



# BUTLER

UNIVERSITY

## BUTLER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

### BUTLER MEDAL

The Butler Medal is the highest honor conferred by the Butler University Alumni Association, recognizing individuals for a lifetime of distinguished service to either Butler or their local community while at the same time achieving a distinguished career in their chosen profession and attaining a regional or national reputation. Since 1959, it has recognized individuals who have helped immeasurably toward perpetuating the University as a great educational and cultural institution and have had, in the course of their lifetime, a profound influence on the course of Butler University.

### BUTLER SERVICE MEDAL

The Butler Service Medal, established by the Alumni Association in 2001, the second highest honor conferred by the Butler University Alumni Association, and is reserved for recognition of emeriti faculty or retired faculty and staff (alumnus or non-alumnus). The recipient will have achieved a lifetime of distinguished service to Butler University and/or the community. Recipients will have helped to shape the past and future successes of Butler University and therefore shown a profound influence.

### THE ROBERT TODD DUNCAN ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Robert Todd Duncan Alumni Achievement Award is granted to Butler University graduates or former students\* whose outstanding personal and/or professional accomplishment brings honor and distinction to the University, and individual attainment and/or contributions for the betterment of society. The Robert Todd Duncan Alumni Achievement Award recognizes those who have earned their degree more than fifteen years prior to the presentation of the award.

Robert Todd Duncan '25, made his operatic debut in Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* at New York's Mecca Temple in 1934. In 1935, George Gershwin personally selected Duncan to play the role of Porgy in the first staging of *Porgy and Bess*, a role he performed more than 1,800 times. His 1936 performance of the role resulted in the first desegregated performance at the National Theatre in Washington, DC. In 1945, he broke the color barrier, becoming the first African American to sing with a major white opera company in the role of Tonio in Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* at the New York City Opera Company. He sang at the White House for three different presidents, and taught voice at Howard University for more than fifty years. In 1983 he received the Alumni Achievement Award from Butler University.

### THE HILTON ULTIMUS BROWN ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Hilton Ultimus Brown Alumni Achievement Award is granted to recent Butler University graduates or former students\* whose outstanding personal and/or professional accomplishment brings honor and distinction to the University, and individual attainment and/or contributions for the betterment of society.

Hilton Ultimus Brown will always be known for keeping alive and shepherding to fruition the ambitious vision of a "new Butler." Though he himself lived most of his life in Irvington, and had earned his undergraduate degree from Butler there in 1880 (and his MA in 1882), he knew the future of Butler was much bigger and demanded more growth than the small and constricted campus in Irvington could ever accommodate. His career achievements and service

to the University began when he was just a recent graduate. It was during his lifetime of service- he served on the Board of Trustees for an incredible 71 years and was President of the board from 1903 to 1956- that he saw his “big dream” become a reality when he led the relocation of Butler from its old Irvington campus to the ten-times bigger Fairview Park. In his chosen career, he was an award-winning newspaper journalist and Managing Editor at the Indianapolis News for over seven decades and recipient of numerous awards, including the Butler Medal.

#### THE KATHARINE MERRILL GRAYDON ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

The Katharine Merrill Graydon Alumni Service Award is granted to Butler University graduates or former students\* who have demonstrated a significant commitment of outstanding service to the University ultimately assisting in perpetuating Butler as a great educational and cultural institution. The Katharine Merrill Graydon Service Award recognizes those who have earned their degree more than fifteen years prior to the presentation of the award.

Katharine Merrill Graydon came to Butler with a legacy. She was the granddaughter of the first Treasurer of the State of Indiana, and the niece of Catharine Merrill, a Professor of English Literature at Butler who was only the second female full professor in the US. She graduated from Butler in 1878, and was a Professor of English Literature at the University from 1907 to 1930, receiving an honorary doctorate of literature in 1928. Graydon served as the Alumni Secretary and Editor of the Alumna Quarterly from its first edition in 1922 until her retirement in 1929, when she was named Professor Emerita. During World War I, she maintained correspondence with Butler students and alumni serving on the Western Front. She compiled a volume of these letters, including an account of Butler men who had served in the Civil War and the Spanish–American War, and helped raise funds for memorials honoring Butler’s war dead of the Civil War and World War I.

#### THE JOSEPH IRWIN SWEENEY ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

The Joseph Irwin Sweeney Alumni Service Award is granted to recent Butler University graduates or former students\* who have demonstrated a significant commitment of outstanding service to the University ultimately assisting in perpetuating Butler as a great educational and cultural institution.

Joseph Irwin Sweeney served the University as Editor of The Collegian for two years, Editor-in-Chief of the College Annual, Manager of the football team, Manager and Soloist of the Glee Club, and Secretary of the Indiana Oratorical Association. As a freshman, he was selected by area students to serve as Chairman of the city’s annual celebration honoring Washington’s birthday. During the ceremony, he gave a speech that captivated the audience and inspired a column in the Indianapolis Journal. At the time of his untimely drowning death in the summer of 1900, he was only 19 years old, yet was about to enter his senior year. Joseph Sweeney accomplished an incredible amount as a student in an abbreviated college career.

# BUTLER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

(PAST FIVE YEARS)

## BUTLER MEDAL

- Max B. Schumacher (2021)
- Tom King '66 (2020)
- Craig E. Fenneman '71 (2019)
- John B. Dunn '77 (2018)
- Norman Wilkens '57 (2017)

## BUTLER SERVICE MEDAL

- Marvin L. Recht (2021)
- Dr. James Berry (2020)
- Dr. H. Marshall Dixon (2019)
- Dr. Jeanne Hawkins VanTyle '74 MS '80 (2018)
- Dr. Robert Grechesky (2017)

## THE ROBERT TODD DUNCAN ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Craig A. Anderson, Ph.D. '76 (2021)
- Wendi C. Thomas '93 (2020)
- Michele McConnell '93 (2019)
- Hoagland C. Elliott '57 (2018)
- Wayne Burris '77 (2017)

## THE HILTON ULTIMUS BROWN ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Dr. Warren G. Morgan, II '06
- Brandon M. Gaudin '06 (2020)
- LCDR Jennifer A. Cockrill '04 (2019)
- Adam B. Hill, M.D. '03 (2018)
- Michael Hole '08 (2017)

## THE KATHARINE MERRILL GRAYDON ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

- Karen Schultz Alter '85 (2021)
- Mary Shaw '93 (2020)
- James M. Bagnoli '75 (2019)
- Julie Russell Dilts '92 (2018)
- Kevin McDevitt '77 (2017)

## THE JOSEPH IRWIN SWEENEY ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

- R. Kyle Inskeep '12 (2021)
- Michael Bennett '09 (2020)
- Marc A. Williams '07 (2019)
- Kyle S. Delaney '03 (2018)
- Becky Ruby-Wojtowicz '05 (2017)

A full list of past award recipients can be found at [www.butler.edu/alumniawards](http://www.butler.edu/alumniawards)

