

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

- 1897: Professor L. H. Bailey, Cornell University, M.A.C. Class of 1882 (June 18), Ithaca, New York
- 1898: Pearl Kedzie, M.A.C, East Lansing, Michigan
- 1899: A.S. Draper, President, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champagne
- 1900: Booker T. Washington (June 15), Tuskegee, Alabama
- 1901: J.B. Johnson, Professor, C.E. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
- 1902: W.O. Thompson, President, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- 1903: Fred J. Miller, Editor of American Machinist
- 1904: H.C. White, President Georgia Agricultural and Mechanical College, Athens, Georgia
- 1905: Honorable Charles E. Townsend, U.S. Representative, Concord, Michigan
- 1906: Honorable George H. Maxwell, Attorney, Journalist, and President of the National Irrigation Association, California
- 1907: Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America
- 1908: Miss Jane Addams, Hull House Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 1909: Dr. Charles Sumner Howe, President, Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio
- 1910: Dr. James B. Angell, President Emeritus, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 1911: Dr. James K. Patterson, President Emeritus, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Kentucky
- 1912: Dr. A Ross Hill, President, Missouri University, Columbia, Missouri
- 1913: Dr. Ida M. Tarbell, Teacher, Investigative Journalist, and Author, *the History of the Standard Oil Company*
- 1914: The Honorable Thomas Mott Osborne, Auburn, New York
- 1915: Chancellor David Starr Jordan, Leland Stanford Junior University, Palo Alto, California
- 1916: Dr. William Oxley Thompson, President, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- 1917: Dr. Samuel M. Crothers, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1918: Dr. Liberty H. Bailey, Ithaca, New York
- 1919: Dr. Robert M. Wenley, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 1920: Dean Harry Luman Russell, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
- 1921: Honorable Woodridge N. Ferris, Big Rapids, Michigan
- 1922: David Friday, President of M.A.C, East Lansing, Michigan
- 1923: Dr. John W. Laird, President of Albion College, Albion, Michigan
- 1924: Dexter Simpson Kimball, Dean of the College of Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- 1925: Honorable Frank O. Lowden, Republican President Candidate 1924, Chicago, Illinois
- 1926: Dr. Francis J. McConnell
- 1927: Dr. W. W. Diehl, Class of '87
- 1928: Dr Eugene Davenport, '78 Dean and Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois
- 1929: Dr. Paul Frank Voelker, President, Battle Creek College, Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1930: Dr. Gordan Jennings Laing, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Literature, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 1931: Dr. Charles R. McKenny, President, Michigan State Normal College, Ypsilanti, Michigan
- 1932: Dr. Glen Frank, President, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
- 1933: Dr. W. D. Henderson, Director of University Extension, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 1934: Dr. Ernest O. Melby, Professor of Education, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
- 1935: Professor Edwin Mims, Head of Department of English, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
- 1936: Dr. Gordon Laing, Professor in the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 1937: William G. Cameron, Ford Motor Company

- 1938: The Honorable Frank Murphy, Governor of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan
- 1939: Dr. Howard C. Elliott, President, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
- 1940: Dr. Allen A. Stockdale, Speakers' Bureau, National Association of Manufacturers, New York
- 1941: Dr. Raymond A. Kent, President, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky
- 1942: Dr. John J. Tiver, President, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- 1943: Dr. C.A. Dykstra, President, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
- 1944: Dr. Howard L. Bevis, President, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- 1945: Dr. Franklin B. Snyder, President, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
- 1946: Dr. Edmund E. Day, President, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- 1947: Dr. James L. Morrill, President, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1948: Charles F. Kettering, General Motors Engineer, Detroit, Michigan
- 1949: The Honorable David Lilienthal, Chairman, United States Atomic Commission
- 1950: The Honorable Alben W. Barkley, Vice President of the United States, Washington, D.C.
- 1951: The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller, Chairman, International Advisory Board, New York City, New York

FALL, WINTER, AND SPRING COMMENCEMENTS (Fall 1951-Spring 1992)

- 1951-F: Dr. W.W. Whitehouse, President, Albion College, Albion, Michigan
- 1952-W: Dr. C.L. Anspach, President, Central Michigan College, Mount Pleasant, Michigan
- 1952-S: Paul G. Hoffman, Director of the Ford Foundation. Los Angeles, California
- 1952-F: Dr. John S. Everto, President, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- 1953-W: Dr. Paul V. Sangren, President, Western Michigan College, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- 1953-S: Dr. Frederick L. Hovde, President of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
- 1953-F: Dr. Eugene Elliott, President, Eastern Michigan College, Ypsilanti, Michigan
- 1954-W: Dr. John S. Harker, President, Alma College, Alma, Michigan
- 1954-S: Dr. Arthur S. Adams, President, American Council on Education, Durham, New Hampshire
- 1954-F: Dr. Harry Newburn, President, Education, Television and Radio Center, Eugene, Oregon
- 1955-W: Dr. James W. Miller, Controller for the State of Michigan
- 1955-S: Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.
- 1955-F: Dr. Jon A. Dawson, President, Adrian College
- 1956-W: Dr. Welmer K. Hicks, President, Kalamazoo College
- 1956-S: Dr. Virgil M. Hancher, President, State University of Iowa
- 1956-F: Dean Charles E. Odegaard, College of Literature, University of Michigan
- 1957-W: Dr. L. Dale Faunce, Vice President, Western Michigan College
- 1957-S: The Honorable Richard M. Nixon, Vice President of the United States
- 1957-F: Reverend Robert D. Swanson, President, Alma College
- 1958-W: Dr. John Van Pelt, President, Michigan College of Mining and Technology
- 1958-S: The Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
- 1958-F: Dr. Edgar Harden, Northern State College
- 1959-W: Dr. Gus Turbeville, President, Northland College
- 1959-S: The Right Honorable John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada
- 1959-F: Dr. Irwin J. Lubbers, President, Hope College
- 1960-W: Dr. Victor F. Spathelf, President, Ferris Institute
- 1960-S: The Honorable Harry S. Truman, Thirty-third President of the United States
- 1960-F: Dr. A.L. Knoblauch, President, Western Illinois University
- 1961-W: Dr. Louis W. Norris, President, Albion College
- 1961-S: General of the Army Douglas MacArthur
- 1961-F: George Romney, President, American Motors Corporation

1962-W: Stephen S. Nisbet, President, Constitutional Convention
1962-S: The Honorable Michael J. Mansfield, United States Senator from Montana
1962-F: Dr. Samuel Miller Brownell, Superintendent of Public Schools, Detroit
1963-W: The Very Reverend Laurence V. Britt, President, University of Detroit
1963-S: The Honorable Frederick Russell Kappel, Chairman of the Board, A.T. & T.
1963-F: Mr. Durward B. Varner, Chancellor of Oakland University
1964-W: Walter P. Reuther, President, United Auto Workers and Vice President, AFL-CIO
1964-S: Dr. John W. Gardner, President, Carnegie Corporation
1964-F: The Honorable Philip A. Hart, United States Senator from Michigan
1965-W: The Honorable Gerald R. Ford, United States Representative, Fifth District, Michigan
1965-S: The Honorable Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States
1965-F: The Honorable John C. Mackie, Member of Congress, Seventh District of Michigan
1966-W: The Honorable Martha W. Griffiths, Member of Congress, 17th District of Michigan
1966-S: The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States
1966-F: Stephen J. Wright, President of the United Negro College Fund
1967-W: O. Meredith Wilson, President, University of Minnesota
1967-S: President John A. Hannah, Michigan State University
1967-F: Robben W. Fleming, President-Designate, University of Michigan
1968-W: Dr. Logan Wilson, President, American Council on Education
1968-S: Dr. Benjamin Eligah Mays, President Emeritus, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia
1968-F: The Reverend Theodore Hesburgh, President, Notre Dame University
1969-W: Dr. Clifford M. Hardin, United States Secretary of Agriculture
1969-S: Dr. Calvin Hastings Plimpton, President, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts
1969-F: Dr. Kingman Brewster, Jr., President of Yale University
1970-W: William David McElroy, Director, National Science Foundation
1970-S: Mrs. Esther Peterson (Oliver A.), Legislative Representative for Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO
1970-F: Durward B. Varner, Chancellor, University of Nebraska
1971-W: The Honorable Wade H. McCree, Jr., Judge, United States Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, Detroit
1971-S: Alan Pifer, President, Carnegie Corporation
1971-F: John Kenneth Galbraith, Paul M. Warburg Professor of Economics, Harvard University
1972-W: Vernon E. Jordon, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League
1972-S: Osborn Elliott, Chairman of the Board, *Newsweek*
1972-F: Elliot Richardson, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
1973-W: Miss Nancy Hanks, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts
1973-S: Walter Cronkite, Managing Editor, CBS Evening News
1973-F: Mrs. Barbara Ward, International Economist
1974-W: Robben W. Fleming, President, University of Michigan
1974-S: The Honorable Edward W. Brooke, Massachusetts, the United States Senate
1974-F: Van Cliburn, Pianist
1975-W: The Honorable James G. O'Hara, Representative, the State of Michigan, the United States House of Representatives
1975-S: Katherine Graham, Publisher of the *Washington Post*
1975-F: Clark Kerr, Chairman, Carnegie Council on Policy Studies in Higher Education
1976-W: Russel E. Train, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
1976-S: George W. Ball, Partner, Lehman Brothers, Inc. and former Under Secretary of State

1976-F: Martha Griffiths, Former United States Congresswoman, and Attorney

1977-W: John A. Meyers, Publisher of *Sports Illustrated*

1977-S: The Honorable Andrew J. Young, United States Ambassador to the United Nations

1977-F: Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., President, Michigan State University

1978-W: Thomas A. Bartlett, President, Association of American Universities

1978-S: The Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Representative, State of Washington, United States House of Representatives

1978-F: Richard C. Atkinson, Ph.D., Director, National Science Foundation

1979-W: Gene F. Jankowski, President, CBS Broadcast Group

1979-S: John A. Hannah, President Emeritus, Michigan State University

1979-F: Walter Adams, Former President, Distinguished Professor in Economics, Michigan State University

1980-W: Co-speakers: Eric John Berglund Diane Ellen Adunczyk
Honors Graduate, 1978 Honors Graduate, 1979

1980-S: Edgar L. Harden, President Emeritus, Michigan State University

1980-F: The Honorable William D. Ford, United States Congressman

1981-W: Peter S. Carlson, John A. Hannah Professor, Michigan State University

1981-S: Francis James McDonald, President, General Motors

1981-F: Co-speakers: Benjamin Streeter, III Ann Waldron
Honors Graduate, 1976 Honors Graduate, 1980

1982-W: David K. Scott, Ph.D., John A. Hannah Professor in Nuclear Science, Michigan State University

1982-S: The Honorable William G. Milliken, Governor of the State of Michigan

1982-F: Co-speakers: Steven A. Polio Susan Finkbiner Bartz
Honors Graduate, 1977, 1980 Honors Graduate, 1980

1983-W: Dr. Guy L. Bush, Professor in Evolutionary Biology

1983-S: The Honorable James J. Blanchard, Governor of the State of Michigan

1983-F: Co-speakers: Craig A. Fedore Pamela K. Withrow
Honors Graduate, 1978 Honors Graduate, 1975

1984-W: Linda Wagner, Professor of English, Michigan State University

1984-S: M. Peter McPherson, Administrator, Agency for International Development

1984-F: Co-speakers: Judith Brown-King Steven P. Spivey
Graduate, 1983 Graduate, 1977

1985-W: Daniel R. Ilgen, John A. Hannah Professor in Psychology & Management

1985-S: Richard H. Austin, Secretary of State, State of Michigan

1985-F: Co-speakers: Michael McConnell Mary Norton McConnell
Honors Graduate, 1976 Honors Graduate, 1977

1986-W: Martin J. Bukovac, Distinguished Professor, Department of Horticulture

1986-S: John DiBiaggio, President, Michigan State University

1986-F: Co-speakers: Valente Espinoza David Hales
Graduate, 1985 Graduate, 1984

1987-W: Ruth Hamilton, Distinguished Professor, Department of Sociology

1987-S: Joe H. Stroud, Editor, Detroit Free Press

1987-F: Harold T. Shapiro, President, University of Michigan

1988-W: The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson

1988-S: Robert L. Clodius, President, National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges

1988-F: Clifton R. Wharton, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and College Retirement Equities Fund

1989-W: Darlene C. Hine, Hannah Professor, Department of History, Michigan State University

- 1989-S: Lauro F. Cavazos, United States Secretary of Education
- 1989-F: Stevland Morris (Stevie Wonder)
- 1990-W: Abel B. Sykes, Jr., President, Lansing Community College
- 1990-S: Lee A. Iacocca, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Chrysler Corporation
- 1990-F: Molly K. Brennan, Rhodes Scholar, Class of 1982
- 1991-W: Gordon Hirabayashi, Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta, Canada
- 1991-S: The Honorable John M. Engler, Governor, the State of Michigan
- 1991-F: Walter Adams, Former President, Distinguished Professor in Economics, MSU
- 1992-W: Harold (Red) Poling, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board, Ford Motor Company
- 1992-S: Walter E. Massey, Director, National Science Foundation

FALL AND SPRING COMMENCEMENTS (Change to semesters (Fall 1992-Spring 1995))

- 1992-F: Dick Beals, Voice Actor
- 1993-S: Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., Deputy Secretary of State, the United States
- 1993-F: Mary Fisher, Founder, Family AIDS Network
- 1994-S: Ernest Green, Managing Director, Lehman Brothers
- 1994-F: Peter A Seligmann, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Conservation International
- 1995-S: The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, Forty-second President of the United States
- 1995-S: Ingrid Saunders Jones, Vice President of Corporate External Affairs for the Coca-Cola Company and Chairperson of the Coca-Cola Foundation

BEGIN TWO CEREMONIES FOR FALL SEMESTER BACCALAUREATE DEGREES (Fall 1995-Present)

- 1995-F: Frederik Meijer, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Meijer Incorporated
The Honorable Spencer Abraham, the United States Senate
- 1996-S: Helen Thomas, United Press International, White House Bureau Chief
- 1996-F: The Honorable David C. Hollister, Mayor, the City of Lansing, Michigan
William David Brohn, Orchestrator, Broadway Theater, Music '55
- 1997-S: William H. Gray, III, President and CEO, The College Fund/United Negro College Fund
- 1997-F: Branford Marsalis, Grammy Award Winning Saxophonist and Educator, Catherine Herrick Cobb
Distinguished Lecturer at Michigan State University
John F. Smith, Jr., Chairman of the Board and CEO, President, General Motors Corporation
- 1998-S: Gregory Kelsner, Former Professional Basketball Player for the NBA, and Sports Broadcaster. Member of the
1979 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship Team.
- 1998-F: Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, author, journalist and PBS and NBC
panelist/commentator
Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Former U.S. Secretary of State, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor
- 1999-S: Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize
- 1999-F: Stephen Jay Gould, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2000-S: James D. Wolfensohn, President, The World Bank Group, Washington, D.C.
- 2000-F: Alejandro Junco de la Vega, Award-winning Journalist, and Publisher, Grupo Reforma, Monterrey, Mexico
Jeffrey N. Cole, Honors College Alum 1970, Former Chairman and CEO, Ferrous Processing and Trading
Company, Birmingham, Michigan
- 2001-S: Co-speakers:
Thomas Izzo, Head Coach, Men's Basketball, Intercollegiate Athletics, Michigan State University
Ronald Mason, Head Coach, Hockey, Intercollegiate Athletics, Michigan State University
- 2001-F: W. Clark Bunting, Executive Vice President and General Manager, The Discovery Channel, Bethesda,
Maryland

Lee C. Bollinger, President, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

2002-S: The Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States of America

2002-F: Eli Broad, Chairman, AIG SunAmerica Inc. Founder, The Broad Foundation, Los Angeles, California
Eleanor M. Josaitis, Chief Operating Office and Cofounder, Focus: HOPE, Detroit, Michigan

2003-S: The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm, 47th Governor of the State of Michigan

2003-F: The Honorable Deborah A. Stabenow, United States Senator from the State of Michigan
Bernard B. Kerik, Author and Chief Executive Officer, Giuliani-Kerik LLC, New York, New York

2004-S: Condoleezza Rice, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, National Security Council, Washington, D.C.

2004-F: Dan L. DeGrow, Superintendent, St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)
The Honorable Carl Levin, United States Senator from the State of Michigan

2005-S: Maya Angelou, Best-Selling Author and Inaugural Poet, Civil Rights Activist, Educator, Historian, Actress, Playwright, Producer and Director.

2005-F: Jared M. Diamond, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author, and Professor Geography, UCLA
Mary R. Dawson, Curator Emeritus, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2006-S: Berry Gordy, Founder of Motown Records

2006-F: Andrea L. Van de Kamp, Independent Consultant; Chair Emeritus of the Board of Directors, Music Center of L. A. County, California; College of Arts and Letters Alumna '66
Kay Koplovitz, Founder, USA Network, and Author, *Bold Women, Big Ideas*; College of Communication Arts and Sciences Alumna '68

2007-S: Jaime A. Escalante, Author and Educator. His story, as a high school mathematics teacher in East Los Angeles, inspired the movie *Stand and Deliver*.

2007-F: Peter Löscher, President and Chief Executive Officer, Siemens AG, Munich, Germany
Winston E. Scott, Author, *Reflections from Earth Orbit*, Vice President and Deputy General Manager, Jacobs Engineering Group, Houston, Texas

2008-S: The Honorable Gro Harlem Brundtland, Former Prime Minister, Norway, and Past Director-General, World Health Organization

2008-F: John B. McCoy, Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Bank One Corporation, Chicago, Illinois

2008-F: Jack Epps, Jr., Screenwriter, Associate Professor and Chairperson, Writing for Screen and Television, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, and English, BA '72, Michigan State University

2009-S: The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus, Nobel Peace Prize '84

2009-F: Edward J. Minskoff, Jr., President, Edward J. Minskoff Equities, Inc., New York, New York. Economics, BA '62, Michigan State University
Nancy G. Brinker, Founder, Susan G. Komen for the Cure

2010-S: The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy, II, Former US Congressman of Massachusetts, Founder, Chairperson and President, Citizens Energy Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts

2010-F: Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Magic Johnson Enterprises, and Chairman and Founder, Magic Johnson Foundation, Inc. Member of the 1979 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship Team.
Jeffrey R. Immelt, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, General Electric Company

2011-S: Steve "Woz" Wozniak, Apple Computer, Inc., co-founder

2011-F: Mitch Albom, Best-selling Author, Nationally Syndicated Columnist, Radio and TV Commentator, Playwright, and Screenwriter
Roy S. Roberts, Detroit Public Schools Emergency Manager, Detroit, Michigan

2012-S: The Honorable Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland

2012-F: Rick Snyder, Governor, Michigan

- Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Director, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution
- 2013-S Timothy Busfield, Emmy Award-Winning Actor, Executive Producer and Director in Television, Founder of Fantasy Theatre and Co-founder of B Street Theatre
- 2013-F James P. Hackett, Chief Executive Officer, Steelcase Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan
Sergio Marchionne, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Chrysler Group LLC, Chief Executive Officer, Fiat S.p.A., Auburn Hills, Michigan
- 2014-S Azim Premji, Philanthropist and Chairman, Wipro Limited, Bangalore India
- 2014-F George F. Will, Pulitzer Prize for Commentary, Magazine/Newspaper editor and columnist, Television News Program analyst and contributor, Washington, D.C.
Michael Moore, documentary filmmaker and winner of an Emmy Award for *Roger and Me*, Academy Award for *Bowling for Columbine* and the Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or for *Fahrenheit 9/11*
- 2015-S Robert A. Chapek, Chairman, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, Burbank, CA. MSU alumnus
- 2015-F Darlene Clark Hine, 1987-2004 John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of History at MSU, Board of Trustees Professor of African American Studies and Professor of History at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Susan B. Goldberg, Editor-in-Chief, *National Geographic*. MSU alumna
- 2016-S Mona Hanna-Attisha, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, College of Human Medicine, MSU, and Director, Pediatric Residency Program, Hurley Children's Hospital, Flint, Michigan. MSU alumna
- 2016-F John M. Duffey, President and Chief Executive Officer, Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, Grand Prairie, Texas. MSU alumnus
Barbara Ross-Lee, Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs, New York Institute of Technology, New York, New York. MSU alumna
- 2017-S Kirk Gibson, Founder of The Gibson Foundation, College Football Hall of Fame Honoree, Clarkston, Michigan
- 2017-F Cindy Pasky, President and Chief Executive Officer, Strategic Staffing Solutions, Detroit, Michigan
Priya Balasubramaniam, Vice President of iPhone Operations, Apple, Inc, Cupertino, California
MBA MSU alumna
- 2018-S Wanda Herndon, President, W Communications, Seattle, Washington, MSU alumna