



BOSTON UNIVERSITY

148TH COMMENCEMENT

2021

SUNDAY THE SIXTEENTH OF MAY

NICKERSON FIELD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PROGRAM

Prelude Concert Boston University Commencement Brass Choir
Aaron Goldberg, Director

Fanfare from <i>La Péri</i>	<i>Paul Dukas</i>
Marche Militaire Française	<i>Camille Saint-Saëns</i>
A Western Fanfare	<i>Eric Ewazen</i>
Libertango	<i>Astor Piazzolla</i>
Fanfare for the Common Man	<i>Aaron Copland</i>
Procession of the Nobles	<i>Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov</i>
Hymn to New England	<i>John Williams</i>

Processional

Pomp and Circumstance March, No. 1	<i>Edward Elgar</i>
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Call to Order Kenneth J. Feld
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY

National Anthem Jillian Agona
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS '21

Invocation The Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill
DEAN OF MARSH CHAPEL, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Student Speaker Archelle Thelemaque
(*Afternoon*) COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION '21

Presentation of the Class Gift Audrey Tran
(*Afternoon*) COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES '21

Beatriz Vianna Martins da Costa
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION '21

Welcome from the Alumni Association J. R. Hipple
PRESIDENT OF THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI COUNCIL

The Metcalf Awards for Excellence in Teaching Robert A. Brown
PRESIDENT OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Fadie T. Coleman, *School of Medicine*
David G. Sullivan, *College of Arts & Sciences*

The Metcalf Cup and Prize for Excellence in Teaching
Steve Ramirez, *College of Arts & Sciences*

Conferring of the Honorary Degrees Robert A. Brown

Noubar Afeyan, *Doctor of Humane Letters*
Catherine D'Amato, *Doctor of Humane Letters*
Ayanna Pressley, *Doctor of Laws*

Morning Address Noubar Afeyan

Afternoon Address Ayanna Pressley

Presentation of Candidates Jean Morrison
UNIVERSITY PROVOST AND CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Karen H. Antman
PROVOST OF THE MEDICAL CAMPUS, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Promotion of Candidates to Degrees Robert A. Brown

President's Charge to the Graduates Robert A. Brown

Clarissima (words and music on page 18) Jillian Agona

Benediction The Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill

Recessional Boston University Commencement Brass Choir

"Go BU"	<i>Ranny Weeks and Bernie Fazioli</i>
"Hey! Baby"	<i>Margaret Cobb and Bruce Channel</i>
"I'm Shipping Up to Boston"	<i>Woody Guthrie/Dropkick Murphys</i>
Second Suite in F, Op. 28, March	<i>Gustav Holst</i>

THE METCALF CUP AND PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

THE METCALF CUP and Prize is the highest faculty honor of Boston University. The award recognizes and encourages outstanding teaching in the context of a research institution and expresses the University's deepest purpose.



of teaching and the identification and advancement of those members of the faculty who excel as teachers, of which this cup is symbolic."

The Metcalf Cup and \$10,000 Prize and gold medal is presented

annually at Commencement. Each year, candidates are nominated by students, faculty, or alumni, and the finalists are selected by a screening committee of faculty and students. Over the course of the year, the committee solicits and reviews supporting materials from the candidates and their department chairs. The members of the committee visit the classes of the finalists and, in the spring, present their recommendations to the University's president.

The Metcalf Awards were established in 1973 by an endowment gift from the late Dr. Arthur G. B. Metcalf (1908–1997), an alumnus, faculty member, generous benefactor, Trustee of Boston University, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1976 to 1994. "The purpose of the prize," Dr. Metcalf stated at the time of its creation, "is to establish a systematic procedure for the review of the quality

THE METCALF AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

THE METCALF AWARDS for Excellence in Teaching are given annually to one or more of the finalists in the competition for the Metcalf Cup and Prize. Each winner of the Metcalf Award receives \$5,000 and a silver medal. As President Robert A. Brown has said regarding the symbolic significance of the awards, "Teaching is an art. It is the essential function of a university, as it is our mission to mold the next generation of informed citizens and creative thinkers. Boston University

is committed to educating students to be reflective, resourceful leaders in an interconnected world. We accomplish this through the work of great teachers, men and women who inspire their students. They encourage exploration, debate, cooperation, the pursuit of the unknown, and discovery; they introduce ancient wisdom and the latest scholarship. The Metcalf Awards recognize and encourage outstanding teaching and thereby support our fundamental mission."

THE METCALF CUP AND PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

STEVE RAMIREZ

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL & BRAIN SCIENCES



As a teacher, Dr. Ramirez guides students on a journey breaking down scientific phenomena to basic building blocks, reassembling those blocks in new ways, and eventually proposing original concepts and experiments. They develop skills and understanding applicable to a broad array of scientific challenges.

Outside of regular courses, he supervises undergraduate students through senior honors research, directed study, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) projects, and other academic work, as well as advising master's and doctoral students.

Dr. Ramirez received a BA *magna cum laude* in Neuroscience from Boston University, a PhD in Brain and Cognitive Sciences from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an avalanche of awards, including the College of Arts & Sciences Templeton Award for Excellence in Student Advising and Mentoring, the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, *Forbes* 30 Innovators Under 30 Award, and *Smithsonian* magazine's American Ingenuity Award.

Dr. Ramirez's appeal extends beyond campus; he is popular for media interviews, and his *TED Talks* video on memory garnered more than 1.1 million views.

At a university of outstanding teachers, Steve Ramirez, an Assistant Professor in Boston University's College of Arts & Sciences, stands out.

In just four years with the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences and the Department of Biomedical Engineering, he has won the respect and admiration of students and colleagues alike. Students describe Dr. Ramirez as a "helpful," "caring," "fun," "knowledgeable," and even "magic" professor, who "could explain memory engrams to a three-year-old." His nominating colleague describes him as "an innovative and passionate educator who inspires students to learn and to enter the field of systems neuroscience."

THE METCALF AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

FADIE T. COLEMAN

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & EDUCATION



Somehow, amid all that, Dr. Coleman finds time to teach—exceptionally. She seeks to build on students' experiences and give them a sense of belonging to a whole. Her methods include pedagogy that promotes intellectual discipline, scientific literacy and writing, community building, and science identity development.

Her students give the experience rave reviews ranging from “she really challenges you to think” to “coolest most insightful experience” to “made me a better scientist.” Two words, especially, recur in one evaluation after another: “Thank you.”

Dr. Coleman's nominator sums it up nicely: “I cannot imagine a more invested, giving, and talented professor.”

Dr. Coleman holds a BA in Biology and English Literature from Boston University, an MA in Biology from Harvard University, and a PhD in Microbiology from Boston University School of Medicine. Her national honors include recognition from the National Science Foundation and American Society for Microbiology. At BU, she has received numerous awards at both the School of Medicine and University levels.

Fadie T. Coleman joined Boston University in 2017 as Assistant Professor of Medical Sciences and Education with the BU School of Medicine (BUSM) and she is Director of the Biomedical Laboratory and Clinical Sciences Program (BLCS) of Metropolitan College. She has been very busy ever since.

Overseeing BLCS, she has redesigned the curriculum, integrated updated laboratory technique courses, added scientific writing and communication-focused courses, and streamlined the biomedical research internship program. She has developed nine courses for Graduate Medical Sciences. She is actively involved in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives on the Charles River and Medical Campuses.

THE METCALF AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

DAVID G. SULLIVAN

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE



than 50 percent of them are women, up from 20 percent.

This success is not isolated. Reviews from across all his courses speak of “an amazing professor” who “really cares about students” and is “insanely good at teaching.” “He made me fall in love with computer science,” is a sentiment echoed by many. One student even describes him as an “angel sent from the heavens.”

Dr. Sullivan developed the department's course assistant program, in which undergraduates serve as mentors to students in introductory courses, and he has himself been an outstanding mentor to junior instructors. He has also been a department leader in utilizing innovative educational approaches and technological tools to improve student learning. In particular, he employs peer instruction, an educational methodology that gives students immediate feedback on their understanding of key concepts and promotes deeper learning through in-class exercises and small group discussions. He has also helped other faculty members to adopt these approaches and tools in their own courses.

Dr. Sullivan holds an AB in Physics from Harvard College, and an SM and PhD in Computer Science from Harvard University. Boston University has previously recognized his contributions with the Neu Family Award for Excellence in Teaching.

David G. Sullivan is a Master Lecturer and the Director of Peer Education and Assessment in the Department of Computer Science in the College of Arts & Sciences. He is “a creative and committed teacher,” says the department chair. “He has been an innovative leader in our educational mission, and he has had an enormous impact on the lives of students.”

His redesign of Introduction to Computer Science I, the gateway course to the major, is described as “radical.” The course supplements the traditional focus on programming with units that explore the diversity of subjects that constitute computer science. Student response has been overwhelming: enrollment has increased from 500 students in 2013–2014 to more than 1,000 this year, and more

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Noubar Afeyan

DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS



The grandson of an Armenian genocide survivor, Noubar Afeyan moved in his early teens from Lebanon to Canada and later to the United States, to study biochemical engineering. He has forged a career as an inventor, entrepreneur, and CEO pursuing innovation that better the human condition.

Starting at age 24, Dr. Afeyan cofounded and built over 35 successful start-ups, most famously Moderna, Inc., which last year introduced the first mRNA-1273 COVID-19 vaccine, profoundly affecting the lives of millions around the world. The vaccine's development epitomizes Dr. Afeyan's vision; Moderna began experimenting with

the underlying technology in 2010, almost a decade before discovery of the virus. He is also founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering, one of Boston's largest capital firms specializing in biotech and life sciences. He holds over 100 patents.

Mindful of his Armenian roots, Dr. Afeyan cofounded the 100 LIVES Initiative in 2015 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide by locating and preserving the stories of its survivors and rescuers. He received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2008—the same year he became a US citizen—and was a Great Immigrant honoree of the Carnegie Corporation in 2016.

Dr. Afeyan holds a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from McGill University and a PhD in biochemical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he now serves as a trustee. He is also an overseer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, serves on the boards of several public and private companies, and engages generously in philanthropy.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Catherine D'Amato

DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS



Catherine D'Amato has been in the food industry since she was eight years old, first helping out in her father's restaurant and now, as CEO and president of the Greater Boston Food Bank, providing nutritious meals to the hungry. In between, lies a lifetime of service.

In the 1970s, Ms. D'Amato ran a small, local food cupboard. She soon organized the area's many similar operations into a larger, more efficient food pantry program and, in 1979, created the even larger San Francisco Food Bank to supply those pantries. From there, she moved east as executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts,

where she established the first food bank farm in the United States, inspiring dozens of food banks to follow suit. In 1995, Ms. D'Amato assumed leadership of the Greater Boston Food Bank, which, at the time, distributed 7.5 million meals per year. Today, the food bank is a \$100 million charitable organization, serving 82 million healthy meals each year through more than 600 distribution sites in 190 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts.

Ms. D'Amato holds a bachelor's degree in theology from the University of San Francisco and business management certificates from Harvard University and Smith College. She serves on the boards of trustees of Fidelity Charitable and Eastern Bank and the boards of directors of the Forsyth Institute and the Massachusetts Food Association.

She continues to work to end food insecurity with the belief that fresh, healthful foods can help move people from dependency to roles as thriving contributors.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Ayanna Pressley

DOCTOR OF LAWS



Ayanna Pressley is an advocate, community activist, United States Representative for Massachusetts' 7th Congressional District, and an original member of The Squad, a group of progressive members of Congress under 50. Her career is rooted in the belief that a diversity of voices is essential and that those closest to pain should also be closest to power.

Ms. Pressley was raised primarily by her single mother, a tenants' rights organizer, and developed an early interest in public service. Beginning in seventh grade, she was elected class president six consecutive years, was elected student government president,

and delivered the commencement address at her high school graduation.

In 1992, she enrolled at Boston University but withdrew after two years to help support her mother. She became a civil rights activist working first with Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II and then for 13 years with Senator John Kerry (Hon.'05).

In 2009, she became the first woman of color elected to the Boston City Council, where she fought against inequities and disparities facing the community. In 2018, she was the first woman of color elected to the US Congress by Massachusetts.

Ms. Pressley has been recognized as one of Ten Outstanding Young Leaders by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, one of Boston's 50 Most Powerful People by *Boston* magazine, and one of the *New York Times*' 14 Young Democrats to watch.

She continues to serve in Congress, working to create policies reflective of her district, Massachusetts' most diverse in both ethnicity and income.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

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QUESTROM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Susan Fournier, *Dean*

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION
Mariette DiChristina, *Dean*

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Cataldo Leone, *Dean ad interim*

WHELOCK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
David Chard, *Dean*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Kenneth R. Lutchen, *Dean*

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
Harvey Young, *Dean*

COLLEGE OF GENERAL STUDIES
Natalie McKnight, *Dean*

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ARVIND & CHANDAN NANDLAL KILACHAND HONORS COLLEGE
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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Sandro Galea, *Dean*

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Jorge Delva, *Dean*

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Sujin Pak, *Dean*

ACADEMIC TRADITIONS

ACADEMIC DRESS: The academic dress worn by today's graduates reflects a tradition begun in the late twelfth century, when universities were taking form. Originally the dress may have had a practical purpose: to keep the student warm in unheated buildings. Today it is ceremonial. American colleges and universities subscribe to a code of academic dress first adopted in 1895. The Academic Costume Code is divided into three parts: caps, gowns, and hoods.

The traditional cap is the mortarboard, which is worn by our bachelor's and master's degree candidates. The colored tassels worn from the mortarboards identify the graduate's discipline or field of study. Boston University's doctoral candidates wear an octagonal tam with gold tassels.

The gown for the bachelor's degree is simple, with open sleeves. The master's gown has a long, curved extension at the bottom of the sleeve, and is narrow at the wrist. Bachelor's and master's gowns are always untrimmed. The more ornate doctoral gown is faced with velvet and features three velvet bars on each sleeve. The velvet is black for all disciplines except law, dentistry, and medicine, which are faced with those fields' traditional colors: purple, lilac, and green. The sleeves are bell-shaped and billowing. Some students also wear cords or stoles over their academic dress to signify academic achievement or extracurricular involvement.

Bachelor's candidates at Boston University do not wear hoods as part of their dress. The master's hood is three and one-half feet in length, and the doctoral hood is four feet with panels on the sides. The lining of the hoods is unique to the university: every university, according to the Academic Costume Code, has a distinct pattern. The Boston University hood is lined with a single white chevron on a scarlet field. The color of the velvet edging of the hood corresponds to the graduate's field of study. Academic disciplines and associated colors seen at today's Commencement include:

Arts, Letters, Humanities—white
Business, Management—drab
Dental Medicine—lilac
Education—light blue
Engineering—orange
Fine Arts—brown
Law—purple
Medicine—green

Music—pink
Philosophy—dark blue
Physical Therapy—teal
Public Health—salmon
Sciences—yellow
Social Work—citron
Theology—scarlet

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION: The University Marshal presides over the Academic Procession, standing at the front of the platform. The mace is raised to signify that Commencement is ready to begin; as it is lowered, the music begins and the graduates begin to march onto the field. The graduates are then followed by the alumni and faculty processions. The platform party follows the faculty; the President is the last person in the procession.

THE PRESIDENT'S GOWN AND COLLAR: The President wears a custom-made presidential robe, distinguished by its four velvet sleeve bars and facing, which are trimmed in gold. The President's collar is a chain of repeating decorative links. Such collars were often worn in the Middle Ages as a badge of office. The Boston University collar, symbolizing the office of the President, is composed of the University seal alternating with the letters BU; a larger seal is suspended from it. The collar was designed in the 1980s by the late Dr. Arthur G. B. Metcalf, alumnus, Associate Founder of the University, and Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees.

THE MACE: The mace was originally a weapon of war; heavy, often with a spiked metal head, it was designed to damage an opponent's armor. It has evolved into a symbol of institutional authority. The academic mace, representing the authority of the university, is carried at the front of formal academic processions.

The Boston University mace was also designed in the 1980s by Dr. Metcalf. It is fashioned of sterling silver and has two University seals intertwined on the button end. In today's ceremony, it is borne by the University Marshal.

ORDER OF PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES: In today's commencement ceremony, the candidates for degrees at Boston University's schools and colleges are introduced by their respective deans in the order of the anticipated number of candidates receiving degrees, from smallest to largest number of graduates.

ABOUT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Boston University's impact extends far beyond Commonwealth Avenue, Kenmore Square, the Fenway Campus, and the Medical Campus. Our students, faculty, and alumni venture around the world to study, conduct research, teach, and become a part of the communities in which they live. BU is the fourth-largest private residential university in the country today and is a member of the Association of American Universities, the organization of the 65 leading research universities in the United States and Canada. As a measure of its global reach, Boston University is currently conducting more than 300 separate research, service, and educational programs and projects around the world.

Enduring dedication to excellence in teaching, research, global education, and community service are the touchstones of Boston University's proud past and promising future.

In the rich tapestry of Boston University's history, one thread runs true: quality teaching by an outstanding faculty. Students benefit from direct instruction by dedicated professors who are actively involved in original research and scholarship, as well as from the University's combination of a strong liberal arts foundation and exceptional professional programs. Many students work closely with faculty mentors to advance the frontiers of human discovery. Opportunities for educators and researchers to collaborate across disciplines

leverage the breadth and depth of the University's program offerings.

Since its founding in 1839, Boston University has embraced two principles that have come to define higher education today: a conviction that higher education should be accessible to all, and a belief that the pursuit of learning is enhanced by direct engagement with the community and the world.

Boston University has traditionally valued diversity and offered educational opportunity without regard to race, class, sex, or creed from its beginning. The University was among the first to open all its divisions to women, the first to award a PhD to a woman, and the first coeducational medical college in the world. Martin Luther King, Jr., perhaps our most famous alumnus, studied here in the early 1950s, during a period when nearly half of this country's doctoral degrees earned by African American students in religion and philosophy were awarded by Boston University.

Boston University's commitment to community service and the City of Boston remain strong. The early dream of an institution "in the heart of the city, in the service of the city" has been realized in numerous ways: through more than \$15 million annually in scholarships provided to graduates of the Boston Public Schools via the Thomas

M. Menino Scholarship program and the Community Service Awards program, the 24-year collaborative program of tutoring Boston elementary school children through the Boston University Initiative for Literacy Development, and the pioneering merger of the BU Medical Center Hospital and Boston City Hospital. Students and faculty regularly participate in a broad range of formal and informal community service activities.

Today, Boston University's 17 schools and colleges enroll nearly 34,000 students from all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, three US territories, and over 130 foreign countries. The nation's first collegiate international exchange program was created here in the 19th century. Since then, Boston University's Study Abroad offerings have grown to include more than 70 programs on six continents. This global emphasis is integrated into the on-campus curriculum, with courses and programs that bring an international perspective to subjects from anthropology to zoology.

Boston University is continually evolving to anticipate and meet the challenges of higher education, emerging technologies, and changing workplace expectations. That capability was tested last year, when the University adapted to the COVID pandemic with a combination of screening, testing, and contact tracing, as well as a new hybrid learning format and safety protocols that enabled the University to continue advancing the education of thousands of students, while sustaining

critical momentum in research and clinical services.

Since the adoption of our first Strategic Plan in 2007, Boston University has broadened the scope of research, added more than 100 endowed full professorships and career development appointments, and introduced numerous academic programs. In 2017, Boston University adopted a Climate Action Plan that is embedded in our curriculum and research programs and is transforming our campus infrastructure—with the fundamental goal to reduce the University's environmental footprint.

Boston University is organizing to lead in the emerging field of data sciences. To integrate computing and data sciences across the University, in 2019 the University established a new Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences with professors who bridge traditional disciplines and are less encumbered by disciplinary boundaries.

As we build upon our foundation of excellence and look ahead with a Strategic Plan for the next decade and beyond, we assess our strengths and listen to our entire BU community. We continue to explore new pathways to offer an innovative, inclusive, and accessible academic experience, conduct important research, and expand BU's global impact.

Today's graduates take their place in a long line of alumni whose life-changing educational experience at Boston University prepared them to help serve, shape, and improve the world.



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CLARISSIMA

Dean B. Doner

Brenton C. Patterson, 1911

1
Bos - ton U - ni - ver - si - ty, Proud with mis - sion sure; _____

5
Keep - ing the light of know - ledge high, long to en - dure; _____

9
Treas - ring the best of all that's old, search - ing out the new; _____

13
Our Al - ma Ma - ter ev - er - more! Hail B. ____ U. ____

New lyrics for “Clarissima” were written by the late Dean B. Doner, a Vice President of Boston University from 1973 to 1986.

Certified Printing. In keeping with Boston University’s commitment to sustainability, this program is printed on paper that is 10% PCW (Post-Consumer Waste) and certified by Green-e, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), SFI (Sustainable Forest Initiative), and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification).

