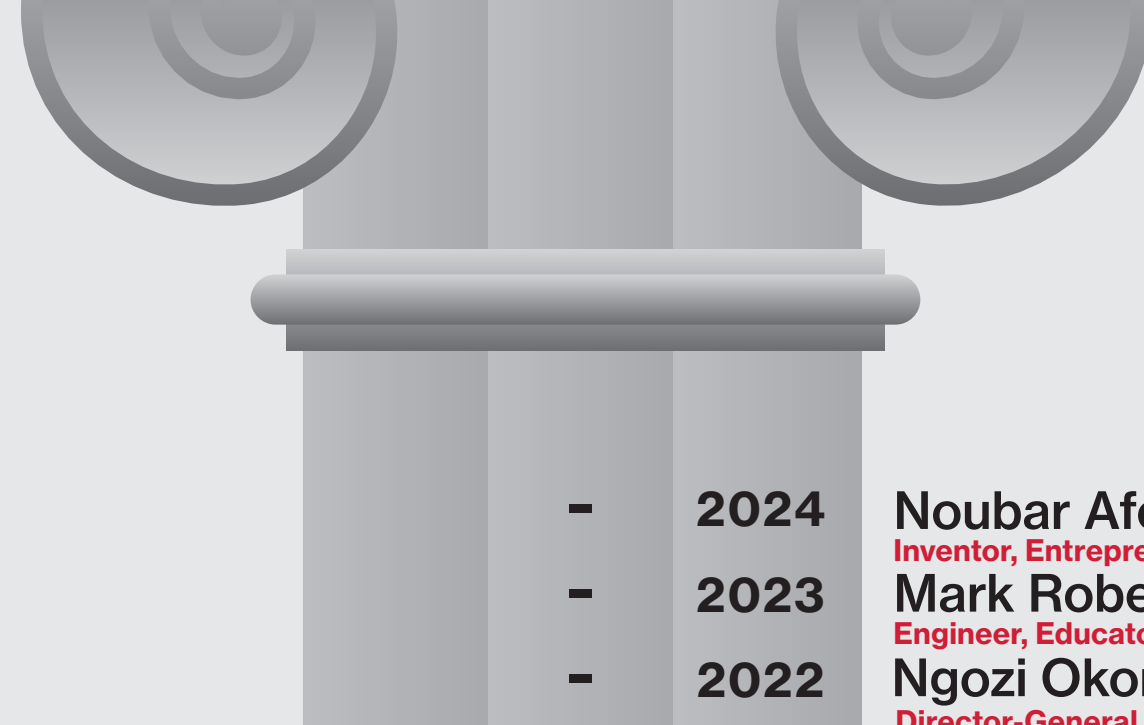


# A HISTORY OF

# MIT Commencement Speakers

- 1880** First MIT Commencement speaker of record (Rev. George E. Ellis)
- 119** MIT Commencement speakers since 1880
- 43** CEOs, chairs, directors, and organization presidents
- 24** MIT alumni
- 11** MIT presidents
- 6** World leaders (Annan, Barco, Clinton, Gore, Salinas, Schmidt)
- 5** Clergy, spiritual leaders, and theologians
- 2** Minutes of silence in lieu of a speaker in 1970
- 0** Commencement exercises in 1918–1919 due to World War I



|             |      |  |
|-------------|------|--|
| -           | 2024 | Noubar Afeyan PhD '87<br>Inventor, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist  |
| -           | 2023 | Mark Rober<br>Engineer, Educator, and Founder of CrunchLabs  |
| -           | 2022 | Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala MCP '78, PhD '81<br>Director-General, World Trade Organization                                   |
| -           | 2021 | Bryan Stevenson<br>Public Interest Lawyer, Professor, and Social Justice Activist                                    |
| <b>2020</b> | 2020 | Admiral William McRaven<br>United States Navy four-star admiral  |
| -           | 2019 | Michael Bloomberg<br>Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, and former New York City mayor                                    |
| -           | 2018 | Sheryl Sandberg<br>COO, Facebook   |
| -           | 2017 | Tim Cook<br>CEO, Apple Inc.  |
| -           | 2016 | Matt Damon<br>Actor, Filmmaker, and Social Activist  |
| -           | 2015 | Megan Smith '86, SM '88<br>United States Chief Technology Officer  |
| -           | 2014 | Ellen Kullman<br>CEO and Chair, DuPont   |
| -           | 2013 | Drew Houston '05<br>CEO and Founder, Dropbox   |
| -           | 2012 | Salman Khan '98<br>Founder, Khan Academy   |
| -           | 2011 | Ursula Burns<br>CEO, Xerox   |
| <b>2010</b> | 2010 | Raymond S. Stata '57, SM '58<br>Chair and Founder, Analog Devices  |
| -           | 2009 | Deval Patrick<br>Massachusetts Governor  |
| -           | 2008 | Muhammad Yunus<br>2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner  |
| -           | 2007 | Charles Vest HM '94<br>Former MIT President  |
| -           | 2006 | Ben Bernanke PhD '79<br>Chair, Federal Reserve Board   |
| -           | 2005 | Irwin M. Jacobs '57, ScD '59<br>Co-Founder and Chair, Qualcomm   |
| -           | 2004 | Elias Zerhouni<br>Director, National Institutes of Health  |
| -           | 2003 | George Mitchell<br>Former United States Senator  |
| -           | 2002 | James Wolfensohn<br>President, World Bank Group  |
| -           | 2001 | Daniel Goldin<br>NASA Administrator  |
| <b>2000</b> | 2000 | Carly Fiorina SM '89<br>President and CEO, Hewlett-Packard   |
| -           | 1999 | Ray Magliozzi '72<br>Host, "Car Talk"  |
| -           | 1998 | Tom Magliozzi '58<br>Host, "Car Talk"  |
| -           | 1998 | William Jefferson Clinton<br>United States President   |
| -           | 1998 | David Ho<br>CEO and Director, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center   |
| -           | 1997 | Kofi Annan SM '72<br>United Nations Secretary-General  |
| -           | 1996 | Albert Gore<br>United States Vice President  |
| -           | 1995 | Hanna H. Gray<br>President Emeritus, University of Chicago   |
| -           | 1994 | Karim Aga Khan IV<br>Spiritual Leader, Shia Ismaili Muslims  |
| -           | 1993 | Carlos Salinas de Gortari<br>President, United Mexican States  |
| -           | 1992 | Leslie Aspin PhD '66<br>United States Representative from Wisconsin  |
| -           | 1991 | Walter E. Massey<br>Director, National Science Foundation  |
| <b>1990</b> | 1990 | Virgilio Barco '43<br>President, Republic of Colombia  |
| -           | 1989 | Paul E. Tsongas<br>Former United States Senator from Massachusetts   |
| -           | 1988 | A. Bartlett Giamatti<br>President, National League of Professional Baseball Clubs                                    |
| -           | 1987 | Kenneth H. Olsen '50, SM '52<br>Founder and President, Digital Equipment Corp.                                       |
| -           | 1986 | William R. Hewlett SM '36<br>Vice Chair, Hewlett-Packard   |
| -           | 1985 | Lee A. Iacocca<br>Chair and CEO, Chrysler Corporation  |
| -           | 1984 | Shirley Chisholm<br>Former United States Representative from New York  |
| -           | 1983 | Helmut Schmidt<br>Former Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany   |
| -           | 1982 | Katharine Graham<br>Chair and CEO, Washington Post Co.   |
| -           | 1981 | Paul E. Gray '54, SM '55, ScD '60<br>MIT President   |
| <b>1980</b> | 1980 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1979 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1978 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1977 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1976 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1975 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1974 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1973 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1972 | Jerome Wiesner HM '71<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1971 | Howard Wesley Johnson HM '66<br>MIT President  |
| <b>1970</b> | 1970 | Two minutes of silence to consider what can be done<br>"to help resolve the conflicts which divide mankind."         |
| -           | 1969 | Howard Wesley Johnson HM '66<br>MIT President  |
| -           | 1968 | Howard Wesley Johnson HM '66<br>MIT President  |
| -           | 1967 | Howard Wesley Johnson HM '66<br>MIT President  |
| -           | 1966 | Julius Stratton '23, SM '26<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1965 | Julius Stratton '23, SM '26<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1964 | Julius Stratton '23, SM '26<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1963 | Eugene R. Black<br>Former President, World Bank  |
| -           | 1962 | Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh<br>President, University of Notre Dame   |
| -           | 1961 | Frank Stanton<br>President, Columbia Broadcasting System   |
| <b>1960</b> | 1960 | Edwin H. Land<br>President, Polaroid Corporation   |
| -           | 1959 | John Cowles<br>President, Minneapolis Star and Tribune Co.   |
| -           | 1958 | John Jay McCloy<br>Chair, Chase Manhattan Bank   |
| -           | 1957 | John William Gardner<br>President, Carnegie Corporation of New York  |
| -           | 1956 | Neil Hosler McElroy<br>President, Proctor and Gamble Co.   |
| -           | 1955 | Sir Roger Makins<br>1st Baron Sheffield, British Ambassador to the United States                                     |
| -           | 1954 | Clarence B. Randall<br>Chair, United States Commission of Foreign Economic Policy                                    |
| -           | 1953 | Lewis W. Douglas '17<br>Former United States Ambassador to Great Britain   |
| -           | 1952 | Edward A. Weeks, Jr.<br>Editor, Atlantic Monthly   |
| -           | 1951 | Harold R. Medina<br>Judge, United States District Court for Southern District of New York                            |
| <b>1950</b> | 1950 | Chester Irving Barnard<br>President, Rockefeller Foundation  |
| -           | 1949 | James Phinney Baxter III<br>President, Williams College  |
| -           | 1948 | Arthur Holly Compton<br>Chancellor, Washington University, and 1927 Nobel Prize winner                               |
| -           | 1947 | Warren Robinson Austin<br>United States Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly                              |
| -           | 1946 | Lt. Gen. James Doolittle SM '24, ScD '25<br>Former Commanding General, United States Eighth Air Force                |
| -           | 1945 | Captain Dashiell Livingston Madeira<br>Director of Training, US Naval Personnel, Undergraduate Commencement speaker  |
| -           | 1944 | Claude Moore Fuess<br>Headmaster, Phillips Academy, Advanced Commencement speaker                                    |
| -           | 1944 | Bradley Dewey ScD '40<br>President, Dewey & Almy Chemical Co., Undergraduate Commencement speaker                    |
| -           | 1943 | Clarence Decatur Howe<br>Minister of Militations and Supply Dominion of Canada, Advanced Commencement speaker        |
| -           | 1943 | John W. M. Bunker HM '50<br>MIT Dean for Graduate School, Advanced Commencement speaker                              |
| -           | 1942 | Karl Taylor Compton HM '31<br>MIT President, Undergraduate Commencement speaker                                      |
| -           | 1942 | Samuel Cate Prescott 1894<br>MIT Dean of Science   |
| -           | 1941 | Robert Erastus Wilson<br>President, Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Co.   |
| <b>1940</b> | 1940 | Henning Webb Prentiss, Jr.<br>President, National Association of Manufacturers                                       |
| -           | 1939 | Sir Harold Hartley<br>Vice President, London, Midland, and Scottish Railways   |
| -           | 1938 | Charles Donagh Maginnis<br>President, American Institute of Architects   |
| -           | 1937 | Gano Dunn<br>President, J.G. White Engineering Corp.   |
| -           | 1936 | Newton Diehl Baker<br>Former United States Secretary of War  |
| -           | 1935 | Major General William Harvey Tschappat<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker            |
| -           | 1935 | Rear Admiral Charles Phillips Snyder<br>United States Navy, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker              |
| -           | 1935 | Isaiah Bowman<br>President-Elect, Johns Hopkins University, General Commencement speaker                             |
| -           | 1934 | Brigadier General Alston Hamilton<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                 |
| -           | 1934 | Rear Admiral Henry Hughes Hough<br>United States Navy, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                   |
| -           | 1934 | Howard Walter Blakeslee<br>Science Editor, Associated Press, General Commencement speaker                            |
| -           | 1933 | Major General Fox Conner<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                          |
| -           | 1933 | Rear Admiral George Henry Rock<br>United States Navy, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                    |
| -           | 1933 | Abbott Lawrence Lowell HM '28<br>Retiring President, Harvard University, General Commencement speaker                |
| -           | 1932 | Sir Henry W. Thornton<br>President, Canadian National Railways, General Commencement speaker                         |
| -           | 1932 | Brigadier General Alston Hamilton<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                 |
| -           | 1932 | Commander Henry Eastin Rossell<br>United States Navy, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                    |
| -           | 1931 | Major General Fox Conner<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                          |
| -           | 1931 | Rear Admiral Louis McCoy<br>United States Navy, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                          |
| -           | 1931 | Ray Lyman Wilbur<br>United States Secretary of the Interior, General Commencement speaker                            |
| <b>1930</b> | 1930 | Sir William Henry Bragg<br>Scientist, London University, and 1915 Nobel Prize winner                                 |
| -           | 1929 | Hiram Bingham III<br>United States Senator from Connecticut  |
| -           | 1928 | John Hays Hammond<br>Mining Engineer   |
| -           | 1927 | Brig. Gen. Preston Brown<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                          |
| -           | 1927 | John E. Aldred<br>Banker and Life Member, MIT Corporation, General Commencement speaker                              |
| -           | 1926 | Brig. Gen. Malvern-Hill Barnum<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                    |
| -           | 1926 | Michael I. Pupin<br>Professor, Columbia University, General Commencement speaker                                     |
| -           | 1925 | Major General Andre W. Brewster<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                   |
| -           | 1925 | Dr. Charles A. Coffin 1886<br>Former President, General Electric Company, General Commencement speaker               |
| -           | 1924 | Major General C.C. Williams<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                       |
| -           | 1924 | Frank Edward Shepard 1887<br>Director, United States Mint, General Commencement speaker                              |
| -           | 1923 | Major General Andre W. Brewster<br>United States Army, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker                   |
| -           | 1923 | Elisha Lee<br>Vice President, Pennsylvania Railroad, General Commencement speaker                                    |
| -           | 1922 | Col. John Buffalo Christian<br>Head, MIT Department of Military Science, Reserve Officers Corps Commencement speaker |
| -           | 1922 | Elihu Thomson HM '28<br>MIT Acting President, General Commencement speaker   |
| -           | 1921 | Elihu Thomson HM '28<br>MIT Acting President   |
| <b>1920</b> | 1920 | Elihu Thomson HM '28<br>MIT Acting President   |
| -           | 1919 | No Commencement exercises<br>World War I   |
| -           | 1918 | No Commencement exercises<br>World War I   |
| -           | 1917 | Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1916 | J. Smith<br>Professor, University of West Virginia   |
| -           | 1916 | Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1915 | No Commencement address  |
| -           | 1914 | No Commencement address  |
| -           | 1913 | Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1912 | Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1911 | Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08<br>MIT President   |
| <b>1910</b> | 1910 | Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1909 | Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1908 | Arthur A. Noyes<br>MIT Acting President  |
| -           | 1907 | Henry S. Pritchett HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1906 | Henry S. Pritchett HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1905 | Henry S. Pritchett HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1904 | Henry S. Pritchett HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1903 | Henry S. Pritchett HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1902 | Henry S. Pritchett HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1901 | Henry S. Pritchett HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| <b>1900</b> | 1900 | James Mason Crafts HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1899 | James Mason Crafts HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1898 | James Mason Crafts HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1897 | James Mason Crafts HM '00<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1896 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1895 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1894 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1893 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1892 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1891 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| <b>1890</b> | 1890 | Augustus Lowell<br>Member, MIT Corporation   |
| -           | 1889 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1888 | Rev. Phillips Brooks<br>Rector, Trinity Church, Boston   |
| -           | 1888 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1887 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1886 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1885 | John D. Runkle HM '00<br>MIT Professor of Mathematics  |
| -           | 1884 | No Commencement address  |
| -           | 1883 | Francis A. Walker<br>MIT President   |
| -           | 1882 | William Barton Rogers<br>Former MIT President  |
| -           | 1881 | Rev. James Freeman Clarke<br>American Theologian   |
| -           | 1881 | William Barton Rogers<br>MIT President   |
| <b>1880</b> | 1880 | Rev. George E. Ellis<br>Unitarian Clergyman  |