Past Distinguished Alumni f/k/a *Par Excellence*) Award Winners
presented by the Young Alumni Board
1982 – 2016

2016  Matthew T. Sanderson, Attorney, Caplin & Drysdale

2015  Steven Sharp Nelson, Cellist, The Piano Guys

2014  Ryan J. Watts, Neuroscientist, Genentech

2013  Stevonne “Steve” Smith, Wide Receiver, Carolina Panthers, NFL

2012  Kiri L. Wagstaff, Senior Researcher with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

2011  Luz Robles, Utah State Senator and VP, Hispanic/Latino Market Manager, Zions Bank

2010  Brad Wilkins, Architect, Smith+Gill

2009  Edward R. Morrison, professor of law, Columbia University

2008  Neil H. Ashdown, chief of staff to Governor Huntsman

2007  Kirk L. Jowers, director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics, University of Utah

2006  Matt Minkevitch, director of The Road Home (homeless services)

2005  Stacey Orlob Richins, director of the Children’s Ballet Theatre

2004  Luther Elliss, former Utah football star, humanitarian

2003  Mark John Ott, chair of the Department of Surgery at LDS Hospital

2002  John Kendall Garff, CEO and founder of Vehix.com

2001  Kristin Brewer, director of the Office of Guardian ad Litem

2000  David Spafford, cofounder of Megahertz and founder of the Carmen B. Pingree School for Children with Autism

1999  Robert Lynn Flores, associate professor, University of Utah College of Law

1998  John H. Stevens, M.D., founder, director, and chief technology officer for Heartport, a manufacturer of Port Access Systems used to perform minimally invasive cardiac surgery
1997  Christopher R. Johnson, director of the Center for Scientific Computing and Imaging, and holder of four faculty appointments at the University of Utah

1996  Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., vice chair, Huntsman Chemical Corporation (former governor of Utah; currently U.S. ambassador to China)

1995  No award made


1993  Lillian Tom Orme, nurse specialist: Native American, Transcultural Nursing, Salt Lake City, Utah

Anne M. Stirba, J.D., Third District judge, Salt Lake City, Utah

1992  Stephen Greg Marsden and Megan McCuniff Marsden, coaches of the University of Utah Women's Gymnastics Team

1991  Terry Tempest Williams, author (Refuge, Leap) and conservationist

1990  Steven B. Giddings, renowned physicist and professor of physics the University of California, Santa Barbara

1989  Penny Simpson Brooke, assistant dean, University of Utah College of Nursing

1988  Jeffrey Clawson, M.D., inventor of national 911 emergency response system

1987  Frederick Kempe, former editor and associate publisher of The Wall Street Journal Europe, and author of Divorcing the Dictator: America's Bungled Affair with Noriega and Siberian Odyssey: A Voyage into the Russian Soul

1986  Victoria Morgan, principal dancer and choreographer, San Francisco Ballet

1985  Cecil Samuelson, former dean, University of Utah College of Medicine, current president of Brigham Young University

1984  Stephen Jacobsen, robotics innovator and professor of Engineering at the University of Utah

Heidi H. Jacobs, professor of education at Columbia University Teachers College, and innovator in child education programs

1983  Robert Jarvik, M.D., inventor of the artificial heart

1982  E. Gordon Gee, president of Ohio State University and former chancellor of Vanderbilt University