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TVNewser's 2016 Guide to Graduation Speakers

By Alissa Krinsky on Apr. 30, 2016 - 7:55 AM 13 Comments

TomBrokawGraduation

It's a TVNewser tradition. This morning we present to you our 9th annual list of who's-speaking-where-and-when at college and university commencements this year (in alphabetical order):

ABC's Dr. Jennifer Ashton: Quinnipiac University – Health sciences students (CT), May 21

CNN's David Axelrod: Lake Forest College (IL), May 7

Bloomberg's Michael Bloomberg: University of Michigan (MI), April 30

NBC's Tom Brokaw: University of Mississippi (MS), May 14

Former ABC Newser Ann Compton: Hollins University (VA), May 22

CNN's Tom Foreman: Quinnipiac University – School of Communications (CT), May 22

CNN's David Gergen: Elon University (NC), May 21

NBC/MSNBC's Tamron Hall: Peirce College (PA), June 13

Former MSNBC'er Melissa Harris-Perry: Winston-Salem State University (NC), May 13

Former PBS/CNN'er Charlayne Hunter-Gault: Westminster College (UT), April 30...
University of Richmond (VA), May 8

FNC's Megyn Kelly: Albany Law School (NY), May 20

NBC's Hoda Kotb: Tulane University (LA), May 14

NBC's Andy Lack: Tougaloo College (MS), May 1

CBS's Les Moonves: Bucknell University (PA), May 22

Former PBS'er Bill Moyers: Rutgers University-New Brunswick (NJ), May 19

Former CNN'er Soledad O'Brien: Stony Brook University (NY), May 20

CBS's Charles Osgood: University of Connecticut Health – Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, and Graduate School (CT), May 9

ABC's John Quinones: Utah Valley University (UT), April 28... Columbia Southern University (AL), October 28

ABC's Cokie Roberts: Gettysburg College (PA), May 15

ABC's Robin Roberts: The College of New Rochelle (NY), May 24

CBS/PBS's Charlie Rose: Sewanee: The University of the South (TN), May 7

Univision's Maria Elena Salinas: American University – School of Communication (DC), May 7... California State University, Fullerton (CA), May 22

CNN's Michael Smerconish: Widener University (PA), May 21

PBS's Judy Woodruff: University of Massachusetts Lowell (MA), May 14

CNN's Fareed Zakaria: European University at Saint Petersburg (Russia), June 24

Title: Most Influential African-Americans In Meetings/Tourism Industry

Author: Gloria M. Herbert

Link: <http://www.blackmeetingsandtourism.com/Publications/Black-Meetings-Tourism/2016/March-April-2016/Most-Influential-African-Americans-In-Meetings-T.aspx>

Date:

Most Influential African-Americans In Meetings/Tourism Industry

By: Gloria M. Herbert

As we do every year around this time, Black Meetings & tourism will again review the progress and success of those African-Americans who continue to make significant strides in our industry. This is our opportunity to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and contributions of our brothers and sisters who have managed to perform at the highest professional levels despite the challenging economic times we have all faced in recent years.

As always, there are several faces that are gone from last year's list, as well as a few new or returning faces that have been added. Beverly Bryant has completed her stint as NCBMP president, replaced on this list by Kevin Johnson. Also off the list is Zita Steglich-Ross, who departed her post at Visit Orlando after 16 years to step out and launch her own boutique destination management company, Steglich Ross Business Solutions. Also gone is Ahmeenah Young, who completed her 18-month consulting agreement with the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority after SMG assumed responsibility for management and operations in 2013. Brenda Bryant is also gone, passing the torch to Carolyn White, who was elected as TPOC president.

New to the list is Shanitra R. Finley, the new Yazoo County CVB executive director, who replaced Tonja Ray-Smith. Also new is Linda Haithcox Taylor, executive director of the National Policy Alliance, Ricky Thigpen and Shun Hatten, who are both senior executives at the Jackson CVB, and Greg DeShields, who took over duties as executive director of The Multicultural Affairs Congress (PHLDiversity), a division of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau when Nicole Johnson-Reece departed.

Putting together this list every year makes us, and I hope you, so very proud of those who we are recognizing. But as a result of the process involved it also becomes obvious that so much more needs to be done in the area of diversity and inclusion.

As always, those listed here are to be commended for their achievements, their tenacity, and their determination to succeed in an industry that has been slow to embrace the concept of inclusiveness. Overcoming the challenges they've had to face in order to reach the top of their profession, they've earned the right to your respect, admiration and recognition. And most importantly, they deserve your consideration when it comes to booking business with them, for them or from them.



STEPHANIE MAYS BOYD currently serves as a member of the Senior Management team as director, Sales and Marketing with SMG/ Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority (PCCA). With over 20 years experience in the hospitality industry, Boyd leads the sales team through her leadership by developed sound strategies for a comprehensive sales and marketing plan that has assisted in the selling efforts of the Center to exceed the budget goal of \$6 million dollars for the past four years.

As the economic engine for the city, state and region of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority boasts one million sq. ft. of saleable meeting space. The sales divisions of the PCCA and Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PCVB) work jointly to attract meetings and conventions for the city of Philadelphia

A native of Macon, Georgia, Boyd started her career path at the Macon-Bibb County Convention and Visitors Bureau in 1990 as a convention marketing representative. There she was very active within the community serving on various boards; Boys and

Girls Club of Central Georgia, Macon Arts Alliance, Society of Government Meeting Planners, and a graduate of Leadership Macon.

Boyd has had a progressive career at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. To fully understand the day to day operations of the Convention Center, she began as an event coordinator in 1996. While having passion for the sales component of the hospitality industry, she joined the sales team as Sales and Service coordinator then advanced to Convention and Tradeshow sales manager. Ms. Boyd then broadened her scope to aspire to leadership roles within the Authority as Senior Sales Manager, Director of Sales and currently as a member of the Senior Management Team with SMG.

Currently she serves as second vice chair of the Board of Director for PHLCVB (Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau), Trustee for Peirce College, also serving as an Advisory Board Member for Philadanco (Philadelphia Dance Company) and UNCF. Boyd is also very active within the hospitality industry serving as Board of Director for various organizations: The National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners, the Multicultural Affairs Congress and a Trustee for the Destination and Travel Foundation. Boyd is also a member of various hospitality industry associations: Professional Convention Management Association, International Association of Exhibitions and Events, and the American Society of Association Executives. She is also a member of the Philadelphia Chapter of Links, Inc.

Boyd is a 2009 graduate of the National Urban League Leadership Forum (Philadelphia) and a graduate of the 2010 Class of Leadership Philadelphia. Boyd holds a Bachelors degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from Clark-Atlanta University. She is married to Earl Edward Boyd.

Title: Philly education reinvigorates baby boomers and seniors

Author: Erin Arvedlund

Link: <https://www.equities.com/news/philly-education-reinvigorates-baby-boomers-and-seniors>

Date: April 3, 2016

Philly education reinvigorates baby boomers and seniors

Philadelphia Inquirer (PA) | Sunday, 03 April 2016 15:31 (EST)

April 03--Older individuals are reinventing themselves by going back to the classroom.

And in college-rich Philadelphia, they and their tuition dollars are welcome on campus.

Some are like *Howard Magen*, a retired CPA who audits classes he loved during his original college days.

Others are baby boomers facing retirement who want that longed-for degree before they run out of time, or to stay competitive in the workplace. Take *Wanda Amaro*, a human-resources executive who is earning her bachelor's degree at age 53.

Many colleges offer low-fee or even free classes for seniors.

Magen, 84, started taking courses at the *University of Pennsylvania* just months after he retired in 2002 from a decades-long accounting career.

"I'm not pursuing a degree," he says, "but I like being around young people and sharing what I know or lived through."

Magen graduated from Penn's *Wharton School* in the undergraduate class of 1953, then entered military service before becoming an accountant.

Today, the pressure is off.

"I audit classes. I don't have to write the papers, and I don't take the exams," he says.

Magen's first class after retirement was modern European history, and he has taken at least one Penn class per semester for the last 14 years. This spring semester, he's studying the history of opera.

Penn encourages older learners, and charges \$500 per course per semester through its Senior Auditing Program. Those age 65 and older audit undergraduate lecture classes in the university's *School of Arts and Sciences*. Once registered, you also get a free email account with Penn. To sign up, visit www.sas.upenn.edu/lps/students/seniors.

Some boomers are putting off retirement; many still have bills to pay (mortgages or their kids' college tuition). An educational leg up can't hurt.

At 55, surgeon *Edmund Pribitkin* is the oldest student currently enrolled in Wharton's MBA for Executives program. He works as a professor and is academic vice chairman

of *Thomas Jefferson University's Department of Otolaryngology* -- Head and Neck Surgery.

"Compared to my classmates, I'm a little on the older side," Pribitkin acknowledges. "But there were two reasons to go back to school.

"I run the residency program to teach residents in head and neck surgery. I've been an academic surgeon for my entire career. When I got back as a student, now I'm the person who doesn't have the knowledge, and deal with people who are professors, the brightest in their field. That's a wonderful experience," he says.

Also, he says, an MBA will help bring innovation to medicine: "Learning the language of business brings up arguments to help think in new ways."

His latest class project was a "ZipltYourself" tool to help a single person zip up a dress.

"I pitched in front of the class, and halfway through I disrobed and had a dress on underneath," Pribitkin says. "You can't really do that as a university professor, but you can do it as a student."

Baby-boom demographics definitely play a role in the return to school.

"With the pace of life, and the pace of technology, we need to reinvent ourselves. The only way innovation increases productivity is if we reinvent ourselves," Pribitkin says.

Amaro is pursuing her bachelor's degree in human-resource management at *Peirce College*, and plans to graduate in June.

"My mom always called me her backward girl. I did everything backward!" she recalls with a laugh.

Amaro, who works as an HR administrator at *Aria Health*, lives in Cheltenham with her husband and has two grown sons and two grandchildren.

A late-stage boomer, Amaro became a wife and mother at 19. She moved up the ranks in human resources at a few different hospitals, and has made it her career for 28 years.

"Being a single parent, my mom could only afford to send my sister to *Chestnut Hill College* to become a nurse. Financially, only one of us could attend," Amaro says.

Today, she oversees HR for *Aria Health's* system of hospitals, with about 4,000 employees.

"By 2012, I had achieved so much professionally, but I was missing something," she says. "It's been my dream to get my degree, and my mother's dream for both her girls to get their degrees."

An older student base is the norm at Peirce. For the academic year 2014 -- 2015, roughly 15 percent of Peirce students were over 50, and 45 percent were over 40.

Don't forget state schools, which also have programs for older students.

Penn State's Go-60 program, through Penn State Continuing Education at University Park, offers tuition and fee-free courses to those who meet eligibility requirements.

To participate in Go-60, you must be at least 60 years of age, retired or employed less than half-time (20 hours or less a week), and a Pennsylvania resident.

For more information, visit ceup.psu.edu/state-college/go-60-program.

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