

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

*Celebrate*

**COMMENCEMENT**

**2022**

**SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022**

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**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

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WASHINGTON, DC

# ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE.....	Corcoran Brass <i>Michael Schmitz, Conductor Adjunct Professor of Music</i>
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMENCEMENT.....	Christopher Alan Bracey <i>Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs</i>
ACADEMIC PROCESSION .....	Corcoran Brass
NATIONAL ANTHEM* .....	Millicent Scarlett <i>Adjunct Professor of Music</i>
INVOCATION* .....	Rabbi Dan Epstein <i>Senior Jewish Educator, GW Hillel</i>
WELCOME.....	Grace E. Speights, J.D. '82 <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>
GREETING .....	Mark S. Wrighton <i>President of the University</i>
PRESENTATION OF GW AWARD .....	Provost Bracey  <i>Alma Starks, M.B.A. '22 Assistant Director of Post-Award Management, Office of Sponsored Projects</i>
REFLECTIONS.....	Christine Brown-Quinn, M.B.A. '92 <i>President, GW Alumni Association</i>
CLASS OF 2022 SPEAKER.....	Vishva Bhatt, B.A. '22
CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES .....	President Wrighton  Dana Bash, B.A. '93, Doctor of Public Service, <i>honoris causa</i> <i>Presentation of the Candidate</i> ..... Lia Isabel DeGroot, B.A. '22  Charles "Chuck" Todd, Doctor of Public Service, <i>honoris causa</i> <i>Presentation of the Candidate</i> ..... Daniel Niewoehner, B.A. '22
PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S MEDAL.....	President Wrighton  Elana Meyers Taylor, B.S. '06, M.T.A. '11, HON '18 <i>Presentation of the Awardee</i> ..... Shreenithi Venkataraman, B.S. '22
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS.....	Ms. Meyers Taylor

**CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES** ..... President Wrighton

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES IN COURSE**..... President Wrighton

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

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

GW Law  
*Presentation of the Candidates* ..... Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew

School of Engineering and Applied Science  
*Presentation of the Candidates* ..... Dean John Lach

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

School of Business  
*Presentation of the Candidates* ..... Dean Anuj Mehrotra

Elliott School of International Affairs  
*Presentation of the Candidates* ..... Dean Alyssa Ayres

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

College of Professional Studies  
*Presentation of the Candidates* ..... Interim Dean Melissa Feuer

School of Nursing  
*Presentation of the Candidates* ..... Interim Dean Pamela Slaven-Lee

**ALMA MATER\*** ..... Ms. Scarlett

**RECESSIONAL\*** ..... Corcoran Brass

**UNIVERSITY MARSHAL**

*James Tielsch  
Chair, Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
Professor and Chair, Department of Global Health  
Milken Institute School of Public Health*

*\*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 please remain standing until the platform party has left the stage.*

## MESSAGE TO THE GRADUATES



### *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, for over 200 years, has offered 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 degree from GW. 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. When the global pandemic created setbacks, you remained resilient and even more focused upon your goals. You persisted, and you succeeded with distinction.

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 310,000 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 each name being capitalized and prominent.

Mark S. Wrighton  
*President*



*Elana Meyers Taylor, B.S. '06, M.T.A. '11, HON '18*  
*President's Medal Recipient*

Elana Meyers Taylor, B.S. '06, M.T.A. '11, HON '18, is a pioneer for women in sports, having made history many times during her bobsled career. Most recently, during the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, Taylor became the most decorated Black athlete ever to compete in the Winter Olympics, with a career total of five medals.

Ms. Meyers Taylor was the first recruit for GW's softball program and was inducted into the GW Athletic Hall of Fame. After not making the U.S. Olympic softball team, Meyers Taylor turned to the sport of bobsled—an unlikely match for a biracial woman from Georgia—and has never looked back.

Ms. Meyers Taylor is a four-time world champion. In 2015, she became the first woman to earn a spot on the U.S. National Team, competing with and against the men's field. She became the first woman to win a medal in international competition in a men's event.

Among her many honors: being named her sport's Athlete of the Year four times and being asked to carry the U.S. flag in both the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Ms. Meyers Taylor is an advocate for sports and equality for girls through her work as former president of the Women's Sports Foundation. She also works with several non-profit organizations, including Classroom Champions and Gigi's Playhouse.

Ms. Meyers Taylor has GW degrees in exercise science and sports management and an honorary doctorate in public service. She also holds an M.B.A. in finance from the Keller Graduate School of DeVry.

She married fellow bobsledder Nic Taylor, and they live with their son, Nico, in Georgia.

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



### *Dana Bash, B.A. '93*

#### *Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa*

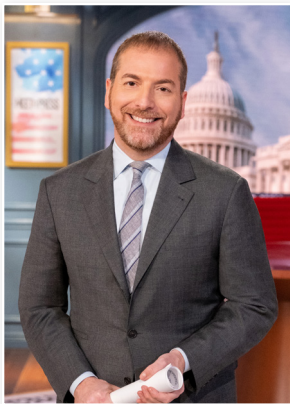
Dana Bash, B.A. '93, is CNN's chief political correspondent and co-anchor of "State of the Union with Jake Tapper and Dana Bash," the network's Sunday morning newsmaker show. Based in Washington, D.C., she covers both campaigns and Congress and regularly serves as a moderator for CNN's political town hall specials.

Bash moderated multiple debates during the 2020 election cycle and anchored election night coverage, which lasted several days. Bash served as a questioner in six of CNN's seven primetime primary debates for both the Democratic and Republican parties in 2016. She has played a key role in CNN's coverage of every presidential election since 2000, when she traveled extensively with former Vice President Al Gore during the presidential primaries.

Bash began her career at CNN as a producer of weekend programming. She served as a CNN White House correspondent during the George W. Bush administration, where she reported on major stories including Hurricane Katrina and the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Bash is the winner of the National Press Foundation's 2019 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism. She received the prestigious Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress from the National Press Foundation an unprecedented three times.

Bash graduated from GW cum laude with a bachelor's degree in political communications.



### *Charles "Chuck" Todd*

#### *Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa*

Charles "Chuck" Todd, who attended GW from 1990 to 1994, is NBC News' political director and is moderator of "Meet the Press," the top-rated Sunday public affairs program in the country. Todd serves as a primary anchor for the network's primetime political and election programming, co-moderating two presidential primary debates during the 2020 election cycle. He also spearheads NBC News' political coverage across all its platforms and flagship news programs.

Todd has hosted "Meet the Press" since 2014, bringing the longest-running show in television history into the modern age by expanding the brand to include a daily show, a weekly newsmagazine, "Meet the Press Reports," now in its fourth season, and a podcast, "The Chuck ToddCast." Todd also continues to lead "First Read," a daily political newsletter, as well as the annual Meet the Press Film Festival, which features the year's best political short documentaries.

Todd previously served as NBC News chief White House correspondent, where he traveled around the world with former President Barack Obama and reported on the main pillars of his presidency. From 2010 to 2014, Todd also hosted MSNBC's "The Daily Rundown," featuring daily interviews with top congressional members.

In 2009, Todd co-authored the definitive election result analysis book for the 2008 presidential campaign, titled "How Barack Obama Won." His second book, "The Stranger: Barack Obama in the White House," was released in 2014.

Todd joined NBC in 2007. He previously worked at the National Journal's "The Hotline" for 15 years, which includes six years as the editor-in-chief.

Todd is a native of Miami and currently resides in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife, Kristian, and two children.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

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M.A. '17  
Roslyn M. Brock, M.S. '89  
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B.B.A. '90, J.D. '93  
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Madeleine S. Jacobs,  
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Todd Klein  
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'90

Pamela Lawrence, B.A. '76  
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B.A. '14, M.P.A. '16  
Judith Lane Rogers,  
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M.B.A. '76  
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W. Russell Ramsey,  
B.B.A. '81, HON '14  
Nelson A. Carbonell Jr.,  
B.S. '85, HON '21

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I. Allan From, B.B.A. '72  
Morton I. Funger,  
A.A. '52, B.A. '53  
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Gary Granoff, B.B.A. '69,  
J.D. '73

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M.S. '77  
Theodore N. Lerner,  
A.A. '48, L.L.B. '50  
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M.S. '69  
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M.S. '80  
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Warner, B.A. '77, HON  
'03  
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## UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

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Mark S. Wrighton  
*President*

Aristide J. Collins Jr.  
*Vice President, Chief of Staff, and Secretary of the University*

### UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

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*Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations*

Charles Barber  
*Vice President and General Counsel (Interim)*

Barbara L. Bass, RESD '86  
*Vice President for Health Affairs*  
*Chief Executive Officer, GW Medical Faculty Associates*

Christopher Alan Bracey  
*Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Mark Diaz  
*Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*

Stacey DiLorenzo  
*Vice President for Communications and Marketing (Interim)*

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*Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

Tanya Vogel  
*Director of Athletics*

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*Elliott School of International Affairs*

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*School of Medicine and Health Sciences*

Melissa Feuer  
*College of Professional Studies (Interim)*

Michael J. Feuer  
*Graduate School of Education and Human Development*

Lynn R. Goldman  
*Milken Institute School of Public Health*

Geneva Henry  
*Libraries and Academic Innovation*

John Lach  
*School of Engineering and Applied Science*

Dayna Bowen Matthew  
*GW Law*

Anuj Mehrotra  
*School of Business*

Pamela Slaven-Lee  
*School of Nursing (Interim)*

Paul J. Wahlbeck  
*Columbian College of Arts and Sciences*

#### 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 declare an emergency. 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. The university has a comprehensive plan in place should extreme circumstances dictate changes and will reconvene the ceremony at our alternate site on the Foggy Bottom campus. For alternate site plan information please reference [commencement.gwu.edu](http://commencement.gwu.edu).

#### IF THE ALTERNATE SITE PLAN IS IMPLEMENTED

All graduates, faculty 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](http://commencement.gwu.edu).

# SHARE YOUR DAY

#GWCommencement

## ALMA MATER



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**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

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WASHINGTON, DC