WELCOME

to the sixty-fifth graduate school Commencement exercises at Babson College. The College community is pleased and proud to share this memorable day with you.

Your enthusiastic support of each graduate is appreciated. As a courtesy to the graduates, please reserve your applause until all candidates have received their diplomas.

Arrangements have been made for a professional photographer and a video crew to take pictures of the degree candidates, and film the ceremony. This will eliminate the need for guests to leave their seats to take photos during the ceremony. Proofs will be available through Grad Images at 1-800-261-2576 or www.gradimages.com.

Video will be available at www.babson.edu/commencement.

At the conclusion of the Commencement exercises, please join us for a light reception in the Webster Center.
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Provost

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Jewish Chaplain to the
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Kerry Healey
President

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Murata Dean, Graduate School

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Joan Segura Oyamburu

PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR ADDRESS
Kevin Mulvaney

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INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Richelieu W. Dennis Jr. ’91
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COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Liberian President
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

CONFERRING OF DEGREES IN COURSE
Master of Science in Accounting
Master of Science in Finance
Master of Science in Management with
a Concentration in Entrepreneurial
Leadership
Master of Business Administration

William B. Lamb
Kerry Healey
Ken Mattsson
Associate Director MS Programs,
Graduate Center for Career
Development

Cathy Merlo
Senior Associate Director and Career
Advisor for Working Professionals,
Graduate Center for Career
Development

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College Registrar
Steve Marchand MBA’01
Associate Registrar

FACULTY GREETING
Michael D. Johnson

BENEDICTION
Rabbi Richard L. Backer
Jewish Chaplain to the
Babson Community

CLOSING REMARKS
Michael D. Johnson

RECESSIONAL
THE BABSON COLLEGE HONORARY DEGREE

An honorary degree is the highest accolade a college or university can bestow and usually is awarded during the Commencement ceremony. Babson College has given honorary degrees since presenting a doctor of laws degree in 1959 to Ewan Clague, commissioner for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. While the award specifics are unique to each person, a common trait of all recipients is their commitment to service in its broadest sense. Most honored by the College have distinguished themselves as entrepreneurs and executives; however, Babson College also has honored a variety of prominent individuals from various backgrounds, including Generals James Gavin and George H. Akin; Senators Leverett Saltonstall, Edward M. Kennedy, and John F. Kerry; Governor William F. Weld; journalists Natalie Jacobson and Robert L. Bartley; scholars Alfred D. Chandler Jr. and Leonard Woodcock; music directors Sarah Caldwell and Arthur Fiedler; fashion designer Tory Burch; basketball legend KC Jones; digital media pioneers Reid Hoffman and Biz Stone; former faculty members Clint Peterson and Peter Black; former Babson presidents and trustees; and, most notably, our own distinguished alumni.

Roger W. Babson, founder of Babson College, said, “I have always tried to visualize a world of change rather than a world at rest.” Babson College celebrates these men and women for the changes their service has brought.
Internationally known as Africa’s Iron Lady, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is a leading promoter of peace, justice, and democratic rule. As Africa’s first democratically elected female president, she has led the war-torn nation of Liberia to restored freedom and peace while enacting economic, social, and political change.

Also seen as a global leader for women’s empowerment, Sirleaf was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for her work in securing women’s rights. Previously, in 2007, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the United States’ highest civil award—for her personal courage and unwavering commitment to expanding freedom and improving the lives of Africans.

In her efforts to bring justice to her people in Liberia, Sirleaf spent more than a year in jail at the hands of the military dictatorship of General Samuel Doe and had her life threatened by former president Charles Taylor. She campaigned relentlessly for Taylor’s removal from office and played an active and supportive role in the transitional government as Liberia prepared for elections in October 2005. In November 2005, she was elected president of Liberia.

In March 2014, Sirleaf would face the greatest challenge of her presidency: the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The outbreak would lead to 3,800 Liberians and more than 11,000 in the region losing their lives. Her outreach to world leaders, especially the United States, led to a massive health-mobilization effort, with Liberia being the first regional nation to be declared free of Ebola.

Sirleaf grew up in Liberian capital of Monrovia. She earned an accounting degree from the Madison College of Business and a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. Her incredible journey was chronicled in her memoir, This Child Will Be Great.
GRADUATES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING

Christopher Andrew Curtis
Christian Joseph DePalma ^
** Matthew John Fleming
Andrew Wolcott Foster
Taheisha L. Garside
Jaimilee Henry
* Ezekiel Jay Kirson
Telvin Anthony Lopes
Allana Akilah Nelson ^
Chunghyun Oh
Anny Luz Perez
Rubeena Havabai Sameja ^
*** Kripa Manoj Shroff
Jazmyn Tiffany-Brienne Smart
Hilbert Mayores Stearns
* Johanna Patricia Teahan
** Lena Wu
Carolyn Shujing Xu
Jason Yuji Yuasa
Naijia Zhou

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE

Robert Carpenter
*** Renan de Carvalho Figueiredo
** Stephen Matthew Juras
* Albert Katz

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT

Apoorv Agarwal
Nishika Agarwal
Gerardo Luis Aguirre
John George Ahumada
*** Pimchanok Anantawahayanon
** Simeon Vencislavov Angelov
Sebastiano Barbieri
** Sarah Benjelloun Touimi
George Bettsack
** Daniel Eduard Birsan
Rishi Biyani
* Nikita Damle
Abhishek Desai
Jacob DiSanto
* Chinenye John Egbe
Anmol Garg
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Samay Goenka
** Tajana Grubisic
* Anshal Gulati
Riddhima Gupta
** Sejal Gupta
* Gabriela Alejandra Herrera
Jiaxin Hong
* Wei-Ning Huang
** Mikael Ingason
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Vanshaj Jain
Desiree Luongcy Ji
Xingyu Ji
Lu Jiang
Shlok Sameer Baijnath Joshi
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Archit Khandelwal
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Shirin Lamba
Xia Li
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*** Summa Cum Laude
** Magna Cum Laude
* Cum Laude

^ August 2017 Master’s Degree Candidate
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Rebecca Rosemé Obounou

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AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE – MSEL PROGRAM HIGHEST GPA
Pimchanok Anantawithayanon

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ROGER WARD BABSON (1919–1921) was a highly successful pioneer in the financial investment business. On September 3, 1919, he opened the Babson Institute with an enrollment of 27 students.

In 1921, Babson named George Coleman (1921–1935) as the second president. That same year, Babson was incorporated under the educational laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a not-for-profit institution.

In 1923, Babson acquired farmland in Wellesley Hills, established an endowment fund, and began to build a campus. By the end of that year, Mustard, Bryant, and Lyon (now Luksic) halls, and Knight Auditorium were completed. Two years later, the Babson Park Clubhouse and Coleman Hall were finished. To accommodate the rise in student enrollment, the Clubhouse was renamed Park Manor South, and the hotel rooms, originally designed for visiting businessmen, became residence rooms for Babson students.

With the appointment of Carl Smith (1935–1944), Babson was now led by its first professional educator. He reorganized the curriculum, adding liberal arts courses, and in 1943, Babson Institute received permission to confer both the Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees.

Following World War II, Babson, which had been used by the U.S. Navy for three years, reopened to record enrollments. New President Edward B. Hinckley (1946–1956) tightened admission standards and strengthened the academic content. By 1950, the Institute had received accreditation from the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Under Gordon Trim (1957–1961), an evening MBA program was developed and the first alumni fundraising effort was held to fund the construction of the dining hall that bears his name.

Henry Kriebel (1961–1974), the school’s sixth president, expanded the curriculum to four years, redefined its mission as a school of management, opened the doors to women, began a massive building program, created the School of Continuing Education, and changed the name from Babson Institute to Babson College. Kriebel’s administration laid the foundation for the next 20 years of development.

Babson’s seventh president, Ralph Z. Sorenson H’85 (1974–1981), also strengthened the curriculum. He created the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies in 1978, and Babson became the first college in the United States to offer entrepreneurship as a major. Horn Library was built, the Babson Recreation Center (now the Boston Sports Club) was completed, and more student housing was added.

In 1981, William R. Dill H’91 (1981–1989) became the College’s eighth president. He placed a greater emphasis on a curriculum, faculty, and student body that focused on globalization. Many campus buildings were renovated and others added, including the Webster Center for physical education and recreation, to provide students with state-of-the-art facilities and services, thus enabling
Babson to compete with the nation’s top business programs. It was during the Dill era that the Center for Executive Education (now the Babson Executive Conference Center) was added.

During the presidency of William F. Glavin H’99 (1989–1997), Babson moved from being a strong regional presence to an internationally respected school of business. Building on the College’s legacy of entrepreneurship, the idea of entrepreneurial leadership was woven into every aspect of the institution. Glavin believed that people at all stages of their careers could demonstrate entrepreneurial leadership and become well-rounded, analytical problem-solvers who seize opportunities and move boldly and creatively to take advantage of them.

In 1997, Leo I. Higdon Jr. H’07 (1997–2001) became the 10th president to lead Babson College. He strengthened Babson’s curriculum with a renewed emphasis on technology, practice-based learning, and entrepreneurship in a global context. A commitment to diversity and the arts brought about the opening of the Reynolds Campus Center, Richard W. Sorenson Center for the Arts, and the Glavin Family Chapel. Higdon also was instrumental in establishing the Center for Women’s Entrepreneurial Leadership at Babson College.

Brian M. Barefoot ‘66, H’09, P’01 (2001–2008), Babson’s 11th president, is the first Babson alumnus to hold this position. During his presidency, Babson developed a long-term strategic and financial plan, expanded the College’s leadership in entrepreneurship, improved the quality of campus life, committed to new efforts in diversity, strengthened the alumni network, and partnered with leading global educational institutions.

Leonard A. Schlesinger H’14 (2008–2013), Babson’s 12th president, brought to the College extraordinary leadership experience in academia and industry. He formulated the conversations that led to the development of today’s strategy, starting with a community-wide discussion and decisions around Babson’s strategic direction. That work resulted in a strategy focused on Entrepreneurial Thought & Action® as the core of Babson’s distinctive expertise and culture; integrating social, environmental, economic responsibility, and sustainability into the core of the curriculum and educational experience; building a generation of leaders representing Entrepreneurship of All Kinds®; and creating a Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Education to disseminate Entrepreneurial Thought & Action to the world through a global network of educators and institutions.

In 2013, Kerry Healey was named Babson’s 13th president and is the first woman to hold the position. Internationally recognized for her more than three decades of service in academia, government, and humanitarian work, she believes deeply in the transformational power of entrepreneurship to create opportunities for positive economic and social development everywhere. President Healey is expanding and enhancing Babson’s institutional profile as the recognized global leader in entrepreneurship education and is preparing to lead the College’s Centennial Campaign to accelerate Babson’s success into its second century of academic leadership, innovation, and excellence.
Babson is consistently ranked among the nation’s top management schools. The College has received international recognition for its innovative educational programs for undergraduate and graduate students and business professionals. With a distinguished reputation for entrepreneurial excellence, Babson teaches students to make and find opportunities, to innovate, and to develop creative problem-solving ability.

The key to Babson’s success is its people—students, faculty, administrators, alumni, governance members, and parents who share a passion for excellence and have helped the College grow.

**THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY** dates to medieval times. Through the centuries, the ceremony has been altered, but its purpose remains the same: to recognize those persons who have earned academic degrees and to honor the traditions and institutions of scholarship.

The term commencement is a translation of the Latin inceptio, the name given in the Middle Ages to the ceremony at which candidates were granted the Master of Arts degree and thereby licensed to begin teaching. Today, the original concept has been broadened to suggest that, at commencement, degree recipients are graduating from academic life and commencing their professional life.

The history of academic regalia stretches to the early days of the world’s oldest universities. A statute in 1321 required that all doctors, licentiates, and bachelors of the University of Coimbra (Portugal) wear gowns. In England, in the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and prescribed wearing the long gown.

In 1895, American colleges and universities adopted a uniform system for academic regalia. Today, while the academic dress code, like the ceremony itself, has undergone several revisions, it remains essentially the same as when it was first adopted.

The gowns recommended for use by American colleges and universities have the following characteristics. The gown for the bachelor’s degree has pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The gown for the master’s degree has oblong sleeves open at the wrist like the bachelor’s and may be worn open or closed. Both bachelor’s and master’s robes are traditionally black. The doctoral gown, which also may be worn open or closed, has velvet panels draped around the neck and stitched down the front edges. Three horizontal velvet bars are sewn on the upper arm of the bell-shaped sleeves. This trim may be either black or the color distinctive of the faculty to which the degree refers. Many institutions have adopted distinctively colored doctoral robes using the official institutional colors.

Members of the governing body of a college or university, whatever their degrees, are entitled to wear doctoral gowns (with black velvet), but their hoods may be only those of degrees actually held by the wearers or those especially prescribed for them by the institution.
The hood is the most distinctive feature of the academic costume. The shape of the bachelor’s and master’s hoods is similar, but the length varies. The hood lining is the official color or colors of the institution. The Babson hood, for example, is forest green with a single white chevron. The hood is edged in velvet of two, three, or five inches in width for the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees, respectively. The edging should be in a color distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains. Among the most common trims are tan for business administration; white for arts, letters, and humanities; golden yellow for science; and light blue for education.

The traditional academic cap for all degrees is the mortarboard of black cloth with a flat, stiffened square top. Today, there is an option, particularly for those holding doctoral or terminal degrees, to wear a soft cap. These are of several designs and in many cases represent a particular college or university. The tassel, fastened to the middle point of the top of the cap, may be black or the color appropriate to the subject. Those holding doctorates may wear a tassel of gold thread. There is no general rule for the position of the tassel on a mortarboard. However, Babson and a number of colleges and universities have adopted the practice of requiring candidates for the bachelor’s degree to wear the tassel on the right front side before degrees are conferred and to shift it to the left after the degrees are awarded.

In today’s ceremony, some graduates are wearing cords, tassels, and stoles that represent specific designations. Below are those related to academic honors:

- Gold Cord: Valedictorian
- Gold Tassel: Summa Cum Laude
- White Tassel: Magna Cum Laude
- Red Tassel: Cum Laude
- Gold Medallion: Honors Program

The origin of the mace also dates to medieval times when it was first used as a weapon. Medieval European bishops, forbidden the use of the sword, were allowed to enter battle with a mace, often an iron or steel club designed to split armor. By the 16th century, the mace, a symbol of authority, was embraced as a ceremonial object by colleges and universities. Traditionally, the mace is carried on formal academic occasions by the most senior faculty member, often referred to as the “chief” or “grand” marshal of the institution.

The mace of Babson College was designed and crafted by Chas. Thomae & Son, silversmiths, and has been one of the symbols of the authority of the College for many years. Today, it is carried by the chief marshal of Babson College.

Today’s Commencement also features flags of the world. These flags represent the homelands of the Babson undergraduate and graduate students. With students from more than 85 countries, and faculty members involved in research, training, and development around the world, Babson’s international presence is evident and we are proud to honor it with this display.
MAY 20, 2017