



Honorary Degree Citations

Elizabeth Alexander

Writing holds the steadfast place of a devotional practice in your life, born of your own creative desires and the conviction that you are obligated to speak out with purpose. A decorated poet, author, memoirist, and leader, you have explored race and gender, memory and motherhood, base inhumanities and the foundations of love.

The author or co-author of 14 books, you have twice been a Pulitzer Prize finalist, including for your 2015 memoir, *The Light of the World*, a profound meditation on the unexpected death of your beloved husband. This generosity deeply touched the hearts and minds of readers, many on their own journeys of bereavement. Your poems, short stories, and critical writings have been widely published in journals and periodicals ranging from *The Paris Review* to *The Village Voice*.

As the president of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the nation's largest supporter of arts and culture, as well as humanities in higher education, you strengthen vital arts communities through expanded accessibility, diversity, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Earlier, among your responsibilities as the Ford Foundation's Director of Creativity and Free Expression, you co-designed the Art for Justice Fund, employing art and advocacy to combat the crisis of mass incarceration.

Born in Harlem, you grew up in Washington, DC. Following Yale University undergraduate studies and master's work at Boston University, Penn proudly claimed you as an alumna when you received your Ph.D. in 1992. During that time, while studying and teaching, you also published your critically acclaimed first work, *The Venus Hottentot*.

Your scholarship, teaching, and mentorship has inspired a generation of students. You were the Wun Tsun Tam Mellon Professor in the

Humanities at Columbia University. At Yale University for 15 years, you were named the inaugural Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry and helped rebuild its African American Studies department. You also taught at Smith College, where you created its Poetry Center.

President-Elect Obama asked that you compose and perform a poem for his 2009 inauguration. *Praise Song for the Day* captured celebration and solemnity as a nation swore in its first Black President. Around the world, millions listened and watched and came to know your work.

Among your many accolades are the Jackson Poetry Prize, the George Kent Award, three Pushcart Prizes for Poetry, and membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Chancellor Emeritus of the Academy of American Poets, you are also a founding member of Cave Canem, dedicated to promoting African American poets and poetry.

In recognition of your unique creative voice illuminating truths and for encouraging, nurturing, and sustaining the creative voices of countless others, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Elizabeth Alexander, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Frances H. Arnold

Life essential enzymes are complex protein molecules that catalyze chemical reactions. These reactions can be harnessed to create endless products from medicines and vaccines, to gene delivery systems, and even to biofuels. For scientists, however, producing enzymes in the laboratory was a difficult, frustrating, and wasteful process.

You were the first to ask whether scientists could effectively partner with evolution for better results. The initial response from your peers was, at best, underwhelming. Always

willing to go against the flow, you persisted, and in years of tireless research you pioneered methods of commercial "directed evolution," to efficiently and sustainably create a range of novel, beneficial catalysts that spur life-saving developments. Today, an acclaimed leader in your field, you have provided us with a fundamental understanding of how proteins evolve and function in nature.

Your groundbreaking work was recognized with the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. You are only the fifth woman and the first American woman to be so named, a strong inspiration for the young scientists of all genders who follow.

A native of Pittsburgh and eager to direct your own future, you sought personal independence at an early age. You earned a B.S. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Princeton University, rare for a woman at that time. You later earned a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, staying for postdoctoral work in biophysical chemistry. Today, you are the Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering and Biochemistry at the California Institute of Technology and the co-inventor on more than 60 U.S. patents and the co-founder of the biotechnology companies Gevo, Provivi, and Aralez Bio.

In January of this year, President Biden named you to Co-Chair the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. You also serve on the Advisory Panel of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowships in Science and Engineering and the Board of Trustees of the Gordon Research Conferences.

In recognition of your singular achievements, you have received the Charles Stark Draper Prize of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering and the Millennium Technology Prize from The Technology Academy, Finland. In 2013, you were awarded the National

Medal of Technology and Innovation by President Obama. Elected to all three branches of the National Academies—Science, Medicine, and Engineering; the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society, you are also a Foreign Member of the United Kingdom Royal Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Philadelphia’s Franklin Institute awarded you with their 2019 Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science for your contributions in “green” chemistry.

For your inspiring example of unfettered curiosity and undaunted effort leading to groundbreaking scientific discovery benefiting the Earth and its citizens, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Frances H. Arnold, the degree of Doctor of Sciences, *honoris causa*.

David L. Cohen

A common thread runs throughout your extraordinary life and career: your determination to serve the many communities you call home. The impact of your work on behalf of Philadelphia and its institutions is immeasurable. Never one to seek the limelight, you believe real change relies on creative teamwork, careful planning, and optimizing opportunity.

Born in New York to parents deeply engaged with both their civic and religious communities, you completed your undergraduate studies at Swarthmore College and became a proud Penn alumnus with your Juris Doctor in 1981 at Penn Law. You put your law degree to excellent use as a partner and subsequently Chair of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, one of the country’s 100 largest law firms.

As Chief of Staff to the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Mayor of Philadelphia, you played a critical role at a profound turning point in the history of the city. From budgetary and financial issues; to economic development and collective bargaining negotiations; to strengthening institutions of

higher education, health care, arts, and culture, the extent of your commitment to Philadelphia cannot be overstated, then or since.

In 2002, you joined Comcast, now Comcast NBC Universal, one of the largest telecommunications and media organizations worldwide. For many years you were Senior Executive Vice President and Comcast’s first Chief Diversity Officer leading a broad portfolio. You also spearheaded programs to conquer economic barriers to vital computer and Internet access, reach young people through valuable skills training programs, and develop assistive technology. Today, you are Senior Advisor at Comcast and serve as senior counselor to the CEO.

Joining the Penn Trustees in 2001, you provided expert leadership as Chair to the newly organized Board and Executive Committee of Penn Medicine, working to assure its position as a world-class provider of medical care and innovation. In 2009, you were elected Chair of the Penn Trustees and its Executive Committee. During your years as Chair, Penn set the bar for its peers, exponentially growing educational access and support, powering interdisciplinary discovery and innovation, attaining new heights in clinical care, and engaging at home and abroad like never before. Two exceptionally successful fundraising campaigns during your tenure further strengthen Penn’s essential work. You find joy in engaging personally with students and faculty whenever possible. They are invariably awed by your generous mentorship.

The exceptional range of your civic engagement includes the Board of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Philadelphia Theatre Company, and the United States Semiquincentennial Commission. You also serve on the national boards of City Year, the National Urban League, and chair the Corporate Advisory Board of UnidosUS. In your spare time, you are chairing the FIFA World Cup Philadelphia Bid Committee.

Your honors are legion, from the

Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce’s William Penn Award and the William Way Community Center Amicus in Res Award to recognition from the Anti-Defamation League and the American Red Cross.

In deepest gratitude for your visionary leadership and years of service on behalf of your alma mater, your city, its citizens, and more, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, David L. Cohen, the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Joy Harjo

When named United States Poet Laureate in 2019 (the first Native American to receive that honor), you memorably offered: “You never know where you are going to land.” By your example, we see the courage in first making the leap. You have crafted a unique career as an artist, performer, writer, and as an acclaimed figure in American poetry. Your work bears witness to the present and the past, interweaving feminism, social justice, political resistance, and personal and ancestral memory, all underscored with First Nations storytelling.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, you found drawing and then poetry as early ways to talk to the world—and to make it through difficult early years. You studied at the Institute of American Indian Arts and received a B.A. at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. You published your first volume of poetry, *The Last Song*, while you were still a student. You then earned your M.F.A. at the University of Iowa.

Your nine award-winning poetry collections include *An American Sunrise*, *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, *She Had Some Horses*, and two children’s books. You have also co-edited two anthologies of contemporary Native women’s writing. Your 2012 memoir *Crazy Brave*—whose title translates your own name Harjo—won the PEN USA Literary Award for Creative Non-Fiction and the American Book Award.

A lifelong love of music opened new creative doors for you. You perform

internationally as a self-taught vocalist and saxophonist, both solo and with *The Arrow Dynamics*. Your six music and poetry albums include this year's *I Pray for My Enemies* and the award-winning *Winding Through the Milky Way*. You have also widely performed your one-woman show, *Wings of Night Sky, Wings of Morning Light*.

The recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and Rasmuson United States Artist Fellowships, among others, your many honors include the Native Writers Circle of the Americas Lifetime Achievement Award and the American Indian Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award. Your work has garnered the Jackson Prize and the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America, the Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly Prize, and the Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets.

An Academy of American Poets Chancellor and founding board member of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, you also direct *For Girls Becoming*, an arts mentorship for young Mvskoke women. Your Library of Congress *Living Nations, Living Words* digital archive project has launched, giving public voice to a host of contemporary Native Nations poets.

In recognition of your courage in sharing your truths and those of many others, and in most creatively furthering understanding of our shared cultural history, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Joy Harjo, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

David Miliband

"The first refugees I met were my parents." As the eldest son of immigrants fleeing the horrors of World War II, this simple truth has underscored your life's work born of action, passion, and empathy. A noted public policy analyst, since 2013 you have been the President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), one of the world's largest humanitarian aid organizations.

Today, IRC is active in over 40 countries, facing humanitarian crises head-on and assisting those impacted so that they can survive, recover, and gain control of their futures. Each year, the IRC provides millions of children with urgently needed schooling and their families with food, water, and medicine. IRC has fought Ebola, gender-based violence, and abuses of human rights, and champions access to employment and pay equity. In the United States, the IRC has harnessed the volunteer energy of thousands to assist children and adults seeking asylum. In 2018, more than 5,300 refugees were resettled with IRC assistance.

Providing immediate assistance is critical, without question, but is only part of IRC's global strategy to support the development of effective policy. Warning against an "arrogance of power," you have put wealthy countries on notice that facing these crises is no less than a test of our humanity. You urge public and private sector collaboration worldwide to identify and surmount the many underlying causes of global instability, and to assure better outcomes.

A London native, you completed your undergraduate studies at Oxford University and received your master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Kennedy Scholar.

Working first at the Institute for Public Policy Research, at age 29 you became an adviser to Prime Minister Tony Blair, launching a distinguished political career in the United Kingdom. A member of Parliament for 13 years, as Secretary of State for the Environment you pioneered the world's first legally binding emissions reduction requirements. From 2007 to 2010, you were the youngest Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in three decades, driving advancements in human rights. Then, in just a few years, you would join IRC, where your expertise and leadership have spearheaded positive change.

In recognition of your efforts, in 2016 you were named one of the World's Greatest Leaders by *Fortune*

Magazine and, in 2018, inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. You also serve as a member of the Trilateral Commission, founded and chaired by David Rockefeller, and have been a member of the Global Ocean Commission.

An eloquent advocate addressing the urgent issues of the poor and displaced, you are much in demand as a public speaker, teacher, and guest journalist. You are also the author of *Rescue: Refugees and the Political Crisis of Our Time*.

For your steadfast vision for human rights and a compassionate global society, and for the hope and assistance that you have given to those most vulnerable, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, David Miliband, the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Laurene Powell Jobs

You speak of the unimaginable reach of human capability—that potential lying within each of us—and the imperative to use our talents and energy for transformative, lasting change. There, in your "gardens of promise," opportunity can thrive despite obstacles of economic and life circumstance, and potential can indeed flourish. The cycle of new possibilities serves as the engine for change and progress. With you, we celebrate the conviction that even one person can make that change.

As founder and president of Emerson Collective, which works in pursuit of a more equal and just world, your leadership engages a combination of wide-ranging tools—from impact investing to philanthropy to advocacy—to lift up entrepreneurs, leaders, innovators, and creators to advance progress in education, immigration, climate, and cancer research and treatment. You have made it your mission to harness these powerful resources to maximize impact, and you have inspired many to heed your call to action.

It is with the greatest pride that Penn claims you as a most valued member of our global alumni family.

You earned your B.A. in political science from the College of Arts and Sciences and a B.S. in economics from The Wharton School. An East Coast native, you would work at Goldman Sachs before going on to earn your MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and make your home in California. Your connection to Penn continues through your engagement with Penn's Netter Center for Community Partnerships National Advisory Board.

You have long recognized that access to education is a critical pathway to opportunity. Over two decades ago, you founded College Track, a college completion program where you remain board chair today, developing innovative programs to combat the alarming achievement gap facing students of color. You are also cofounder and board chair of The XQ Institute, the nation's leading organization dedicated to rethinking the high school experience. In keeping with your belief in supporting journalism as a vital civic institution, you are the co-owner of *The Atlantic* and co-owner of Anonymous Content and Concordia Studio.

Further exemplars of your commitment to broad engagement include your service on the Stanford University Board of Trustees and the boards of Chicago CRED, Conservation International, The Council on Foreign Relations, Elemental Excelsior, where you are board chair, and Nia Tero. In addition, you are a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a recipient of Stanford Graduate School of Business' Ernest C. Arbuckle Award for managerial excellence and addressing the changing needs of society.

For your steadfast vision that the potential for positive change lies within us and for your passionate determination to cultivate new opportunities for those most in need, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Laurene Powell Jobs, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

John Williams

To describe your life's work is to summon music to one's mind and to invoke some of the most moving and memorable scores of our time. Called a living history of the American movie soundtrack, you have helped transform myriad films into cultural touchstones worldwide. With an amazing career spanning seven decades, you rank among America's preeminent and beloved composers for television, film, and the concert stage.

Consider your wide-ranging credits: you worked as a studio pianist on the films *West Side Story* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, composed the scores for over 200 television films, and music for *Gilligan's Island* and *Lost in Space*. Your first Academy Award came in 1972 for the score of the classic *Fiddler on the Roof*. Your terrifying accompaniment to a Great White shark lurked in *Jaws*, one of many acclaimed films with director Steven Spielberg, alongside *Schindler's List*, *Jurassic Park*, *ET*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Saving Private Ryan*. You also composed the scores for nine *Star Wars* films and the first three *Harry Potter* films. Your unmistakable symphonic style was especially embraced in an emerging era of synthesized technology.

The music director for the iconic Boston Pops Orchestra for many years, you also have composed symphonies and concertos premiered by leading orchestras. Commissions for public events have included several Olympic games, the 1986 Statue of Liberty rededication, and President Obama's first inaugural ceremony.

A New York native and Los Angeles transplant, as the son of a professional musician you took to music early. Your first instrument was piano, then trumpet, trombone, and clarinet. Then, as a teen, you began writing and scoring. You also studied at the University of California, Los Angeles and the Juilliard School and performed in jazz clubs.

Among your many accolades, you have five Academy Awards and 52 nominations, the most of any living person. You have earned seven British Academy Awards, four Golden

Globes, five Emmys, 25 Grammys, and numerous gold and platinum records. Other outstanding awards include the National Medal of Arts, the Kennedy Center Honors, the Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal, the Princess of Asturias Award for the Arts, the Olympic Order, and the American Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences Trustees Awards. You are the first composer to receive the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award.

In 2004, the Library of Congress named the *Star Wars* movie soundtrack to the extraordinary honor of perpetual preservation in the National Recording Registry. As live performance returns in the wake of the pandemic, your presence is greatly anticipated through thriving artistic relationships with many of the world's great orchestras, and continuing roles as Boston Pops Laureate Conductor and Artist-in-Residence at Tanglewood.

For your unparalleled artistic mastery and boundless enthusiasm for sharing your passion for music with audiences worldwide, and for your immeasurable contributions to the art and enjoyment of film, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, John Williams, the degree of Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*.

Janet L. Yellen

On January 26, 2021, you were sworn in as the 78th Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, the first woman appointed to this role. This pathbreaking achievement captured the attention of the American public. As rapper/singer Dessa put it in the track "Who's Yellen Now?" which is almost certainly the first ode to a policy economist: "Watch your step / There's broken glass / Janet broke another ceiling / You can bet your brass."

Your unique career spanning nearly 50 years has encompassed many such firsts. As a mark of your perseverance and the deep respect that you have earned, you are the first person in history to lead the federal government's three most powerful economic bodies: the Treasury, the

Federal Reserve, and the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Speaking to the Treasury's 84,000 employees following your swearing-in, you acknowledged urgent challenges facing our country—the pandemic and economic decline, climate change, and systemic racism—and expressed characteristic confidence in your Department's ability to address them. Your Keynesian values and unparalleled global influence in representing our country's interests through the years are without peer.

Born in Brooklyn, you graduated from Brown University and earned your Ph.D. at Yale University, the sole woman among two dozen economists graduating. You joined the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley, in 1980, where you were the Eugene E. and Catherine M. Trefethen Professor of Business Administration and Professor of Economics; today, you are Professor Emerita. You began your career on the faculty of Harvard University, lectured at the London School of Economics, and served as a Distinguished Fellow in Residence at the Brookings Institution.

Your scholarship broadly covers labor and macroeconomics, particularly the causes, mechanisms, and implications of unemployment. The author of numerous articles, you are also the co-author of *The Fabulous Decade: Macroeconomic Lessons from the 1990s*. You twice served on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and chaired President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers. As president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, you were among the first to foresee the looming housing financial crisis and 2008 recession and were instrumental in seeing our country through the disaster. Vice-chair of the Federal Reserve from 2010 to 2014, you were nominated by President Obama to be its first woman chair.

You are a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association, and served as its Vice President and President. Your many memberships include the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Council on Foreign

Relations, and founding membership on the Climate Leadership Council. Yale awarded you its Wilbur Cross Medal and you received the Truman Medal for Economic Policy from the Truman Library Institute. In honor of your dedicated public service, the Federal Reserve Board created its Janet L. Yellen Award for Excellence in Community Development.

For your incomparable leadership through teaching, scholarship, and public service on behalf of your country and its people, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Janet L. Yellen, the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.