

Commencement 2025

169TH COMMENCEMENT

University Commencement

University Commencement

Order of Events

Musical Prelude

Tufts University Wind Ensemble

Douglas McRay Daniels, *Director*

Commencement Marshal

Paul J. Tringale, A82, Fo1, *Secretary of the Corporation*

Processional

Presenter

Florina Tseng, *Professor of Infectious Disease and Global Health*

Alumni Marshal

Melissa John, *Representing the 25th Reunion Class*

National Anthem

Heidi Nguyen, A25

Invocation

Lynn Cooper, Ao2, *Catholic Chaplain*

Welcome

Sunil Kumar, *President of the University*

Conferring of Honorary Degrees

Sunil Kumar, *President*

Recipients of Honorary Degrees

Steven Boxer, Doctor of Science

Ursula Burns, Doctor of Engineering

Peter Dolan, Doctor of Business Administration

Freeman A. Hrabowski III, Doctor of Education

James J. O'Connell, Doctor of Public Service

Nancy Schön, Doctor of Fine Arts

The Commencement Address

Freeman A. Hrabowski III

University Commencement

Order of Events

Recipients of Emeritus/a Certificates

Michael Barsanti, School of Arts and Sciences
Ann Easterbrooks, School of Arts and Sciences
Lawrence Ford, School of Arts and Sciences
Gérard Gasarian, School of Arts and Sciences
Judith Haber, School of Arts and Sciences
Philip G. Haydon, School of Medicine
Yannis Ioannides, School of Arts and Sciences
Daniel Guy Jay, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and School of Medicine
Carl Kirker-Head, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Ronald Kulich, School of Dental Medicine
Mary Labato, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Paul Leavis, School of Dental Medicine
Cynthia Leveille-Webster, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Douglas Matson, School of Engineering
Kenneth Miller, School of Medicine
John Morgan, School of Dental Medicine
Gregory Oxenkrug, School of Medicine
Kathleen Pollakowski, School of Arts and Sciences
Martha Pott, School of Arts and Sciences
Debra Poutsika, School of Medicine
Eric Todd Quinto, School of Arts and Sciences
Albert John Sargent III, School of Medicine
Norma Terrin, School of Medicine
Florina Tseng, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Saul Tzipori, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Alexander Vilenkin, School of Arts and Sciences

Conferring of Degrees in Course

Sunil Kumar, *President*
Jeffrey M. Moslow, *Chairman, Board of Trustees*
Caroline Attardo Genco, *Provost and Senior Vice President*
Bárbara Brizuela, *Dean, School of Arts and Sciences*
Kyongbum Lee, *Dean, School of Engineering*
Helen W. Boucher, *Dean, School of Medicine*
Nadeem Karimbux, *Dean, School of Dental Medicine*
Kelly Sims Gallagher, *Dean, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy*
Alastair Cribb, *Dean, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine*
Christina Economos, *Dean, The Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy*

Remarks

Jeffrey M. Moslow, *Chairman*

Closing

Sunil Kumar, *President*

Benediction

The Venerable Vineetha Mahayaye, *Buddhist Chaplain*

After the benediction and recessional of the platform party and the faculty, graduates' guests are invited to attend Phase II of the Commencement exercises at the various sites.

University Commencement

Dear Alma Mater

Leo R. Lewis A1887

*We con, beside thy knee,
Dear Alma Mater,
Earth's book of mystery,
Dear Alma Mater.
We track the storied past,
Dear Alma Mater,
Over plains of learning vast,
Dear Alma Mater, With thee.*

*Speed on thy sunlit way,
Dear Alma Mater,
We vow new faith today,
Dear Alma Mater!
May glory light thy name,
Dear Alma Mater,
All thy children sing thy fame,
Dear Alma Mater, For aye!*

Tuftonia's Day

Elliot Wright Hayes A1916

*Steady and true, rush along, Brown and Blue.
Raise a mighty score today.
Fearless tear down the field and never yield!
Brown and Blue, Brown and Blue for aye!
Hammer them hard, boys, and break through their guard.
That is old Tuftonia's way.
And our glorious banner once again will wave o'er
Tuftonia's Day.
T-u-f-t-s, T-u-f-t-s, Hurrah! Hurrah! for dear old Brown
and Blue!*

*Refrain:
Up on the Hill tonight all will be gay.
Victorious in the fight, we'll raise the standard of dear old
Tufts to glory!
Pile up a mighty score.
It's bound to soar.
Now one goal more!
Nothing can stop us; it's Tuftonia's Day.*

Academic Mace

Ceremonial maces were originally carried as a symbol of royal authority, dating back to the Middle Ages. The academic mace is a symbol of the authority invested in the president by the university's governing body. Tufts' mace is adorned with a medallion engraved with the official seal of the university and is carried before the president in academic processions in

formal ceremonies such as commencement and inaugurations. The mahogany stand displaying the mace was designed and built by students from Medford Vocational Technical High School and was presented to President Anthony P. Monaco in April 2015.

Academic Regalia

Traditional academic regalia has been worn by the Tufts faculty since the Commencement of 1906. The gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. The master's degree gown has elbow-length, pointed sleeves; the doctoral degree gown has bell-shaped sleeves; both may be worn open or closed. The doctoral degree gown is faced, and the sleeves are trimmed with velvet. By its color and arrangement, the hood worn with the gown indicates the wearer's highest advanced degree, the field in which it was awarded, and the school from which it came. The lining of the hood carries the school's colors, brown and blue in the case of Tufts. The velvet edging on the hood, wider for the doctoral degree than for the

master's degree, signifies by its color the field in which the degree was designated. Science hoods are trimmed in yellow, engineering in orange, medicine in green, dental medicine in lilac, doctor of philosophy in blue, and veterinary medicine in gray. The mortarboard or Oxford-type cap is the one usually worn, but of late, the soft cap, which resembles an oversized beret, has come into favor because of its comfort. Tassels, other than the universally accepted black, may indicate by the various colors the field of learning in which the degree is earned, while the gold tassel generally signifies a doctoral degree. Many international universities show great diversity, following traditions that extend back for centuries.

Recipients of Honorary Degrees

STEVEN BOXER is the Camille Dreyfus Professor of Chemistry at Stanford University. In his lab, Boxer and his students investigate the structure and function of biological systems using many tools and methods and with a strong physical perspective. They use a wide range of chemical and recombinant DNA methods to modify proteins and monitor or modulate their function, inventing experimental methods and developing theory as needed. This includes studies of the initial steps in photosynthesis, excited state processes in green fluorescent protein, model membrane architectures, and the connection between electric fields and catalysis in enzymes.

After earning a bachelor's degree with honors in chemistry from Tufts University in 1969 and a Ph.D. in physical and physical organic chemistry from the University in Chicago in 1976, Boxer joined the chemistry faculty at Stanford University as an assistant professor. In 1986, he was promoted to professor, and since 2000 he has held the Dreyfus Professorship. He currently serves as chair of the chemistry department.

Boxer has served on the scientific advisory board of many startups in the general area of biotechnology and as an advisor to government, university, and nonprofit organizations in the United States and around the world.

He is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Nakanishi Prize from the American Chemical Society, the Founders Award from the Biophysical Society, and is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Biophysical Society, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Royal Society of Chemistry. He has also presented more than 25 named lectureships around the United States as well as in Canada and Australia.

Boxer will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

URSULA BURNS has extensive international experience in leading large companies that are facing sea changes in technology within their industries.

Burns joined Xerox Corporation as a summer intern in 1980 and went on to hold leadership posts spanning corporate services, manufacturing, and product development. She was appointed president in 2007 and served as chairwoman of the board from 2010 to 2017 and chief executive officer from 2009 to 2016. During her tenure as CEO, she helped the company transform from a global leader in document technology to the world's most diversified business services company, serving enterprises and governments of all sizes. Shortly after being named CEO, she spearheaded the largest

acquisition in Xerox's history: the \$6.4 billion purchase of Affiliated Computer Services.

In 2016, Burns led Xerox through a successful separation into two independent, publicly traded companies. After her retirement from Xerox, she served as chairwoman and CEO of VEON Ltd., during which time she successfully steered the company through various compliance and restructuring changes.

Burns is a founding partner of Integrum Holdings, a private-equity firm, and a nonexecutive chairwoman of Teneo Holdings LLC. She also serves on the boards of directors of Uber Technologies, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited, and IHS Holding Limited. In addition, Burns is on several private company boards, while also providing leadership counsel to community, educational, and nonprofit organizations, including, among others, the Ford Foundation, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Corporation, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Mayo Clinic.

President Barack Obama appointed Burns to lead the White House national program on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) from 2009 to 2016, and she also served as chair of the President's Export Council from 2015 to 2016. In 2022, Burns joined the U.S. Department of Commerce's Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness as vice chair.

Burns holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Polytechnic Institute of New York University. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Royal Academy of Engineering, and the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council. Her book *Where You Are Is Not Who You Are* was published in 2021.

Burns will receive an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree.

During more than two decades of service, spanning the tenure of three presidents, **PETER DOLAN** strengthened the Tufts University Board of Trustees through insightful governance that advanced the university's reputation for exceptional excellence in teaching, scholarship, and research.

Dolan graduated from Tufts in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in social psychology, magna cum laude, and went on to earn an M.B.A. from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. After eight years at General Foods in consumer marketing, he joined Bristol-Myers Squibb in 1988, eventually leading the company's consumer,

Recipients of Honorary Degrees

nutritionals, and medical device businesses. He was named president of pharmaceuticals for Europe in 1998, company president in 2000, and chairman and CEO in 2001.

Dolan joined the Tufts Board of Trustees in 2001, and he was appointed vice chair in 2008 and served as board chairman from 2013 to 2024. During his board service, Dolan helped guide Tufts through two presidential searches and two university-wide fundraising campaigns—and through the challenges of a global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. He led thoughtful dialogues around complex decisions, including the acquisition of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. His ability to find common ground on issues facing both Tufts and U.S. higher education more broadly facilitated consensus and farsighted solutions.

As a trustee, Dolan chaired five committees—the Presidential Search, Audit, Compensation, Administration and Finance, and Executive committees—and served on five others. He was an engaged fundraiser for the university and served as vice chair for the *Beyond Boundaries* campaign and a member of the *Brighter World* Campaign Cabinet. He and his wife, Katie, are enthusiastic supporters of the School of Arts and Sciences, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

Dolan has been active on 14 boards—an equal number of for-profit and nonprofit organizations—and served as board chairman for three of the for-profit and three of the nonprofit organizations. With a particular interest in health and wellness, Dolan chaired the Partnership for a Healthier America and the Friedman School's ChildObesity180 initiative. With Katie and sons Chris, Ao8, and Tim, he trained with the Tufts President's Marathon Challenge team and ran the Boston Marathon. In 2007, he finished the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon.

Dolan has shared his expertise with startups as chair and CEO of cancer therapeutics company GeminX and as chair of tech incubator Allied Minds. He is currently a one-on-one leadership coach to senior business executives.

Dolan will receive an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree.

FREEMAN A. HRABOWSKI III, president emeritus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, works with education, government, and business leaders as a consultant, lecturer, and speaker on such topics as leadership, STEM education, workforce development, and civic engagement.

Hrabowski's research and publications focus on science and math education, with special emphasis on minority participation and performance. He chaired the National Academies' committee that produced the report, *Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America's Science and Technology Talent at the Crossroads*. In 2012, President Barack Obama named him chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

With philanthropist Robert Meyerhoff, he cofounded in 1988 the Meyerhoff Scholars Program. Recognized as a national model, the program is open to high-achieving students committed to pursuing graduate and professional degrees and research careers in STEM and advancing underrepresented minorities in these fields. Based on program outcomes, Hrabowski has authored numerous articles and coauthored five books.

His honors include election to the National Academy of Sciences (which awarded him its prestigious Public Welfare Medal for his extraordinary use of science for the public good), the National Academy of Engineering, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also received many awards, including: the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring; the McGraw Prize in Education; the American Council on Education Lifetime Achievement Award; Educator of the Year by the World Affairs Council of Washington, D.C.; the Heinz Award for his contributions to improving the human condition; and the Carnegie Corporation of New York's Academic Leadership Award (recognized by many as one of the nation's highest awards for higher education leaders).

In 2022, with a commitment of \$1.5 billion, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute launched the Freeman Hrabowski Scholars Program to help build a scientific workforce that more fully reflects our increasingly diverse country. Also in 2022, Harvard University named Hrabowski the inaugural Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Lecture Speaker. A child-leader in the Civil Rights Movement, Hrabowski was prominently featured in Spike Lee's 1997 documentary, *Four Little Girls*, on the racially motivated 1963 bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church.

Hrabowski graduated from Hampton Institute with highest honors in mathematics. He received a master's degree in mathematics and a Ph.D. in higher education administration/statistics from the University of Illinois

Recipients of Honorary Degrees

at Urbana-Champaign. He also holds honorary degrees from more than 50 universities, including Harvard, Princeton, Duke, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina, Johns Hopkins, and Georgetown.

Hrabowski will receive an honorary Doctor of Education degree.

In 1985, **JAMES J. O'CONNELL** and his colleagues established Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP). Today, with O'Connell as its president and founding physician, BHCHP serves more than 10,000 homeless individuals and families each year in two hospital-based clinics, in 30 shelters and outreach sites, and on the streets of Boston. Additionally, the innovative program provides acute and sub-acute, pre- and postoperative, and palliative and end-of-life care in the freestanding 104-bed medical respite program, the Barbara McInnis House.

An assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, O'Connell is the editor of *The Health Care of Homeless Persons: A Manual of Communicable Diseases and Common Problems in Shelters and on the Streets*. His articles have appeared in, among others, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Circulation*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, and the *Journal of Clinical Ethics*.

O'Connell has been featured on ABC's *Nightline* and CBS *Evening News*, and in several feature-length documentaries, including *Give Me a Shot of Anything* and *The Antidote*. He has received numerous honorary degrees and awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism in 2012 and the Trustees' Medal at the bicentennial celebration of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in 2011.

In 1995, working with the MGH Laboratory of Computer Science, O'Connell designed and implemented the nation's first computerized medical record for a homeless program. From 1989 until 1996, he served as the national program director of the Homeless Families Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He has collaborated with homeless programs in many cities, including Los Angeles, London, and Sydney. His book *Stories from the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor* was published in 2015 in celebration of BHCHP's 30th anniversary. His work was chronicled by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder in *Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People*.

O'Connell graduated summa cum laude from the University of Notre Dame in 1970 and received his master's degree in theology from Cambridge University in 1972. After graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1982, he completed a residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital.

O'Connell will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.

Regarded as the city's foremost architect of urban joy, **NANCY SCHÖN**, J53, is a Boston-based sculptor known for her warm, evocative representations of human and animal figures.

Her first public art commission brought her deserved acclaim: In 1987, the Friends of the Public Garden commissioned *Make Way for Ducklings*, her sculpture based on Robert McCloskey's classic of children's literature. In 1991, as part of the START Treaty Summit ceremonies, First Lady Barbara Bush presented Raisa Gorbachev with a replica of the ducklings, which is now in Moscow's Novodevichy Park and is noted as having been given "on behalf of the children of the United States to the children of the Soviet Union."

But Schön's career as a bronze sculptor began long before the ducklings. She has received dozens of sculpture commissions, public and private, and has exhibited throughout the United States and abroad, including many one-woman shows. The grants, awards, medals, board memberships, honorary chairs, appointments, acquisitions, and exhibitions Schön has earned attest to her accomplishments.

Along with her artistic career over the years, Schön has also been a community activist. She is known as the "grandmother" of a 40,000-square-foot world-class skate park that opened under Boston's Zakim Bridge in 2016. She has also designed numerous items—from pendants and small sculptures to large bronze murals—as donor opportunities to help fundraise for nonprofits.

Currently, Schön has found the need to create haunting, powerful sculptures inspired by our contemporary realities. In Schön's words, "art is powerful, and we artists have a vital obligation to leave our truthful footprint on history."

After earning admission to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (now SMFA at Tufts), Schön took classes jointly at Tufts and earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from the university in 1953.

Schön will receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree.