

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Celebrate

COMMENCEMENT

2024

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC



2024 COMMENCEMENT

MAY 19, 2024 | NATIONAL MALL

ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE	The George Washington University Wind Ensemble <i>Michael Schmitz, Conductor</i> <i>Director of Bands</i>
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMENCEMENT	Christopher Alan Bracey <i>Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs</i>
PROCESSIONAL*	Wind Ensemble <i>Selected students escort their school's flag and banners</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM*	Millicent Scarlett <i>Adjunct Professor of Music</i>
OPENING	Provost Bracey
WELCOME	Grace E. Speights, J.D. '82 <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>
GREETING	Ellen M. Granberg <i>President of the University</i>
REFLECTIONS	Maxwell Gocala-Nguyen, M.A. '16 <i>President, GW Alumni Association</i>
STUDENT SPEAKER	Yahya Aliyu, B.S. '23, M.S. '24
CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES	President Granberg
The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, B.A. '64, Doctor of Public Service, <i>honoris causa</i>	
<i>Presentation of the Candidate</i>	Fernando Muñoz Dominguez, L.L.M. '24
Jonathan Ledecky, Doctor of Public Service, <i>honoris causa</i>	
<i>Presentation of the Candidate</i>	Samyudha Rajesh, B.A. '24
Jen Psaki, Doctor of Public Service, <i>honoris causa</i>	
<i>Presentation of the Candidate</i>	Joseph Decilos, B.A. '24
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Ms. Psaki
CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES	President Granberg
CONFERRING OF DEGREES IN COURSE	President Granberg

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
Presentation of the Graduates Dean Paul J. Wahlbeck

School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Presentation of the Graduates Dean Barbara L. Bass, RESD '86

GW Law
Presentation of the Graduates Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew

School of Engineering and Applied Science
Presentation of the Graduates Dean John Lach

Graduate School of Education and Human Development
Presentation of the Graduates Dean Michael J. Feuer

School of Business
Presentation of the Graduates Interim Dean Vanessa G. Perry

Elliott School of International Affairs
Presentation of the Graduates Dean Alyssa Ayres

Milken Institute School of Public Health
Presentation of the Graduates Michael and Lori Milken Dean of Public Health Lynn R. Goldman

College of Professional Studies
Presentation of the Graduates Dean Liesl Riddle

School of Nursing
Presentation of the Graduates Dean Susan Kelly-Weeder

GW FIGHT SONG Wind Ensemble

ALMA MATER* Ms. Scarlett

RECESSIONAL* Wind Ensemble

UNIVERSITY MARSHAL

Ilana Feldman
Chair, Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Professor of Anthropology, History, and International Affairs
Elliott School of International Affairs

**Those who are able are asked to stand for these portions of the program. At the conclusion of the program, the audience is asked to remain standing until the platform party has left the stage.*

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

Annabelle Manzo, B.A. '24

flagbearer

Justus Jobe, Ph.D. '24

Alexa Mehlman, B.A. '24

Naissa Pierre, M.A. '24

Lily Reck, B.A. '24

School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Angela Cunningham, D.P.T. '24

flagbearer

Madeline Ramirez, M.S.H.S. '24

GW Law

Arjumand Syed, L.L.M. '24

flagbearer

Latifah Hamad A. Alhulelah, J.D. '24

Candace Jackson, L.L.M. '24

Rachel Sindelir, M.S.L. '24

Axana Soltan, L.L.M. '24

School of Engineering and Applied Science

Alexis (Lexi) Carmine, B.S. '24

flagbearer

Alloua YannHervee Antoinettee Animan, M.S. '24

Emad Haskett, B.S. '24

Sai Abhishree Pappusetty, M.S. '24

Devin Powell, M.S. '24

Graduate School of Education and Human Development

Cole Gaudin, M.A. '24

flagbearer

Zaineb Haimoud, M.A. '24

Erin McDonald, M.A. '24

School of Business

Yasameen Ganji, B.S. '24

flagbearer

Ahmad Abraz, B.S. '24

Donghun Kim, Ph.D. '24

Aine Kirwan, M.S. '24

Ethan Ophir, B.S. '24

Elliott School of International Affairs

Mitchell McKnight, M.A. '24

flagbearer

Julian Brown, B.A. '24

Nam Lam, B.A. '24

Caitlin Mittrick, M.A. '24

Milken Institute School of Public Health

Laura Santacrose, Dr.P.H. '24

flagbearer

Charles Agba, B.S. '24

Tina Bandekar, M.P.H. '24

Grace Lee, M.P.H. '24

Alexis Palucki, M.S. '24

College of Professional Studies

Leticia Delgado, M.P.S. '24

flagbearer

Ben Evans, M.P.S. '24

Christopher Linares, B.P.S. '24

Tambo Prince, M.P.S. '24

David Yedlin, M.P.S. '24

School of Nursing

Chloe Lachmund, B.S.N. '24

flagbearer

Amanda Ampofo-William, B.S.N. '24

Tabitha Northrup, B.S.N. '24

Samantha Roche, D.N.P. '24

LaTekia Tyson, B.S.N. '24



A Message to the Graduates from President Ellen M. Granberg

Dear Graduates,

I am honored to welcome you to the George Washington University's 2024 Commencement ceremony.

Through your scholarship at GW, you have acquired new knowledge, grappled with big ideas, and emboldened your colleagues and teachers with your passion and talent. Outside the classroom, you have thrived in athletics, inspired through the arts, and given back to your communities. You have worked hard to fulfill the rigorous requirements of a GW degree and are prepared to embark on a new and exciting chapter in life.

For over two centuries and counting, the George Washington University has changed the world through exceptional education, discipline-defining scholarship, and outstanding patient care and public service. As our university's newest alumni, I know you will carry forth this legacy as exceptional leaders and visionaries. Your graduation comes at a time marked by many critical and defining moments for our world. However, I am confident that your experiences at GW have given you all the skills, knowledge, and resources you need to tackle these pressing challenges and serve the public good. You came to GW to learn to change the world, and I have no doubt that you will.

As you were inspired by the alumni and leaders who came before you, you now will be an inspiration to those who follow. As the newest members of our worldwide community of more than 330,000 alumni, I encourage you to keep alive the same passion, curiosity, and commitment to learning you brought to and cultivated at GW. I also hope you will consider the George Washington University a continuing resource and a second home – we are here to support you. We are proud of all you have accomplished and all you will accomplish.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen M. Granberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Ellen M. Granberg
President

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Jen Psaki

Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa

Jen Psaki is host of MSNBC's "Inside with Jen Psaki" on Sundays and Mondays, and the former White House Press Secretary for President Joe Biden.

Psaki appears across all of MSNBC's flagship programs, adding a unique perspective from her firsthand experience at the highest levels of government. She is a principal voice in the network's primetime coverage of major political events and regularly contributes to NBC News' "Meet the Press" and election night programming. She also writes a regular column for the network's morning newsletter, "MSNBC Daily," and contributes to all MSNBC platforms across audio, social and more.

As press secretary, Psaki was lauded by the Associated Press as a communicator who "dug deep into policy, seeking an understanding that goes far beyond talking points" and was celebrated for bringing "a mixture of warmth, humor, intelligence, and edge" to her role by Vogue.

Prior to her time in the Biden White House, Psaki was a long-time adviser to President Barack Obama and served as a traveling press secretary on his first long-shot campaign and later served as the White House communications director.

Psaki also served as the administration's public face on the global stage during her tenure as the State Department spokesperson, traveling the world with Secretary of State John Kerry.



The Honorable Vincent Condol Gray, B.A. '64

Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa

A native Washingtonian, Vincent Condol Gray has tirelessly advocated for the residents of the District of Columbia for decades. He is the only elected official to serve as mayor, city Council chair, and Council member. His dedication to children and their families has been the hallmark of his service, which has been guided by his belief that the District of Columbia works best as “one city.”

In January 2011, Gray was sworn in as the sixth elected mayor of the District of Columbia after running on a platform of restoring fiscal responsibility to city government, creating jobs and boosting economic development, providing a quality public education to all District children and building safe communities. Throughout his four years in office, Mayor Gray moved the District forward toward his vision of a more prosperous, equitable, safe and sustainable city for all.

He was first elected to the D.C. Council, representing Ward 7, in 2004. In that role, he chaired the Special Committee on the Prevention of Youth Violence and created the Effi Barry HIV/AIDS Initiative. In 2006, Gray was elected chairman of the Council. As chairman, he led in efforts to improve the Council’s operations, transparency and oversight capacity and championed for school reform. He was again elected to the Council in 2016. His dedication to eradicating health equity disparities led to the opening of Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center, GW Health, that will deliver high-quality, comprehensive healthcare services to the citizens east of the Anacostia River.

Gray studied clinical psychology at the George Washington University at both the undergraduate and graduate school levels. While at GW, he became the first African American admitted in the GW fraternity system, and in his junior and senior years, became the first person to serve consecutive terms as chancellor of Tau Epsilon Phi.

Gray began his professional career with the Arc of DC. At the Arc, he successfully advocated for innovative policy initiatives on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. In 1991, then-Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly appointed Gray to the post of director of the Department of Human Services. In 1994, he became the founding executive director of Covenant House Washington, an international, faith-based organization dedicated to serving homeless and at-risk youth.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



Jonathan Ledecy

Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa

Jonathan Ledecy is a highly innovative and successful entrepreneur, investor, mentor and philanthropist.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Business School, Ledecy founded an office supply company in Washington called U.S. Office Products. In record time—three years—the company went from a start-up to the Fortune 500 with annual sales of nearly \$4 billion. The Company owned Mail Boxes Etc., now called the UPS Store, and distributed Starbucks coffee to offices nationwide. For his accomplishments, Ledecy was named the NASDAQ’s CEO of the Year and the International Franchise Association’s Free Enterprise Award Winner. He also held leadership positions on the National Commission on Entrepreneurship and at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

A longtime sports enthusiast, Ledecy in 1999 became the co-owner of the Washington Capitals, the Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics. After relinquishing those, in 2014 Ledecy became co-owner of the National Hockey League’s New York Islanders and the American Hockey League’s Bridgeport Islanders.

On top of his many business ventures and advisory roles, Ledecy is a generous philanthropist. In 1997, he started a Foundation dedicated to the education of underprivileged children. The Foundation provided grants to over 100 organizations serving children and young adults in the DMV region while helping to open and support independent schools for inner-city students in Washington, New York and Boston.

Ledecy has been a trustee of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation, an organization he knows firsthand through his niece, 10-time Olympic medalist Katie Ledecy. His beneficence has also extended to the George Washington University, where he served for five years as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Land Acknowledgment:

We acknowledge that we are in the territory of many Indigenous peoples that have known the Potomac Valley and its lands and waters as their homeland for thousands of years to the present day, including Algonquin, Iroquois, Siouan peoples and in particular the Piscataway Tribes.

We are just beginning our engagement with traditionally associated Native American communities to identify all of the different connections with these lands held by many Native Nations. Together we recognize the Native Nations’ past, present, and future unbroken and unbreakable connections to these lands. We honor the resilience and perseverance of these Nations even as colonizers claimed this land as their own.

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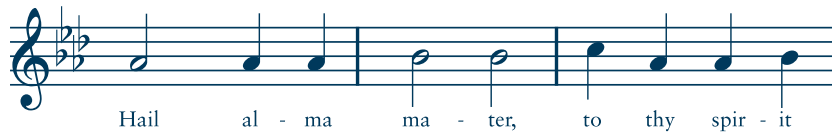
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#GWCommencement

ALMA MATER



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ON THE NATIONAL MALL

If an emergency situation should develop during the ceremony on the National Mall, the U.S. Park Police will either evacuate the site or direct the audience to shelter in place. Please follow the direction of the U.S. Park Police.

IF THE ALTERNATE SITE PLAN IS IMPLEMENTED

All graduates and members of the platform party should report to the Charles E. Smith Center, 600 22nd Street, NW. For alternate site plan information, please visit commencement.gwu.edu.

Families and guests can watch the full ceremony online at commencement.gwu.edu.