D. Vogelsinger '73, '74
Partner, Ernst & Young, Retired

2012 Howard S. Engle '72
Partner, Deloitte

2013 Larry Field '61
CEO, Field Holdings, Inc.

2014 Stephen Van Arsdell '72, '73
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte, Retired

2015 John Ruth '59
President and Founder, Century Group 100

2016 Chris Perry '77
Partner, CIVC Partners

2017 Karen Golz '76
Global Vice Chair, Ernst & Young Global Limited

2018 Stephanie Cohen '79
Chief Strategy Officer, Goldman Sachs

2019 Kelly Loeffler '92
Chief Executive Officer, Bakkt
2020 Alan D. Feldman ’74, ’76
Chairman, President & CEO, Midas, Inc., Retired

2021 James R. Elsesser ’66, ’67
CEO, Interstate Bakeries, and CFO, Ralston Purina, Retired

2022 Virginia Wilson ’76
Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, TIAA, Retired

2023 Steven M. Taslitz ’81
Chairman and Co-Founder, Sterling Partners

Appreciation Award
Established in 1979, this award is presented to friends of the College and its alumni association, recognizing outstanding service to the organization. Recipients need not be graduates of the College to earn this recognition but are always Illini at heart.

1979 Lawrence W. Nortrup ’49
1979 William F. Murray ’34
1980 G. Preston Kendall ’31
1981 Russell V. Puzey ’33
1982 Lawrence W. Nortrup ’49
1983 Donald C. Miller ’42, ’43, ’48 PhD
1984 Lawrence W. Gougler ’41
1985 Vernon K. Zimmerman ’49, ’50, ’54 PhD
1986 T. Emmerson Cammack
1987 Henry D. Strunk ’58
1988 Thomas D. Leddy ’63
1989 J. William Paquette
1990 William D. Engelbrecht ’66, ’72
1991 John D. Hogan
1992 David G. Siebert ’89 MBA
1993 John H. Judd ’71, ’84 MBA
1994 David J. Downey ’63, ’66 JD
1995 Albert H. Wohlers ’39
1996 Arthur R. Wyatt ’49, ’50, ’53 PhD
1997 Wilma J. Smelcer ’73 MBA
1998 Willard Bunn III
1999 Larry L. Austermiller ’63, ’65 MS
2000 Howard Thomas

2001 Frederick L. Neumann
2002 James Elsesser, Jr. ’66, ’67 MS
2003 Howard S. Engle ’72
2004 Jeffrey H. Margolis ’84
2005 Mary Kay Haben ’79
2006 Norma J. Lauder ’71
2007 James C. Cook ’71
2008 Avijit Ghosh
2009 Neel T. Kashkari ’95, ’98 MS
2010 Jerry Colangelo ’62
2011 Jon Corzine ’69
2012 Timothy J. Reiersen ’81
2013 Charles Finn ’55
2014 Stephen V. King ’84
2015 Larry DeBrock
2016 Tony DiTommaso ’74, ’76 MS
2017 Steve Miller ’87
2018 Steven Shebik ’78
2019 Susan Lambert Fish ’79, ’80 MAS
2020 Edie Stotler ’68 LAS
2021 Cary D. McMilan ’80
2022 Cedric D. Thurman ’87
2023 Anthony J. Petullo ’61