**Mary Frances Berry**

For as long as you can remember, speaking out against injustice has come naturally. You have said that perhaps a hardscrabble childhood in Nashville—marked by poverty and racism—fueled your intolerance of unfairness, no matter the consequences. This intrinsic need to take a stand has been a defining aspect of your remarkable career as both a preeminent scholar of legal and constitutional history and a foremost champion of social justice.

After earning a bachelor’s degree from Howard University, you went on to the University of Michigan, where you earned doctoral degrees in history and law. You served as Provost of the University of Maryland and, as Chancellor of the University of Colorado at Boulder, were the first woman to lead a major research university. In 1987, you joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania where you are the Geraldine R. Segal Professor Emerita of American Social Thought and Professor of History and Africana Studies.

Your 13 books have explored many subjects, from the history of constitutional racism in America to the causes of the Equal Rights Amendment’s failure. You have addressed gender equity, the politics of parenthood, and most recently, the importance of political protest: *History Teaches Us to Resist: How Progressive Movements Have Succeeded in Challenging Times* was published in 2018.

Protest and persistence are fundamental to social change, you believe, and your leadership of the Free South Africa Movement (FSAM) embodied this tenet. You co-founded the group, steering protests at the South African embassy and around the nation while waging a legislative battle that would last two years and survive a presidential veto. In the end, FSAM was victorious, pushing the U.S. Congress to establish trade sanctions against South Africa—a win that marked the beginning of the end of apartheid.

You have served your country with distinction under five presidents, as a member and then Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and as Assistant Secretary for Education in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare during the Carter administration.

Your scholarship and political endeavors alike have garnered recognition. You are a Fellow of the Society of American Historians and of the National Academy of Public Administration, and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society for Legal History. Among numerous honors, you have received the 2021 Lewis Award for History and Social Justice from the American Historical Association, the South African government’s Nelson Mandela Award, and the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Award.

For your inspirational career as an historian, educator, and leader of social change, founded on a lifelong dedication to equality and justice and guided by a firm belief in the ultimate triumph of right over wrong, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Mary Frances Berry, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

**Ken Burns**

As one of the most prolific documentarians of our time, you have presented a through-the-lens view of America’s heart and soul like no other. With boundless curiosity, you have for decades chronicled our nation’s past, with each new film inviting your audience to consider this country from yet another perspective. “If I were given 1,000 years to live, I would not run out of American history,” you have said.

From your sweeping, epic documentaries—*The Civil War*, *Baseball*, and *Jazz*—to your more precisely focused films, such as *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War*, *The Central Park Five*, and *The Dust Bowl*, you have dissected American life with intelligence, truth, and humanity. Your art has mined the essence of American luminaries, including Mark Twain, Muhammad Ali, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Jackie Robinson, and, most recently, the University of Pennsylvania’s founder, Benjamin Franklin.

For millions of viewers, you bring history to life with an unmistakable style that employs archival footage, third-person narration, and what you have called perhaps the most crucial ingredient—music—to tell America’s story.

It is a narrative both triumphant and tragic, and although you tell it from many angles, your films consistently pose the elemental question: Americans, who are we? Time and again, through your thoughtful examination of a union still striving to be more perfect, you provide fresh insight into where we have been, and just as important, what the past may portend for our future.

Born in Brooklyn, as a boy you received for your birthday an 8 mm camera that set fire to your passion. Your mother died when you were only eleven—a profound loss that you have said most certainly drives you to resurrect historical figures and tell their stories. You studied filmmaking at Hampshire College and found your mentors in still photography—an art that you have used to great effect as one of your films’ most distinguishing features.

The significance of your work drew praise from the beginning. Your first documentary, 1981’s *Brooklyn Bridge,* was nominated for an Academy Award. You would go on to garner a second Oscar nomination, for *The Statue of Liberty* in 1985, and win two Grammy Awards and 16 Emmy Awards, among many other major prizes. In September 2008, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences honored you with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the News & Documentary Emmy Awards.

In recognition of your accomplishments as a preeminent storyteller, and as the creator of a rich and compelling tapestry of films about America that shines a light on what connects us as a people, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Ken Burns, the degree of Doctor of Arts, *honoris causa*.

**Atul Gawande**

Early in your career, you were drawn to the surgeons with whom you trained. In them, you saw “ordinary, flawed human beings, with imperfect skills, incomplete knowledge, and yet the confidence to nonetheless act, and to take accountability for whatever outcome resulted.” This mindset—a willingness to take risks to accomplish extraordinary feats—is one to which you have aspired in your life as a surgeon, writer, and public health leader.

The art of healing, perhaps, was bound to be your destiny. Your parents, both immigrants from India, met in medical school in New York City and settled in rural Ohio where they practiced medicine and raised you and your sister. After studying biology and political science at Stanford University, you went on to Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar.

You attended Harvard University and earned degrees in medicine and public health, launching your career as a practicing general and endocrine surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital and a professor at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. As a teacher and mentor, you passed your knowledge and skills to the next generation.

You have long had a passion and talent for delving into systems to understand how they work—and how to make them better. As one of the most innovative thinkers in health care delivery, you have translated your ideas into action, spearheading ventures such as Ariadne Labs, to revamp global health systems; Lifebox, to make surgery safer around the world; and CIC Health, to expand access to COVID-19 tests and vaccines.

A long-time writer for *The New Yorker*, you have examined countless medical issues with great empathy and insight. Your article, *Letting Go*, earned one of your two National Magazine Awards, and was a precursor to one of your four best-selling books, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. Inspired by your work as a physician and the loss of your father, it contains lessons you learned about helping people make the most of each day when the end of life is near.

As a public health leader, you lent policy expertise to the Clinton administration, and later, to President Joe Biden’s transition team’s COVID-19 Advisory Board. Now, you have accepted his call to serve again. In January 2022, you took the helm of Global Health for the U.S. Agency for International Development, where your leadership is improving the health of those most in need.

For your compassionate dedication to individuals everywhere who benefit from your creative approach to health and medicine and your tenacious pursuit of humanity’s well-being, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Atul Gawande, the degree of Doctor of Sciences, *honoris causa*.

**Amy Gutmann**

On a warm August night nearly four years ago, you welcomed the undergraduate Class of 2022 with a challenge. Citing Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s famous “rendezvous with destiny” speech—delivered on Franklin Field in 1936—you urged them to not only meet destiny, but to *make destiny*.

Today, you stand alongside these same young scholars—Penn’s 266th graduating class—having blazed a brilliant trail of your own as the University of Pennsylvania’s eighth, and longest-serving, president.

Your career in academia began at Radcliffe College of Harvard University from which you graduated *magna cum laude*. You went on to earn two advanced degrees in political science—a master’s from the London School of Economics and a doctorate from Harvard. In your 28 years at Princeton University, you were the Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor, founded the University Center for Human Values and, ultimately, served as Provost.

Then came the Penn presidency, which you began in 2004 with a towering vision: The Penn Compact, you vowed, would elevate the University “from excellence to eminence in all its core endeavors.” Calling on the Penn community to join this ambitious journey, you set out to increase access for all talented students, integrate knowledge across academic disciplines, and build bridges between Penn and its neighbors far and wide.

The University’s transformation was sweeping and profound. Knowing first-hand the challenges of first-generation, lower-income students, you established an all-grant policy for financial aid, still the nation’s largest such program. Thanks to you, these students find economic and social support through Penn First Plus. Long a believer in collaboration across academic fields, you started the Penn Integrates Knowledge Professorships, attracting some of the world’s brightest scholars to hold joint appointments and work with partners across disciplines on the most leading-edge research.

Befitting the excellence of Penn faculty and students, the University campus was completely renewed, with spectacular green spaces and productive new facilities that soon will include Amy Gutmann Hall at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. But perhaps nowhere will your legacy more deeply endure than in the lives of the students you so eagerly championed throughout your nearly 18 years as Penn’s leader.

And now, you serve your country as the United States Ambassador to Germany—from which your father fled the Nazis many decades ago—continuing the long-standing Penn tradition of going forward with purpose to make a meaningful difference in the world.

With gratitude for your exceptional stewardship of our great University, expanded in its commitment to inclusion, advanced in its capacity for innovation, and strengthened in its impact on the greater good, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Amy Gutmann, the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

**Carla D. Hayden**

You have always believed in the transformational power of words. In fact, those of Frederick Douglass – “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free” – inspired your groundbreaking journey to becoming the United States’ 14th Librarian of Congress, the first woman and first African American to assume this important title. His words have served as a beacon in your distinguished career as a librarian and educator, devoted to the pursuit of knowledge as a means of elevating the lives of all people.

The child of two gifted musicians, you enjoyed a youth steeped in culture, including treasured trips to the library where your love of books took flight. At age seven, you were introduced to *Bright April*, a 1946 children’s book about an African American girl whose image reflected yours and whose story teaches lessons about racial prejudice. It quickly became your favorite.

While earning master’s and doctoral degrees from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, you began your career as a children’s librarian for the Chicago Public Library, later lending your talents to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Academia soon beckoned, and you became Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. You returned to the Chicago Public Library as Deputy Commissioner and Chief Librarian, where you helped curate a special memorial exhibit for a new library named for Harold Washington, the city’s first African American mayor.

For 23 years, you were Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore’s storied Enoch Pratt Free Library, founded in 1882 “for all, rich and poor without distinction of race or color.” You demonstrated your understanding of its deep importance to patrons when—aided by the community—you made sure the library was protected and its doors remained open during a period of civil unrest following the death of Freddie Gray.

As President of the American Library Association, you stood up against a section of the Patriot Act that allowed the federal government to investigate library records without patrons’ knowledge. Calling it a violation of the covenant of trust between librarians and the public, you spoke out and succeeded in changing the law.

Since becoming the nation’s head Librarian under President Barack Obama in 2016, you have prioritized and modernized access for every American to the resources of the Library of Congress. Under your leadership, the Library launched “Of the People: Widening the Path,” an initiative to connect to underrepresented communities, ensuring our oldest federal institution reflects the diversity of American culture.

In recognition of your pioneering career in librarianship, your conviction that literature changes lives, and your dedication to providing equal access to the riches of reading, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Carla D. Hayden, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

**George Emanuel Lewis**

“I am interested in nonlinearity, rupture, instabilities—things that keep people on their toes.” Your words describe a passion for music that reaches beyond the expected—a passion that has imbued your creative achievements in the world of experimental music as a renowned musicologist, trombonist, and American composer.

You first picked up a trombone at the age of nine as a student at the University of Chicago Laboratory School. There, you enjoyed the good fortune of influential teachers, with towering musical talents among them. At Yale University, you studied the branch of philosophy known as phenomenology, or the philosophy of experience. Integrating your music with your studies, you wrote about the experience of improvisation, which has been a major part of your prolific and innovative career.

As a young professional musician, you toured with the Count Basie Orchestra and studied and played with the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, a collective of groundbreaking African American musicians who exposed you to new avenues of musical expression. Their influence stayed with you. In 2008, you published A Power Stronger Than Itself: The AACM and American Experimental Music, which won the American Book Award and the American Musicological Society’s first Music in American Culture Award. Later, the book would inspire the libretto of your opera, *Afterword*.

You are a pioneer in the use of artificial intelligence and programming computers to improvise with human musicians in concert. You have also explored improvisation beyond music, addressing it as a concept that touches everyday life and offering fresh perspectives on its meaning. The two-volume *Oxford Handbook of Critical Improvisation Studies*, which you co-edited in 2016, is an anthology of scholarship on improvisation conducted by academics across a range of disciplines.

Your numerous honors include election to the Akademie der Künste Berlin, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. You are a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy, as well as the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship (2002), a Guggenheim Fellowship (2015), and a Doris Duke Artist Award (2019). The American Musicological Society counts you among its honorary members.

Today, as the Edwin H. Case Professor of American Music at Columbia University, you share your distinctive point of view with students, teaching composition, computer music, and histories of 20th century music and experimentalism.

For a life dedicated to testing the boundaries and defying the definitions of what music can be, and for the contribution of your art and your insight to students and lovers of music all around the world, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, George Emanuel Lewis, the degree of Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*.

**Margaret Hilary Marshall**

In a country strengthened by immigrants, your life as a United States citizen stands out as a perfect example of those who have so richly enhanced our nation. Born in South Africa under apartheid, you grew up in a small town. As a university student, you protested the government and were elected President of the National Union of South African Students, then a leading anti-apartheid organization. It was from this beginning that your remarkable career as a trailblazing lawyer and jurist took shape in your beloved, adopted country.

Following undergraduate studies at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, you earned a scholarship to pursue a master’s degree at Harvard University. It was the 1960s and your arrival in Cambridge coincided with changing times—the Vietnam War, civil rights, the women’s movement—which fed your interest in politics. You remember traveling the country, talking with Americans about issues of the day, and developing “a love affair with this country,” as you have called it.

Upon graduation from Yale Law School, you practiced law in Boston for 16 years and then served as Vice President and General Counsel at Harvard University, the first woman to hold the post. In 1996, you were appointed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the nation’s oldest court and first to end slavery in 1783. Three years later, you became the first woman to serve as Chief Justice and wrote numerous groundbreaking decisions, most famously 2003’s *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. With your opinion, Massachusetts became the first state to legalize gay marriage, paving the way for the U.S. Supreme Court to follow suit in 2015.

As Chief Justice, you were a noted champion of court reform, leading innovations to promote efficiency, cost savings, and equal access. After stepping down from the bench, you returned to private practice, and today, in retirement, you continue to advocate for deeply held principles, including gender equity, independent courts, voting rights, and equal access to justice.

Among your many professional honors, you are a Fellow and member of the Council of the American Philosophical Society, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member emerita of the Council and Executive Committee of the American Law Institute. You were the first woman to hold the position of Senior Trustee at Yale University and the first woman to lead the Boston Bar Association.

In recognition of your devotion to the rule of law as the bedrock of democracy, your belief in the power of citizens striving as one to achieve justice for all, and for your bearing as an exemplar to future generations of legal minds, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Margaret Hilary Marshall, the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

**Edward Witten**

Your vast contributions across the field of theoretical physics—particle theory, quantum field theory, and general relativity—have transformed our understanding of the foundational laws of nature. Your many breakthroughs have secured your position alongside the most brilliant minds to have explored the material world—earning you the moniker, “Einstein’s successor.”

Two and a half decades ago, you created a stir in the world of physics with a revelation about string theory by proposing the unification of five theories into one that brings together all the forces of nature. Today, your “M-theory” is considered the best explanation for the fundamental composition of the universe.

And while string theory still holds many secrets, the challenge of discovery for its own sake remains paramount. As you have said, “What’s great about science is that the frontiers are still there. Even though they are different from what they were in the past because we know so much more, there are frontiers that are every bit as exciting as the frontiers of the past.”

Your love of science began early. Growing up in Baltimore, you dreamed of being an astronomer. Later, your interests expanded to include subjects such as history and linguistics, which you studied as an undergraduate at Brandeis University. But it was your passion and talent for math and physics that set you on course for Princeton University where, in the mid-1970s, you earned master’s and doctoral degrees in physics.

Today, as the Charles Simonyi Professor in the School of Natural Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study, you are the most cited scientist in the physical sciences. In 1990, you became the first and only physicist to win the Fields Medal—the most prestigious award bestowed in mathematics research—a distinction you hold to this day.

Your unparalleled scientific achievements have garnered numerous awards, including a MacArthur Grant in 1982, the National Medal of Science in 2002, the Henri Poincaré Prize in 2006, the Crafoord Prize in 2008, the Lorentz Medal and the Isaac Newton Medal in 2010, and the Fundamental Physics Prize in 2012.

Outside of science, you are a devoted advocate for peace in the Middle East, a life-long interest that began when you lived in Israel for a year with your family as a child. You champion the cause by serving on the Board of Directors of Americans for Peace Now and on the Advisory Council of J Street.

In recognition of your creative genius in physics and mathematics, your unwavering enthusiasm for exploration, and your considerable contributions to humankind’s knowledge of the universe, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are honored and pleased to confer upon you, Edward Witten, the degree of Doctor of Sciences, *honoris causa*.