

## Past Commencement Speakers

2025 – [Walter Massey](#), Chair of the Giant Magellan Telescope Organization, President Emeritus of Morehouse College and of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

2024 – [Jensen Huang](#), Founder and CEO of NVIDIA

2023 – [Danielle Allen](#), James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard, director of Harvard's Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, author

2022- [Jad Abumrad](#) (Founding Producer, RadioLab)

2021\* - [Robert L. Behnken](#) (MS '93, PhD '97, NASA Astronaut) - *\*Fall in-person makeup celebration event*

2021- [Norman R. Augustine](#) (Retired Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation)

2020 - [various alumni appearances](#)

2019 - [France Córdova](#) (PhD '79, Director of the National Science Foundation)

2018 – [John Lewis](#) (U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights Leader)

2017 - [Mae Jemison](#) (first African American woman in space)

2016 - [Atul Gawande](#) (surgeon, writer, and public health researcher)

2015 - [Genevieve Bell](#) (cultural anthropologist, VP of Intel)

2014 - [Daniel Yergin](#) (Pulitzer Prize-winning author)

2013 - [Mary Sue Coleman](#) (president, University of Michigan)

2012 - [Elon Musk](#) (entrepreneur)

2011 - [Ahmed Zewail](#) (Nobel Laureate, Caltech Professor)

2010 - Charles Bolden (NASA Administrator)

2009 - Steven Chu (Secretary of Energy)

2008 - Robert Krulwich (science correspondent)

2007 - Jared Diamond (author)

2006 - David Baltimore

2005 - Sandra Tsing-Loh (alumna and author/performer)

2004 - Carlton Fiorina (chairman and CEO, HP)

2003 - Harold Varmus (Nobel laureate; president & CEO, Memorial Sloan - Kettering Cancer Center)

2002 - Alan Alda (actor)

2001 - Gordon Moore (trustee)

2000 - Ray Bradbury (author)

1999 - Tom Brokaw (journalist)

1998 - Bill Nye (The Science Guy)

1997 - David Ho (trustee; AIDS researcher)

1996 - Bobby Ray Inman (trustee)

1995 - Mark Wrighton (alumnus; chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis)

1994 - Thomas Everhart and Ruben Mettler (100th Commencement)

1993 - Jewel Plummer Cobb (trustee)

1992 - David Gardner (president, UC)

1991 - George H. W. Bush (President of the United States)

1990 - Frank Rhodes (president, Cornell)

1989 - James Duderstadt (alumnus; president, University of Michigan)

1988 - Robert Sinsheimer (former faculty; former chancellor, UCSC)

1987 - David Hamburg (president, Carnegie Corporation)

1986 - Arnold Beckman (trustee)

1985 - Ralph Landau (trustee)

1984 - Thomas J. Watson, Jr. (trustee)

1983 - James Michener (author)  
1982 - Hans W. Liepmann (faculty)  
1981 - Shirley Hufstedler (trustee)  
1980 - Murph Goldberger (president)  
1979 - Bruce Murray (faculty; director, JPL)  
1978 - Max Delbruck (faculty)  
1977 - Lee DuBridge (president emeritus)  
1976 - John Knowles (president, Rockefeller Foundation)  
1975 - Harry Gray (faculty)  
1974 - Richard Feynman (faculty)  
1973 - no commencement speaker (Beckman stepping down as chairman)  
1972 - John Hogness (president, Institute of Medicine, NAS)  
1971 - James Fletcher (administrator, NASA)  
1970 - Philip Handler (president, NAS)  
1969 - Herbert York (professor of physics, UCSD)