



## A STORYTELLER ADVISES GRADS TO WRITE THEIR OWN LIFE STORY

Entertainment exec and alum Bonnie Hammer addresses 144th Commencement

**B**ONNIE HAMMER, named the “Most Powerful Woman in Entertainment” by the *Hollywood Reporter*, offered a storyteller’s advice on how BU graduates might construct the narrative of a successful postcollege life at the University’s 144th Commencement.

Hammer, chair of NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment Group, delivered the keynote address on May 21. “When you leave today, you’ll begin to write the most powerful, most meaningful, and most entertaining story of your life,” said Hammer (CGS’69, COM’71, SED’75, Hon.’17). “It’s the story of *you*.”

A crowd of approximately 20,000 family, friends, and dignitaries gathered on Nickerson Field to watch as the University awarded diplomas to about 6,530 seniors and graduate students and conferred 5 honorary degrees.

📍 **ONLINE:** Complete Commencement coverage, including videos, is at [bu.edu/bostonia](http://bu.edu/bostonia).



Bonnie Hammer (facing page, top) delivers the keynote address. Actor Uzo Aduba (CFA'05) (bottom left), who addressed graduates at the College of Fine

Arts Convocation, snaps a selfie with some fans. Nobel Laureate Mario Molina (bottom right), a longtime advocate for climate change

control, speaks at the Baccalaureate Service. Retired Red Sox slugger David Ortiz (this page, left) receives an honorary degree. And students celebrate their big day.



## The graduates reserved their loudest cheers for David Ortiz.

honors: the 2017 Metcalf Cup and Prize for Excellence in Teaching went to Naomi Mann, a School of Law clinical associate professor of law, and a Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching was given to both Sophie Godley (SPH'17), a School of Public Health clinical assistant professor of community health sciences, and Gary Lawson, LAW's Philip S. Beck Professor of Law.

The graduates gave Hammer a standing ovation, but they reserved their loudest cheers for retired Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz (Hon.'17), who, like Hammer, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from President Robert A. Brown. Brown conferred the same degree on Jeanne Knox (Hon.'17), chair of the BU Parents Leadership Council. The other honorary degree recipients each received a Doctor of Laws: Nobel laureate and climate change scientist Mario J. Molina (Hon.'17), who delivered the Baccalaureate Address to the Class of 2017 at Marsh Chapel that morning, and BU overseer, trustee emeritus, and former Board of Trustees chair Robert A. Knox (CAS'74, Questrom'75, Hon.'17). Brown also awarded the University's highest teaching