

A HISTORY OF

MIT Commencement Speakers

- 1880** First MIT Commencement speaker of record (Rev. George E. Ellis)
- 113** MIT Commencement speakers since 1880
- 39** CEOs, chairs, directors, and organization presidents
- 22** MIT alumni
- 11** MIT presidents
- 6** World leaders (Annan, Barco, Clinton, Gore, Salinas, Schmidt)
- 5** Clergy, spiritual leaders, and theologians
- 2** Minutes of silence in lieu of a speaker in 1970
- 0** Commencement exercises in 1918-1919 due to World War I



	2018	2018	Sheryl Sandberg COO, Facebook
	-	2017	Tim Cook CEO, Apple Inc.
	-	2016	Matt Damon Actor, Filmmaker and Social Activist
	-	2015	Megan Smith '86, SM '88 United States Chief Technology Officer
	-	2014	Ellen Kullman CEO and Chair, DuPont
	-	2013	Draw Houston '05 CEO and Founder, Dropbox
	-	2012	Salman Khan '98 Founder, Khan Academy
	-	2011	Ursula Burns CEO, Xerox
	2010	2010	Raymond S. Stata '57, SM '58 Chair and Founder, Analog Devices
	-	2009	Deval Patrick Massachusetts Governor
	-	2008	Muhammad Yunus 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner
	-	2007	Charles Vest HM '94 Former MIT President
	-	2006	Ben Bernanke PhD '79 Chair, Federal Reserve Board
	-	2005	Irwin M. Jacobs '57, ScD '59 Co-Founder and Chair, Qualcomm
	-	2004	Elias Zerhouni Director, National Institutes of Health
	-	2003	George Mitchell Former United States Senator
	-	2002	James Wolfensohn President, World Bank Group
	-	2001	Daniel Goldin NASA Administrator
	2000	2000	Carly Fiorina SM '89 President and CEO, Hewlett-Packard
	-	1999	Ray Magliozzi '72 Host, "Car Talk"
	-	1999	Tom Magliozzi '58 Host, "Car Talk"
	-	1998	William Jefferson Clinton United States President
	-	1997	David Ho CEO and Director, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center
	-	1997	Kofi Annan SM '72 United Nations Secretary-General
	-	1996	Albert Gore United States Vice President
	-	1995	Hanna H. Gray President Emeritus, University of Chicago
	-	1994	Karim Aga Khan IV Spiritual Leader, Shia Ismaili Muslims
	-	1993	Carlos Salinas de Gortari President, United Mexican States
	-	1992	Leslie Aspin PhD '66 United States Representative from Wisconsin
	-	1991	Walter E. Massey Director, National Science Foundation
	1990	1990	Virgilio Barco '43 President, Republic of Colombia
	-	1989	Paul E. Tsongas Former United States Senator from Massachusetts
	-	1988	A. Bartlett Giamatti President, National League of Professional Baseball Clubs
	-	1987	Kenneth H. Olsen '50, SM '52 Founder and President, Digital Equipment Corp.
	-	1986	William R. Hewlett SM '36 Vice Chair, Hewlett-Packard
	-	1985	Lee A. Iacocca Chair and CEO, Chrysler Corporation
	-	1984	Shirley Chisholm United States Representative from New York
	-	1983	Helmut Schmidt Former Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany
	-	1982	Katharine Graham Chair and CEO, Washington Post Co.
	-	1981	Paul E. Gray '54, SM '55, ScD '60 MIT President
	1980	1980	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1979	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1978	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1977	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1976	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1975	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1974	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1973	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1972	Jerome Wiesner HM '71 MIT President
	-	1971	Howard Wesley Johnson HM '66 MIT President
	1970	1970	Two minutes of silence to consider what can be done "to help resolve the conflicts which divide mankind."
	-	1969	Howard Wesley Johnson HM '66 MIT President
	-	1968	Howard Wesley Johnson HM '66 MIT President
	-	1967	Howard Wesley Johnson HM '66 MIT President
	-	1966	Julius Stratton '23, SM '26 MIT President
	-	1965	Julius Stratton '23, SM '26 MIT President
	-	1964	Julius Stratton '23, SM '26 MIT President
	-	1963	Eugene R. Black Former President, World Bank
	-	1962	Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh President, University of Notre Dame
	-	1961	Frank Stanton President, Columbia Broadcasting System
	1960	1960	Edwin H. Land President, Polaroid Corporation
	-	1959	John Cowles President, Minneapolis Star and Tribune Co.
	-	1958	John Jay McCloy Chair, Chase Manhattan Bank
	-	1957	John William Gardner President, Carnegie Corporation of New York
	-	1956	Neil Hosler McElroy President, Procter and Gamble Co.
	-	1955	Sir Roger Makins 1st Baron Sherfield, British Ambassador to the United States
	-	1954	Clarence B. Randall Chair, United States Commission of Foreign Economic Policy
	-	1953	Lewis W. Douglas '17 Former United States Ambassador to Great Britain
	-	1952	Edward A. Weeks, Jr. Editor, <i>Aironic Monthly</i>
	-	1951	Harold R. Medina Judge, United States District Court for Southern District of New York
	1950	1950	Chester Irving Barnard President, Rockefeller Foundation
	-	1949	James Phinney Baxter III President, Williams College
	-	1948	Arthur Holly Compton Chancellor, Washington University, and 1927 Nobel Prize winner
	-	1947	Warren Robinson Austin United States Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly
	-	1946	Lt. Gen. James Doolittle SM '24, ScD '25 Former Commanding General, United States Eighth Air Force
	-	1945	Captain Dashiell Livingstone Madeira Director of Training, Bureau of United States Naval Personnel
Undergraduate	-	1944	Claude Moore Fuess Headmaster, Phillips Academy
Advanced	-	1944	Bradley Dewey ScD '40 President, Dewey & Almy Chemical Co.
Undergraduate	-	1943	Clarence Decatur Howe Minister of Munitions and Supply Dominion of Canada
Advanced	-	1943	John W. M. Bunker HM '50 MIT Dean for Graduate School
Advanced	-	1942	Karl Taylor Compton HM '31 MIT President
Undergraduate	-	1942	Samuel Cate Prescott 1894 MIT Dean of Science
	-	1941	Robert Erastus Wilson President, Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Co.
	1940	1940	Henning Webb Prentiss, Jr. President, National Association of Manufacturers
	-	1939	Sir Harold Hartley Vice President, London, Midland, and Scottish Railways
	-	1938	Charles Donagh Maginnis President, American Institute of Architects
	-	1937	Gano Dunn President, J.G. White Engineering Corp.
	-	1936	Newton Diehl Baker Former United States Secretary of War
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1935	Major General William Harvey Tschappat United States Army
General	-	1935	Rear Admiral Charles Phillips Snyder United States Navy
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1935	Isaiah Bowman President-Elect, Johns Hopkins University
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1934	Brigadier General Alston Hamilton United States Army
General	-	1934	Rear Admiral Henry Hughes Hough United States Navy
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1933	Howard Walter Blakeslee Science Editor, Associated Press
General	-	1933	Major General Fox Conner United States Army
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1933	Rear Admiral George Henry Rock United States Navy
General	-	1933	Abbott Lawrence Lowell HM '28 Retiring President, Harvard University
General	-	1932	Sir Henry W. Thornton President, Canadian National Railways
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1932	Brigadier General Alston Hamilton United States Army
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1931	Commander Henry Eastin Russell United States Navy
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1931	Major General Fox Conner United States Army
General	-	1931	Rear Admiral Louis McCoy United States Navy
	1930	1930	Ray Lyman Wilbur United States Secretary of the Interior
	-	1929	Sir William Henry Bragg Scientist, London University, and 1915 Nobel Prize winner
	-	1928	Hiram Bingham III United States Senator from Connecticut
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1927	John Hays Hammond Mining Engineer
General	-	1927	Brig. Gen. Preston Brown United States Army
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1926	John E. Aldred Banker and Life Member, MIT Corporation
General	-	1926	Brig. Gen. Malvern-Hill Barnum United States Army
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1925	Michael I. Pupin Professor, Columbia University
General	-	1925	Major General Andre W. Brewster United States Army
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1925	Dr. Charles A. Coffin 1886 Former President, General Electric Company
Reserve Officers Corps	-	1924	Major General C.C. Williams United States Army
General	-	1924	Frank Edward Shepard 1887 Director, United States Mint
Reserve Officer Corps	-	1923	Major General Andre W. Brewster United States Army
General	-	1923	Elisha Lee Vice President, Pennsylvania Railroad
Reserve Officer Corps	-	1922	Col. John Buffalo Christian Head, MIT Department of Military Science
General	-	1922	Elihu Thomson HM '28 MIT Acting President
	-	1921	Elihu Thomson HM '28 MIT Acting President
	1920	1920	Elihu Thomson HM '28 MIT Acting President
	-	1919	No Commencement exercises World War I
	-	1918	No Commencement exercises World War I
	-	1917	Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08 MIT President
	-	1916	J. Smith Professor, University of West Virginia
	-	1916	Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08 MIT President
	-	1915	No Commencement address
	-	1914	No Commencement address
	-	1913	Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08 MIT President
	-	1912	Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08 MIT President
	-	1911	Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08 MIT President
	1910	1910	Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08 MIT President
	-	1909	Richard C. Maclaurin HM '08 MIT President
	-	1908	Arthur A. Noyes MIT Acting President
	-	1907	Henry S. Pritchett HM '00 MIT President
	-	1906	Henry S. Pritchett HM '00 MIT President
	-	1905	Henry S. Pritchett HM '00 MIT President
	-	1904	Henry S. Pritchett HM '00 MIT President
	-	1903	Henry S. Pritchett HM '00 MIT President
	-	1902	Henry S. Pritchett HM '00 MIT President
	-	1901	Henry S. Pritchett HM '00 MIT President
	1900	1900	James Mason Crafts HM '00 MIT President
	-	1899	James Mason Crafts HM '00 MIT President
	-	1898	James Mason Crafts HM '00 MIT President
	-	1897	James Mason Crafts HM '00 MIT President
	-	1896	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1895	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1894	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1893	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1892	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1891	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	1890	1890	Augustus Lowell Member, MIT Corporation
	-	1889	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1888	Rev. Phillips Brooks Rector, Trinity Church, Boston
	-	1888	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1887	Rev. Phillips Brooks Rector, Trinity Church, Boston
	-	1887	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1886	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1885	John D. Runkle HM '00 MIT Professor of Mathematics
	-	1884	No Commencement address
	-	1883	Francis A. Walker MIT President
	-	1882	William Barton Rogers Former MIT President
	-	1881	Rev. James Freeman Clarke American Theologian
	-	1881	William Barton Rogers MIT President
	1880	1880	Rev. George E. Ellis Unitarian Clergyman