### The George Washington University’s Commencement Speakers and Honorary Degree Recipients*

#### 2000 to 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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| 2015 | - **Tim Cook**, Apple CEO  
      - **Carole M. Watson**, Ph.D. ’78, former acting chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)  
      - **Anthony S. Fauci**, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health |
| 2014 | - **José Andrés**, world-renowned chef and founder of ThinkFoodGroup  
      - **Maudine R. Cooper**, retired Greater Washington Urban League executive  
      - **Russell Ramsey**, B.B.A. ’81, chairman emeritus of the GW Board of Trustees and founder, chairman and CEO of Ramsey Asset Management. |
| 2013 | - **Kerry Washington**, B.A. ’98, actress and activist  
      - **Thad Allen**, M.P.A. ’86, 23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral  
      - **Harriet Mayor Fulbright**, M.F.A. ’75, international education advocate |
| 2012 | - **Brian Williams**, *NBC Nightly News* anchor  
      - **Carlos Slim**, business leader and humanitarian  
      - **Clarice Smith**, artist |
| 2011 | - **Michael Bloomberg**, New York City Mayor  
      - **William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr.**, attorney  
      - **Peggy Cooper Cafritz**, arts advocate |
| 2010 | - **Michelle Obama**, First Lady of the United States of America  
      - **Dave Brubeck**, pianist and composer  
      - **A. James Clark**, chairman of the board and CEO, Clark Enterprises, Inc. |
| 2009 | - **Rahm Emanuel**, chief of staff to President Barack Obama  
      - **Jeanne Narum**, director of Project Kaleidoscope and the Independent Colleges Office  
      - **John Safer**, B.A. ’47, artist |
| 2008 | - **Julian Bond**, chairman of the NAACP  
      - **Daniel Inouye**, J.D. ’52, U.S. Senator  
      - **Charles T. Manatt**, J.D. ’62, former chairman, GW Board of Trustees  
      - **Mike McConnell**, M.P.A. ’86, director of National Intelligence  
      - **Stephen Joel Trachtenberg**, GW president emeritus and University Professor of Public Service |
| 2007 | - **Wolf Blitzer**, veteran broadcast journalist and CNN anchor  
      - **Ralph J. Cicerone**, president of the National Academy of Sciences  
      - **Linda W. Cropp**, former chairwoman of the Council of the District of Columbia  
      - **Harvey V. Fineberg**, president of the Institute of Medicine  
      - **Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.**, president of the Trust for America’s Health and former United States Senator and Connecticut Governor |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Featured Speakers</th>
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| 2006 | - **George H.W. and Barbara Bush**, former president of the United States and former first lady of the United States  
- **Sumner Redstone**, chairman of Viacom, CBS Corporation, and National Amusements, Inc.  
- **Frank Robinson**, baseball Hall of Fame player |
| 2005 | - **Andy Rooney**, CBS News commentator  
- **Mildred Dresselhaus**, Institute Professor and professor of physics and electrical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
- **Alberto Ibargüen**, publisher of *Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald*  
- **Retired Major General Philip K. Russell, M.D.** |
| 2004 | - **Luther W. Brady**, B.A. ’46, M.D. ’48, professor of clinical oncology  
- **Leon Lederman**, physicist and Nobel Laureate  
- **Gail Kern Paster**, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library  
- **General John Shalikashvili**, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff |
| 2003 | - **Mark Warner**, B.A. ’77, Governor of Virginia  
- **Sen. Jean Carnahan** (D-Mo.)  
- **Sheldon S. Cohen**, former IRS Commissioner  
- **Madeleine Jacobs**, editor-in-chief of *Chemical & Engineering News*  
- **Billy Taylor**, jazz musician |
| 2002 | - **Darrell Green**, Washington Redskins defensive full back  
- **Jim Hall**, former chairman of National Transportation Safety Board  
- **Lois Green Schwoerer**, award-winning author  
- **Ruth Simmons**, president of Brown University  
- **John D. Zeglis**, chairman and CEO of AT&T Wireless Services |
| 2001 | - **Tony Bennett**, entertainer  
- **Rita Colwell**, director of the National Science Foundation  
- **Charlene Drew Jarvis**, president of Southeastern University  
- **H.R. Shepherd**, inventor of the metered dose inhaler  
- **Leonard Slatkin**, music director of National Symphony Orchestra  
- **John R. Tydings**, president of Greater Washington Board of Trade  
- **Herman Wouk**, Pulitzer Prize winner |
| 2000 | - **Madeline Albright**, Secretary of State  
- **Sir Martin Gilbert**, noted historian and biographer  
- **Rep. John Lewis** (D-GA)  
- **James Wolfensohn**, World Bank group president |

*Featured speakers are listed first. For a list of selected GW Commencement speakers since 1952, visit [http://encyclopedia.gwu.edu/gwencyclopedia/index.php?title=Commencement_Speakers](http://encyclopedia.gwu.edu/gwencyclopedia/index.php?title=Commencement_Speakers). For information about GW’s Commencement on the National Mall, visit [commencement.gwu.edu](http://commencement.gwu.edu).*