

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Celebrate

COMMENCEMENT

2023

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE	Corcoran Brass <i>Fred Marcellus, Leader Lecturer in Music</i>
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMENCEMENT	Christopher A. Bracey <i>Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs</i>
PROCESSIONAL*	Corcoran Brass <i>Selected students escort their school's flag and banners</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM*	Millicent Scarlett <i>Adjunct Professor of Music</i>
INVOCATION*	Rabbi Dan Epstein, M.A. '23 <i>Senior Jewish Educator, GW Hillel</i>
OPENING	Provost Bracey
WELCOME	Grace E. Speights, J.D. '82 <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>
REETING AND PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEDALS	Mark S. Wrigton <i>President of the University</i>
Mary Ellsberg	
Walter Reich	
Frank Sesno	
REFLECTIONS	Will Alexander, B.S. '04, M.B.A. '06 <i>President, GW Alumni Association</i>
STUDENT SPEAKER	Giselle E. Garcia, B.A. '23
CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES	President Wrigton
Muriel Elizabeth Bowser, Doctor of Public Service, <i>honoris causa</i>	
Michael Milken, Doctor of Science, <i>honoris causa</i>	
Presentation of the Candidate	Sukyoung Jung, Ph.D. '23
Bryan Stevenson, Doctor of Laws, <i>honoris causa</i>	
Presentation of the Candidate	Maxie Lawton, J.D. '23
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Mr. Stevenson

CONFERRING OF DEGREES IN COURSE President Wrighton

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
Presentation of the Graduates Dean Paul 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 Dean Anuj Mehrotra

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 Interim Dean Jean E. Johnson

ALMA MATER* Ms. Scarlett

RECESSIONAL* Corcoran Brass

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

Zhangzhu Wan, B.A. '23

flagbearer

Sohini Ashoke, B.A. '23

Anthony J. Cade II, Ph.D. '23

Amrita Grewal, M.A. '23

Anne Laurie Joseph, B.A. '23

School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Darcy Taig, D.P.T. '23

flagbearer

Daylin Amesimeku, M.S. HS '23

Kathyrn Bushnell, M.S. HS '23

Kemel A. Ghotme, Ph.D. THS '23

Trisha Pryce, M.S. HS '23

GW Law

Nija Marget Chappel, M.P.H./J.D. '23

flagbearer

Diksha Chhetri, J.D. '23

Madeline Jenkins, J.D. '23

Salimatu Larmin-Gilayeneh, L.L.M. '23

Ellis McKennie, J.D. '23

School of Engineering and Applied Science

Jonathan Lee, B.S. '23

flagbearer

Yasser Althuwaini, B.S. '23

Geraldine Gooding, D.Eng. '23

Jason Hurst, M.S. '23

Sravya Jahagirdar, M.S. '23

Graduate School of Education and Human Development

Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski, M.A. '23

flagbearer

Vaughan Merrick, M.A. '23

Claire Morra, M.A. '23

Kennedy Simpson, M.A. '23

School of Business

Esther Urios, M.B.A. '23

flagbearer

Tarek El Mahri, M.S. '23

Michael Rand, Ph.D. '23

Isabel Rubio, B.S. '23

Elliott School of International Affairs

Bazgha Paracha, B.A. '23

flagbearer

Jack Reeves, B.A. '23

Andrea Soria, M.A. '23

Abeni Wichinski, B.A. '23

Ramani Wilson, B.A. '23

Milken Institute School of Public Health

Estefania Martinez Limo, M.P.H. '23

flagbearer

Merry Jiang, B.S. '23

Christine Kestner, M.P.H. '23

Caroline Grace Phillips, B.S. '23

Daniel Wilhite, M.P.H. '23

College of Professional Studies

Hannah Eslick, M.P.S. '23

flagbearer

Mariefred Evans, M.P.S. '23

Ugo Njeze, M.P.S. '23

Hanna Sindiukova, B.P.S. '23

Nick Whims, B.P.S. '23

School of Nursing

Ann Marie Moynihan, D.N.P. '23

flagbearer

Jeffrey Kai, B.S.N. '23

Joanna Nickles, B.S.N. '23

Vivian Veizaga, B.S.N. '23



A Message to the Graduates from President Mark S. Wrighton

When you chose to attend the George Washington University, you chose a distinguished and distinguishable university that, in our third century, continues to offer a rigorous, high-quality education designed to prepare the future leaders of the world — future leaders like you.

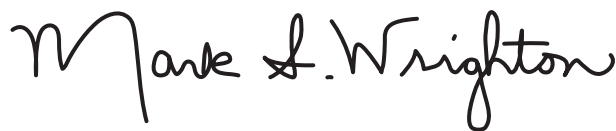
You worked hard to fulfill the rigorous requirements to earn a GW degree. You came to GW inquisitive and passionate; you transformed that inquisitiveness and passion into accomplishment and excellence, in and out of the classroom. You leaned into your strengths, worked diligently to improve upon your weaknesses, and became a wiser, more well-rounded scholar.

Our commencement ceremony is on the National Mall of the United States — an historic location to celebrate the finale of your time with GW. Ours are the only graduates in the world to enjoy the incredible experience of graduating in this special place.

As you were inspired by the alumni who came before you, you now will be an inspiration to those who follow. You are prepared to use your experience and talents to serve your fellow citizens and the public good, and you will bring renown to yourselves, your families, your communities, and your alma mater. It is my hope that you enjoy a life of meaning and purpose.

As you join our worldwide community of more than 320,000 alumni, I wish you many exciting years of continued leadership, discovery, passion, and excellence. GW is proud of all you have accomplished and all you will accomplish.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Wrighton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark S. Wrighton
President

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Bryan Stevenson

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama that has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Mr. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the United States Supreme Court. He and his staff have won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced.

Mr. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of two highly acclaimed cultural sites which opened in 2018: the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which chronicle the legacy of slavery, lynching, and racial segregation, and the connection to mass incarceration and contemporary issues of racial bias.

Mr. Stevenson's work has won him numerous awards, including the prestigious MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Prize; the ABA Medal, the American Bar Association's highest honor; and the National Medal of Liberty from the American Civil Liberties Union. In 2015, he was named to the Time 100 list recognizing the world's most influential people. He was named in Fortune's 2016 and 2017 World's Greatest Leaders list.

He is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*, which was recently adapted as a major motion picture. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



Muriel Elizabeth Bowser

Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa

Muriel Bowser is the seventh elected mayor of Washington, D.C. She has a strong record of creating a bold urban policy agenda, making tough decisions in a high stakes environment, and shaping a diverse economy.

Mayor Bowser has served her hometown in elected office since 2004 as Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (2004-2006), Member of the D.C. Council (2007-2015) and now Mayor since 2015. On November 8, she became only the second person elected three times as mayor of Washington, D.C. She is the first African American woman to be elected to three, four-year terms as mayor of an American city.

Since taking office, Mayor Bowser has boldly reset D.C.'s global and national competitiveness, sped up affordable housing production, diversified the D.C. economy, oversaw consistent enrollment growth across the District's public schools to its highest enrollment since Home Rule, increased satisfaction in city services, refocused our efforts around achieving statehood, and invested in programs and policies that allow more families to live and thrive across the city.

Mayor Bowser has played key roles in delivering transformational economic development projects, creating jobs and housing for D.C. residents—including the Audi Field, the Entertainment and Sports Arena, St. Elizabeths, Walter Reed, McMillan, and The Wharf.

She is a graduate of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative and of Leadership Greater Washington. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Chatham University and a Master of Public Policy from the American University.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



Michael Milken

Doctor of Science, honoris causa

Michael Milken has been at the forefront of successful initiatives in medical research, education, public health and access to capital for more than five decades. Fortune called him “The Man Who Changed Medicine,” and Forbes listed him among “Visionaries Reimagining Our Children’s Future.” In 1982, he formalized his philanthropy by co-founding the Milken Family Foundation. In addition to its annual Global Conference each spring in Los Angeles, the Milken Institute hosts more than 250 events annually, including major conferences in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Japan, London and Washington, D.C. The Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University was established with an Institute gift, and the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream will open in Washington, D.C. in 2024.

Michael is the founder and chairman of FasterCures, which works to speed progress against all life-threatening diseases. HarperCollins recently published his latest book, *Faster Cures: Accelerating the Future of Health*, which chronicles his personal journey and progress in medical research and public health over the past half century. As a financier, Michael revolutionized modern capital markets by pricing and rewarding risk more efficiently; the thousands of companies he financed created millions of jobs, including much of the early growth of cable television, homebuilding, cellular phones and other industries. A Washington Post column said Michael “helped create the conditions for America’s explosion of wealth and creativity” in the late 20th century, a process that BusinessWeek said, “shook America’s defeatist establishment out of its gloom.”

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, he earned his M.B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School. He and his wife Lori have been married since 1968 and are members of the Giving Pledge; they have three children and 10 grandchildren.

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL RECIPIENTS



Mary Ellsberg
President's Medal Recipient

Dr. Mary Ellsberg is the Founding Director of the Global Women's Institute at the George Washington University, a university-wide institute dedicated to producing policy-oriented research to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Dr. Ellsberg is recognized as a leading global expert on violence against women and girls (VAWG) and currently leads the research consortium of "What Works to Prevent Violence—Impact at Scale," a major international partnership that aims to build the global knowledge on what works to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), funded by the U.K. Government.

Before joining the university in August 2012, Dr. Ellsberg served as Vice President for Research and Programs at the International Center for Research on Women. Dr. Ellsberg's deep connection to global gender issues stems not only from her academic work, but also from living in Nicaragua for nearly 20 years, leading public health and women's rights advocacy. Dr. Ellsberg earned a doctorate in epidemiology and public health from Umea University in Sweden and a bachelor's degree in Latin American studies from Yale University.



Walter Reich
President's Medal Recipient

Walter Reich is the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Professor of International Affairs, Ethics and Human Behavior, and Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, at the George Washington University. He is also a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a Lecturer in Psychiatry at Yale, and a former Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Dr. Reich has written and lectured widely on the Holocaust and genocide, antisemitism, terrorism, human rights, national memory, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union, medical ethics and national and international affairs. He is the author of *A Stranger in My House: Jews and Arabs in the West Bank* and the editor of *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, States of Mind*. His articles and essays have appeared in scholarly and scientific publications as well as in such newspapers and magazines as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Dr. Reich has worked for the protection of human rights around the world since the early 1970s, including as a co-chair of the Committee of Concerned Scientists; has been a non-resident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution; was a Senior Research Psychiatrist at the National Institute of Mental Health; and serves on many national and international professional and scholarly boards. His numerous awards include the Human Rights Award from the American Psychiatric Association, the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a Special Presidential Commendation from the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Reich received his B.A. from Columbia College in 1965, studied philosophy as a graduate student at Columbia, received his M.D. from the New York University School of Medicine in 1970 and did his residency in psychiatry at Yale.

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL RECIPIENTS



Frank Sesno
President's Medal Recipient

Frank Sesno is a professor and Director of Strategic Initiatives for the School of Media and Public Affairs at the George Washington University. Previously, he served as Director for SMPA. He is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and creator of Planet Forward, a user-driven multimedia storytelling platform that highlights innovations in sustainability. He has taught classes on environmental multimedia reporting, ethics in journalism, documentary and “the art of the interview.”

Sesno's diverse career spans more than three decades, including 21 years at CNN, where he served as White House correspondent, anchor and Washington Bureau Chief. He has covered a diverse range of subjects, from politics and conventions to international summits and climate change. He has interviewed five U.S. presidents and thousands of political, business and civic leaders, including Hillary Clinton, Bill Gates, and Walter Cronkite.

Before joining CNN in 1984, Sesno worked as a radio correspondent at the White House and in London for the Associated Press. Along with his Emmy, he has won several prestigious journalistic awards, including several cable ACE awards and an Overseas Press Club Award.

Sesno has served as a member of the board of trustees at Middlebury College, a member of the National Advisory Board for the Poynter Institute, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a board member at the National Council for Science and the Environment and at AmeriCares. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History from Middlebury College.

Please visit the [Commencement website](#) for a video of author
William D. Albright reciting his poem “The Tassel.”

The text of the poem is also available.

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Sciences*

SHARE YOUR DAY

#GWCommencement

ALMA MATER



Hail al - ma ma - ter, to thy spir - it

guid - ing, Know - ledge thy close - est friend in its strength a -

bid - ing, Pledge we fi - del - i - ty ne'er its place re -

sign - ing, Hail thee George Wash - ing - ton.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

University Commencement is held rain or shine on the National Mall. During the ceremony itself, if an emergency situation should develop, 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. Families and guests are encouraged to view the full ceremony online at commencement.gwu.edu.

For alternate site plan information please reference commencement.gwu.edu.