

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: The 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: The 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: Douglas MacArthur, General, United States Army

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, Chairperson, 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, 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 and 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. Wofensohn**, 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 1984
- 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