

HISTORIC COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

as of: June 23, 2021

Year	Commencement Speaker	Title	Honorary Degree Recipient?	Graduate Program Speaker (School)
1916	Hamilton Holt	Educator, Editor, Author, Politician	No	
1917	Payson Smith	Educator	No	
1918	S.K. Ratcliffe	English Journalist	No	
1919	(Student speaker)	—	—	
1920	(Student speaker)	—	—	
1921	(Student speaker)	—	—	
1922	William Wallace McClench	Lawyer, President of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance	Yes	
1923	Channing H. Cox	Lawyer, Governor of Massachusetts	Yes	
1924	James Harvey Robinson	Historian	Yes	
1925	John Garibaldi Sargent	Lawyer, U.S. Attorney General, A1887, G12	Yes	
1926	Alvin Tufts Fuller	Lawyer, Businessman, U.S. Congressman	Yes	
1927	Edith Nourse Rogers	First U.S. Congresswoman from Massachusetts	Yes	
1928	Eva Le Gallienne	Actress, Producer, Director	Yes	
1929	Frank Gilman Allen	Businessman, U.S. Congressman, Governor of Massachusetts	Yes	
1930	(Student speaker)	—	—	
1931	Stanley Calef Wilson	Lawyer, Governor of Vermont, A01	Yes	
1932	Vivian Towse Pomeroy	Minister, Author	Yes	
1933	A. Lawrence Lowell	Lawyer, Educator	Yes	
1934	Harold L. Ickes	U.S. Secretary of the Interior	Yes	
1935	Carter Glass	Publisher, U.S. Congressman, U.S. Senator	Yes	
1936	Robert Ernest Doherty	Educator	Yes	
1937	Van Wyck Brooks	Historian, Author	Yes	
1938	Henry Merritt Wriston	Educator	Yes	
1939	George Horace Gallup	Inventor, The Gallup Poll	Yes	
1940	Alexander Loudon	Netherlands Ambassador to the U.S.	Yes	
1941	Jay Pierrepont Moffat	Diplomat, Historian	Yes	

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1942	Walter Nash	Minister of Finance, Prime Minister, New Zealand	Yes	
1943	Claude Moore Fuess	Educator, Historian, Author	Yes	
1944	Beardsley Ruml	Economist, Philanthropist, Businessman	Yes	
1945	Edward Lester Marshall		Yes	
1946	Luis de Florez	U.S. Navy Admiral, Engineer, Inventor	Yes	
1947	Kenneth Charles Morton Sills	President of Bowdoin College	Yes	
1948	John Nichols Brown	Assistant Secretary, U.S. Navy; Businessman	Yes	
1949	Wilhelm Munthe Morgenstierne	Norwegian Diplomat	Yes	
1950	Samuel Tomlinson Arnold	Provost, Brown University	Yes	
1951	Thomas Dudley Cabot	Businessman, Philanthropist	Yes	
1952	Henry Chauncey	Educator, Pioneer of Standardized Testing	Yes	
1953	William Clyde DeVane	Author, Dean of Yale University	Yes	
1954	Samuel Miller Brownell	Educational Administrator	Yes	
1955	Margaret Chase Smith	First Woman Elected to Both Houses of Congress	Yes	
1956	John Moors Cabot	Diplomat	Yes	
1957	Henry Bradford Washburn, Jr.	Explorer, Founder of the Boston Museum of Science	Yes	
1958	Erwin Dain Canham	Editor, Christian Science Monitor	Yes	
1959	Robert Chapman Sprague	Founder, Sprague Electric Company	Yes	
1960	Hiram Leong Fong	U.S. Senator	Yes	
1961	Henri Peyre	Educator, Author	Yes	
1962	Adlai E. Stevenson	Politician, Governor of Illinois, Diplomat	Yes	
1963	Lyndon Baines Johnson	Vice President of the United States	Yes	
1964	Jerrold Reinach Zacharias	Physicist	Yes	
1965	Nicholas deBelleville Katzenbach	U.S. Attorney General	Yes	
1966	William Warren Scranton	Congressman, Governor of Pennsylvania	Yes	
1967	Howard Wesley Johnson	Educator, President of MIT	Yes	
1968	John Kenneth Galbraith	Economist	Yes	
1969	Paul A. Freund	Jurist, Law Professor	Yes	
1970	Patricia Roberts Harris Harris Llewellyn Wofford, Jr.	Politician, Lawyer, Diplomat, Civil Rights Activist Politician, Civil Rights Activist	Yes	

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1971	Burton Crosby Hallowell	President, Tufts University	—	
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1973	Barbara Jordan	Politician	1974	
1974	Theodore M. Hesburgh	Priest, Educator, President of Notre Dame University	Yes	
1975	Francis Keppel	Educator	No	
1976	Philip Hauge Abelson	Physicist	Yes	
1977	B.F. Skinner	Psychologist, Inventor, Social Philosopher	Yes	Malcolm Toon (Fletcher) Howard Spiro (Medical)
1978	Percy Qoboza	South African Journalist, Political Activist	Yes	Edmund Gullion (Fletcher) H. Richard Hornberger
1979	Francis X. Bellotti	Lawyer, Polician, A47	Yes	Paul Tsongas (Fletcher) Helen Caldicott (Medicine)
1980	Irene Worth	Actress	Yes	Silvio Conte (Fletcher) Robert Lifton (Medicine)
1981	Sarah Caldwell	Opera Conductor, Director	Yes	Thomas J. Watson Jr. (Fletcher) Edmund Pellegrino (Medical)
1982	John G. Kemeny	Mathematician, Computer Scientist	Yes	C. Douglas Dillon (Fletcher) David E. Rogers (Medicine) Jean Mayer (Nutrition)
1983	Edward M. Kennedy	Politician	Yes	Frederick Chapman Robbins (Medicine) Janet Norwood (Fletcher)
1984	John Kenneth Galbraith	Economist	1968	Lawrence Altman (Medicine) Philip Habib (Fletcher) Joaquin Cravioto (Nutrition)
1985	Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, Jr.	Congressman, Speaker of the House of Representatives	Yes	Harrison Salisbury (Fletcher) Joshua Lederberg (Medicine) Finn Burdevold (Dental) Lester Brown (Nutrition)
1986	Elie Wiesel	Political Activist, Nobel Laureate	Yes	Sadruddin Aga Khan (Fletcher) Bernard Lown (Medicine) James Dunning (Dental) Jane Goodall (Vet)

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1987	Gloria Steinem	Political Activist	Yes	Winston Lord (Fletcher) Jane Desforges (Medicine) C.S. Loh (Dental) Stanley Gershoff (Nutrition) Bruce Ames (Vet)
1988	Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.	Diplomat, Philanthropist	Yes	Paul Volcker (Fletcher) Samuel Thier (Medicine) Charles McCallum (Dental) Esther Eggertsen Peterson (Nutrition) William Pritchard (Vet)
1989	Javier Perez de Cuellar	Peruvian Diplomat, Secretary General of the United Nations	Yes	Dante Caputo (Fletcher) Frederick Torgbor Sai (Medicine) Harold Carpenter Hodge (Dental) Marian Wright Edelman (Nutrition) Jean Mayer (Vet)
1990	Robert Coles	Child Psychiatrist, Author	Yes	Thomas Pickering (Fletcher) Henry Banks (Medicine) Jean Mayer (Dental) Robert Ballard (Vet)
1991	Ted Turner	Media Entrepreneur	Yes	Cyrus Vance (Fletcher) Oliver Sacks (Medicine) William Sellers (Dental) Harry Belafonte (Nutrition) Mamphela Ramphele (Nutrition) Dick Francis (Vet)
1992	Bernard Marshall Gordon	Inventor, Philanthropist	Yes	Sadako Ogata (Fletcher) Louis Sullivan (Medicine) Geraldine Morrow (Dental) Doris Howes Calloway (Nutrition) Jill Kerr Conway (Vet)
1993	Carlos Fuentes	Mexican Writer, Novelist	Yes	
1994	Ted Koppel	T.V. News Anchor	Yes	Vaclav Klaus (Fletcher) Joseph Kronman (Dental) William Nack (Vet) T. Berry Brazelton (Medicine)

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1995	Doris Kearns Goodwin Richard N. Goodwin	Author, Historian Presidential Speech Writer	Yes	Marrack Goulding (Fletcher) John DiBiaggio (Dental) Eileen Kennedy (Nutrition) Barbara Culliton (Vet) G. Timothy Johnson (Medicine)
1996	Betty Bao Lord	Author	No	Lloyd Miller (Dental) Bill Richardson (Fletcher) William Frist (Medicine) Lester Crawford (Vet)
1997	William B. Richardson	U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations	Yes	Louis Bertonazzi (Dental) Richard Holbrooke (Fletcher) Peter Doherty (Medicine and Vet) Quentin Young (Nutrition)
1998	Garry Trudeau	Political Cartoonist	Yes	Dominich DePaola (Dental) Rosario Green (Fletcher) Jerome Kassirer (Medicine) Carol Tucker Foreman (Nutrition) Ray Powell (Vet)
1999	David Halberstam	Historian	Yes	Peter Ackerman (Fletcher) Marcia Angell (Medicine) Katherine Clancy (Nutrition) Eric Chivian (Vet)
2000	William H. Cosby, Jr.	Actor and Comedian	Yes	Jim Boyd (Dental) Robert Hormats (Fletcher) David Michael Kent (Medicine) Barbara Underwood (Nutrition) Mary Beth Leininger (Vet)
2001	James Charles Lehrer	Award-winning Journalist	Yes	David Warsh (Dental) Kofi Annan (Fletcher) Daniel Federman (Medicine) George McGovern (Nutrition) Judith Vaitukaitis (Vet)
2002	Pamela Kerr Omidyar Pierre Omidyar	Entrepreneurs and Philanthropists	No	Richard Valachovic (Dental) Madeleine Albright (Fletcher) Roderick MacKinnon (Medicine) Daniel Glickman (Nutrition) Roy Blount (Vet)

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2003	The Hon. Margaret Hilary Marshall	Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court	Yes	Mohamed ElBaradei (Fletcher) Irwin Rosenberg (Nutrition)
2004	Walter Isaacson	Author, Historian	Yes	Nevin Scrimshaw (Nutrition)
2005	Kostas Karamanlis	Prime Minister, Greece	Yes	Peter Walker (Nutrition)
2006	Lance Armstrong	Cyclist, winner of 7 Tour de France Titles		F. James Levinson (Nutrition) Alfred Tauber (Medicine)
2007	The Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg	Mayor of New York City	Yes	William Lockeretz (Nutrition)
2008	Meredith Vieira	Journalist, TV personality, game show host	Yes	Robert Russell (Nutrition) Donald Wilson (Medicine)
2009	The. Hon. Deval Patrick	Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Yes	Thomas Hughes (Nutrition)
2010	Sol Gittleman	Tufts University Professor and Former Provost	Yes	William Layden (Nutrition)
2011	Charles M. Vest	President, National Academy of Engineering, Washington, D.C	Yes	Edward M. Cooney (Nutrition)
2013	Claude M. Steele	Dean of Stanford University School of Education, former Provost at Columbia Univ., professor of psychology, awarding-winning author	Yes	Ram Shrestha (Nutrition)
2014	Anne-Marie Slaughter	President and CEO of the New American Foundation, a public policy institute, and the Bert G. Kerstetter '66 University Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University.	Yes	Jody Adams (Nutrition)
2015	Madeleine Albright	Former U.S. Secretary of State	Yes	(Nutrition)
2016	Hank Azaria	Award-winning film, television and stage actor; producer; director and comedian	Yes	Arianna Huffington (Fletcher)
2017	Kenya Barris	Award-winning television writer, creator, director, showrunner, executive producer, and feature film	Yes	Richard Engel (Fletcher) Dr. David A. Kessler (Nutrition)
2018	Ellen J. Kullman	Retired CEO and chair of the board of DuPont—now DowDuPont, Inc. and Trustee Emerita	Yes	José Andrés (Nutrition)
2019	Alfre Woodard	Actor, producer, and activist	Yes	Susan Rice (Fletcher) Jim McGovern (Nutrition) Ioannis Miaoulis (Engineering) Michael Tzannes (Engineering_grad)
2021	Bryan Stevenson	Lawyer, civil rights advocate, and author	Yes	