PROGRAM

PROCESSION*
The audience is requested to rise as the graduates enter and to remain standing until the graduates are seated.

WELCOME AND PRESIDENT’S REMARKS
MICHAEL S. ROTH ’78 - PRESIDENT

SENIOR CLASS WELCOME
BRYAN LEONARD SIU YEUNG CHONG ’21 - FOR THE CLASS OF 2021

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING FACULTY
CONFERRING OF MASTER OF ARTS AD EUNDUM GRADUM
CONFERRING OF TEACHING PRIZES
NICOLE STANTON - Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DOCTORATES
ADDRESS
REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS

CONFERRING OF DEGREES
It is requested that there be no applause until all degrees have been conferred.

WORD OF BLESSING †
RABBI DAVID LEIPZIGER TEVA - DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

SINGING OF THE “ALMA MATER” ‡

RECESSION
The audience is asked to remain clear of the aisles until the end of the recession.

* An explanation of academic regalia and the procession is provided on page 16 of this program.
† On a rotating schedule, the University’s Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, or Roman Catholic chaplain is selected to speak.
‡ The lyrics of the “Alma Mater” are on the inside of the back cover of this program.

Degrees will be officially conferred by Wesleyan University’s Board of Trustees on May 28, 2021. Due to printing deadlines, the lists of graduate names in each of the degree sections in this program are not official, and should not be used to determine a student’s academic or degree status. Wesleyan’s Office of the Registrar maintains each student’s permanent academic record.
RECOGNITION OF RETIRING FACULTY

WILLIAM HERBST
 JOHN MONROE VAN VLECK PROFESSOR OF ASTRONOMY (2000–2021)
 Professor of Astronomy (1990–2021)
 Associate Professor of Astronomy (1984–1990)
 Assistant Professor of Astronomy (1978–1994)
 PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

JOYCE JACOBSEN
 ANDREWS PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS (2003–2021)
 Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (2015–2019)
 Professor of Economics (2006–2021)
 Associate Professor of Economics (1996–2000)
 Assistant Professor of Economics (1993–1996)
 PH.D., STANFORD UNIVERSITY

J. DONALD MOON
 EZRA AND CECELE ZILKHA PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL STUDIES (2008–2022)
 Professor of Government (1983–2021)
 Associate Professor of Government (1977–1983)
 Assistant Professor of Government (1972–1977)
 PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

THOMAS J. MORGAN
 FOSS PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS (1996–2021)
 Academic Secretary (2003–2014)
 Professor of Physics (1986–2021)
 Associate Professor of Physics (1980–1986)
 Assistant Professor of Physics (1973–1980)
 PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

ELLEN THOMAS
 HAROLD T. STEARNS PROFESSOR OF INTEGRATIVE SCIENCES (2017–2021)
 Smith Curator of Paleontology of the Joe Webb Peoples Museum of Natural History (2018–2021)
 University Professor in the College of Integrative Sciences (2011–2021)
 Research Professor in Earth and Environmental Sciences (2004–2015)
 Research Associate Professor in Earth and Environmental Sciences (1992–2004)
 PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF Utrecht

KHACHIG TÖLÖLYAN
 PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND LETTERS (2006–2021)
 Professor of English (1990–2006)
 Associate Professor of English (1984–1990)
 Assistant Professor of English (1975–1981)
 Instructor in English (1974–1975)
 PH.D., BROWN UNIVERSITY

JOHAN VAREKAMP
 HAROLD T. STEARNS PROFESSOR OF EARTH SCIENCE (2005–2021)
 Smith Curator of Mineralogy and Petrology of the Joe Webb Peoples Museum of Natural History (2018–2021)
 George I. Seney Professor of Geology (2000–2005)
 Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences (1994–2021)
 Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences (1990–1996)
 Assistant Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences (1983–1990)
 PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF Utrecht

CONFERRING OF MASTER OF ARTS AD EUNDEN GRADUM

The honorary degree of Master of Arts ad eundem gradum has been awarded by Wesleyan University since 1894 to those members of the faculty who are not graduates of Wesleyan at the bachelor’s level and who have attained the rank of full professor. The award makes each full professor an alumnus/a of the University.

ERIKA FRANKLIN FOWLER
 PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT

BARBARA JEAN JUHASZ
 JEFFREY L. SHAMES PROFESSOR OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

HARI KRISHNAN
 PROFESSOR OF DANCE

PHILIP G. RESOR
 PROFESSOR OF EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

BINSWANGER PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Binswanger Prize for Excellence in Teaching is made possible by gifts from the family of the late Frank G. Binswanger Sr., Hon. ’85.

SONALI CHAKRAVARTI
 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT

Sonali Chakravarti, associate professor of government, came to Wesleyan in 2009. Her work focuses on questions of emotions, the law, and democratic institutions. Sonali is the author of two books—Radical Enfranchisement in the Jury Room and Public Life (University of Chicago Press, 2019) and Sing the Rags: Listening to Anger After Mass Violence (University of Chicago Press, 2014)—as well as numerous peer-reviewed articles and chapters in publications including Political Theory and the Journal of Law, Culture, and the Humanities. At Wesleyan, she teaches courses including What Is the Good Life?, The Moral Basis of Politics, Transitional Justice, and Acting and Citizenship, among others. She served on the Educational Policy Committee in 2019–20, and on the faculty board of the Fries Center for Global Studies in 2018–19. In 2014, she was awarded Wesleyan’s Baker Memorial Prize. Sonali has been the Ann Plato Post-Doctoral Fellow at Trinity College and Laurence S. Rockefeller Visiting Faculty Fellow at the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University. She earned a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College, and an M.A., an M.Phil., and a Ph.D. in political science from Yale University.

DOUGLAS ARTHUR MARTIN
 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE IN CREATIVE WRITING

Douglas Arthur Martin, assistant professor of the practice in creative writing, joined Wesleyan’s faculty in 2008. Douglas is an author of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and prose, whose books have been translated into Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. The most recent book, Wolf, “is an ‘anti–true crime novel about abuse, patricide, and Southern working-class life.” Douglas’s first novel, Outline of My Lenter, was an International Book of the Year in the Times Literary Supplement, and was adapted in part for the multimedia ballet and live film Kosovo/Kamerun. It has now been reissued in a 20th-anniversary edition. Douglas’s work also has been recognized with a Lambda Award nomination in the Gay Memoir/Biography category (Once You Go Back) and as a finalist for the Ferro-Grumley Award (Bromwell). At Wesleyan, Douglas teaches creative writing courses in all genres and currently serves as assistant director of creative writing. Born in Virginia and raised in Georgia, Douglas now divides time between Brooklyn, upstate New York, and Connecticut. Douglas has a B.A. from the University of Georgia Athens, an M.F.A. from The New School, and a Ph.D. from The Graduate Center of The City University of New York.

ANNA SHUSTERMAN
 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Anna Shusterman, associate professor of psychology, joined Wesleyan’s Psychology Department in 2007. She is co-chair of the College of Education Studies, established in 2020. Anna directs research in the Wesleyan Cognitive Development Laboratories exploring how young children’s experiences change their thinking and behavior. Her research has been published in numerous scholarly journals, including Developmental Science, Cognition, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. At Wesleyan, she teaches courses in developmental psychology, education, early childhood, and cognitive science. Her efforts to connect University-based research to real-world settings include Kindergarten Kickstart, a summer bridge-to-kindergarten program in Middletown; two service-learning courses connecting students to local preschools; and a large project to develop and test research-based math games for early childhood settings. She has held many University service positions, including serving as chair of the Education Policy Committee and as a McNair Research Advisor. Anna earned an Sc.B. in neuroscience from Brown University and a Ph.D. in psychology from Harvard University. Prior to teaching at Wesleyan, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard and a science teacher at Saint Ann’s School in Brooklyn. She has received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award and was a finalist for the Campus Compact Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award.
Reginald Dwayne Betts is the award-winning author of four collections of poetry, a nonfiction memoir, and a powerful body of essays and scholarship that has been featured in such publications as The New York Times, The New Yorker, and The Washington Post. The founder and director of the Million Book Project, his work has earned him a Radcliffe Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, NEA Fellowships, and a PEN New England Award for poetry, among many other recognitions.

In his National Magazine Award-winning essay “Getting Out,” published in The New York Times Magazine in 2018, Betts explores the central themes of self-reflection and self-actualization, and the effects of incarceration on individuals, families, and communities. A gifted student in elementary and high school, Betts was himself sentenced to nine years in maximum security prison at age 16. During that time, he studied literature and poetry and laid the foundation for a career that has since seen him earn a B.A. from the University of Maryland, an M.F.A. from Warren Wilson College, and a J.D. from Yale Law School. Betts has engaged in wide-ranging speaking engagements and has years of experience in public defense, advocacy, and public service. He has received an appointment from Governor Ned Lamont to Connecticut’s Criminal Justice Commission, the state body that hiring all state prosecutors.

Betts is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Law at Yale University and continues to lecture on his formative experiences and the importance that grit, perseverance, and literature have played in his success, as well as the intersection between literature and advocacy. His most recent collection of poems, Felon: Poems (2019), was a winner of the American Book Award and the NAACP Image Award, and a finalist for the LA Times Book Award. He is also the author of A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison and the poetry collections Shahid Reads His Own Palm (2010) and Bastards of the Reagan Era (2015).

Catherine Coleman Flowers is a renowned environmental health advocate whose work focuses on bringing attention to and developing solutions for failing water and waste sanitation infrastructure in rural areas, and increasing our understanding of how this infrastructure failure perpetuates health and socioeconomic disparities. For her work, Flowers was awarded a 2020 MacArthur Fellowship, also known as a “Genius Grant,” which goes to citizens or residents of the United States who demonstrate extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction.

Originally from Lowndes County, Alabama, Flowers earned a B.A. from Cameron University in 1986 and an M.A. from the University of Nebraska in 2015, and worked as a high school teacher in Detroit, Michigan, and Washington, D.C., before returning to Lowndes to begin her advocacy work. She is the founding director of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice, an Alabama-based policy and advocacy organization devoted to addressing the root causes of poverty in the state and developing multidisciplinary, grassroots solutions and models that can be replicated in rural communities throughout the country. Part of the organization’s work included a house-to-house survey in Lowndes that confirmed more than half of county households were either piping raw sewage into the ground or had failing septic systems, which led to the first open discussion of flaws in onsite water treatment (which previously had been governed under threat of incarceration by the Alabama Public Health Department). She is currently collaborating with The Guardian on a national study to identify and quantify wastewater infrastructure problems throughout the United States.

Flowers is the author of Waste: One Woman’s Fight Against America’s Dirty Secret (2020), and has published articles in Anglican Theological Review, Columbia Human Rights Law Review, and American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, among other journals. She is also the rural development manager for the Equal Justice Initiative, a senior fellow for the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, and a member of the board of directors of the Climate Reality Project and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Flowers was recently appointed to the Biden-Sanders Task Force on Climate Change, co-chaired by United States Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and former Secretary of State John Kerry, who is now a special envoy for climate.
The awarding of honorary master’s degrees at Wesleyan began with the first Commencement. In 1833, the Rev. John Foster, principal of Wesleyan Academy (now Wilbraham & Monson Academy), was so recognized by the University. Foster was a self-educated Methodist circuit rider who came to this country from England in 1823. One hundred and five years later, Wesleyan’s M.A. was the first honorary degree received by another largely self-educated man, Frank Lloyd Wright.

In 1894, the M.A. and eundem gradum was first granted to “permanent members of the faculty who are graduates of other colleges.” As the Latin phrase suggests, this degree went to those who held a degree of at least the same grade from another institution. Among the “permanent” or full professors thus brought into the Wesleyan alumni ranks was 1894 President Bradford P. Raymond, the first president of the University to hold a Ph.D.

Commencement ceremonies from 1954 to 1976 included the awarding of Master of Arts in Teaching degrees. In 1955, Wesleyan’s Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program, the earliest of its kind in American higher education, produced its first eight graduates.
The Wesleyan University Commencement honors the successful completion of the graduates by the various prescribed courses of study. The Commencement is one of the few public events at which the University celebrates the academic purposes and accomplishments of members of the Wesleyan family. In symbolic recognition of these achievements, the trustees, administrators, faculty, and recipients of degrees are attired in academic costume for this occasion. In 1997, Wesleyan began the practice of inviting the parents of Wesleyan students who serve as educators, either teachers or administrators, to don academic regalia and march as a division in the procession.

Please note: Due to safety protocols on campus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Commencement procession has a limited number of participants (other than graduates). In addition, the recession will not be held.

Traditionally, the Wesleyan procession is arranged by academic degrees, lowest to highest. Within each group of degree recipients, the graduates are ordered alphabetically. The faculty, administrators, trustees, and parent-educators are arranged by date of receipt of the first, or bachelor's, degree, youngest first. The platform party is composed of those Wesleyan officers with Commencement duties: the chair of the Board of Trustees, the president, the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, the director of Continuing Studies and Graduate Liberal Studies, and the vice president for Student Affairs. This rota takes into account only those seated on Denison Terrace, in reverse order.

The procession is led by the marshal of the faculty, whose function derives from a keeper of the horses in the medieval royal household. As a badge of office, the marshal carries a mace that has evolved from the spiked staff used in battle in the Middle Ages. Wesleyan boasts a mace designed and constructed by the late Professor of Art John Risley to mark the University's Sesquicentennial in 1981. Made of redwood, the mace depicts the Wesleyan seal surmounted by the cardinal red gowns. The colors of the lining have indicated the institution faculty awarding the degree: philosophy, dark blue; law, purple; etc.

A hood indicates the level of the degree, the faculty in which the degree is conferred, and the color of the academic regalia. A hood with velvet trim colors on the doctor's gown, is colored according to the faculty awarding the degree: philosophy, dark blue; law, purple; etc.

The academic costumes of the degree recipients and the other participants represent an evolution of robes worn centuries ago. No longer are gowns worn during instructional periods or for warmth. The custom of moving the tassel from right front to left front at the time a degree is awarded has practically vanished.

Black gowns are acceptable for all institutions, but some universities have adopted optional colors for gowns. For example, Yale gowns are Yale blue; Harvard, crimson; Columbia, light blue; Princeton, black with orange trim. In recent decades, the B.A. recipients at Wesleyan have worn cardinal red gowns. The velvet panels down the front and around the neck of doctors' gowns may be colored, depending on the faculty awarding the degree: philosophy for the Philosophy Doctor, dark blue; law for the Juris Doctor, purple; medicine, green; education, light blue; science, golden yellow; theology, scarlet; arts, letters, and humanities, white. The three bars on the sleeve of a gown signify a doctor's degree; four, the president.

A hood indicates the level of the degree, the faculty in which the degree was awarded, and the university awarding the degree. The length of the hood and the width of its velvet trim signify the level. Masters' hoods are three-and-one-half feet long, with velvet trim three inches wide; doctors' hoods, four feet, with a five-inch width of velvet trim. The velvet trim on these hoods, like the optional trim colors on the doctor's gown, is colored according to the faculty awarding the degree: philosophy, dark blue; law, purple; etc. Since 1895, the colors of the lining have indicated the institution awarding the degree: Harvard has adopted black lined with crimson; Yale, Yale blue; Princeton, orange with a single black chevron; Williams, purple; Amherst, purple with a single white chevron. Wesleyan's colors, displayed on hoods worn by recipients of the Ph.D., M.A., M.Phil., and M.A.L.S. degrees, are cardinal red with a single black chevron.

The South College Bells, traditionally played before and after the Commencement ceremony, were installed in December 1918 as the gift of the Class of 1863. Members of that class were “possessed of unusual intellectual ability. . . . They were jolly good fellows. Everybody liked them, even the president and some of the professors,” according to the December 1918 Wesleyan University Alumnae magazine. “They were a musical class,” fitting for the donors. The original 11 copper-alloy bells were cast in 1916 by Mears and Stainbank, founders, of London, in business since 1570. Special permission of the War Bureau was required to bring them into the country during the Great War. During restoration in 1966, facilitated by an anonymous contribution (by President Butterfield, it turned out), five bells were added. In 2005, an additional eight bells, donated by Wesleyan friends, alumni, and parents, were installed. This new addition upgraded the South College Bells from the status of a chime (10 to 22 bells) to that of a carillon (23 or more). The bells are played by a direct action keyboard of wooden peg-like keys, and, according to a 1974 Wesleyan Argus article, they are “hung on hickory beams to add to the mellowness of the tone.”

**ACADEMIC REGALIA AND THE PROCESSION**

**THE "ALMA MATER," REVISED JUNE 1977**

Words by F. L. Knowles, Class of 1894
Music by W. B. Davis, Class of 1894

Come, raise the song for Wesleyan,
Till Night and Echo send it back;
Come, gather around the dear old banner,
Emblazoned with the Red and Black!
We'll all be young again together;
Life's short—then fill with joy its span!

Chorus:
O triad wells! O storied halls!
O shrine of long ago!
The altar fires our fathers lit
Shall still more brightly glow.

Come, throw away all thoughts of sorrow,
And give the night to mirth and song!
If care must come, it comes tomorrow;
Today our hearts are bold and strong.
Our song is for the dear old college!
Join hands and praise you while we can!
Time ne'er shall shake our deep devotion,
Our deathless love for Wesleyan!

Chorus:
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