Challenge to the Next Generation

The Class of 2009 gathered one final time on Sunday, May 17, in a ceremony that celebrated the power of the individual. Commencement was notable for the presence of some national luminaries, including former Boston Celtics player Larry Bird (Hon.’09) and acclaimed filmmaker Steven Spielberg (Hon.’09). But Baccalaureate speaker Rev. Gloria White-Hammond (CAS’72, Hon.’09), a doctor, a minister, and an activist, and Commencement speaker Michael Capuano (Hon.’09) took a more local approach in their addresses, emphasizing connections to community and urging graduates to harness the power of their generation.
May Day Hurray

Capuano, the U.S. Congressman from the Massachusetts Eighth District (opposite page, bottom left), told the crowd at Nickerson Field that they should strive to improve what they can. “You will matter to yourselves, and you will matter to the next generation behind you.” Bird (opposite page, bottom right) receives his hood. Spielberg (below) was hooded by Trustee Alan Leventhal (Hon.’09), who also received an honorary degree in recognition of his service as former chair of the Board of Trustees.

“IF YOU SEEK TO IMPROVE THE THINGS THAT YOU CAN, YOU WILL MATTER MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.” —MICHAEL CAPUANO (HON.’09)

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