2023 Commencement Speaker

Hakeem Oluseyi

Hakeem Oluseyi is an astrophysicist, author, STEM educator, multi-patent inventor, voice actor, TV personality, and science communicator. He is currently the President of the National Society of Black Physicists and recently served as the Space Science Education Lead for NASA’s Space Mission Directorate headquartered in Washington, D.C. where he provided strategic leadership and management for investments in science education and communications.

Oluseyi’s scientific research is based on what he calls “hacking stars” to better understand our universe and develop innovative new technologies. Leveraging techniques for interpreting electromagnetic radiation, laboratory plasma physics, computational modeling, machine learning, time-domain informatics, big data analytics, and high-performance computing, his work has resulted in 11 patents, and more than 100 publications covering contributions to astrophysics, cosmology, and plasma physics, and the development of space missions, observatories, focal plane instruments, detectors, semiconductor manufacturing, and ion propulsion.

He received his PhD from Stanford University in physics and has received multiple fellowships and appointments, including MIT Martin Luther King, Jr. visiting scholar at MIT. Oluseyi’s memoir titled “A Quantum Life: My Unlikely Journey from the Street to the Stars” was released last year.
Welcome
Dean Nergis Mavalvala
Curtis (1963) and Kathleen Marble Professor of Astrophysics

Commencement address
Hakeem Oluseyi
President of the National Society of Black Physicists

Conferring of degrees
Master’s recipients

Department of Biology
Doctoral recipients
- Investiture by Mary Gehring, Associate Professor of Biology

Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences
Doctoral recipients
- Investiture by Laura Schulz, Associate Department Head, Professor of Cognitive Sciences

Department of Chemistry
Doctoral recipients
- Investiture by Troy Van Voorhis, Department Head and Haslam and Dewey Professor of Chemistry

Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences
Doctoral recipients
- Investiture by Rob van der Hilst, Department Head and Schlumberger Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences

Department of Mathematics
Doctoral recipients
- Investiture by Michel Goemans, Department Head and RSA Professor of Mathematics

Department of Physics
Doctoral recipients
- Investiture by Deepto Chakrabarty, Department Head and Professor of Physics

MIT–Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Doctoral recipients
- Investiture by Mick Follows, MIT Director of the MIT/WHOI Joint Program, Professor of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences

Accessible seating and accommodations provided by MIT Disability and Access Services. Scan this QR code for a closed caption stream provided by MIT Audiovisual Services.

Diplomas
Please visit commencement.mit.edu for a list of degree recipients. For more information about diplomas, please visit: registrar.mit.edu/transcripts-records/diplomas.

Advanced degree recipients may pick up their diplomas in the Stata building 32-124 and 32-144:
- Thursday, June 1: 10:00am to 6:00pm
- Friday, June 2: 10:00am to 3:00pm

Reception
A reception for all School of Science graduates and their guests will take place outside Kresge.