



# CONVOCATION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

HAY OUTDOOR THEATER



## THE ANNA AND SAMUEL PINANSKI PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Pinanski Teaching Prize is awarded annually to members of the Wellesley College faculty to honor fine teaching. The Prize may be awarded to as many as three members of the faculty each year, preferably one in each of the College's three academic areas: humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The Prize recognizes a particular strength, some style or method or course, or some other describable event that has been especially successful. The community does not know the names of the recipients until they are announced at Commencement.

### 2025 PINANSKI TEACHING PRIZE RECIPIENTS

**Rachel Deyette Werkema**

*Lecturer in Economics*

**John Goss**

*Associate Professor of Biological Sciences*

**Flavia Laviosa**

*Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies*

## WELLESLEY COLLEGE HONOR CODE

As a Wellesley College student, I will act with honesty, integrity, and respect. In making this commitment, I am accountable to the community and dedicate myself to a life of honor.

## PROGRAM

### PRELUDE

Yanvalou Drum and Dance Ensemble

### ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Led by Alex Diesl, *College Marshal*

### HYMN

"To Alma Mater," *Wellesley College Choir, directed by Alyssa Cossey*

### INVOCATION AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Rumni Saha, *College Chaplain, Hindu and Unitarian Universalist Community Coordinator*

### REMARKS

Paula A. Johnson, *President*

Courtney Coile, *Provost and Lia Gelin Poorvu '56 Dean of the College*

Zainab Khan '26, *College Government President*

Elizabeth Chou '26, *Chief Justice*

### HYMN

"America the Beautiful," *led by Audrey Richardson '26*

### BENEDICTION

Rumni Saha

### ACADEMIC RECESSION

Led by Alex Diesl, *College Marshal*

### POSTLUDE

Carillons

—  
Stepsinging immediately following Convocation.

## TO ALMA MATER

To Alma Mater, Wellesley's daughters,  
All together join and sing,  
Thro' all her wealth of wood and waters,  
Let your happy voices ring.

In ev'ry changing mood we love her,  
Love her tow'rs and woods and lake,  
Oh, changeful sky, bend blue above her!  
Wake, ye birds, your chorus wake!

—*Lyrics by Anne Barrett Hughes, Class of 1886*  
*Arranged by Flora Smeallie Ward, Class of 1886,*  
*from the German air The Mountain Maiden*

We'll sing her praises now and ever,  
Blessed fount of truth and love,  
Our heart's devotion, may it never  
Faithless or unworthy prove.

We'll give our lives and hopes to serve her,  
Humblest, highest, noblest all,  
A stainless name we will preserve her,  
Answer to her ev'ry call.

We acknowledge that Wellesley College is built on ancestral and traditional land of the Massachusett people. We also recognize that the United States' removal, termination, and assimilation policies and practices resulted in the forced settlement of Indigenous lands and the attempted erasure of Indigenous cultures and languages. We further acknowledge the oppression, injustices, and discrimination that Indigenous people have endured and that there is much work to be done on the important journey to reconciliation. We commit to strengthen our understanding of the history and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples and to steward this land.

We further recognize the many Indigenous people living here today—including the Massachusett, Wampanoag, and Nipmuc nations—who have rich ancestral histories in Wellesley and its surrounding communities. Today, their descendants remind us that they are still here, where they maintain a vital and visible presence. We honor and respect the enduring relationship between these peoples and this land, as well as the strength of Indigenous culture and knowledge, the continued existence of tribal sovereignty, and the principle of tribal self-determination.

## AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

III.

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And every gain divine!

"America the Beautiful" was written by Katharine Lee Bates, Wellesley class of 1880 and faculty member from 1885 to 1895. The song has been a feature of Wellesley's commencement and convocation exercises since 1942.

I.

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

Festive accompaniment at the venue provided by:  
The Guild of Carillonneurs, *directed by Margaret Angelini '82*  
Yanvalou Drum and Dance Ensemble,  
*directed by Kera Washington '93*

## UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES

NATALIE BOLTON FACULTY  
PRIZE IN ECONOMETRICS  
(BEST 203 PAPER)

Cameron Kang '26

Jessica Wei '26

Milena Zhu '26

NATALIE BOLTON FACULTY  
PRIZE IN ECONOMICS  
(BEST 200-LEVEL PAPER)

Jessica Cheung '27

THE NATALIE BOLTON FACULTY  
PRIZE IN ECONOMICS  
(BEST 300-LEVEL PAPER)

Sophia Pan '26

Winnie Zhou '27

NATHALIE  
BUCHET FELLOWSHIP

Kami Lim '26

CAMELLIA CREATIVE  
LEADERSHIP AWARD

Katie Parkins '26

CAMELLIA EMERGING  
LEADERSHIP AWARD

Anna Mkrtchyan '28

ELLA SMITH ELBERT '88 PRIZE

Amaya Knox '26

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN TRANSLATION

Melissa Rizzo '28

Leah Thorburn '27

ERASMUS ESSAY PRIZE  
IN HISTORY

Kimi Lin '27

ISABELLE EASTMAN FISK  
PERFORMANCE PRIZE  
FOR ACTING

Abby Jarcho '26

CARLO FRANÇOIS PRIZE FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN FRENCH

Meg Behe '27

MICHEL GRIMAUD AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE  
TRANSLATION OF FRENCH

Sofia Dewey '27

Fiona Hanrahan '27

FANNIE LOU HAMER PRIZE IN  
AFRICANA STUDIES

Faith Fraser '27

MARTHA DAVENPORT HEARD  
PRIZE IN MATHEMATICS

Khyatee Atolia '27

Kenzy Bibawi '27

Audrey Wen '27

Suzy Xiong '27

Katelyn Zhou '27

Cynthia Zhu '27

ETHEL L. HERSEY PRIZE IN  
AMERICAN STUDIES

Kaya Perce '26

PHIL KOHL PRIZE  
FOR OUTSTANDING  
ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH

Maisie Boren '26

GERMAINE LAFEUILLE PRIZE  
IN FRENCH

Temitope Ibironke '27

SARA F. LANGER MEMORIAL  
AWARD IN GEOSCIENCES

Ainsley Crist '26

Izzy Twomey '26

THE BARRY LYDGATE PRIZE FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN FIRST-YEAR  
FRENCH LANGUAGE

Lila Cooper '28

Hannah Cummins '27

Emily Li '28

Amber Moosa '28

Noufeesa Yahyaoui '28

SALLY MERRY PRIZE FOR  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Allie Beighle '26

BARNETTE MILLER ESSAY  
PRIZE IN THE FIELD OF  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Sofia Dewey '27

BARNETTE MILLER  
FOUNDATION PRIZE IN  
COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Allison Liu '26

BARNETTE MILLER  
FOUNDATION PRIZE IN  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Maria Garcia '26

AGNES F. PERKINS PRIZE  
FOR PROSE

Phoebe Zilliax Blodget '26

MICHÈLE RESPAUT FRENCH  
HOUSE FELLOWSHIP

Cassandre Cyriaque '26

SOPHOMORE PRIZE IN  
DATA SCIENCE

Alisha Li '27

SOUTH ASIA STUDIES  
WRITING PRIZE (SOUTH ASIA  
STUDIES WRITING PRIZE FOR  
THE HUMANITIES)

Kayla Lontoh '26

SOUTH ASIA STUDIES WRITING  
PRIZE (SOUTH ASIA STUDIES  
WRITING PRIZE FOR THE  
SOCIAL SCIENCES)

Beverly Cohen '26

LAURA SPERAZI MEMORIAL  
AWARD FOR SERVICE

Sidney Kronbach '26

EDWARD STETTNER PRIZE IN  
POLITICAL THEORY

Sonali Dade '26

Sejin Yu '26

STUDENT LIBRARY RESEARCH  
AWARD: 100/200-LEVEL AWARD

Beatrice Geissinger  
Cutchins '27

STUDENT LIBRARY RESEARCH  
AWARD: 300-LEVEL AWARD

Isabel McDermott '26

STUDENT LIBRARY RESEARCH  
AWARD: FIRST YEAR AWARD

Sylvia Rodriguez '28

Ruofan Wang '27

STUDENT LIBRARY RESEARCH  
AWARD: INDEPENDENT  
STUDY AWARD

Ishanya Hebbalae '26

THE REBECCA SUMMERHAYS  
AWARD FOR GROWTH  
IN WRITING

Lilian Gregorich '28

Nadia Vu '27

THE REBECCA SUMMERHAYS  
AWARD FOR GROWTH IN  
WRITING (2ND PLACE)

Elaine Zhao '27

THREE GENERATIONS PRIZE  
FOR FIRST-YEAR WRITING

Nana Asare-Kwaah '28

Samara Mellis '27

THREE GENERATIONS PRIZE  
FOR FIRST-YEAR WRITING  
(HONORABLE MENTION)

Sylvie Clowes '28

THREE GENERATIONS PRIZE  
FOR FIRST-YEAR WRITING  
(2ND PLACE)

Beatrice Geissinger  
Cutchins '27

THREE GENERATIONS  
PRIZE FOR WRITING IN THE  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Brenda Zhang '26

THE MARIE-PAULE TRANVOUEZ  
PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
SECOND-YEAR LANGUAGE

Hannah Cummins '27

Quinn Hinde-Schuster '28

Annie Lu '28

Annalise Ross '28

VIRGINIA WAINWRIGHT  
SONNET PRIZE

Zoe Glimcher '28

Dan Lu '26

ETHEL FOLGER WILLIAMS  
PRIZE IN GERMAN

Adriana Gogioiu '27

Anika Sridhar '27

For full descriptions of each of the above prizes, visit [wellesley.edu/studentprizes](https://wellesley.edu/studentprizes).